

Helpful Hints

for

Life in Wamboin



This document is available on the WCA website, <http://wamboincommunity.asn.au>. Contents were correct at time of publication. The online version will be updated as required. Please check the online version for updates. To request a printed copy or to suggest items for inclusion in future editions, please contact the WCA Committee via email, committee@wamboincommunity.asn.au

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Useful Phone Numbers, Websites and Apps

(correct at time of printing, September 2015)

Emergency and Medical Services

Emergency (Police, Fire, Ambulance)		000
Queanbeyan Police Station	Farrer Place, Queanbeyan	6298 0599
Queanbeyan Ambulance	7 Erin St, Queanbeyan	131 233
Queanbeyan Hospital	26 Collett St, Queanbeyan	6297 2266
Bungendore Medical Centre	36 Ellendon Street, Bungendore	6238 1417
Community Nurse	Queanbeyan Community Health	6298 9233
State Emergency Service	34 Erin St, Queanbeyan	6128 3400
Lake George Rural Fire Service (RFS)	10 Ellerton Dr, Queanbeyan	6297 1840
NSW RFS Fires Near Me website	http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fires-near-me	App: Fires Near Me NSW
Bungendore Vet Surgery	112 Molonglo St, Bungendore (next to Bungendore Rural)	6238 1133

Other Services

Australia Post	53 Gibraltar St, Bungendore 1/148 Crawford St, Queanbeyan	6238 1399 131 318
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NSW Govt Services

NSW State Government		133 679
Roads and Maritime Service (RMS)	Cr Aurora Ave and Aurora Pl, Queanbeyan	
South East Local Land Services (LLS)	42 Ryrie Street, Braidwood Ground Floor, 11 Farrer Place, Queanbeyan	4842 2594 6229 7700
	http://southeast.lls.nsw.gov.au/	

Palerang Council

Opening Hours	Public: 8.30 am - 5.00 pm Cashier: 8.30 am - 4.30 pm Depot: 7.30 am - 4.00 pm	
Main office	10 Majara St, Bungendore	6238 8111
Postal address	PO Box 348 Bungendore NSW 2621	
Email	records@palerang.nsw.gov.au	
Website	www.palerang.nsw.gov.au	
Fax		6238 1290
After Hours		1300 735 025

Considering your Neighbours

Noise

Noise travels a long distance across our landscape. While everyone expects to hear the sound of chainsaws, mulchers, tractors and other farm machinery, it's nice to consider your neighbours when undertaking noisy jobs. You probably wouldn't appreciate being woken by a chainsaw or the roar of quadbikes at 7am on a Sunday, or on Good Friday or Christmas Day - neither would your neighbours!

Mowing your paddock grass

Grassfires are a real threat in our area at all times of the year and can run quickly through long paddock grass. Regular mowing or slashing protects not only your property and home, but your neighbour's as well.

When slashing or mowing, ensure you are equipped to extinguish any grass fires that may start – it can be as easy as a slasher blade striking a rock.

If you don't have the time, skills or equipment to maintain your own grass, there are a number of local contractors who advertise this service in *The Whisper* and local newspapers.

Mowing your road verge

There are numerous reasons to maintain your property's road verge.

- allows walkers, joggers, dog walkers and horse riders to safely traverse your property without fear of snakes
- reduces fire risk from cigarette butts carelessly tossed from passing vehicle
- allows drivers better visibility of wildlife close to the road
- enables rubbish to be collected by Clean-Up Australia Day volunteers.

If you have a Telstra junction pillar on your verge, please ensure that the surrounding grass is always kept short. This will reduce the risk of fire damage to your and your neighbours' telecommunications, which will be much appreciated.

The Council cannot possibly be expected to mow all of Wamboin's road verges. Please consider the above points and demonstrate your community pride by maintaining your own verge.

Using chemicals

Sprayed chemicals can drift over neighbouring properties and waterways. This can affect human health, animals and the environment. Spray drift can affect household and farm water supplies, including tank water. If you choose to use chemical herbicides or pesticides on your property, think about how the prevailing wind and waterways will transport these chemicals and where the chemicals will end up. Also consider the impact on your own dams and ponds which are used by stock, native animals and birds.



Companion Animals

Dogs

Straying and barking dogs probably cause more friction among neighbours in a rural area than any other issue. **Please keep your dogs under control.**

Straying domestic pet dogs, singly and in small packs, have chased, maimed and killed livestock and wildlife in our area, and have harassed people walking on the Greenway network. Many of these incidents have been reported in *The Whisper* (see issues July 2006, August 2009, October 2010 (Cooper and Poppet Roads), August 2011 (Norton Rd), September 2012 (Merino Vale Dr), July 2014). Packs made up of small, medium and large dogs have been observed roaming around Wamboin in broad daylight. Dogs are capable of travelling large distances overnight and returning to their place of residence before daybreak, giving their unsuspecting owners the impression they have been home all night.

Sheep are particularly vulnerable to dog attack, as are alpacas and other stock animals. Some local graziers have given up trying to run sheep due to repeated dog attacks. Small flocks on rural residential blocks, including new-born lambs and calves, have also been attacked and killed in Wamboin. Two such night-time attacks, one in Norton Road in 2011 saw childrens' pet lambs suffer fatal injuries, and the other in Merino Vale Drive resulted in the disappearance of a number of new-born lambs and many injured animals.

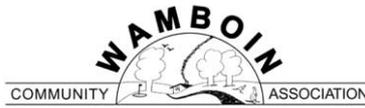
The Companion Animals Act 1998 allows landholders to destroy or injure any dogs harassing their stock and many dogs have been lost to their owners in this fashion. The owner of any dog that causes damage can be held responsible for any costs such as vet bills, loss of expensive stock animals or any other damage that their straying dog has caused, regardless of how the dog managed to be roaming.

Many of Wildcare's rescues deal with the effects of avoidable dog attacks on kangaroos, lizards and other animals. Unless well trained and in the company of their owner, dogs on the loose can and do attack anything that moves – including venomous snakes. Dogs have often been observed chasing kangaroos in our area. Even if a kangaroo manages to escape, this is almost certainly a death sentence for the kangaroo, which can suffer a lingering death from myopathy (causing the disintegration of muscle and paralysis), shock and acute stress. Joeys in the pouch can be bounced out and become separated from their mother.

But what some dog owners fail to understand is the danger a threatened kangaroo can pose to their dog. Kangaroos being chased by dogs will, given the chance, head for a dam to try to escape. When the dog swims towards it, the kangaroo will defend itself, grab the dog and hold it under the water. Many dogs have been lost to their owners in this fashion.

Domestic dogs are often seen by the side of our local roads feeding on roadkill. This puts them at risk of hydatid disease, which can be passed on to humans. In addition, many landholders lay 1080 Poison baits to control foxes. These baits are extremely attractive to canines and will result in death if consumed.

If you find a stray dog and are able to safely capture it, or if your dog goes missing, there are a number of local noticeboards (roadside and electronic) where lost and found notices can be posted. See section: **Noticeboards**.



Issues with stray or noisy dogs can be discussed with Palerang Council's Rangers. If you capture a stray dog, or you wish to report a dog harassing stock or wildlife but you can't restrain it, you can contact the Rangers who will assist by attempting to capture the animal and/or taking captured dogs to the Queanbeyan Pound facility; or you can take a captured dog to the Pound yourself. It is located at Corner of Ellerton Drive and Old Sydney Road, Queanbeyan. The dog's owners will be located and charged a combination of NSW Government fees before the dog is returned. If the dog isn't chipped, de-sexed or registered, it will be before it leaves the Pound, at the owner's expense.

Cats

Do you know where your cat is now? The Australian Wildlife Conservancy estimates feral cats eat 75 million native animals a night—more than 27 billion mammals, reptiles, birds and even insects every year.

Even though your cat may be well fed and cared for, it is still a natural-born killer and can hunt and injure or kill prey up to its own body size. That means insects, frogs, reptiles, birds and native and introduced mammals up to the size of a Brush-tail Possum.

Foxes are often sighted in Wamboin. Foxes are very aggressive towards cats, no doubt because they see them as competition for the same prey. Numerous stories have been told by cat owners who, upon hearing a scuffle outside at night, have gone out to discover their cat bailed up by a fox up a tree or on a courtyard wall. Cats are also at risk of snake bite – they are not able to discriminate between harmful prey and non-harmful prey.

Keeping your pet cat indoors or confined on your property can prevent it from killing wildlife and protect it from harm.

Palerang Council has an excellent webpage on Companion Animals with lots of useful links. <http://www.palerang.nsw.gov.au/planning/companion-animals>

The Queanbeyan Pound always has dogs and cats for sale. Check out their website at <http://www.qcc.nsw.gov.au/Council-Services/Animals/Animals-for-Sale/For-sale>

Elections

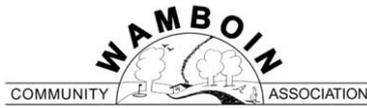
We have our own polling booth at the Wamboin Community Hall in Bingley Way for Federal, State and Council elections. Easy parking and no queues.

Electricity

The NSW electricity market has changed significantly in recent years. There are a number of companies selling electricity to our area. Visit the Australian Energy Market Operator website, <http://www.aemo.com.au/> for a list of current NSW suppliers.

Regardless of which provider you choose, the contact for faults or emergencies is Essential Energy on 132 080.

We can experience interruption to our electricity supply due to storms or other natural emergencies. If you rely on electricity for medical equipment or your pumps for water supply to your house, you would be wise to invest in a petrol generator.



Farmers Markets

Wamboin

The Wamboin Home Produce Market is on the third Saturday of each month (except July and August) at the Wamboin Community Hall from 9:00 am – 12:00 noon. Local residents sell seasonal home-grown fruit, vegetables, eggs, garlic, herbs, plants, cut flowers and home-made jams and pickles. There are also stallholders selling items such as nuts and sweet treats, jewellery, greeting cards, embroidered towels, felt toys and scented candles.

Bungendore

The Bungendore Farmers Market is on the second and fourth Saturday of the month at the Bungendore War Memorial Hall from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. The market has a great range of fruit, vegetables, herbs and spices, meat products, cheese, fresh seafood from the coast, local preserves and jams, eggs, garlic, honey, wine and oil as well as breakfast and lunch, tea and coffee.

Field Days

Need a new ride-on mower or chainsaw? Want to see an Envirocycle system or a D6 grader? Then get along to one of the area's famous annual Field Days. The closest to Wamboin is held at Murrumbateman in October each year, website www.mfdays.com

Fires

Rural living demands a fresh approach to and respect for fire. We also have to understand the implications of living in a bush fire prone area.

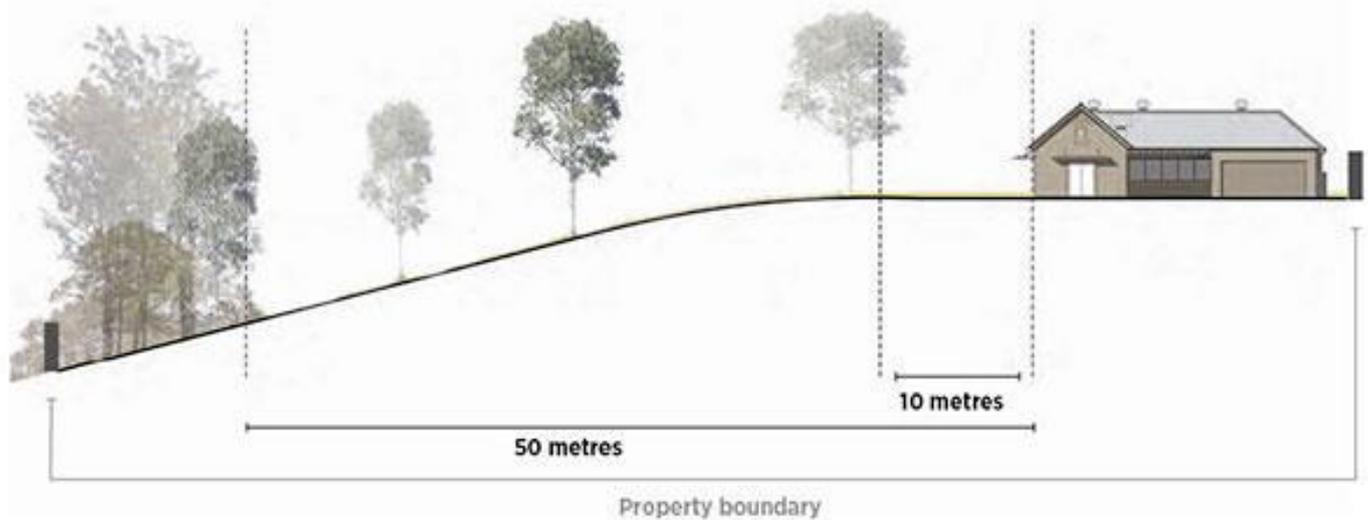
- One thing you must do is to complete your Bushfire Survival Plan – remember "a fire can take hold in 3 minutes but it only takes seconds to prevent one". The Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade Community Engagement Team (see ***New Residents' Guide: Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade***) can provide the documentation and explain this to you.
- Before planning a pile burn, ensure you have made the necessary notifications to Fire Control HQ and your neighbours. Assess the risks! Do you have the skills, the necessary equipment and the physical and mental capability to stop a break-away fire front?

Seemingly innocuous activities which we have previously conducted without a second thought now need to be reassessed – for example:

- angle grinders and welders have started many fires in the area, even when used in a shed. Do not use this type of equipment on Total Fire Ban days
- when emptying your indoor fire of ash and coals, don't assume they're cold
- do not burn copper treated wood - the fumes are noxious (please don't bring treated wood to the Bonfire night pile burn either).

Fuel reduction is key to protecting your assets. The NSW Rural Fire Service, 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code of Practice allows landowners to remove or prune any vegetation within 10 metres of the external walls of their home, and within 50 metres they may remove any vegetation but not trees (see *diagram overleaf*).

For more information, Google “RFS 10/50” or visit <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/1050-vegetation-clearing>



Feral Animals

Foxes

NSW Government has introduced a pest control order for the European Red Fox which is applicable throughout NSW. Further information is available on the DPI website, <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/vertebrate-pests/pest-animals-in-nsw/fox-control>

Wildcare asks that you please help ensure our native animals do not become extinct by controlling foxes on your property. Foxes kill small and medium sized mammals, birds and lizards, and spread the mange mite that is decimating our wild wombat populations.

Rabbits

Landholders are obliged to control rabbit populations on their land. Further information is available on the DPI website, <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/vertebrate-pests/pest-animals-in-nsw/rabbit-control>

Wildcare asks that you control rabbits as they can decimate grasslands and shrubs that native animals rely on.

Rats and mice

Please control the number of non-native rodents on your property as they eat native birds eggs and will even attack adult birds on the nest. When controlling introduced rodents please consider the consequences of your choice of control method. Poisons that kill rodents will also kill native animals that may encounter them.

Fruit and Vegetables

Our native and feral animals and birds can make short work of your fruit and vegetable crop. Bird netting for fruit trees and berries is essential if you plan to harvest. Ensure you leave a gap at ground level for snakes and lizards to escape. Cunningham skinks and blue-tongue lizards love strawberries. There are many ways to protect your vegetables both from animals and birds. Talk to your neighbours and long-term locals – why not come to the Wamboin Home Produce Market



and talk to local growers about their strategies? Wamboin locals are only too happy to share their knowledge with newcomers.

Fuel

It is good practice to ensure you have at least half a tank of fuel in your vehicle when you arrive home. If you ever have to drive anywhere in an emergency, you don't want to be worried about running out of fuel. For example, enroute to Sydney, the first service station on the highway is Marulan, 100km away.

Gas

There is no mains gas supply to Wamboin. Gas for heating, cooking and other domestic purposes is stored in large tanks at your home. Gas suppliers will come to refill or swap out tanks. Current suppliers are:

Gundaroo Gas Guy 0407 488 888 Elgas 131 161

BBQ gas bottles

It's sensible to have a spare BBQ gas bottle on hand as you will inevitably run out just as the snags are half cooked on your child's birthday! The closest bottle swap locations are Caltex Service Station, Bungendore or United Petroleum, off the Federal Highway at Eaglehawk (Sutton).

Greenways

The Greenways of the Bywong/Wamboin area are a unique and valuable community resource. The Greenways are a network of over 30 kilometres of public walking and riding trails created in 1994 for the use of local residents. Greenways also act as wildlife corridors and are essential resources for the welfare of local flora and fauna. The network of public access ways is a combination of Crown road or Council owned reserves, private driveways and Crown roads that traverse private land.

For more information including maps and entrance points visit
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Greenways-Bywong-Wamboin/263890970305480> or
<http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au/about/bywong-greenways>

Household Chemical Clean Up

Palerang Council hosts an annual NSW Environment Protection Authority Household Chemical CleanOut event. Our closest is at Palerang Council Works Depot, 100 Ellendon Street, Bungendore. This event is well advertised in local newspapers and on Council's website.

Internet

As at September 2015, the dates for the rollout of the National Broadband Network (NBN) to the Wamboin area are not known. Internet service is currently provided to some properties by ADSL. This is entirely based on the location of your property with relation to your distance to the local exchange. Internet service is also provided by Southern Phone and a Bywong-based company, Yless4U admin@yless4u.com.au. Other service providers continue to join the market.

Library

Palerang and Queanbeyan City Councils operate an excellent library service. Membership of the Palerang Libraries is free and available to all residents of the Palerang Council area. Library members are able to borrow from Bungendore, Braidwood and Queanbeyan libraries. You can



reserve items online regardless of their location and they will be delivered to Bungendore Library for your collection.

Bungendore Library is in the Bungendore Primary School, Gibraltar Street, Bungendore, behind the old School of Arts building. Phone: 02 6238 0784.

Opening Hours	(As at Sept. 2015. Check Council website for changes)
Monday:	Closed
Tuesday:	10.30 am - 1.00 pm; 1.30 - 5.00 pm
Wednesday:	1.30 - 5.00 pm
Thursday:	10.30 am - 1.00 pm; 1.30 - 5.00 pm
Friday & Saturday:	9.00 am - 12.30 pm

Lightning

Wamboin is a lightning strike prone area. To avoid damage to electrical appliances (computer, modem, TV etc), it is worth investing in a number of good quality surge protection power boards.

- DO NOT use fixed telephones during electrical storms (see **History Note**).
- Ensure your dogs are secure – many dogs escape or hide during storms, some have been found beneath their frantic owner's home many days later, still shaken.

HISTORY NOTE: Local identity Lofty Mason recalls the story of his Wamboin lightning experience. Some folk who know Lofty say that this explains a lot.

*“This all happened a long time ago, March 1987 to be precise. I was talking on our wall-mounted phone to Hank Berlee, who lived in Poppet Road, about the storm that was raging. Next thing I knew I was laying on the floor and Hank was coming through the door. I found this rather surprising - Hank moving at the speed of light? Well, we did wear younger men's clothes then. Joan tells me there was an almighty lightning bolt, she heard me yell (*deleted by Editor) and she ran to find I had crashed to the floor, out cold. She brought me back around (to this day I still don't know how) just as Hank arrived. They contacted Doctor Cook, who lived in the area, and he came around and took me into the Intensive Care Ward in Canberra Hospital for overnight care and heart monitoring. They found 24 little burns on my chest (from the mouthpiece) and later one big zap mark near my tailbone where I had been leaning against a light switch. I also sustained a busted eardrum, a lecture about using a phone during storms, a sore backside and a blown up phone. It seems I suffered both electrical and acoustic shock. Two days later Telecom came out and fitted a gas fuse, which to date has protected our phone (but not our modem!)”*

Mailboxes

Help the postie and ensure your mail box is positioned correctly. Check this by trying, as a driver, and without getting out of your vehicle, to deliver a letter to your box.

If you live above 'the old turning circle' on Weeroona Drive (at approx 327 Weeroona), including in Denley Drive and all streets running off it, your parcels will be held for your collection at Bungendore Post Office. If you live below the turning circle, your parcels will be held for your collection at Queanbeyan Post Office.

HISTORY NOTE: Weeroona Drive used to stop at around number 327 at 'the old turning circle'. It's still evident as you round the big bend heading west on Weeroona. Properties below this were serviced from Queanbeyan PO and properties above were serviced from Bungendore PO. When the road was finally extended, Australia Post tried to change the



service point for properties above the turning circle to Queanbeyan, but residents rejected that proposal and successfully fought to maintain Bungendore as their collection point.

Mailbox Decorating Competition

The WWoW organise a popular mailbox decorating competition every Christmas. Kids, big and small, are invited to decorate their mailbox and submit photos which are judged and prizes awarded. Photos of winning entries are published in *The Whisper*.

Military Firing Range

The military have a firing range off Sutton Road. At times these explosions sound very close. If a problem, call the Duty Officer, RMC Duntroon on 6265 9408.

Mobile Phone Reception

Mobile phone reception varies greatly across the area based on topography and visibility to existing mobile telecommunications towers. Telstra tends to have better coverage than other providers, but even their coverage is patchy, based on the type of phone you have, where you happen to be and how many others are using the network at the same time. The WCA continues to make vocal representation to all levels of government to fix this unacceptable situation. A site with an approved DA has been awaiting the construction of a long-promised telecommunications tower since well before publication of this document. Individual representation to relevant authorities is encouraged.

Noticeboards

Electronic

- **Wamboin Community Noticeboard**
https://au.groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Wamboin_Noticeboard/info
- **Bywong and Wamboin Facebook Hub**
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BywongAndWamboin/>
- **Greenways Bywong and Wamboin facebook page**
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Greenways-Bywong-Wamboin/263890970305480>

Roadside

There are several roadside chalkboards throughout the area. These are for short term, non-commercial, **chalk-only** messages. Use with consideration to other users and clean your message off when your notice has expired. Please do not stick anything on these boards as it damages the surface. To maintain a degree of tidiness, the boards are cleaned early each week.

Plants

In addition to the Landcare Group and retailers in Bungendore, plants suited to our environment can be purchased from the following nurseries:

Bywong Wholesale Nursery
Jennifer Ollerenshaw
159 Millyn Road, Bywong
6236 9280

Hillview Nursery
Doug McKerrow and
Margaret Day
154 Bowen Street, Carwoola,
6238 2474

IDP Native Plant Nursery
Iris Philip
1264 Murrumbateman Road,
Murrumbateman
6226 8132

Poultry

There are many very smart foxes in the area. Ensure poultry is adequately protected. Foxes will kill entire flocks for entertainment. They will dig beneath wire fencing and are adept at testing to see if your electric fencing is operating. Residents have had electric fence protection in place for over 10 years and on the one night it was off for maintenance, a fox destroyed the flock.

Recycling

In addition to the recycling facilities at the Bywong and Bungendore Waste Transfer Stations (see section **Rubbish**), Council maintains a Recycling Station inside the roadway fence at the Wamboin Community Hall. The bin compound is open 24 hours a day. Bins are emptied on Tuesdays and Fridays. There have been numerous instances of misuse of this facility (household waste, dead animals etc). All such incidents threaten the continuation of this facility. Please use the facility according to the recycling rules.

Rubbish

Waste Transfer Stations

There are two local Waste Transfer Stations. You will need a tip pass which comes attached to your annual rate notice. Additional passes are available from Council. Visit Council's website for further details.

(As at Sept. 2015)	Hours	Items Accepted
Macs Reef Road, Bywong	Friday: 2.00 pm - 4.30 pm Saturday: 8.00 am - 4.30 pm Sunday: 8.00 am - 4.30 pm Monday: 7.00 am - 11.00 am	FREE: Recyclables, small buy- back items, batteries, engine oil, e-waste FEE: Household waste NO: Green waste, tyres, dead animals
Tarago Road, Bungendore	Friday: 12.30 pm - 4.30 pm Saturday: 8.00 am - 4.30 pm Sunday: 8.00 am - 4.30 pm Monday: 7.00 am - 12 noon	FREE: Recyclables, buy-back items, green waste (<250mm diameter), batteries FEE: Tyres, dead animals, e-Waste

Private waste collection service

Private contractor, O'Sullivan's Rural Waste, will collect rubbish from your home either weekly, fortnightly or monthly. Contact David O'Sullivan on 6230 3548 or via their website www.osullivanwaste.com.au/

Rural Street Numbering

Your Rural Address number indicates the distance (in tens of metres) from an intersection. For example, 230 Norton Road is 2.3km from the intersection with Sutton Rd; 1230 Norton Road is 12.3km from that intersection.

Please ensure your property is clearly numbered. Reflective numbering is recommended to allow emergency services and visitors to locate you easily at night or in foggy conditions.



Schools

Primary schools

Bungendore and Sutton boast remarkably well appointed schools for 'country' towns, with a dedicated staff of teachers and other personnel. Getting to either school is a simple matter from Wamboin as Qcity Transit run school bus services to and from both schools.

Both schools run Before and After School programs and children who take part are welcomed and often can't wait to get to 'Afties' as it's known.

The best way to choose a primary school is to talk to both Principals and get a feel for what suits your family best.

High schools

Unfortunately there are no high schools in the area at the time of publication. This has been a matter of considerable debate in the local area for some time and was a serious issue locally in the 2015 state election. Most high school age children attend Canberra schools. Once again getting there is solved nicely by Qcity Transit.

Preschools

There are no Preschools in Wamboin. The closest Preschools are in Bungendore and Sutton.

Child care

There are no child care centres in Wamboin. Most working parents with younger children utilise child care centres in Queanbeyan or Canberra, depending on their employment location.

School Buses

Qcity Transit (Queanbeyan) provides the majority of school bus services. Local schools can provide bus timetables and application forms for a bus pass. View the bus stop map on Qcity's website, <http://qcitytransit.com.au/school-services-2/school-bus-stop-maps> or call them on 6299 3722.

Sewage Management

Approval is required to operate any Onsite Sewage Management System (OSSM) including septic tanks, composting toilets and EnviroCycle style aerated systems. Palerang Council is the approval authority and will inspect your system every 5 years (unless considered high risk, in which case inspections are more frequent). You will receive a letter advising when an inspection is scheduled. If you don't know when your property's system was last inspected, Council can tell you. Search for 'OSSM' on Council's website for more information.

Shops and Services

Bungendore is our closest town centre and has a great range of shops and services.

The **Totally Locally Bungendore** campaign <http://totallylocallybungendore.com/> is part of a worldwide movement to foster local pride and encourage people to engage with their local shops and businesses.

Queanbeyan is also easily accessible and still maintains a country-town feel. **Q Theatre** is worth a visit and hosts local, national and international theatre troupes and performers. With free, easy parking and cheaper ticket prices, along with plenty of local restaurants, it can be an enjoyable alternative to events in Canberra.

HISTORY NOTE: The Wamboin corner store and Australia Post outlet operated out of a residence/shop on the corner of Bingley Way and Norton Road in the mid 90's for a number of years. It provided goods such as fresh produce, papers, milk and bread and other staples that you would normally run out of at home and provided post and parcel pick-up services. On occasions take away foods were available. The store held a liquor licence so kept a supply of beers and wines. Sadly the store closed and we lost a great asset. Maybe one day another will open and be supported by the locals.



Social Media

See section **Noticeboards - Electronic**

Speed Limits

The general speed limit of 80km/h (60km/h in parts) is designated for the safety of all road users, including school children waiting for the school bus, cyclists, walkers, dog-walkers and horse-riders.

Please respect your neighbours and anticipate the unexpected by not exceeding the speed limit. In fact, if you leave 2 minutes earlier, you can slow down a little, reducing your chance of incurring the unexpected.

Watch for wildlife, stray dogs, school buses, cyclists, joggers and dog walkers at all times. Kangaroos tend to be more active at dawn and dusk, though wildlife can be crossing roads at all times of the day and night (see section **Wildcare**).

Snakes

Snakes are actually more frightened of you than you are of them. If you come across a snake that can't go about its business by itself, call Wildcare on 6299 1966 and one of the locals will come and remove it for you. Of course, if it is just wandering through, give it some room and it will almost certainly move on.

There are some things you can do to ensure life goes on for you and your resident snakes.

- Ensure the area around your house is kept neat and tidy to allow you to see snakes that might be passing through
- Clear the lower branches of bushes to minimise the hiding spots
- Reduce the food sources attracting them – loose grain brings mice – mice bring snakes
- Snakes love frogs and seek water, so be especially careful if you have a water feature or pool near your house, and around dams and waterholes
- Dress appropriately when going around undergrowth – jeans and heavy boots, or even gumboots, provide some protection – tiger snake fangs are quite short (2-5mm)
- Dogs, cats and stock animals are very susceptible to snake venom. Many pets have been lost due to snake bite. Teach your dogs to be scared of reptiles and don't let your dog or cat chase lizards - or any other animal for that matter – as dogs and cats can't tell the difference between a lizard and a snake
- Familiarise yourself and your family with basic first aid and ensure you have a number of readily accessible compression bandages
- If you drive a tractor or other farm vehicle, keep a compression bandage on board
- Take your mobile phone with you if you're working alone away from the house – you never know, you might be able to make an SOS call in the event of an emergency.

If you are concerned by the presence of a snake or simply want to learn more about living with snakes, call Wildcare for advice.

HISTORY NOTE: In February 2015 Greg Corra of Norton Road went down to his orchard to pick the best peaches he'd ever grown. He started to remove some of the bird netting to access the fruit. He cursed when he felt what he thought was a stick scratching his leg and cursed even more seriously when he felt a shooting pain. This time he took a bit more notice and looked down to find a tiger snake with its fangs firmly inserted in his leg. With no possibility of calling for help on his mobile phone, he had to walk what must have been the longest 100 metres of his life, back to the house where paramedics were summoned via the landline. That walk encouraged the venom to curse through Greg's body. While he considers himself incredibly lucky and is thankful to still be alive – it was touch and go – the incident left him with life-long health issues. See Greg's story and Wildcare's follow-up story in the March and April 2015 editions of The Whisper.

Stock (including horses and alpacas)

If you have livestock on your property – either yours or agisted - you are required by law to have a Property Identification Code (PIC). 'Livestock' includes cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, bison, buffalo, deer, camelids (i.e., alpaca and llamas), equines (i.e., horses and donkeys) and poultry (>100). A PIC is required regardless of whether the livestock are moved or not. Talk to the helpful folk at South East Local Land Services (LLS), (see section **Useful Phone Numbers, Websites and Apps**) for more information on the PIC requirements, along with advice on Dry Sheep Equivalent (DSE) and the carrying capacity of properties in this area.

Tradespeople and Appliance Repairs

It can sometimes be difficult to secure trades and repair services. There are a number of local businesses offering building, maintenance and repair services. Check their ads in *The Whisper* and the local newspapers.

As with many things in life, word of mouth is often the best recommendation – ask your neighbours, post on the Wamboin Noticeboard or the Bywong/Wamboin Facebook hub (see section **Noticeboards – Electronic**).

Water

The NSW Office of Water is responsible for administering NSW legislation in relation to bores and storage dams on rural properties. Visit their website <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/home> for further information, including a helpful calculator for your maximum harvestable right dam capacity.

Weeds

Every land manager in Palerang is legally required to control noxious weeds in accordance with the Noxious Weeds Act 1993. The list of weeds declared as noxious in Wamboin is available at the NSW DPI website <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/weeds/noxweed>

For further information on noxious weeds please contact Council's Weed Officers on (02) 6238 8111 or 1300 735 025.



ST JOHN'S WORT



BLACKBERRY



SERRATED TUSOCK

Wildcare

If you encounter an injured native animal, Wildcare is the organisation to call. Wildcare is dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of native mammals, birds and reptiles. Please note that WIRES does not operate in our area so a call to them will only delay getting assistance for an animal.

Ensure you have the Wildcare 24 hour telephone helpline in your phone - 6299 1966.

Website: <http://www.wildcare.com.au> and www.facebook.com.au/WildcareNSW