

The Whisper

April 2013 CIRCULATION: 1,269

Wamboin Community Assn: www.wamboincommunity.asn.au
 Bywong Community: www.bywongcommunity.org.au
 Fire Brigade: <http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au>

All proceeds from advertisements after printing costs go to the WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION that started The Whisper as a community newsletter in 1981, and continues to own it. The newsletter is distributed to all letterboxes in Wamboin, Bywong and to Palerang Council residents southeast of the Federal Highway at the start of each month, except January. Contributions from all residents are encouraged, valued and the main content of the newsletter. The Editor is Ned Noel, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 6238-3484. Please email contributions to either nednoel@optusnet.com.au or whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au or mail them. The deadline for the next issue of The Whisper is always the last Sunday of the month, 7 pm, so for the May 2013 issue the deadline is Sunday, 28 April, 7 pm. Instant Colour Press will then multiply 1 copy into more than 1200. Then the new issue goes to volunteer deliverers by the first Sunday of the new month.

LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCIES Fire/Police/Ambulance - Dial Triple Zero (000) All Hours

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LOCAL FACILITIES AND CONTACTS

Wamboin Community Assn	Jenny Richards, Vice-President	6238 1329	vicepresident@wamboincommunity.asn.au
Bywong Community	Darryl Bourke, President		president@bywongcommunity.org.au
Fire Brigade	David Cochrane, Captain	0409 991 340	
Palerang Councillor	Pete Harrison	0427 711 028	cr.pete.harrison@palerang.nsw.gov.au
Palerang Councillor	Keith France	0427 365 715	cr.keith.france@palerang.nsw.gov.au
Wamboin Markets	Joan Mason, contact	6238 3258	
Sutton School Playgroup	Johanna Bradley, Convenor	0406 399 713	johannabradley@dodo.com.au
Landcare	Roger Good, President	6236 9048	
Community Nurse	Heather Morrison, Bungendore	6238 1333	
Emergency Services	NSW Call Centre, Staff	132 500	
Emergency Services Admin.	Colin Brown, Controller	6238 1067	
Justice of the Peace	Peter Greenwood, JP	6238 3358	
Justice of the Peace	Keith France, JP	6238 3596	
Justice of the Peace	Margaret Fletcher, JP	6238 1211	
Justice of the Peace	Jill Sedaitis, JP	6236 9559	
Wamboin Scout Group	Peter Harrison, contact	6238 3525	
Wamboin Pony Club	Leanne Quick, Club Captain	6238 3435	
Geary's Gap Pony Club	Katarina Biondic, contact	0421 859 917	
Wamboin Play Group	Emma Auzins, Convener	6238 3974	cotsell@moraguy.net
Bywong Hall Bookings	Guy Cotsell, contact	6230 3523	
Wamboin Hall Bookings	Joan Mason, contact	6238 3258	
Church - Anglican	Robyn Robertson, Warden	6238 3202	
Christian Prayer Group	Steve & Imelda Taylor, contacts	6238 3220	
KYB Bible Study Group	Yvonne Barrett, contact	6230 3539	
Golf	Peter Greenwood, Golfer	6238 3358	p.greenwood2@bigpond.com
Injured Wildlife	Wildcare, Helpline	6299 1966	
Wonderful Wmen of Wmbn	Gail Ritchie Knight, Contact	0416 097 500	whirlwind@argonite.com.au
Lake George VIEW Club	Pauline Segeri, contact	6238 1996	
Wamboin Book Group	Alice Scott, Secretary	6238 3178	

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

Alana Stenning	pet sitting	6238 3030	Jess Smith	pet sitting, house sitting	6238 3115
Fiona Skea	baby sitting	6238 3290	Ashleigh Caird	baby sitting	6238 0746
Rebecca Purdie	pet sitting	6238 3343	Gabrielle Simpkin	baby sitting/ pets sitting	6238-1335
Mara Sutcliffe	pet sitting	6238 3228	Jack & Matilda Whitney	child, pet & house sttg, odd jobs	6238 3059
Jordan Brown	baby sitting	0414-907-921	Genevieve Phipps	Babysitting, pet care or farmstay	6238 1660

Wheels of Wamboin



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Saturday 20th April 2013

9.00am to 1.00pm

(in conjunction with Home Produce Markets)

Wamboin Hall - Bingley Way

Wamboin

The first Wheels of Wamboin is drawing closer. Please bring down your old or new car, bike, truck, tractor or engine so a good old fashion display and chat.

The home produce markets will be on to pick up a healthy bargain of local produce (remember to bring your cash as there is no EFTPOS).

Please email peter.evans@wamboincommunity.asn.au to confirm attendance so we can ensure catering on the day.

Looking for a great horse vet?

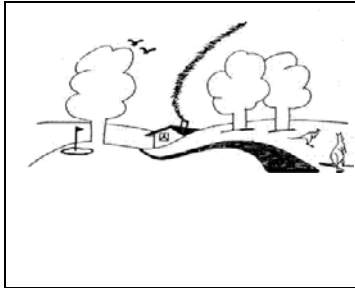
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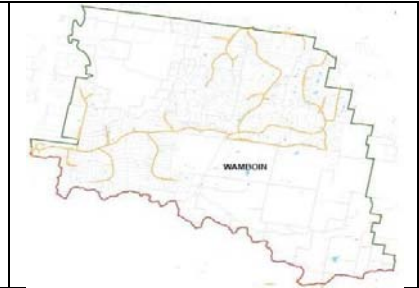
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Wamboin Community Association President's Paragraphs



Hi there. On March 19th the Community Association held it's AGM. There were some changes to the Executive. It now consists of Jenny Richards (President), Chris Kruger and Pete Evans (Vice Presidents), Keith France (Treasurer), John Van der Straaten (Secretary), plus Don Horan, Lofty Mason and Jenny Warren as members of the Committee. Should you need to contact any member of the Executive or Committee our emails and telephone numbers are available on the WCA's website (wamboincommunity.asn.au). I hope to hear from some of you over the coming months.

Wheels Of Wamboin – This April will see the inaugural Wheels of Wamboin event held Saturday 20th April from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on the oval next to the Community Hall. According to Pete, any interesting vehicle is welcome including cars, bikes, trucks, tractors or fixed engines. Age is immaterial, although I'm not entirely sure if ride-on lawn-mowers are included in the VERY broad classifications. This event will be running the same day as the Wamboin Markets so come and see it, or better yet, bring your vehicle along to be admired. All enquires please contact Pete Evans as per the advertisement further on in this issue.

Guest Speaker – The next WCA meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th April at 7:30 pm at the Community Hall on Bingley Way and at this particular meeting we will have a guest speaker. The endorsed Liberal candidate for our Federal Parliamentary seat of Hume, Angus Taylor, is keen to come and informally chat with the people of the Wamboin/Bywong. He has suggested a talk about local issues such as telecommunications, roads, cross-border issues (health and education), the environment etc. I emphasise that this is not a Meet the Candidates meeting which we hope to be conducting later in the year. This is merely an informal talk to get to know the people of Wamboin and Bywong and their issues better. Nor is the WCA supporting any particular political candidate. If any other serious political candidates wish to avail themselves of meeting us before they get down to the serious business of campaigning we would be equally as receptive. That said, why not come to the next meeting and see what Angus Taylor has to say on those issues that concern us most out here in Wamboin and Bywong?

Art Competition For The Littlies – The WCA have decided to run a series of competitions for our younger readers of The Whisper. The first is an art competition for the 3, 4 and 5 year olds out there. A drawing of anything that they find interesting because they live in the Wamboin/Bywong area. It could be a favourite animal (a pet or wild animal), a favourite place to play, the moon and the stars at night (which are always breath-taking out here), or even their friends having fun around their houses. Anything that is of interest to them. All entries will be published either in next month's Whisper or if we get a substantial amount, in subsequent Whispers, along with the child's name and age. The best three entries in each age group will receive a small prize but the real treat for us will be admiring and showcasing your little one's artwork. The ad for this competition is further on in The Whisper and if you have a child that falls into one of these age ranges, I encourage you to enter his or her artwork. If you are like me and have older children, don't be put off. There will be other competitions coming soon for the older children.

That's all I guess for this month. I hope to see many of you at the Markets or at the next meeting of the WCA. - Jenny Richards (President)

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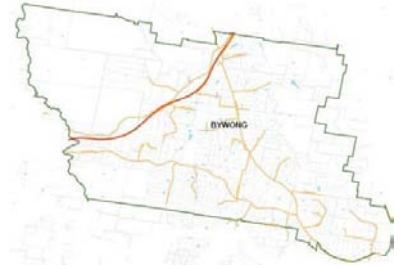
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Bywong Community News

www.bywongcommunity.org.au

Darryl Bourke, President
This News Put Together by the
Bywong Committee



Who arranged the weather? We have remarked before that our annual Car Boot Sale has seemed blessed by some divine hand. This year's event confirms it. The now venerable event was held under the clearest, most perfect skies we have seen for some time. Not that the hardworking committee deserved anything less – the time and effort put into it, and the resultant brilliant outcome were the ultimate tribute to their efforts. The programme and features of the day were riveting as ever – lots of animals, some of them smartly ridden to music by our Pony Club, others barking as they cleared various obstacles, others looking disdainful (alpacas) and some (Wildcare) just being cuddly – or sometimes less cuddly – all to the background of a very professional commentary team. The day encouraged recycling and young people earned 10c for drink containers returned to the organisers. And people bought and sold.

The day's financial results ensured that the Community has funds to help local groups who need a boost. First recipient, as in previous years, will be our local Fire Brigade, whose display and lunch barbecue make notable contributions to the event. But outranking these activities is the immense contribution which the Brigade makes to the running of the event, particularly the entry control and the parking. The parking, in a difficult setting, was seamless and delivered with charm and good fellowship.

Attendances and stalls were slightly down on last year, but still very substantial. We hear that other recent local events held around the same time also suffered falls in attendance, although their financial results remained healthy. Is this the uncertainty which the pundits claim results from the announcement of an election?

Our thanks to the Whisper for commemorating earlier days. Last month's "Whisper reminiscences" recalled the third Car Boot Sale, and we have now reached our eighteenth annual event. The day has become a local institution.

No compulsory call-up. We have heard a grouch that local residents are willy nilly considered members of the Community just by virtue of living in Bywong. This is not so. It is true that membership is free of charge and is not subject to complicated approval procedures, but it is still necessary to fill in a membership form and hand it to a committee member. With this proviso, the more the merrier!

Sneak Graffiti. Another appeal to those who are defacing our public blackboards with graffiti, sometimes crass messages expressing a personal view or grouch. These boards are primarily for the use of the Community's announcements or information, but are also there for use by local residents with local concerns such as lost pets – not for people to push their own political or similar barrows.

Trivia night. Our next trivia night is on Saturday night, July 13th. Time to start booking in your team for this annual event!

Macs Reef Road. Don't forget Macs Reef Road will be closed from 8 April.

Next meeting. The Community's next meeting is at 7.30 p.m. on Monday night, 8 April at the Bywong Community Hall. All are welcome.

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Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin - 38-year statistics from the Robertsons

March rainfall 19.75mm	(March 2012 ... 208.25mm)
2013 to 31/3 ... 138.75mm	(2012 to 31/3 ... 398.75mm)
Average April rainfall ... 44.8mm	(April 2012 ... 31.5mm)
Wettest April ... 174.5mm in 1989	Driest April ... 5mm in 1997
Wettest April day ... 70mm on 19/4/84	Hottest April day ... 28C on 3/4/86
Coldest April day ... 8C on 27/4/12	Coldest April night ... 0C on 27/4/99 & 28/4/12

Councillor's Corner

Rural Subdivision — From time to time, I am approached by residents in rural residential areas who would like to subdivide their property. They are usually older residents who see this as an opportunity to raise a bit of extra capital, and at the same time reduce the size of the property they have to maintain. The properties in question are usually around 4-12 ha (10-30 acres) in size.

The residents are often a bit upset when they discover that, while lots may be as small as 2 ha (5 acres) in the 1(d) rural residential zone, [often prohibitive] conditions apply. For starters, it will not generally be possible to subdivide a block of less than 12 ha (30 acres). In rural areas (the current 1(a) zone), lots must be at least 160 ha before they can be subdivided (with dwelling entitlements). Even these minima may not be relevant if the lot in question was part of a previous subdivision that took advantage of averaging provisions. In such cases, a lot may simply not be able to be further subdivided, regardless of its size.

There are a couple of other conditions that must also be met. A lot of less than 16 ha must have a frontage on a road other than a main or arterial road, and lots must have a depth to width ratio not exceeding 4:1.

While there are changes to the way in which these regulations are specified in the new PLEP, in practice they remain largely unchanged.

So why the restrictions? Most people who raise this issue feel that there's plenty of land, and that their subdivision would have very little impact, especially when the issue of dual occupancy developments is brought into the picture.

In the case of the 1(a) rural zone, where one of the primary objectives is "to protect the agricultural potential of rural land and to prevent the fragmentation of viable rural holdings", 80 ha is simply considered to be the minimum size for a viable rural holding. While there is more flexibility in the 1(d) rural residential zone, the initial rural residential subdivisions have generally be planned and designed as integrated developments, to provide a specific character and some level of guarantee that this character will not be compromised by subsequent subdivision. The existing lots are the size they were designed to be to create the character and amenity of the area in question and, generally as a condition of consent for the original subdivision, must remain that size in order to preserve this character and amenity.

Even if there's no problem with lot sizes, there are other conditions that must be met before a subdivision can be approved, so that there is not a great deal of profit to be derived from a simple two lot subdivision. In fact, I am told that, for small developments, the cost of the subdivision will be roughly equal to the profit that can be derived from the sale of one of the lots—i.e. you need at least a three lot subdivision to make any money on the exercise.

The Palerang Blog—New entries in my councillor website Blog (<http://peteharrison.id.au/blog>) since my last update: Waste Management Surveys, Rural Subdivision

Council's General Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month, commencing at 5.00 pm. Members of the public are welcome. The meeting location varies—check Council's website (<http://palerang.nsw.gov.au>) for details. Meeting Business Papers are also available on Council's website on the Friday preceding the meeting.

Cr Pete Harrison, Ph. 6238 3640, Mob. 0427 711 028, Email: Pete.Harrison@palerang.nsw.gov.au, Website: www.peteharrison.id.au

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PROPOSED NEWINGTON ROAD SUBDIVISION

by Guy Cotsell

In April 2011 Palarang Council advised Bywong landholders in Newington Road, and some in Macs Reef Road, of an application for development of land in the vicinity of their property.

The proposal provided for the creation of 20 new rural residential blocks spread over and around Black Joe's Creek, with addresses in Woodfield Road, Wamboin and Newington Road, Bywong. The proposal provided for a public reserve along both sides of the creek, joining onto the existing Greenway. The proposed subdivision straddles Black Joes Creek and abuts the recent Birchmans Creek subdivision, but does not as it presently stands open onto that subdivision. The developer's Statement of Environmental Effects also outlines a proposed Stage 2 of the project, which opens to the south and west of the Woodfield Rd area of the subdivision and runs through to Sutton Road. The proposal was submitted by Link Development Pty Ltd on behalf of the owners.

A subsequent amendment submitted later in the year removed the public recreation reserve and converts that reserve to community title, presumably with attached water rights. We understood from Council's Planning department that the initiative for this change came from Council's concern to limit any Council costs for maintenance or liability. We understood from Council's s.355 Greenways Committee that such costs were virtually nil.

We also understood from the planners that Council preferred the Newington Road access over alternatives through Birchman's Estate or Sutton Road to avoid costs of maintaining additional roads.

Numerous objections: At the time Council invited submissions on the proposal, and received a substantial number of objections, largely from residents in Newington Road and Macs Reef Road.

Planning staff at the time advised that because of the number of objections, the proposal would have to be submitted to Council and could not be decided by the Planning Staff. They also advised that all objectors would be invited to address Council when the proposal came up for consideration. Since then objectors have not heard of any developments, apart from learning that the proposal was submitted to a meeting of Council's Traffic Committee in October 2011. At that meeting the Traffic Committee recommended that Council consider a number of matters, most of which concerned matters also raised by objectors. I was one who objected to the proposal, and most of my concerns were shared by others in the vicinity. Council advises that all submissions are publicly available.

Some objections were as follows:

1. The development poses environment, heritage and amenity threats which merit a full Environmental Impact Statement and detailed road and safety reports, none of which are provided.
2. The development does not accord with Council or State planning philosophy on land use and does not meet any existing demand, and
3. The proposed access route is a cheap alternative which is inappropriate, unsafe and inadequate, and which will intensify existing problems and dangers on Macs Reef Road and its intersection.

Demand for land: The last Council study I could find (2007) looked at available land and uptake in the (then Yarrawlumla) Shire and concluded that the land supply in the area was sufficient for the next 28 years. Locals will be aware that the adjacent Birchman's Estate subdivision was advertised as "last chance to buy in this area" but has been selling very slowly. On broader planning fronts, the proposal appears to flout the Sydney-Canberra corridor plan and be an inappropriate use of some grazing land which hitherto has carried cattle and sheep.

Environmental concerns: Council's reaction so far leaves us fearing that Council's financial interests are receiving priority over broader environmental and lifestyle outcomes. Many locals fear that Council may give greater recognition to the interests of a developer than to either our environment or the planning of a proper traffic system.

The Newington Road access: The proposal contains no provision for the considerable upgrading of Newington Road which under Council's rules would be needed to service a community twice the size of the present population. There are major problems with width, grades and sightlines, access and safety. The development proposal made no offers to upgrade the road, and in fact maintained that it was adequate.

Newington Road at the moment contains a number of Land for Wildlife sanctuaries. It is a pedestrian linkage between two Greenways and a wildlife corridor. Kangaroos and wallabies alone pose a threat to traffic. There are breeding populations of Rosenberg's Monitor and echidnas and populations of many other reptiles.

The most threatening aspect is the already hazardous junction of Newington Road with Macs Reef Road, and the effect on it of double the Newington Road traffic and later the Stage 2 traffic.

Further, a proposed firetrail from Birchmans Estate would open the way to a major shortcut freeway down Newington Road to Macs Reef for traffic from the Estate and from much of northern Wamboin. Although most of our concerns were in fact shared by Council's Traffic Committee, we do not know whether the Committee's recommendations will be accepted by Council. Many locals are concerned by public statements by Council officers at a recent public meeting that they were already in consultation with the developer concerning costings of the junction of Newington Road and Macs Reef Road.

Many locals have urged Council to consider alternative access to the proposed subdivision from Sutton Road, as the developer's land and proposed later state of the subdivision extend to and in fact cross that road. The developer originally rejected this solution largely on the grounds that crossing the Yass River would be expensive (not Council's concern!) and noted that Newington Road would give "a better address". We believe flows in Black Joe's Creek can equal the flow of the Yass River at flood times and savings in cost would mainly come from using Council's existing inadequate roadwork. Sutton Road gives shorter access to Queanbeyan and Fyshwick and in most cases to Canberra via the highway.

If this proposal gets to Council, we look forward to a good hearing from our representatives. I am happy to send full details of my objections to anyone interested.



LOCAL RESIDENTS NEEDED FOR STUDY: 'CO-EXISTING WITH FIRE: MANAGING RISK AND AMENITY'

This is an invitation to participate in a study conducted by researchers of the Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Research (AUSCCER) at the University of Wollongong with project funding from the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre. The overall purpose of this study is twofold:

- To investigate what residents and landowners value in the landscape
- To examine the relationship of these values with bushfire risk in areas bordering or containing significant areas of native vegetation

We are interested in interviewing adult members of households located along:

- **Newington Road, Wamboin/Bywong**
- **Joe Rocks Road, The Mountain Road, Cherry Tree Lane, and associated side roads, Bungendore**
- **the area bounded by Bingley Way, Norton Road and Poppet Road, Wamboin**

If you agree to participate in the study, it will involve:

- a short pre-interview questionnaire,
- an interview with you at your property at a time of your convenience, and
- an optional feedback session as part of a subsequent community focus group discussion.

If you are interested in participating in this study, we will be in Wamboin throughout May 2013 to conduct the research. Please contact the project research assistant, **Olivia Dun**, via e-mail (odun@uow.edu.au) or telephone (0497 361 836 or (02) 4221 4165) indicating your interest or to obtain further information.

Information about AUSCCER and this project available at:

<https://www.uow.edu.au/science/eesc/ausccer/index.html>



Dr Nick Gill, Geographer and Senior Lecturer at the University of Wollongong, will lead the research in Wamboin.



Richard Hobbs, Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade, explains local fire risk issues to Nick during a visit to Wamboin, March 2013.



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CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE WHO CAME

The Bywong Community Association hall was packed to overflowing at the public meeting held on 6 March to discuss the draft PLEP.

It was very disappointing, therefore, that the Bywong Community Association refused to host the event despite the obvious disquiet about the proposed PLEP felt by so many people.

The Association President in his piece in the Whisper (page 5 March 2013) said "So most residents in the new E4 zones will find little or no change to their conditions of tenure. Most people seem comfortable with this." This view is so wide of the mark but it indicates how effective is the campaign to withhold the true situation from residents.

I note in the report by Mayor Cr Harrison headed "Rural residential zonings" Bungendore Mirror 20/3/2013 a reference to "...a couple of letters regarding zoning considerations..." He doesn't mention the large number of emails he has received on the same subject both prior to and since the public meeting; and it is understood that 720 submissions on the PLEP had been received by Council so there is very great interest being expressed in the draft plan.

So congratulations to all who attended the meeting and to all those who made submissions to Council.

Before the meeting, hardly anybody who attended, possibly no one, was aware that there is another zone, R5 Large Lots Residential, available to Council and recommended by the NSW Government, which would fit more closely the objects of the existing 1 (d) Rural Residential zone and at the same time allow grazing without consent. R5 zone was never mentioned in either the letters sent to residents or the fact sheets with those letters.

Cr Harrison now says there were in fact three different zones that were considered for use in Palerang's Rural Residential areas, R5, RU4 and E4.

In the letter from Council dated 21 January 2013 and attached Fact Sheet No 3 there was no mention at all of zone R5. Neither did the Mayor mention it in his articles in the Wamboin Whisper and on the website of the Wamboin Community Association. So why the retrospective mention of it now?

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday 4 April 2013 at 5.00pm but at the time of writing this the Council website does not indicate the location of the meeting nor whether or not the draft PLEP will be discussed.

-- Mike Cramsie, 9 Morrison Road, Bywong

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The Wamboin Firefighter

The Wamboin Firefighter newsletter is produced by the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade for the benefit of residents and property owners in the brigade's area i.e. the localities of Wamboin, Bywong, and Sutton (south of the Federal Highway).

THE BUSHFIRE DANGER PERIOD HAS ENDED

Outside the declared bushfire danger period a Fire Permit is not required to burn off in the open. If, however, you do plan to light a fire in the open, you need to notify:

- your neighbours, and
- the Queanbeyan Fire Control Centre 6297 1840 (weekday business hrs)

at least 24 hours before you light the fire.

Your thoughtfulness will help minimise neighbour anxiety and unnecessary brigade call-outs. Management, including containment of a fire originating on your property, is your responsibility. If the fire escalates to become more than you can handle, don't hesitate, ring the emergency number directly below.

TO REPORT FIRES OR SMOKE SIGHTINGS RING

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.



BUSH FIRE PLANNING

Although the Bushfire Danger Period has finished, we encourage you to keep bushfire safety and property preparation front of mind. Preparation of your home and property should not be left to the last minute; it is a year-round activity to ensure that you, your property and your family survive bushfire. Autumn and winter are opportune times to do a few things in and around the home and property that will stand you and your family in good stead ahead of the next Fire Danger Season. It's time, to start planning your bush fire protection projects for the cooler months. Some suggestions include:

- create and maintain as much defensible space i.e. a buffer zone, around your home by managing vegetation, including grass and shrubs (a minimum radius of 20 metres is recommended);
- remove dead branches, leaves and undergrowth from around your home and other structures e.g. shed;
- prune any tree limbs less than two metres from the ground or overhanging your home;
- remove bark, heavy mulch, wood piles and other fire hazards close to the home or other structure;
- ensure you have an adequate and independent water supply (i.e. bore, rain water tank, dam etc);
- keep gutters clean;
- depending on decisions you make as part of your Bush Fire Survival Plan, ensure you have equipment to fight fires (a petrol/ diesel powered pump, long hoses with nozzles, buckets, bins, sprinklers);
- prepare or update your Bush Fire Survival Plan.

HOUSE FIRE PLANNING

With the night temperatures cooling, it won't be long before people start firing up their slow combustion heaters and open fireplaces. Before doing so, here's a couple of important safety tips:

- flues and chimneys should be cleaned annually to prevent a build up of flammable material e.g. creosote, nests and other obstructions, and ensure the fire burns properly;
- always use a fire screen in front of open fires and close stove doors;
- keep heaters well clear from items that might burn.

Early fire detection within your home or other structure is vital. Make sure you have installed reliable, working smoke alarms that are less than 10 years old and a Home Fire Escape Plan.

We will have more tips and tools in relation to Fires in the Home in an upcoming newsletter. Meanwhile, further information on any of the above can be found by visiting the NSWRFs website at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

BRIGADE ACTIVITY

Callouts

Since the last newsletter the fire brigade responded to 4 incidents.

Thursday 7th March at 6.20am: five members in two brigade vehicles attended a single vehicle accident on the Federal Highway, Bywong. The vehicle had left the highway, rolled and ended up inverted in shrubbery on the median strip.

Later that day at 7.15pm, eight members in two brigade vehicles responded to a slightly more unusual incident requiring rescue assistance of a hang glider pilot located some 30 feet up a eucalypt tree on the steep escarpment at Lake George. This was a complex and protracted rescue with specialist crews from NSW and ACT Fire & Rescue and other emergency services also attending. Much of the rescue operation was conducted after nightfall under artificial light. Using the hang glider structure as an anchor point for a network of safety rope points, the injured pilot was eventually lowered into the care of ambulance crews for immediate emergency attention before being transferred to an ambulance and hospital. Wamboin crews returned to the station just before 11pm.

Wednesday 20th March at 6.50pm: the Senior Deputy Captain responded to what turned out to be a 'good intent' call he received regarding a smoke scare/odour of smoke circa the Federal Highway Service Rd in Sutton. The source of the smoke/odour turned out to be a resident conducting an unauthorised burn (of rubbish).

Thursday 21st March at 2.30pm: crew in 3 brigade units responded to a report of a single vehicle rollover on Macs Reef Rd Bywong.



Hazard Reduction burns

The A.C.T. has been conducting Hazard Reduction burns in the Namadgi National Park and other locations as weather has permitted. A small number of members of our brigade assisted the National Parks and Wildlife Service and ACT Rural Fire Service in a burn during March. Weather permitting, the NSW Rural Fire Service Lake George Fire Control Centre plans to conduct burns in the Lake George Zone over the next several weeks.

Training

There were two set training sessions during March. Early in the month the focus was on reinforcing member understanding of hoses, nozzles, pumps and pressures, use of foam, etc. The second training session reinforced the same subject matter in a practical way using the brigade tankers away from the fire station and introducing a range of scenarios and applications including use of foam and draughting water from an open water source such as a dam. A number of members successfully participated in formal RFS assessments during the month. Congratulations to all on attaining their targeted RFS qualifications.

Community Education

FireWise groups: On Sat 2nd, Sunday 3rd and Monday 4th March @ 7.30pm, members of the brigade's Community Education team attended 3 separate community-initiated meetings for all residents on The Mountain Rd and Joe Rocks Rd and their tributary roads and lanes. The purpose of the meeting was for each group of residents to meet as a collective to initiate individual/ group thinking and discussion regarding bush fire risks associated with living in this area, with a view to sharing ideas and experiences including general and specific steps they might take, individually and as a group, aimed at reducing some of those risks. The initiative is community-driven. The presence of brigade members is to offer guidance and answer questions.

Community Education Team members also attended similar meetings in Old Goldmines Rd, Sutton and Cooper Rd, Wamboin. Other initiatives are also underway in Merino Vale Dr; Gallagher Cres & Proud Pl; Norton Rd & Bingley Way surrounding the Wamboin Community Complex; and a group of residents along Weeroona Dr, Wamboin. If you would like to know more about the purpose of, role, and how to set up a FireWise Group, please contact Senior Deputy Captain Richard Hobbs on 0417 483 978 or email senior@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au



Wamboin Market Day Brigade Info Shopfront: Members of the Community Education team fielded queries from several residents who visited the community's local produce market on Saturday 16th March and popped across to the brigade's shopfront outside the Fire Station with their coffees and hamburgers to seek some 'hot' advice re their bush fire survival plans.

'Co-existing with fire': Assisting a Research Team with its project: In September last year the brigade was contacted by the Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Research (AUSCCER) at the University of Wollongong regarding a project a research team was working on entitled 'Co-existing with fire: managing risk and amenity at the rural/urban interface'. The project is funded through the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre. The research team was in the process of selecting two research sites in NSW that would form the focus of exploring resident's attitudes to their environment and bushfire management. In the intervening months, the researchers have visited Wamboin and, with the help of members of the Brigade's Community Education team, gained a deeper understanding into the history (inclusive of wildfire), topography, land usage, residential development, revegetation, etc in the area. The research team has now selected locations within the brigade's area as one of the two sites to conduct its research – the other site is in the Blue Mountains. We understand the researchers are now moving to the next stage of the project, i.e. to interview households in specific locations in the Wamboin, Bywong and Bungendore area. We believe that this month's Whisper includes an invitation from the research team for residents to participate in the study.

2013 Bywong Car Boot Sale. The Brigade marked its diary for the Bywong Community Association's annual giant Car Boot Sale at the Les Reardon Reserve, Birriwa Rd Bywong (off Macs Reef Rd). Brigade members were again managing the car parking for sellers and buyers whose focus respectively was on emptying or filling their car boots and whatever else they had



brought along. This year, in the company of the brigade's fire tankers, we also set up a display of machinery, equipment and tools typically used by residents on properties in our area that can, and have, created sparks leading to spot ignitions of grass, leaf and other litter (fuel) on the ground. This past fire season has seen several instances where sparks from equipment and machinery and heat generated from grass build up around moving parts or exhaust outlets have led to fires that have quickly grown and, in some cases escaped. The brigade has responded to several such fires this season.

The first members of the Support Crew had also arrived early at the Les Reardon Reserve and having assembled the several tables, cookers and implements it wasn't long before the cooking and catering got underway. The first of a long procession of sausages, steaks, bacon

strips, onions and eggs from the Brigade's Support Crew BBQ and refreshment stall hit the hotplates. Once done to perfection the finished items found their way cuddled between two slabs of bread and into the mouths of those 'boot' buyers and sellers now seeking to satisfy their early morning tummy hunger.

Lofty and Joan Mason were shoulder to shoulder with the sellers, again working hard fundraising for the brigade with the sale of roses and an assortment of other flowers.

In all, around 30 members and friends of the brigade rolled up their sleeves on the day, which was a great effort. On behalf of the Brigade Executive Committee I extend a very big thank you to everyone for your respective effort. The Car Boot Sale is a crucial fundraising day for the hardworking Bywong Community Association (BCA) and its supporters.



Money raised by the BCA from the event is donated primarily to the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade. If the Car Boot Sale goes well, the fire brigade and several other community organisations benefit. So you can see how the Car Boot Sale is an important profile and fund raising event for the fire brigade and other community organisations.

Despite not having a stall this year, the Geary's Gap/Wamboin Landcare Group presented the brigade with a very generous cheque donation for \$500 during the course of the morning for which we are very grateful.

Again, many thanks to all who participated in the event - the organisers and their helpers, local businesses and other members of the community who donated prizes for the raffle, brigade members and friends of the brigade and, of course, thanks also to all you sellers

and buyers who were fixed in heady negotiations throughout the morning.

Long Service awards. On Friday 15th March, the NSW Rural Fire Service held a ceremony at the Queanbeyan Fire Control centre to present 12 National Medals and Clasps along with 32 Long Service Medals and Clasps to volunteers of the Lake George Zone. NSWRFs Fire Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM presented the medals and clasps. Wamboin volunteers accounted for 17 of the 32 Long Service Medals and Clasps (3 x 30 Year Long Service Medal & Clasps, 1 x 20 Year Long Service Medal & Clasp and 13 x 10 Year Long Service Medal).

Award recipients:

30 Year Long Service Medal & Clasps – Don Evans, Peter Greenwood, Dave Hubbard.

20 Year Long Service Medal & Clasp – Les Worden.

10 Year Long Service Medal – Brad Arrowsmith, David Cochrane, Peter Cullerne, Andrew Dunn, Darrol Dykes, Geoff Foster, Richard Hobbs, Larry King, Matt O'Brien, Colin Prest, Neville Schroder, Cliff Spong, Darrell Tipton.

Congratulations and thanks to you all for your contribution to the community's fire brigade and other RFS roles. Not all members were able to attend the event. Pictured - sandwiched between Palerang Mayor Clr Pete Harrison and NSW RFS Fire Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons are: Don Evans, Peter Greenwood, Peter (Rat) Cullerne, Col Prest (rear), Les Worden (front) and Richard Hobbs. Despite their long service, the medal recipients look so young!



to

New Brigade Members. The Brigade would like to extend a very warm welcome to new members who have joined and to others who are in the process of joining. We are always keen to hear from residents who would like to become a member and actively participate in the community's fire brigade whether as a fire fighter or member of the Support Crew. If you would like to know more about what's involved, please ring the Secretary, John Taubman, on 6238 3153 or email: secretary@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat 20 th April	Brigade Information 'Shopfront' adjacent to the Wamboin Home Produce Market (9am-12noon).
Tues 11 th June	Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade Annual General Meeting – 7.30pm @ Wamboin Fire Station 112 Bingley Way Wamboin.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Wamboin Brigade Website. The site will help you monitor local conditions and Brigade announcements. The **Community Information** section has useful information including links to other websites including the NSW Rural Fire Service that provide guidance regarding bush and grass fire preparations. You'll also find the brigade's history and other interesting material including photos on the Brigade's site at <http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au>

As always, if at any time you have a query about a fire-related issue including preparing yourself, your family and your property for a bush, grass or house fire, please contact the Brigade directly by email captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au or phone 0409 991 340.

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WAMBOIN 15 years ago – from the Whisper, April, 1998 Circulation: 600

the Whisper:

* The president of the WCA, Libby King, wrote that she was pleased to attend the consecration of St Andrew's Church on 8 March, and complimented the local tradespeople who were involved in the construction.

* Our local Volunteer Fire Brigade members were heavily involved in fighting a large fire around Forest Road. In all about 800ha was burnt. The fire was attended by about 300 personnel from Yarrawluma and surrounding shires. Of these, between 60 and 70 were from Wamboin. Other local residents were in the concurrent supporting SES operation. Fifteen properties on Forest Road were directly threatened; one unoccupied house was lost.



What a debt we owe our wonderful Brigade members.

* On Saturday, 4 April, Penny and Don Evans were married in the first wedding in the new church.

* On Sunday, 5 April, the stained glass window in the church was dedicated.

* On Saturday, 11 April members of the Model A Restorers Club planned to drive some 150 vintage cars through Wamboin as part of the 15th national Model A Ford meet.

* Libby King also informed us all that the WCA had agreed to new guidelines for the community notice board. These are: a permanent space for removable community notices; no regular advertisements, ie business ads (the Whisper is the place for those); chalk notices only (no notices to be taped or otherwise attached to the board); weekly cleaning of the board.

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The 50 or so people below each spend time every month to make sure that Wamboin and Bywong homes own and receive a free community newspaper written by residents. If your deliverer has been on the job for a long time and you have a bit of time you could spare, think about offering to take over the job or help out. If you already have too many tasks in your month, every now and then give your volunteer paperwoman/man/boy/girl a thank you.

Thanks to each of you. - Ned Noel, volunteer editor

168: CO-ORDINATED HELEN MONTESIN: ph 6238 3208					
Fay Kelly	Norton Rd West Area from Cmpbl Pl	20	Bill Owen	Cooper Rd	26
Helen Montesin	Fernloff Rd	33	Stuart Whitten	Canning Cl	17
Julie Veal	Poppet Rd (for all on road)	32	Alan Rope	Sutton Rd	40
172: CO-ORDINATED BY KATHY HANDEL: ph 6238 3596					
Joan Mason	Bingley Way	48	Margaret Heleimin	Merino Vale Dr	17
Sue Ward	Norton Rd (Bingley to Weeroona)	32	Anne Gardner	Weeroona Dr (Norton to Majors)	31
Kathy Handel	Norton (Weeroona to Hilltop)	18	Penny Evans	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	26
232: CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER: ph 6238 3489					
Lesley Page	Valley View Ln	4	Deb Gordon	Yalana East	44
Colleen Foster	B'dore Rd to Nrtm Rd	22	Rob Gorham	South end Clare Valley	38
Cassie Fisher	Clare Ln	12	Lyle Montesin	The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks	60
Dominica Lorima	North end Clare Valley	42	Bungendore Foodworks	Bungendore	10
245: CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN: ph 6238 3590					
Sheryl Barnes	Denley Dr (Sth End 1/2 way2 Kestral)	15	Brian Higgison	Denley Dr (Birchmans to Kestral inc)	12
Don Malcolmson	Macs Reef Rd (Denley to Gum Flat)	7	Rhett Cox	Macs Reef Rd (Newington to Bankers)	7
Connie & Hans Bachor	Dnly Dr to Macs Rf Rd incl Bchm Gr	28	Morag & Guy Cotsell	Macs Reef Rd b'n Nwngtn& Harriott	30
Nora Stewart	Rovere Ln	7	Sandra Favre	Macs Reef Rd b'n Nwngtn& Harriott	20
Carol & Clive Boughton	Macs Reef Rd (Bankers to Fed Hwy)	33	Joan Milnor	Birriwa Rd plus Macs Rf Rd to Harriott	30
Beth Hope	Gum Flat Ln	6	Tony Bond	Hogan Dr/Orana Dr/Yuranga Dr	35
Kevin Beier	DenleyDr (Kestral2 1/2 way 2SthEnd)	15			
140: CO-ORDINATED BY IAN COILLET ph 6238 3425					
Michael & Jose Deane	FdHwSvcRd/Bidges/Hickey/O'Gold	63	Jenny Bryce	Wattle Flat Rd	11
Robert&Marzena Luton	Sutton Park Estate	48	Penny & Russell Ball	Macs Reef (Denley Dr to Bungdre Rd)	18
203: CO-ORDINATED BY KEVIN ANDERSON ph 6236 9333					
Phil & Pam Dawes	Donnelly Rd & Donnelly Ln	25	David Featherston	Summerhill and Creekborough Rds	26
Kevin Anderson	B'dore Rd (Macs Reef to Summerhill)	35	Attila & Cherry Hrgsi.	Snowgum Rd	26
Kerrie Gougeon	B'dore Rd (Fed Hwy to Summerhill)	25	Chris Fowler	Shinglehouse & Millyn Rds	20
Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	21	Richard Holding	Wyoming & Doust Rds	25
109: CO-ORDINATED BY NED NOEL ph 6238 3484					
Diana Griffin	Majors Close	18	David Anderson	Weeroona (Majors to Denley)	36
Advertisers & Misc	(Out of area mailouts)	41	Palerang Council	Council Offices	14
TOTAL 1,269					

Land

by Simon Scott-Findlay

Another thing that I like about Wamboin is the space that we have here.

At first I thought that we'd buy some weaner cattle to keep the grass down, sell them as yearlings, and then get more. The price of weaner cattle went up that year, so we put it off, and by the end of the year we noted that our neighbours were hand feeding their horses, persuading us to wait until the drought broke.

Last year, eleven years later, it looked like the drought had finally broken, but now if we got weaners, I'm afraid that they'd become pets and I'd never be able to sell them. We're toying with the idea of Dorper sheep because of the lack of shearing, but what ever stock we get will live to old age, and, like our chooks, unless they are suffering, let nature take it's course.

Just because we have no stock at present, we can't ignore the care of the land. Each year I sprayed for weeds and eliminated the Patterson's Curse and Briar Rose, while severely curtailing the Scotch thistle and St John's Wart.

Then last year with the wet summer, I was not able to follow my usual spraying program (being restricted to weekends), but I was not worried because I had reduced my weed problem to a low level.

I was a bit surprised when I received a letter from the Palarang Council telling me that I had a problem with St Johns Wart, but went out with the glyphosphate in my back pack and thoroughly sprayed all I saw. On my rounds I was amazed to see just how much St Johns Wart had returned, that the Briar Rose had re-sprouted from rock crevasses by the creek after years of no-show, and that the scotch thistle was also making a comeback.

At December's Wamboin market, one of Palarang's weed inspectors set up an information stall, and was available to talk with anyone who wanted help. There was lots of good information freely available and helpful tips. Being able to recognise the problem weeds is just the beginning, because you need to know when that weed is most susceptible as well. I was amazed to learn that selecting the right spray can be cost effective, even if it is more expensive. A more selective spray would leave the surrounding grasses intact, reducing the opportunity for more weeds, and a selective spray can be more durable than one season, reducing the need for respraying.

When I went back with a more selective spray (picloram), I saw St John's Wart already regrowing at the edges of the dead patches in my paddocks, only weeks after the first spraying.

After the second round of spraying, I phoned to arrange a time to meet the weed inspector as he was following up on his first property inspections, and I am so glad that I did.

Although I was a bit apprehensive, the guy who came out couldn't have been more helpful. He also owns land in our shire, facing similar issues, so was able to commiserate with my situation. On our walk around, he not only showed me likely future problem areas, but gave many useful tips on how to deal with it. He showed me a really quick, practical way to tell the difference between native & tussock grass, instead of looking for the ligule, etc, just by feeling the roundness of the stems. He had many useful tips, but the one that stands out in my mind, was to clean the mower well after mowing the area infected with tussock to prevent it's seed spreading it to the uninfected part of my property (so obvious that it had not occurred to me).

Although the Palarang Council charges a fee to fund this service, it is money well spent as it helps us to protect and live with our environment. We are also so fortunate to have such knowledgeable and well motivated staff to help us out.

NEW CLASSIFIED

Stack Vista heater with flue - about 30 years old but was working when replaced 5 years ago - \$80 ONO; and SMEG fan-forced oven - about 20 years old, also working 5 years ago - \$50 ONO. If you fancy either of these items, please email or call Barb (barb@langlopress.net; 6238 3525).



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Nature Notes March 2013

— by Jo Walker

The first month of autumn has been quite warm, and the few showers we've had resulted in very little moisture. Any colour in the landscape is now produced mainly by the various shades of green and grey exhibited by the eucalypts and wattles. One of the few plants flowering at present is *Cassinia quinquefaria*, the shrubby daisy-bush with heads of silky pale yellowish flowers. The heavy crop of buds on the Silver Wattles (*Acacia dealbata*) this year promise a really good display of yellow flowers later on.

Recently, I saw a Mistletoe Bird here for the first time. It's interesting that there are not more of them around as this area has plentiful mistletoes (mostly *Amyema pendulum*) growing on eucalypts and wattles. The main food of the Mistletoe Bird is the mistletoe fruit, and the digestive system of this little bird has become modified to deal quickly with the berries which can be digested in as little as half an hour and the sticky seed voided to germinate on another branch. The bird I saw was a female – dark grey back, pale grey breast feathers and a pink patch under the tail. The males are more brightly coloured – the patch under the tail is red and there is a large patch of red under the chin.

The little flock of Red-browed Finches here has now grown to fifteen individuals (in spite of predation by Pied Currawongs on some of their nests), due probably to the good supply of grass seed during the last few years. There are quite a few Gang-gangs around too, the creaking calls evidence of their presence even when they are some distance away, hidden in the eucalypt canopy splitting open the woody seed capsules to feast on the tiny seed.

There was a White-faced Heron at the dam last week, wading along the edge looking for something tasty to eat. It would stand on one leg and stir up the mud by moving the other foot around to disturb any small creature there. It appeared to be having some success, as it plunged its long beak into the water to catch something several times while I was watching it.

I hadn't seen the Satin Bower-birds here this year, but Denise (who lives a bit further up the road) reported that there are a pair of them at her place and the male has built a bower decorated with colourful bits and pieces. The bower is for display purposes to attract a female bird, and the nest is eventually built high in a tree.

The only snake I saw this summer was a long way from my place, a very large Brown Snake slithering quickly across Weeroona Drive. Lizards have been fairly plentiful though and recently I almost stood on a large Blotched Blue-tongued Lizard sheltering in the grasses. It had beautiful pink and yellowish blotches accentuated by the darker scales. The Eastern Blue-tongued Lizard lives in this area too and can be distinguished from the Blotched by the dark streak running from eye to ear.

Another member of the local wildlife with which I almost came into close contact was a large Golden Orb-weaving Spider (*Nephila* sp.) in the centre of a large web spun between two trees at about head height. This silky greyish spider has long reddish-brown legs adorned with clusters of dark hairs and the body is 3 or more cm long. That's the female. The male is tiny, a centimetre or less, and can often be found off to the edge of the web. The spider gets its name from the golden colour of the strands in its web although the intensity of the colour can vary. Many people have an instinctive aversion to spiders, but they are an essential and incredibly interesting part of the local biodiversity.

Wamboin Golf - by John Whitney

This month's event was sponsored by Deb, Ken and Rob. Many thanks from all the players and visitors for the fine eats and kitchen dexterity.

The day's play revolved around the Ambrose event with people pairing up, or should I say ganging up, to eliminate their opponents.

Winners and Grinners: Our ball winners included Linda Ivey, Lofty Mason, Rob Gorham, Len Ivey, Tim Barter x2, Nev Schroder and Rachel Schroder x2.

The 9 hole winners were Nev and Rachel Schroder plus Keith France with a score of gross 33, net 25.66. In second place was the gathering of Joan and Lofty Mason, Linda Ivey and young Jason Beckett - who apparently held the team together. Their score was 38 gross, net 27.25.

The 18 hole winners, locally known as the gang of FORE, were Tim Barter, Rob Gorham, Paul Griffin and Len Ivey with a score of 63/53.5

The handicapper wasn't sure of the day's "dummy spit" award - but we could mention two things; Keith's eagle on Weepers Drive and... eagles for individuals in an Ambrose event don't get much acclaim.

Next month's event is the Wamboin Mini Masters - a chance for all budding golfers to get their torso into the highly coveted Green Jacket. Check in with the starter at 12:15 for a 12:30 start from our Community Hall in Bingley Way. Last but not least is the infamous Ned Kelly trophy, taken home by Kevin Rowe as his wife Barbara was taken by its beauty.



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More details of the Wheels of Wamboin in this Whisper.

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The Sutton Activity Centre is a Not for Profit Community Based Accredited Centre which provides Before and After School Care (Including Pupil free days and Vacation Care) at Sutton. We are seeking a qualified and experienced Centre Director for a permanent part-time position (minimum of 25 hours per week). Above award rates will be offered to the successful applicant. To apply for this position you will ideally have the following:

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- Ability to plan and implement a program of activity for primary school aged children.
- A professional and co-operative approach to working with staff, families and the school community.
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- Effective communication and interpersonal skills.
- Strong leadership and management skills.

All relevant Working with Children and Criminal records check will be conducted. Names and contact details of two recent referees should be included in the application. Applications by email on Fri 19 April 2013 and should be submitted to the Management Committee at applications.sutton@gmail.com For further queries, please contact Christel – Vice President on 0418 690 184

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WAMBOIN PONY CLUB - March 2013

The weather has been good to us during March and the Wamboin Pony Club had a couple of busy rally days. Both Sundays were very warm for this time of year. Our young riders of all ages and experiences spent the first rally day this month doing some intensive jumping practice, which helps all to become more confident. A new experience to horse and rider was playing horse ball a game not all had done before and some horses weren't quite sure how to deal with the large leather ball that was being thrown around. The second rally day of the month saw riders practicing their mounted games in preparation for events in coming months. We also



welcomed new rider Rosemary with her pony Molly, we hope they will both be regulars at the club. Work on the grounds continues with parents Chris and Lisa spending their day raking our arena's and Peter, Rod and Steve concreting the club house steps, this important work needs to be done to keep the grounds in order. So if you have access to your own horse and are aged from 5-25 come along and enjoy the company of other riders and see what Wamboin Pony Club has to offer.



Rally days are a great social day out. Our club has dedicated volunteer instructors who will not only help your riding improve but make the day enjoyable. Wamboin Pony club usually meet's twice a month on Sunday's on our grounds at the end of Canning Close. Next rally day is in May (see our website for dates) as some of our riders will attend zone camp in Bungendore in April.

If you are interested come along and see all that Pony Club can offer. We would love to have some more riders join this local club. For information about Wamboin Pony Club and our upcoming rally days contact our club secretary Jenni on 62383313 or go to our website: www.wamboin.pcansw.org.au for information - We hope we will see you soon. - Steve Quick

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Email: lilyfield_yoga@live.com.au

Autumn Greenways Walk Millpost Hill Loop from Bywong Hall: Come Walking with Nora The Explorer Saturday 20th April from 1.30pm-5pm

Join us for our autumn Greenways walk to Millpost loop from Bywong Hall, covering mostly bush with a number of hills to traverse. A long walk over more difficult terrain of just over 10kms.

Bywong & Wamboin greenways are absolutely unique to this area in NSW, and this is your chance to see some magnificent bush, brilliant views and a different perspective of Bywong & Wamboin locality.

About the walk. This walk is a loop, starting at Bywong Community Hall, Les Reardon Reserve and heading South, then West to Harriot Road greenway junction, heading South through Birchmans Grove over the hill to Yeranga Drive, then across a greenway onto Orana Drive and Hogan Drive, up the hill to Millpost, down the other side to the greenway off Denley Drive then head North on Greenway to Denley Drive and back to the Bywong Hall to finish.

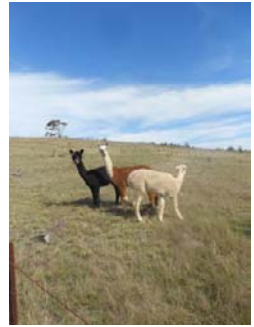
What you need to bring.

- Need proper boots & long pants or gaiters as we will be walking in very scrubby and grassy areas.
- Bring enough food and water for the afternoon and the usual sunscreen, hat, raincoat (if threat of rain).
- This walk requires a reasonable level of fitness. We may decide to have a shorter walk of 6.5kms that will take walkers all the way from Bywong Hall to just below Millpost on the Eastern side on Denley Drive. This would require doing a car shuffle between Denley Drive & the Bywong Hall.
- Dogs on leads & children welcome, although likely to be too difficult for the very young.


Register please. Please register your intention to come with **Nora Stewart on 62 303 305** or Nora@SetDancing.com.au please. Beyond a great walk experience, your safety is our top concern and registration is important.

Cancellation? If it is pouring rain on Saturday 20th April all morning with afternoon forecast, the walk will be postponed until the same time on Sunday 21st April. Please contact Nora or watch the Bywong Community website www.BywongCommunity.org.au for updates if the weather is uncertain.

Help us! We would be pleased to accept offers of help to guide the walk, first aiders, etc.



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ADVERTISING RATES: Local classified advertisements are free, as are announcements from community organisations and clubs. Business advertisements pay printing and Community Association Projects. Contact editor on 6238-3484 for information. Advertising rates: Full Page - \$120 Half Pg - \$60 1/3 Pg \$40 1/4 Pg - \$30 1/5 Pg - \$25 1/8 Pg - \$20

FOR HIRE from the Wamboin Hall: A 4 Burner, Hooded BBQ with side burner. Half cast iron plate and half grill plus temperature gauge. \$50 (includes gas) together with \$30 cleaning bond. Both payable on collection. Bond refunded if BBQ is returned clean. Enquiries - Joan Mason 6238 3258.

Trestles and chairs are available for hire by local residents. Hire rates are: Trestle \$10ea and chairs \$1.50 ea. Price does not include delivery or pick-up charges. Available from the Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way. Must be returned in clean servicable condition. All damages are responsibility of the hirer. Equipment must be tied securely on trailer etc. whentaken (otherwise they don't go.) Time of pick-up and returned MUST be adhered to (I don't live at the Hall!) - Joan Mason, 62383258.

FOR HIRE: WAMBOIN COMMUNITY HALL. Bookings arranged by Joan Mason 6238 3258. Local Residents \$100, Bond \$250. Non-Resident \$150, Bond \$300. The Hall is not available for teenage, 18 or 21st. functions.

FOR HIRE: BYWONG COMMUNITY HALL. Suitable for smaller functions and seminars, groups etc. Check availability and booking information on www.bywongcommunity.org.au.

The Whisper is a community newspaper for Wamboin and Bywong. If you live in the area and have something to say about living here that is informative, thoughtful or entertaining, think about writing it up for the next issue. For more information contact the editor on 6238-3484 or email nednoel@optusnet.com.au

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News from WWOW

The Wonderful Women of Wamboin

The Wonderful Women of Wamboin are a group of women who meet every Monday over a cuppa during the course of a couple of hours. It's a great way to meet new people as well as catch up with old friends. Women come not only from Wamboin, but also Bywong, Sutton, Bungendore, Queanbeyan and even a couple from Canberra.



Once again I write to announce a show winner from within our midst. Local Dianne Stoll showed us her winning pieces from the recent Taralga Show. Her prizes included not only first and second prizes for Best Cushion in the Fancywork section but also first prize for her candlewick quilt in the Quilting, Fancywork section. It is a beautiful piece worked completely by hand. It was great to see the finished piece after watching her quietly work on the panels during our Monday mornings.

Earlier in the month, another of our group, Sally Saunders, guided some of us through the National Gallery of Australia. Sally is a recent graduate of the tour guide program at the Gallery and displayed her broad



knowledge and sheer passion for art as we viewed the many collections within the Gallery. During her studies, a virtual post-graduate degree in my opinion, we could see her enthusiasm as she wholeheartedly embraced the course. Then to see her qualify and become such an engaging, passionate and informed guide was a pleasure to witness.

All women are welcome at WWOW — Mondays, 10 AM to 12 NOON at St Andrew's Anglican Church on the corner of Poppet Road and Norton Road in Wamboin.

For more information contact Gail Ritchie Knight 0416 097 500 whirlwind@argonite.com.au.

St Andrews and St Peters Church Notices

For the second year in a row, the Schultz family convened the "Plant in a Painted Pot" activity at the Sutton School Fair. It was a great success, attracting more than double the number of participants this year and enabling the church to contribute once again to Sutton School fundraising. Thank you to the many volunteers who helped with the activity on the day.

In the week leading up to Easter, Pastor Peter conducted Easter services in St Peters for the children of Sutton Primary School. Peter enjoyed sharing the Easter story with the children, and recognised many faces in attendance. Kids' Club will be in recess for the school holidays, but will resume on Friday, 3rd May at 5.30pm, at St Andrews in Poppet Road. Children up to about 8 years of age are welcome, and are encouraged to bring a parent.

The big news, however, is the Induction of our Pastor, the Revd Dr Peter Grundy, who has been with us since last October. This service will take place at 7pm on Friday, 12th April, in the Sutton Community Hall. Everyone is invited to the service and refreshments, afterwards. We hope to see you there.

If you would like to contact someone in relation to church service times and activities, the following names and numbers may assist you

.Peter Cartwright 6230-3202 Bronwyn Elliot: 6238-3359 Robyn Robertson 6238-3202 Alan Rope 6238-3224

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- How many times have you said to yourself "I wish I knew a bloke with a mower".

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My mighty Toro mower will handle light to medium tussock (but not a paddock that hasn't been slashed for years, with tussocks a metre tall!). Give me a holler, and I'll come and have a look before committing to the job. If the mower (or the operator!) is not up to it, I'll tell you straight and not waste your time and money. \$45 per hour, or fixed price negotiated rate.

In Oklahoma it's great to have grass as high as an elephant's eye, but not around here. Cut it NOW!

Phone Graham on 0421356666.



'SHUT THE .. STABLE DOOR!'

by Ian Collet

An occasional piece

Bywong Community Car Boot Sale – a very limited edition thru the viewfinder

Taking a short break in between other tasks at this year's Car Boot Sale, I took the opportunity for a quick zip around a couple of the rows of seller stalls. What an eclectic array of stuff. Here's a tiny sample.



Bits and bobs including knobs and battery contact leads not to mention the odd pre-loved Veganin jar. Never been into Veganin but a quick look on the www indicates the tablets contain paracetamol, codeine and caffeine. Not a bad mix to get you thru or past some of the gear on display.



Looked to me like heady negotiation over the price of a single piece of footwear! Given Mum and daughter's dress colour code, I guess the important thing was the item being transacted was pink.



I know this little number got the creative juices of a few members of the Fire Brigade going as they harked back to their favourite TV series M.A.S.H. Some thought it might make a great Captain's vehicle.



Only thing needed now is a shed to put it all in.



Answer to last month's Mystery Item? Well, Jo Walker, our resident observer and commentator on local flora and fauna knocked me up at last month's Wamboin Local Produce Market and with appropriate ceremony laid out a sheet of paper before my eyes. It appears an acquaintance of hers, entomologist Dr Roger Farrow, reckons he's slam-dunked the name of the little critter. According to Roger the insect is a Raspy Cricket. And it's a girl. For the techos among the readership - Genus *Hadrogryllus* Family Gryllacrididae. As the Seears advert on the teev goes, 'Now you know!'

Request for Drawings from 3, 4 and 5 Year Olds

Do you have a 3, 4 or 5 year old person in your family? Does that person every draw or paint pictures ?

If so this artwork would be a valuable addition to the May 2013 Whisper, coming out on Sunday, May 5 . If possible, please ask the artist to draw something related to life in the Wamboin or Bywong area – perhaps a house, a tree, a moon, an animal, a car, a friend, a bird or a plane flying over or an angel or devil or hero or monster who visits here. Please ask the artist to explain the picture in a few words or sentences and please include this description and the name and age of the artist when you submit work on behalf of the artist.



Each artwork received, along with the words or sentences that describe it and the name and age of the artist, will be sized to take up between 1/8 and 1/4 of an A4 page in the Whisper. Drawings or colourings or paintings can be in black and white or in colour, but the colour will only be detectable in the online version of the Whisper, which is printed in black and white. If possible, please scan the drawing and email it and the artist's description of its content and the name and age of the artist to either:

Jenny Richards (president@wamboincommunity.asn.au , phone 6238- 1329, mailing and letterbox dropoff address 1141 Norton Road

Wamboin, 2620) or

Ned Noel (whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au , phone 6238 3484, mailing and letterbox dropoff address 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin 2620

All emails received or mailbox deliveries received will be acknowledged by email or by phone. An effort will be made to print all pictures received in the May Whisper, or, if many are received, in the next few issues beginning with the May issue.

Deadline for this contest is 7 pm Sunday night, April 28.

The best three pictures in each the 3 age levels (3,4 and 5 years of age) will receive a small prize purchased from a local store for artists. Three independent judges (not the two above organisers) will make this decision.

If this request is successful, a later edition of the Whisper will ask for art and/or stories from residents of other age levels.



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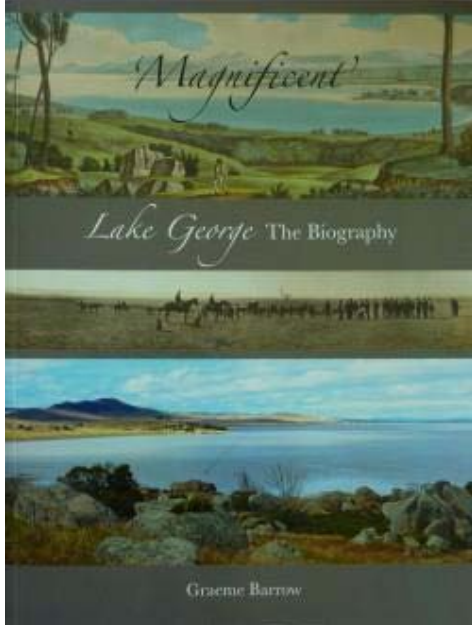
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‘Magnificent’ Lake George: The Biography

By Graham Barrow. Published by Dagraja Press, Hackett ACT, 2012, ISBN 9780977532858 (pbk).
iv, 114 p. : ill., maps ; 28 cm. \$30.00, http://www.graemebarrow.com.au/dagraja_shop/magnificent-Lake-george-the-biography-3/.

Reviewed here by David McDonald

How did you characterise Lake George? Many of us may use the term ‘enigmatic’ but Graham Barrow prefers the term ‘magnificent’. In doing so, he is echoing the assessment of Governor Lachlan Macquarie who first visited the Lake in October 1820, describing it as ‘this grand and magnificent sheet of water’.



Anyone who has lived for some time in the Southern Tablelands of New South Wales will know something about Lake George. We have seen its waters come and go. We have heard stories and seen pictures of people boating on the Lake, and read about some of the tragedies of lives lost in those rapidly changing, treacherous waters. Around this time of Canberra’s Centenary celebrations, we have been reminded that the Lake was on the shortlist to be the site of the national capital. Those interested in geomorphology have marvelled at the almost vertical slopes along the western side of the Lake. At certain times it becomes a birdwatcher’s paradise, although it has been generations since flocks of Native Companions (Brolgas) and Bush Turkeys (Bustards) have been seen (and hunted!) there.

All these matters, and much more, are documented in Barrow’s book. He describes it as ‘The Biography’ of the Lake. At first blush this seems a strange word to use as the dictionary definition of ‘biography’ is ‘a written account of a person’s life’. On the other hand, the root ‘bio’ refers to ‘life’, and that’s what this book is about: the life of Lake George.

Only 113 pages long, the book is presented in 18 short chapters. The first chapter ‘In the beginning’ deals with the geological history and this is followed by a chapter on ‘The first arrivals’. He refers to archaeological evidence exists of Aboriginal people having been living around the Lake for some 23,000 years, and that the Aboriginal name of the Lake was first recorded

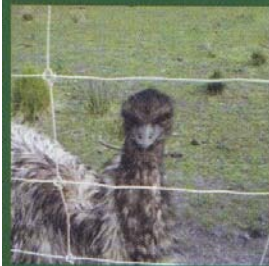
in writing in a letter from Charles Throsby to Governor Macquarie on 25 August 1820: ‘Wee,ree,waa’. Barrow is singularly unimpressed by Macquarie’s decision to name the Lake after the dissolute King George IV:

Macquarie could not have made a worse decision. The King’s indulgent lifestyle had seriously damaged his health and by the 1820s he ‘was extremely overweight and was addicted to both alcohol and laudanum [tincture of opium]. He began to show signs of insanity, became a recluse, and died in 1830’. Macquarie would have done better if he had ignored this foolish monarch and stuck with the Aboriginals’ charming Weereewaa as the official name of this ‘grand and magnificent sheet of water’ (p. 15).

After further discussion about the early European settlers he turns attention to the filling and emptying of the Lake, particular historic buildings, surveying the area, using it for various recreational interests including sailing and the unsuccessful plans to establish an airport and speedway on the Lake, the routing of the Federal Highway around its western edge, various myths and legends, details of some of the boating tragedies that have occurred on the Lake, commercial and recreational fishing, and the birdlife of the Lake. The final chapter ‘power from the wind’ discusses the arrival of the wind turbines along the eastern edge, an initiative welcomed by many but opposed by others.

Barrow has a facility for acquiring a good grasp of his subject and then presenting it in a clear, entertaining manner. The book contains many valuable quotations from historical sources, and is almost fully referenced. It is well designed, with many illustration, most of which are in colour which leads one to be pleasantly surprised that it is available at the modest cost of \$30. It is a book that you can read cover-to-cover with pleasure, or you can dip into particular chapters of interest as the individual chapters more or less stand alone.

I suggest that ‘Magnificent’ Lake George: The Biography be placed high on your reading list if you have not already discovered this wonderful book covering one of the most fascinating localities in the Wamboin region.



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Michael Deane

PO BOX 525
Jamison ACT 2624

Ph: 0414 525 525
Fax: (02) 62303088

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Jamison ACT 2614

Phone: 6230 3088 Mobile 0414 525 525

Email: deane.fencing@hotmail.com

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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

Mellow autumn, a brilliant Easter moon, morning mists, red and yellow trees and galah sunsets. It has to be the best time of the year. I was sitting on the verandah, breathing in the night while cradling a hot cup of tea in my hands. It was well before dawn. All was still, cool and quiet, and the garden was infused with moonlight. Suddenly, a distant car tore the bush apart, a kangaroo thudded through the trees, and there was a ping as gathered dew fell in the metal downpipe. It was a moment to savour.

I haven't been able to get into the garden as much as I would've liked, lately, but perhaps the neglected garden has been saved by the welcome change in the weather. I would like a lot more rain, though. The constant wind has blown the clouds away and the promised rain has been more akin to the fabled Pommy wash than a self respecting teenager's shower! But it didn't blow the Koel off course. It's back, for the moment, with its distinctive call, and the magpies have found their voice after a parched summer.

There is something else I always look forward to at this time of the year, and that's the Sutton School's Country Fair. I have been to many fetes and fairs over the years, from simple affairs to high powered extravaganzas, but none surpass the energy and enthusiasm of the Sutton School fete. It is a real community occasion, with a country feel, and I am in awe of the efforts of those behind the scenes. I think I've been hooked on fetes since the time, when as a small child, I won an iced fruit cake by correctly guessing its weight. I'd watched a stream of good country women ahead of me pick up the cake, screw their eyes tightly in deliberation and announce, confidently, its weight. I just plucked the first numbers that came into my head....six pounds eight and a half ounces...and without handling it, it was mine! In an era where there are so many activities each weekend competing for the crowds, it is testimony to the strength of the school family and its relationship with the community that this school fair is such a success each year. And I came home, not just with the memory of so many happy small faces, but a wheelbarrow load of plants for my garden and a few more toys to delight small people and further clutter the back verandah.

Beautiful autumn, special Easter times and the knowledge that I live in such a great community confirmed once again.....I wouldn't live anywhere else!

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