



December 2025
Circulation 1,373

Ambulance - Dial Triple Zero (000) All Hours
Bungendore Police: 6118 1240 Ambulance Bookings: 131233
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
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Community Nurse	Heather Morrison - Bungendore	6238 1333	
Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade	Matt Jackson - Captain	0409 991 340	wamboincaptain@gmail.com
Geary's Gap Pony Club	Cameron Smith	0419 449 747	
Golf	Ken Gordon	0455 839 840	ken.gordon1962@gmail.com
Injured Wildlife	Wildcare – Helpline	6299 1966	
Justice of the Peace	Andrew Stainlay – JP	0408 469 880	stains@bigpond.net.au
Justice of the Peace	Leanne (Lee) Ward – JP	0411 207 317	leannefward@gmail.com
Bee Swarm Support	Adrian Meijer	0427 101 550	rdoran4@bigpond.com
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NSW SES (assist – storm/flood)	NSW Call Centre	132 500	
NSW SES Bungend. non-urgent)	After Hours Duty Officer	6238 0222	
Sutton School Playgroup	Felicity – Contact Person	0413 174 204	Playgroup.sutton@gmail.com
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Wamboin Community Assoc.	Jenny Richards - President	0490 020 165	president@wamboincommunity.asn.au
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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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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 February 2026 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, January 25, 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



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Thank you for your support throughout 2025!

Wamboin 2025 sale statistics *(allhomes.com)*



2025 growth
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Wamboin Community Association

President's Notes



December at last and the last President's Notes for the year and its certainly been a busy year. We've had numerous community events over the year such as Wheels of Wamboin, Community Talks, Monthly Markets, Bonfire/Fireworks Night, Meet the Candidates for the federal government elections and numerous meetings with local and state government people. Now we are down to the last event : the Annual Christmas Carols Night.

1. Community Christmas Carols. Probably by the time the Whisper gets to you this event will already be over but I hope that many members of our community will come to this non- denominational event on **5th December at the Hall**. The event will begin at **7:00 pm** and is a lot of fun featuring our musicians to help us sing carols and Sutton School who will give a performance. The Christmas Play as always will be performed which is always delightful, and of course Santa will arrive on a firetruck to distribute gift bags to all the children. Please come along. This is always a exciting event aimed specifically at the younger members and their families but everyone is welcome to come and sing to our carols. Entry (yes there is an entry cost) is a present under the giving tree for someone less fortunate **PLUS** a gold coin donation for the sausage sizzle BBQ and drinks. All proceeds go to the Salvation Army who will be there. So come and enjoy yourselves

2. Christmas Mail Box or Entrance Competition. Even though its November I have already seen a couple of excellent mail box decorations which I hope will be entered in this year's competition. This event run by Gail Ritchie-Knight is another great community event and for final days of entry please see Gail's notes further on in this edition of the Whisper or on our webpage or social media. Excellent prizes are up for grabs and winners will be announced at our final Market for the year on **20th December**. I confess as one of the three judges I often find it difficult to choose such is the variety and creativity that can go into this event.

3. Final Meeting for the Year. On the **16th December** the Wamboin Community Association will hold its final meeting for 2025. We tend to make this a *very* short meeting (and I am known for my short meetings) so we can have a bit of a Xmas Party afterwards. Any member of the community can attend this event – it is not just for members of the Community Association so please feel free to come along on **Tuesday 16th December at 7:30 pm**. We will of course be at the last Markets on 20th December but then the Association goes into a month long rest before recommencing in 2026.

Finally I said that last year had been challenging on a personal level and this year saw the sad but inevitable conclusion. Through it all I had the support of my marvelous Committee. So thank you, Diana, Keith, Denise, David, Ned and Denise not only for all the work that you do behind the scenes but for your words of encouragement and support. Thank you also to those regulars who attend our monthly meetings to provide good, well grounded advice and suggestions. Finally thank you to my own family. So now I wish you all a very **Safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.** - *Jenny Richards – President.*



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Bywong News

Hello everybody strap in and get ready for the Christmas addition of the Bywong Banter in the Wamboin Whisper. We have the Christmas drinks coming up, The greenways repair of the gate was a success.

We also have another Plug for the Christmas Front Gate Competition. Over the last month the BCA joined forces with the Greenways committee and a small group from the community moved the Gate from the Les Reardon Reserve to the Greenways. This was done due to the erosion in the area and ultimately was something that would not easily be remediated.

Thank you very much to all those who helped as we made a massive dent into the segment of the greenways.

Now Just before we get onto the Christmas Drinks I think we should all take a moment to consider our Christmas decorations and the long time competition for the Best Christmas Entrance way or gateway.

This has been a hotly contested competition in the past and this year should be even better.

Get your decorations out and dress up your driveway. Take photo and send it in to the Wonderful Women of Wamboin. There are some hefty prizes including a massive hamper for the Winner of the Best Driveway and the Best Letter Box categories.

The Christmas drinks will be held on Saturday the 13th of December between 4:30 and 7:00 PM down at the Bywong Community Hall Birriwa Road.

This is a nice casual event to come down meet some revisit some of your friends. Bring the Kids, bring your pets and bring your neighbours and we can all catch up. The BCA will put on a BBQ and bring some drinks. I look forward to catching up with many of you over the next few weeks and Months. Thanks again for a great year. - **Justin Jarvis**



Bywong Hall

67 Birriwa Place, Bywong

The Bywong Hall is available for community hire at great rates. Hiring of the hall can be used for family gatherings, community events, workshops and meetings.

The hall has a fully equipped kitchen, tables, chairs, ample parking as well as a BBQ for hirers to use (just bring your own gas).

There is a fantastic playground which is very popular for primary aged birthday parties. Further information about the facilities, fees and how to book can be found:

- www.bywongcommunity.org.au/les-reardon-hall/
- email the booking officer at lrrhallbywong@gmail.com



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Bookings:
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Mark Langley Horsemanship

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Bookings: info@marklangley.com.au

Manuel Jorge De Oliveira Clinic

8-10 March 2026

Bookings: bonnie.skinner@hotmail.com

Manuel Jorge De Oliveira Clinic

13-15 March 2026

Bookings: bonnie.skinner@hotmail.com

Watch this space for more working equitation clinic dates.

Merry Christmas from all of us at Sherony Park

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The Wamboin Firefighter

FOR ALL EMERGENCY CALLS



PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

Callouts and what we have been up to. Since the last whisper, the brigade has been busy with training, assessments and call outs for 1 x MVA, 1 x ambulance assist, 1 x smoke sighting and 1 x grass fire.

A reminder about permits and your legal responsibilities. Being able to obtain a permit in the fire danger period is a privilege. You need to read and follow all the conditions EXACTLY that are written on the permit. You MUST ensure that any weather conditions, that in any way could make a pile burn escape, uncontrollable or dangerous, NOT HAPPEN! A pile burn can burn and smoulder for days or longer. You need to get detailed wind speeds for 48 hours before lighting and then continually check while there is any sign of heat, even if there is no smoke evident. If weather conditions aren't suitable at all to burn during the permit time, then DON'T BURN AT ALL! (you can always re-apply). Remember, you have agreed to check the weather forecast, have the necessary tools and water and to supervise the fire at all times. You own the fire, and you are legally accountable for any damage to your or anyone else's property if it was to escape.

Outlook for summer. Despite the early green tinge in the area, the relentless winds have proven to continue throughout October and November and are rapidly drying out the grass lands. If the current conditions continue, the bushfire and grassfire risk increases. We have seen many HIGH fire danger days so far, and we are not yet into summer. If a fire starts in our area, you need to refer to your fire plan. Are you going to leave or stay and defend? Remember that the power supply to your home is not guaranteed, especially in bushfires, so your house pump will be of no use if power was to fail. If you intend to stay and defend,



you should have all the necessary resources well ahead of using them on a fire. NOW is the time to purchase them. Past experience shows that when a bad fire season starts and fires get more frequent, fire-fighting equipment becomes harder to find, more expensive or not available at all. This includes garden hoses and fittings. You will have needed to become familiar with the equipment and tested it out with family members prior to any firefighting. If you already have pumps and hoses, check they are in good order. Other useful equipment might include a "Rake hoe" or "Knapsack". A fire trailer can be a good investment, perfect as a pressurised water source for pile burns or watering trees or shrubs around your property.

You should ensure you have the correct PPE (safety clothing, natural fibre shirt and pants, boots, hat, gloves, goggles and mask) as well. These should be ready in a bag, rather than to start looking for all your PPE when a fire is approaching. Being prepared is what we ask residents to do during the year when we have a clear mind and there is no panic.

■ 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

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Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council Mobile Library Service

This wonderful service visits Wamboin Hall every second Thursday. The mobile library contains a wide selection of materials for all age groups. You are able to reserve items from Bungendore, Braidwood and Queanbeyan libraries and collect these from the mobile library when it visits. Printing and photocopying facilities are also available on the bus. This is a great community resource and I would encourage all residents to support the service.

For information, the service will only have 1 visit to Wamboin in December - Thursday 11 December 2025 from 10.30-11.30am. The service does not operate in January but will recommence in Wamboin on Thursday 5 February 2026.

Thursday Social Drop In Group

The Thursday Social Group operates every Thursday from 10-12 noon at the Wamboin Hall. The group is made up of men and women who live in the Wamboin/Bywong area. If you have a free Thursday morning, why not drop in, have a cuppa, a chat with others and if you feel like it, a game of scrabble, rummikub, mahjong, sequence, or a game of cards. Some people just come down to say hello.

For information, the group will take a break over the Christmas-New Year and will not operate on Thursdays, 25 December 2025 or 1 January 2026 but will recommence on Thursday 8 January 2026.

We would like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year.

--Regards, - Narelle Pumphrey 0438 917206



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What the Heck Chapter 42

As you read in the previous chapter, the hall at Sutton has finally been completed and officially blessed. So it is time to turn our attention to the building at Wamboin and first up it should probably be repairing the fences and tidying up the grounds.

Some of you will remember that when the church was erected the garden area was divided into lots and many families took on the responsibility to prepare the ground, then plant and maintain their section. A water tank was installed and soaker hose was laid through all the lots, so most plants flourished and the families would regularly visit their section to weed and to nurture the plants.

However life goes on and most of the families moved away or became too old (so they said) to garden, or simply forgot their commitment. Recently we have hired gardeners to have a clean-up blitz, and one member has regularly dropped in and pruned and weeded, but he is now un-well and not able to continue for a while.

With the view of the church grounds, as one passes by, looking a bit like a jungle, I thought it was time for some action. So I started looking for inspiration. I was directed to a poem/song called "Who mowed the lawns of Eden" (written by Peter Christie and recorded by Instant Sunshine, c.1975). This verse seemed appropriate.

*Who mowed the lawns of Eden? Who helped the garden grow?
Who made of it a Paradise? I'll tell you, 'cos I know.
God, He fixed the garden, the first one that he made,
He pruned all the roses, and was handy with his spade.
On Sunday, nice and early He went out to smell the dew.
(There wasn't any Church then, so He'd nothing much to do).
He wandered to the potting-shed, behind the Tree of Life,
And got his spade and trowel out, His fork and pruning knife.
He looked after Eden, and He watched the lilies grow,
And Eden's still a Paradise where gardeners can go.*

So for the next few Sundays during our prayers, we will be lifting our faces heavenward and asking if He could come down and help out. But I expect Him to say that as there is a church now He does not have the time.
But one can only try. And maybe miracles do happen. - **Alan Rope**, Rector's Warden

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PLUS Salty Goodness, a highly praised local band and gaining new fans every show

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Limited camping is available during special events so book early to secure a site.

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The 19 October Birds And Wildflowers Guided Walk Of Wamboin Crown Reserve

By David McDonald

While it is widely understood that Wamboin and Bywong, with our beautiful Greenways, is something of a biodiversity hotspot, perhaps the jewel in the Wamboin crown is the Wamboin Crown Reserve! If you are not yet familiar with it, it is a 59 ha area of Southern Tablelands Brittle Gum/Red Stringybark forest abutting the ACT border, with its entrance a dirt Council road opposite 241 Bingley Way, Wamboin. For more information, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/43jxxz7p>.

The Reserve will be familiar to some as part of the venue for the famous Kowen Trail Run events held in January and June each year.

Being spring time, on 19 October the Friends of the Wamboin Crown Reserve conducted a birds and wildflowers guided walk in the Reserve for members of the public. About 19 people, in diverse age groups, participated. For many of them it was the first time that they had visited the Reserve.

We spent 2 ½ hours there, walking just 1.3 km. That reflects the fact that we spent so much time engrossed in admiring and identifying the diverse wild flowers and birds that are among the features that make the Reserve so special.

We were very grateful to have as a member of the party Margaret Ning from the Friends of Grasslands to help us identify the many types of native plants, including the wildflowers, found in the Reserve. Also participating were local birders Paul Downey and David McDonald who helped participants to identify the Reserve's birds.

Overall, with Margaret's help on the day, and at an earlier recce, at least 50 plant species were identified, including forbs, shrubs, grasses, and sedges, as well as a variety of native forest trees; details at <https://tinyurl.com/43jxxz7p>. 29 bird species were identified, including 3 species of spring/summer migrant cuckoos, and the Scarlet Robin which is classified as a vulnerable species in NSW. Details at <https://ebird.org/checklist/S280214962>.

Please see the February 2026 issue of *The Whisper* for information on our next public guided walk in the Reserve, and contact the Friends of the Wamboin Crown Reserve for more information at friendswcr@gmail.com.

Photo of Pink Hyacinth Orchid by Peter Comidar See in Colour in Web Version



Tomatoes

Tomatoes before Christmas? Too easy, I always aim to have ripe tomatoes to photograph for the December Whisper. It was a tough year for tomato growers with cold weather and the frost on November 12, but if size doesn't matter, thanks to Joan and Scott we have these ripe Cherry Roma tomatoes, and the green Apollo tomatoes could make the table on Christmas Day. Check on-line for colour. – **Lofty Mason**



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Wamboin Home Produce and Craft Market Saturday 20 December 2025 9-12md

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

We had a full hall and lively group of stallholders and buyers for our November market. We also helped Joan celebrate her birthday - with champagne and cupcakes! It was great to have some new stalls, as well as all our regulars. Jon returned with smoked trout, cheeses and more.

The Christmas market will be full of chances for those last minute gifts - craft, preserves, jewellery and more. The church will be there with Christmas cakes and shortbread - so if you are like me and haven't yet had time to make either of those - well there's the easy option!

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

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61571684975208> See you at the Christmas market!



Bower Bird

To the best of my knowledge, I have not seen a Bower Bird on our property before, so we were privileged this year to have one build his bower right outside a window giving us a ringside view of his daily activities. I admit we helped his collection by leaving some blue bottle tops etc on a nearby table but to watch him arrange, then rearrange the blue bits has been very interesting. We noted he also positioned yellow leaves across some blue tops. I guess the different patterns made sense to him as he spent time checking before making alterations. Apparently, his efforts were successful as we notice a female would occasionally sit in the bower and watch his artistic rearrangements. After about 2 months he began to call quite loudly and then we noticed the bower had been trashed and all the bottle tops had gone. We found it quite interesting to read up on the bower bird extensive ritual. To view the colours, check The Whisper on-line. - **Lofty Mason**.

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RIP Wheels of Wamboin

With great disappointment I sadly inform you that there will be no Wheels of Wamboin in 2026. Unfortunately, due to a number of circumstances I can no longer hold the event. Like many of the regions car shows that have disappeared from calendars, there are a couple of common key themes.

Due to a change in the perceived risk of the traffic management of the event the Wamboin RFS have informed me that they will no longer support the event. Without the amazing support from the Wamboin RFS the show just is not feasible to run. Insurances, a change in the WCA insurance meant we needed to take out a special event policy which cost about \$1000. This goes against the whole purpose of the show to raise money for local charity. Last year we had generous support by Ollie's Garage and Douros Group but we really should be raising funds for the local community rather than an overseas insurance giant. Another item that came up was the abuse of RFS staff members on the day. I was told only recently of instances of verbal abuse to RFS staff. I was not aware of this and I apologise whole heartily to anyone that was effected. If I had of been aware of this one the day I would have taken action. I know that the abusers would not be true car enthusiasts.



The event was originally conceived with a few aims. The Wamboin markets needed a boost. This was an idea to try and get more patrons along to them. We also had other events such as the horse gear sale and even helped out with the Bywong car boot sale to try and reinvigorate the markets. I think this was a success. It was also to get cars out of garages and celebrate everything wheels. I think we certainly achieved this with over 420 vehicles attending including over the years, cars of every shape, brand and size, trucks, tractors, motorbikes and some oddities. The Shannons Big Rig attended, Zane Morse's Super 2 race cars and a number of stalls. It was also for community building and a event to bring the community together.

Now for the upside. Over the past 11 years we have provided donations to local charities including Possumwood, Camp Quality and the Wamboin RFS. In addition, many locals held stalls at the markets including Landcare and the Wamboin RFS running the BBQ. We have provided memories and dreams for many.

I have to thank the Wamboin RFS for their support of the past 11 years, it would not have happened without your valued volunteers. David McDonald from the WCA, you are an asset and rock to our community, Meriel for her amazing work with the markets each month, Lou and her coffee to keep everyone humming, Ned with his last minute Whisper reshuffling for my articles (like this one at 2am in the morning) and the great car enthusiast community who are amazing. I also would like to thank Shannons Insurance who have been with us for all of the 11 years. The community of Wamboin is also amazing and I humbly thank you for your support. I also need to mention the memory of the late Ian Jackson who told me to just do it and the Mustang club will be there. Laurie and Jane Nock for the support of STHARC car club which gave me the confidence to start the first event. I didn't expect 11 years.

The car community is now well served with the Canberra Cars 'n' Coffee which attracts over 1000 vehicles every month. The organisers there are doing a fantastic job for the car community and the theme is much like Wheels of Wamboin, everything is welcome.

So for now, I thank you for your support over the past 11 years, it has been a great privilege to be able to indulge in the passion of cars in our small community. In the end we were a victim of our own success. We had a formula that really worked Please keep following our Facebook page as you never know what may happen. Thank you, - **Pete Evans**

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Nature Notes – November 2025

Jo Walker

The temperatures are a bit erratic at the moment. We've had quite a few hovering near 30 degrees but a few quite low ones too. A week or so after the month began, it was a pleasant 27 degrees one day then dropped to 13 degrees the following day – too much variation to adapt to! The rainfall has been enough to keep the vegetation green and growing though. And the eucalypts are still putting on a lot of new growth. A few years ago, I was looking at a eucalypt sapling growing on my place with Mount Majura far away in the background. I remember thinking it would be a very long time before it passed the top of the silhouette behind it, but it's already done that and is well beyond it.

The most noticeable plants at the moment are the Black Wattles (*Acacia mearnsii*), their clouds of cream flowers brightening up the landscape. They are growing along Norton Road at the Sutton Road end and also along Sutton Road. They are quite fast growing – the ones I planted here are now very large trees.

The Common Buttercups (*Ranunculus lappaceus*) did well this year but have almost finished flowering now. Their patches of yellow have been replaced by the flowers of *Xerochrysum viscosum* (Sticky Everlasting Daisy), the ground-hugging *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* (Common Everlasting) and the tall clumps of *C. semipapposum* (Clustered Everlasting) and the golden, flat-button flowers of *Leptorhynchus squamatus* (Scaly Buttons).

The tiny flowers of the Speedwells are providing a bit of blue colour amongst the grasses at the moment – *Veronica calycina* (Hairy Speedwell) and the slender-leaved *V. gracilis* (Slender Speedwell).

The roadsides are quite lively in places. I recently gave way to a long line of Pacific Black Ducklings following their parents across the road, while nearby a White Ibis was probing the carcass of a Kangaroo with its long curved beak.

As I'm writing this, the wind is getting stronger again. There were some very strong gusts in the wild weather of a week or so ago, but at least we haven't had those storms experienced elsewhere with those huge hailstones!



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Bird Of The Month – December 2025

By Luke Downey

For December I chose the Great Cormorant, a bird typically seen on our larger waterbodies.

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

Size: 72-92cm (wingspan 130-150cm)

Status: Fairly common breeding resident

The Great Cormorant is a large cormorant that is mostly dark overall. They have a yellow base to the bill and blue eyes. In breeding plumage, they will develop a glossier black plumage with a neat white face, white flank, and often some fine white streaking on the neck. Non-breeding and immature birds are duller brownish-black, lacking the white flanks and face. Great Cormorants typically favour our larger waterbodies, including lakes, rivers and large dams (also coastal waters), though occasionally utilise smaller farm dams, or fly over whilst moving between sites. I saw a couple recently flying over, and have also seen them on our small dam a few times over the years. They can occur singly, but often form flocks, sometimes quite large and often mixed with other cormorant species. They can often be seen roosting on dead or bare branches around the water, and sometimes perch with their wings spread out which is a characteristic cormorant behaviour to dry their wings after swimming. When swimming, they sit on the surface and dive frequently, taking fish, yabbies, and other aquatic prey. Their flight is strong, often in groups, forming V-formation. They are rarely vocal, occasionally making a guttural croaking. The similar Little Black Cormorant is smaller, has a dark bill (not pale) and lacks the yellow face, they also have uniform dark plumage, never showing the pale face and thigh. The Australasian Darter has longer thinner neck and bill. If you are visiting any larger bodies of water, make sure to keep an eye out for the Great Cormorant.

photo from Google Images)



Wonderful Women of Wamboin

Where has the time gone? And now we're into December! Generally we meet for a cuppa and a chat but usually on the last Monday of the month we tend to go out for lunch either in Bungendore or Queanbeyan. And so we did in November. But some of us also visited the Bungendore Quilters' Annual Exhibition over the last weekend of November. What an exhibition that was. It was their 18th exhibition and over the years it has drawn visitors from not only interstate but also from overseas. And we are so proud because one of our members, Merle Ketley was invited as the guest exhibitor for the 2025 expo. She is a former secondary textiles educator and artist, with skills in design, cultural costumes, Middle Eastern musical instruments and belly

dancing! But we all know more don't we. Merle is a dynamo with many skills, such that she has created Facebook pages for a number of local groups including WWOW and more. Below is a photo of Merle at the exhibition where her textile and jewellery skills were on prime display on stage.



At our WWOW sessions we do show and tell, mind you, I can't recall the last show and tell I did. Oh I did do a 'tell' — it was a funny story. However below is another photo, this time of long-standing member Barbara Malam showing a quilt she had recently sewn for her granddaughter. It's made of cotton with a Batik theme in colours and design. It was beautiful and looked very professional.

We'll continue to meet on Mondays at the Hall but for just the first two Mondays of December. Followed by our Xmas party for both WWOW and BOWWOW (boyfriends of...) 😊 at one of our member's home.

We welcome all women to come along. There is no formal structure to our meetings, such that we regard it as a

drop-in centre from 10am to 12pm and look forward to welcoming more next year — there's plenty of space. For details on what's happening next year go to our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559480500285> or phone Jane 0479169874 or email wonderful women of wamboin@gmail.com. — by Gail Ritchie Knight

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

Thank you if you are one of the deliverers, content providers, or financers through an ad for this December 2025 Whisper. It's one more little way of being alive in Bywong and Wamboin. There is, by tradition, no Whisper in January. Deadline for the February 2026 issue is 7 pm the last Sunday of January 2026, so that's January 25.. Guidelines for content that seem to me to work for content creators are: Written by a Bywong or Wamboin resident and signed as a way to show readers a real person is behind the words About or at least related to living in Wamboin and Bywong. Respectful of the many lifestyles in any group of 1300+ homes. Not printed elsewhere. Can be an article, a poem or a drawing or a photo A bit of humour almost always helps. If it is likely to increase your income, run it, but pay for it as an ad so help pay for printing. - Ned Noel, volunteer editor, nednoel@optusnet.com.au or whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au or 0409 997 082

How the Whisper Gets Into Your Mailbox Each Month

Thank you Rachel Palmer for delivering 19 Whispers to Denley addresses 417-512. Thank you Alison Evans for delivering 7 to east Wirreanda. Without the month by month donation of time by the 50+ residents listed below, it would be impossible for Wamboin, Bywong and other residents in the newsletter's catchment area to have The Whisper. Please remember all residents listed below, as they do what they do in order to make this place a little bit friendlier and more sociable. Without the businesses that pay to advertise in the Whisper we could not pay for printed copies. Finally, each article, invitation and notice you read in each Whisper is only there because you or others in the community took the time to create it. - Ned Noel, volunteer editor

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

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

182: CO-ORDINATED BY KATHY HANDEL: ph 6238 3596 khandel@bigpond.net.au

Joan Mason	Bingley Way	44	Margaret Hekeimin	Merino Vale Dr	19
Sue Ward	Norton Rd (Bingley to Weeroona)	32	Anne Gardner	Weeroona Dr (Norton to Majors)	32
Kathy Handel	Norton(Weero2Hilltop+wWrmdra)	21	Phil Leeson&C Fogarty	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	27
Alison Evans	East Wirreanda	7			

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

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

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

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

172: CO-ORDINATED BY IAN COILLET ph 0402 027 452 lodestar@ozemail.com.au

Simon Lewis	Federal HwSvcRd	24	Louise Baldwin	Wattle Flat Rd	11
Lyn Parkinson	Bidges/Hickey/OldGoldMines	53	Fire Brigade	Headquarters on Bingley Way	1
Chris & Kate M	Sutton Park Estate	57	Russell Ball	Macs Reef – Denley Dr to B'doreRd	26

150: CO-ORDINATED BY Chris Fowler ph 0438 591 098 chrisf1@pcug.org.au

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

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

Robyn Elsom	Denley Dr (Sth End to 429)	17	JonesFmly+JulieJohnsn	Denley 191 to 414	26
Tony Bond	HoganDr/OranaDr/Yuranga Dr	52	Mary & Paulo Beneforti	Dnly Dr frm MacsReef to Birchmans	12
Janey & Paul Pedersen	BirchmansFrmDenleyUp2SaraRf	16	Helen Longdon	SarahReef&BrichmansFrmSarah2End	12
Murray Goodridge	B'dore Rd (McsRF to&nclSmrhl)	40	Diana Griffin	Majors Close	19
Diana Boswell	Donnelly Rd 29 & Grove Rd 8	36	Advertisers & Misc	Out of area advertiser mailouts & msc	23

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Gazania: Q&A With Your Local Landcare Group About This Vibrant Daisy Growing In Roadsides And Gardens

Did you see Tim the Yowie Man's article in the *Canberra Times*' 15 November issue? His discussion 'This colourful cancer is taking over' raises some questions for the Wamboin/Bywong community.

Question: What beautiful, popular, multi-coloured, easy to grow, hardy, daisy does the Gearys Gap/Wamboin Landcare Group NOT propagate, and why not?

Answer: *Gazania* (*Gazania spp.*), aka 'Treasure Flower'.

Gazania is an invasive exotic plant causing havoc in bushland, grazing, and cropping areas in parts of southeastern NSW (and elsewhere). It is already established in our area, and we don't want it to become our next sifton bush.

In June this year the Invasive Species Council announced that 'New research reveals a popular garden flower [*Gazania*] is more destructive than previously thought ... The study—published in *Frontiers in Agronomy*—tested *Gazania* seeds collected from across southern Australia and found they could germinate under extreme heat, cold, drought, salinity and even deep burial. This environmental flexibility makes it one of the most invasive and resilient weeds now threatening Australia's natural and agricultural systems.'

Question: *Gazania* is sold openly in Canberra's nurseries, so surely there's nothing wrong with it?

Answer: Friends of Grasslands have stated, at their [Facebook page](#), that '*Gazania* ... an emerging environmental weed in Canberra and elsewhere in SE Australia. But they are still being sold at the big hardware warehouses!' And the Invasive Species Council reminds us that 'We've spent decades relying mainly on self-regulation, which just doesn't work. You can still legally buy plants that are banned in neighbouring states or overseas. Unless governments act, we'll keep selling the next lantana, the next gazania, straight into our backyards and bushland.'

Gazania meet the definition of a weed under the [Biosecurity Act 2015](#) (NSW). The NSW government, and NSW local government councils, are failing to implement their legal responsibilities under the Act regarding *Gazania* and other weeds. South East Local Lands Services advise, in their [South East Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2023-2027](#), that 'In keeping with its premise that biosecurity is a shared community, industry and government responsibility, the Act introduces the legally enforceable concept of a general biosecurity duty. Under the Act, all people who deal with plants through their commercial, professional, volunteer, recreational or lifestyle activities have a duty to be aware of the impacts the plants they deal with might cause, and must take action to remove or reduce the likelihood of those impacts occurring.'

Question: I don't see any *Gazania* this spring along our local roads, so why bother?

Answer: Prevention is better than cure. Landcare suggests that we all become vigilant and take action to prevent *Gazania* from escaping from gardens and becoming established here.

Biosecurity experts from South Australia's Eyre Peninsula characterise it as a garden escapee: 'It has become an environmental weed after being widely planted for ornamental purposes. It easily colonises disturbed ground such as roadsides but invades bushland, crops and vineyards. Once established gazania can form dense stands that exclude all other plants. It impacts on native vegetation by competing for moisture and nutrients. It spreads along road reserves, degrading remnant native vegetation.' Spread is mostly by its tiny windborne seeds, or on vehicles, and by people planting it, unaware of its invasive potential.

Question: What should I do about it?

Answer: Do not plant *Gazania* in your garden. If it appears there, or along roads near your property, on our Greenways and other public areas, do what you can to eradicate it.

Question: How can I control *Gazania*? **Answer:** It can be controlled both physically and chemically:

Physical control: This refers to the manual removal of unwanted plants. In the context of *Gazania* management, it means pulling out seedlings, small plants, and minor infestations by hand or with tools (grubbing), ensuring that all underground stems (rhizomes) are completely removed so the plant does not regrow. This method is most effective for early or smaller outbreaks before the plant spreads widely.

Proper disposal of removed *Gazania* plants is crucial to stopping the spread of this invasive weed. Begin by carefully removing and bagging all flower heads to prevent seeds from dispersing, then place them in your household garbage—never compost them. After extracting the entire plant, firmly compact the soil to minimise the risk of new weeds taking hold. Consider planting vigorous, competitive species in the cleared area to further suppress any potential regrowth from *Gazania*. Additionally, it is important to regularly monitor known locations for signs of resurgence and promptly address any new growth.

Chemical control: Large infestations of gazania are best controlled with herbicide. Foliage should be thoroughly sprayed to runoff, and care taken not to miss any part of the plant. Here are two of the chemical formulation options:

Spray plants until just wet with a mix of 50ml glyphosate (450g/L) in 10L water.

In bushland areas use 4g of Lontrel®750 plus 25ml Pulse® in 10L water to reduce damage to companion plants.

The best time to apply herbicides is in autumn or spring, but good results can usually be achieved any time the plants are actively growing. (Adapted from Landscape South Australia Eyre Peninsula 2022. That source provides information on additional chemical controls.)

Further reading

Invasive Species Council 2025, 'New research reveals popular garden flower is more destructive than previously thought', <https://invasives.org.au/media-releases/new-research-reveals-popular-garden-flower-is-more-destructive-than-previously-thought/>.

Landscape South Australia Eyre Peninsula 2022, '*Gazania* (*Gazania spp.*) fact sheet',

<https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ep/plants-and-animals/pest-plants-and-animals/pest-plants>

Schremmer, Jessica 2025, 'Farmers and environmentalists call for national ban on selling invasive weed gazania', ABC Rural, <https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2025-11-05/calls-to-ban-invasive-weed-sales-at-nurseries-in-australia/105956004>.

-Tim the Yowie Man 2025, 'This colourful cancer is taking over', *Canberra Times, Panorama*, 15 Nov. 2025, pp. 6-7.

- David McDonald for Gearys Gap/Wamboin Landcare Group Inc.

Bird Of The Month – January 2026

By Luke Downey

For January I chose the Stubble Quail, a cryptic bird of grass and farmland that can often be heard over summer, but is seldom seen.

Stubble Quail (*Coturnix pectoralis*)

Size: 16-20cm

Status: Fairly common resident-summer migrant

The Stubble Quail is a medium-sized quail, mostly buffy-brown, with heavy creamy-white and some black streaking overall. They are paler below and have a bold pale eyebrow over a red eye. The male has an orange-buff throat, with a bold streaky black border extending onto the breast. The female has a creamy throat, lacking the orange and black of the male. Immature birds are like the female, but duller. They feed on seeds and insects. Stubble Quail usually occur in pairs or small coveys, but are seldom seen except if flushed, when they explode with a whirr from the grass, flying and then stalling and dropping back into cover tail first. Occasionally if lucky they can be seen on the edges of grass, crops or roadsides, especially around dawn and dusk. They are very vocal over spring and summer however, when they are breeding, and have a loud and distinctive, brisk “pippy-wheat” call. If you travel into farmland, cropland or grassland especially heading just inland of Canberra where there is lots of canola and wheat, you can routinely hear choruses of numerous birds calling throughout the crops. Their preference for grassland and adaptability to use cropland means they are one of the few birds benefitting from large scale clearing and farming in south-eastern Australia. Due to their increased detectability when calling they tend to be more recorded over summer than winter, and whilst some birds do migrate away for the winter, they are also quite nomadic especially in response to conditions.

The similar Brown Quail is a darker brown with black V-barring underneath and is quite plain, with no pale streaking or marking on the throat or eyebrow. Painted Buttonquail occurs in woodland, and the locally very rare Little and Red-chested Buttonquail are plainer especially below, and have strong contrast in the wing in flight. Make sure to keep an eye and ear out for Stubble Quail if you are around any grass or farmlands.

Male (photos from Google images) Female



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by Krystal Hemsworth
Communications
Coordinator
Wildcare Queanbeyan
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communications@wildcare.com.au
www.wildcare.com.au



Spotting a snake in your yard, near a shed or out in the paddock can be startling but it's actually something to celebrate. What you're witnessing is a timid and often misunderstood native animal going about their normal routine. Snakes are so shy and nervous, with no interest in humans they simply see us as a threat.

Instead, it's an opportunity to consider why it might be there. Snakes spend time in areas that provide food, shelter and water, and if your property offers these resources, it's an inviting place for them to pass through.

Removing a single snake will not solve the issue if the underlying attractants remain. Another snake will simply move in - and you may never see that one. The most effective way to reduce the risk of unwanted encounters is to make your property less welcoming to prey animals such as rats and mice, and less accessible to snakes seeking shelter.

- Reduce things that attract vermin: accessible grain, chook food, rubbish, and open compost.
- Remove hiding spots: loose sheets of tin, holes in shed walls, piles of bricks or timber.

- Improve visibility: trim bushes about 30 cm above the ground to help you see where you are stepping.

Be sure to dress appropriately when working outside - loose leg jeans and solid boots are a good start, and don't put your hand anywhere you cannot see into. If you do encounter a snake, what you should do depends on where it is.

- Outside in the open: from a safe distance, you can gently encourage it to move on with a gentle spray from the hose.
- Inside a shed: especially those with dirt floors or gaps, the snake often knows exactly how to slip away and is likely already gone.
- Inside your house: close the door, place a towel under it, remove pets and children, and call for help.

Keeping the snake in sight is crucial. If you can keep eyes on the snake until a rescuer arrives, they will have a better chance of removing it.

Snakes are an important part of our ecosystems, and Wildcare is able to rescue, rehabilitate and release native snakes. If you need help with a snake, call out 24/7 Wildcare Helpline on 6299 1966 and one of our trained and licensed snake rescuers can help.

To provide critical care to sick, injured and orphaned native animals across our 22,000km² service area, Wildcare relies on the generous donations from the community. These donations are crucial to continue this service. If you are able to support our mission, please consider donating to our public trust. Go to wildcare.com.au for full details.

Top Right: Snakes are just passing through, much like this Eastern Brown snake. (Online Whisper for colour version of photos.)

Bottom Left: Rocky the Tiger Snake was rescued from a drain earlier this year and recently released back into his local habitat.





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WAMBOIN WEATHER – rainfall and temperature records

(50 years from Cooper Road) by Christine Rieber

November Rainfall Stats	Average November rainfall..... 79.8mm
November rainfall to the 30 th 34.25mm	2024 November rainfall..... 83.0mm
2025 total rainfall to 30/11..... 534.0mm	2024 total rainfall to 30/11..... 633.5mm
	49yr Av. to end of November..... 639.7mm
December Rainfall Stats	
2024 December rainfall..... 57.25mm	Average December rainfall..... 64.9mm
Wettest December..... 177.75mm in 2010	Average no. rain days in December... 8.2
Wettest day..... 68mm on 2/12/10	Highest no. rain days..... 17 in 2010
Driest December..... 0mm in 1979	Lowest no. rain days..... 0 in 1979
December Temperature Stats	
2024 December maximum..... 35.1°C	2024 December minimum..... 4.2°C
Dec. 2024. Av. max 29.2°C & min 12.4°C	Av. Dec. temp.. 18.9°C (day+night comb.)
Hottest Dec. day..... 41.5°C on 21/12/19	Hottest December night... 23°C (2 times)
Coldest December day.. 12°C on 16/12/16	on 20/12/94 & 24/12/05
Average day (max.) temperature... 25.6°C	Coldest December night... 2°C (2 times)
Warmest December..... 2019	on 5/12/11 & 9/12/22
(Av. day temp. 32.0°C & night 12.3°C)	Average night (min.) temperature.. 12.2°C
(warmest night 14.9°C in 1994)	Coldest December..... 2011
	(Av. day temp. 19.5°C & night 8.7°C)
	(coldest night 8.5°C in 2022)

January Rainfall Stats	
2025 January rainfall..... 72.5mm	Average January rainfall..... 62.1mm
Wettest January..... 197.5mm in 1995	Average no. rain days in January..... 7.9
Wettest day..... 74mm on 21/1/95	Highest no. rain days..... 16 in 1976 & 78
Driest January..... 5.5mm in 2010	Lowest no. rain days..... 2 in 2003 & 14
January Temperature Stats	
2025 January maximum..... 36.1°C	2025 January minimum..... 7.3°C
Jan. 2025. Av. max 28.6°C & min 12.8°C	Av. Jan. temp.. 20.9°C (day+night comb.)
Hottest January day..... 43.6°C on 4/1/20	Hottest January night... 26°C on 25/1/82
& 43.5°C on 31/1/20	Coldest Jan. night..... 5°C (4 times)
Coldest Jan. day..... 12°C on 29 & 30/1/78	on 24/1/00, 12-13/1/12 & 1/1/13
Average day temperature..... 27.7°C	Average night temperature..... 14.1°C
Warmest January..... 2019	Coldest January..... 2012
(Av. day temp. 34.1°C & night 16.8°C)	(Av. day temp. 23.2°C & night 11.1°C)
(highest night 17.1°C in 91)	

November had the equal coldest night on record of -1°C on the 12th.
The total rainfall over the past 2 months has been 65.0mm, which is 46% of the 49-year average of 140.9mm.

Wamboin Entrance

Thanks to Darren Hurley of Hurley Bird Tree Services for providing mulch to re-mulch the garden around the entrance wall on Norton Road. Darren provides professional tree services including removal and pruning, stump grinding and mulch to our local area and beyond - check out his website to see what else his business can provide. Thanks also to Gearys Gap/Wamboin Landcare and the Wamboin RFS for weeding, watering and spreading the mulch. – Vicki Still

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Double Wombat Trouble!

Welcome to the newest orphaned wombats at Possumwood; Penny (L) and Frankie. Frankie came from the Southern Highlands a few weeks ago while Penny was rescued from her dead mother's pouch by a local Wamboin resident a couple of months ago. She was just 600 grams and had no fur. It was an excellent outcome. Her rescuer has visited Possumwood several times to follow Penny's progress. Both wombats are now around 900grams and doing well. This year we have released six wombats back into the wild, with another eight still in care.

Anyone can rescue a native animal in distress. Around 50 percent of all injured wildlife coming to Possumwood come directly from local members of the public. They can be held by the public for up to 72 hours before they must be handed over to a veterinary hospital like Possumwood or a licenced authorised wildlife rehabilitator. In many cases, time is crucial. The shorter the time to come into care, the better the outcome for the animal. The more people we have checking pouches for wombats, macropods, possums and other mammals, and picking up injured birds, turtles, and other reptiles, the better the outcome.

A simple rescue kit, keeping safe, and a big dose of compassion is all that is required to be an effective rescuer. A rescue kit for the car might include a box with a lid, a towel, pillowcase, blanket, and pair of scissors. - **Professor Steve Garlick, Possumwood**





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Kowen Kapers - Kowen Weather Station

The first Bureau of Meteorology weather station in Kowen was established in 1927 at the Kowen Forestry Settlement. The station (Station 70056), which operated from September 1927 to 31 December 1993, provided rain gauge readings taken manually by a forestry worker at 9 am each day. After its decommissioning, Kowen remained without a weather station for 23 years.

In 2016 a Portable Automatic Weather Station (Station 250071) was established in Kowen at Glenburn. Portable Automatic Weather Stations are operated by organisations external to the Bureau, in this case Parks ACT, with data provided to the Bureau by agreement. As the name suggests, the current automatic weather station collects weather data automatically and without the need for manual input. Moreover, data is collected on a wider range of factors and at more frequent intervals than the old manual system. However, as these data can be non-standard, data from third party stations is not archived in the Bureau's climate database.

Data collected and reported by the Kowen Automatic Weather Station includes: temperature, ultraviolet radiation, apparent temperature, dew point, relative humidity, delta T temperature, wind direction, wind speed and wind gusts, air pressure and rainfall. Information from the weather station is updated every ten minutes.

Some of the more complicated data now collected includes:

- Apparent temperature which is derived from a combination of temperature, relative humidity and wind speed to indicate what it actually feels like outside.
- Dew point, the combination of temperature and air pressure at which moisture in the air will become saturated and condense as dew.
- Relative humidity, a measure of the interaction of humidity and air temperature. This is important because the warmer the air gets the more water vapour it can absorb and so humidity drops. Thus a sliding scale is needed to determine when humidity reaches 100% and precipitation occurs.
- Delta T temperature measures the difference in temperature between two layers of air. It is used in forecasting thunderstorms, snow and in agriculture to determine the best time to spray weeds (the lower the value, the more effective the spraying).

Data from the weather station is used in the Bureau of Meteorology's weather app for various locations adjacent to Kowen. For instance, when you check Wamboin's weather some (but not all) of the data provided originated from this station. The station is at a lower altitude (720 m) and five km away with a mountain range between it and Wamboin. This explains the occasional discrepancies in temperature and dew point. Having said that, the rainfall data provided by the Bureau for Wamboin is based on rainfall at Canberra airport. If you live in Wamboin, an alternative option is to set your 'Bureau of Meteorology app' to 'Kowen' rather than 'Wamboin' where you'll at least obtain rainfall data from closer to home.

Directions: Directions to the Glenburn Woolshed were provided in last month's *Whisper*. From the Woolshed follow the path south to Charcoal Kiln Rd and turn right (west) and walk for 75 metres. The weather station is behind a fence on your left, approximately 75 metres from the road. - **Peter Komidar - Wamboin**



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November Golf

Sunday 2 November was the date for the much-anticipated Wamboin Open Golf Championships. Nineteen players braved the course and conditions. We welcomed Ian and Jenny from the Gold Coast who were visiting. Maybe on the next visit they could be talked into playing a round of golf for the entertainment value. The day was warm and the course was in good condition. The Open is played as both a stroke and handicap competition. The winners of the 9-hole and 18-hole championship competition are those with the lowest score 'off the stick'. The remaining competitors battle it out for the monthly handicap competition.

The sponsor this month was Wamboin Golf Club and we thank Joan, Rob, Marylou, Sam for the refreshments and Deb Gordon for the wonderful array of prizes.

Ted's joke involved the inconvenience of medical mishaps on the golf course.

The nine-hole competition was played using the Eastern course this year. The Junior champion was Emma Hansen, the Men's 9-hole competition was taken out by Gerard Ryan (33) and Kath Hansen was the Women's 9-hole winner (48) and the new caretaker of the Ned Kelly trophy. The place getters in the 9-hole handicap event were Steve Lambert (1st - 40/29), Lisa Whitney (2nd - 55/29) and Ken Gordon (3rd - 35/31). Deb Gordon, Rob Gorham, Chris Hansen, Tony Bond, Pete Harrison, Steven Harrison, Col

Urquhart, Sam Urquhart and John Whitney were the encouragement award recipients.

The eighteen-hole competition was very tightly contested with Tim Barter (76) taking out the Men's Open Championship. The place getters in the 18-hole handicap event were: Paul Griffin (1st - 87/70), David Bailey (2nd - 93/73) and Nev Schroder (3rd - 84/75).

The other awards bestowed at the Open are the eclectic winners. These are the players with the lowest scores across the year based on their best results on each individual hole after handicap. The winner of the 9-hole eclectic was Pete Harrison, with Tim Barter taking out the 18-hole eclectic.

Winners nearest the pins went to: Ken, Gerard, Rob, Chris, Nev, Col (2) and Tony.

The club also presented gifts to our 'groundkeepers' – The Mason's, Steve Lambert, Keith France and Pam Muston. Without their generosity of allowing us to play golf on their properties and the work they put in to manicuring the golf holes we would not be able to conduct this great community event.

The googly ball was awarded to Stephen H who managed to hit the same rock twice in a row.

The dummy spit was awarded to John W for two indiscretions. The first for not taking his wife's advice and crossing the wrong bridge and then with the audacity to say that it was the first time Lisa had been right!!

The Annual Dummy Spit Trophy, awarded to the golfer who had allegedly been nominated the most times across the year was bestowed upon Larry King, much to Vicki's relief.

We also awarded a lucky door prize to the 19th hole attendees and Trent was the lucky recipient of the meat tray.

Next month, the December event will be the Christmas Cup, sponsored by Matt Hawke and helpers. Don't forget to dress up in a Christmas theme. We hope you can join us at the community hall at 12.15pm on Sunday, 7 December for the usual 12.30pm start. – **Ken Gordon**



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