

The Whisper

March 2019 CIRCULATION: 1,329

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

All proceeds from advertisements after printing costs go to the Wamboin Community Association which started The Whisper as a community newsletter in 1981 and continues to own it. The newsletter comes out at the start of each month, except January. It is distributed to all letterboxes in Wamboin, Bywong and of Queanbeyan Palerang Council residents just southeast of the Federal Highway. Contributions from all residents are encouraged, valued and the main content of the newsletter. On contentious matters the Community Association will strive to maintain a balance. The current editor is Ned Noel, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 6238-3484. Please email contributions to either whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au or to nednoel@optusnet.com.au or mail them or drop them off. The deadline for each issue is the last Sunday night of the month before, so the deadline for the April 2019 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, March 24. Then the new issue goes to volunteer deliverers by the first Sunday of the new month and is also available at www.wamboincommunity.asn.au.

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

Bungendore Police: 6238 1244 Wamboin Fire Brigade Info Centre: 0409 991 340 Ambulance Bookings: 131233

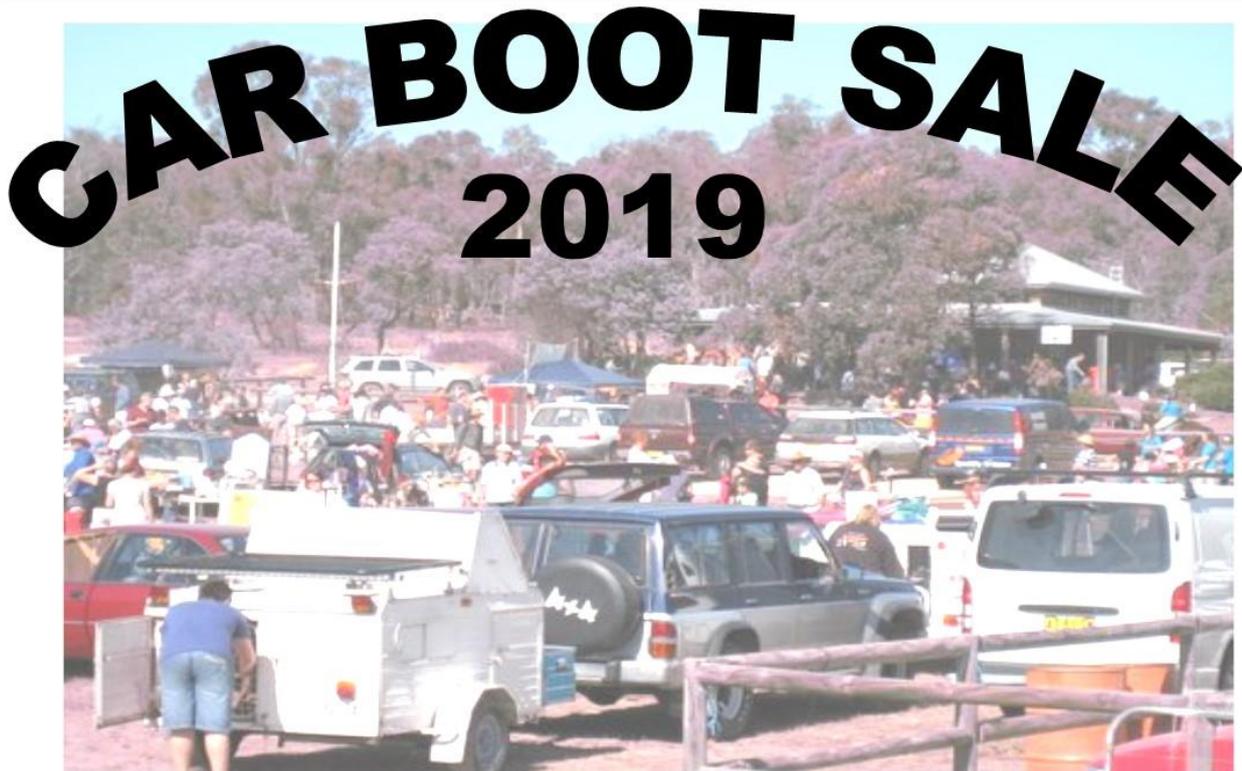
LOCAL FACILITIES AND CONTACTS

Wamboin Community Assn	: Peter Evans, President	6236 9779	president@wamboincommunity.asn.au
Bywong Community	Mike Wilkins, President		president@bywongcommunity.org.au
Fire Brigade	Matt O'Brien, Captain	0409 991 340	wamboincaptain@gmail.com
Wamboin Markets	Lance and Meriel Schultz	6238 3309	Lmsconsulting@bigpond.com
Sutton School Playgroup	Belinda Robinson, Convenor	0422 262 426	B_Robinson35@hotmail.com
Landcare	Kathy Handel, Treasurer	6238 3596	khandel@bigpond.net.au
Community Nurse	Heather Morrison, Bungendore	6238 1333	
NSW SES	NSW Call Centre	132 500	For assistance in storms and floods
NSW SES Bungendore	After Hours Duty Officer	6238 0222	For non-urgent assistance and advice
Justice of the Peace	Peter Greenwood, JP	6238 3358	
Justice of the Peace	Keith France, JP	6238 3596	
Justice of the Peace	Jill Sedaitis, JP	0409 369 559	
Wamboin Pony Club	Stacey Burgess, Club Secretary	0414 672 979	wamboinpcsecretary@gmail.com
Geary's Gap Pony Club	Cameron Smith, contact	0419 449 747	
Wamboin Play Group	Linda Uzubalis, Convenor	0410 294 420	Linda.uzubalis@gmail.com
Bywong Hall Bookings	Bookings Officer, contact		Irrhallbywong@gmail.com
Wamboin Hall Bookings	Joan Mason, contact	6238 3258	joan.mason@internode.on.net
Church - Anglican	Bronwyn Elliott, Warden	6238 3359	
KYB Bible Study Group	Yvonne Barrett, contact	6230 3539	
Golf	Peter Greenwood, Golfer	6238 3358	p.greenwood2@bigpond.com
Injured Wildlife	Wildcare, Helpline	6299 1966	
Wonderful Wmen of Wmb	Gail Ritchie Knight, Contact	0416 097 500	Whirlwind1@argonite.com.au
Lake George VIEW Club	Pauline Segeri, contact	6238 1996	
Wambn/Bngndr Book Group	Sally Saunders	0419 303 229	Sally.saunders1@bigpond.com
Wamboin Thurs Social Grp	Denise Hales, contact	0400 310 685	deniselynehales40@gmail.com

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

Rebecca Purdie	pet/horse sitting	6238 3343	Alex Lea	Pet&House Sitting, Gardening 6236 9657 or 0439 219 865
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**Save the Date – Bywong and Wamboin's Meet the Candidates
 Wamboin Hall, 7:30 pm, Tuesday, March 12 for the NSW
 State Election on Saturday 23 March**



Sunday 24 March 0900-1200
Birriwa Rd, Bywong (off Macs Reef Road)

Bywong's largest community event, with something for everyone!

Hunt for **toys, books and 'treasures'**. Watch the **Dog Flyball** and **Pony Club displays**.
Landcare **native plants** on sale.

Grab a **coffee**, enjoy a snack from the **BBQ** or relax with **tea and cakes** in the Hall.

ENTRY: SELLERS \$20 - IN before 0900, OUT after 1200
BUYERS by gold coin donation

Proceeds are used by the Bywong Community Association for local projects:

www.bywongcommunity.org.au

PS – We NEED volunteers to help on the day! – email: president@bywongcommunity.org.au

See you there!



Bywong Community Association News

Drawing for Seniors.

Drawing for Seniors.

On February 14 and 21, John-Pierre Favre (pillar-of-the-community and BCA's artist-in-residence, AKA 'JP') organised and lead two free drawing classes at the Bywong Hall. JP obtained a \$500 NSW Seniors Festival 2019 grant through QPRC and then bought materials to make 20 art easels for the class. The classes booked out very early and were a great success, with the enthusiastic novice 'doodlers' firstly given an introduction to sketching, followed by a demonstration of digital sketching with a tablet and stylus using the GIMP program.

Bywong Car Boot Sale 2019

Preparations are well under way for the 22nd annual CBS, set for Sunday 24 March at the Bywong Hall on Birriwa Road. Sellers should turn up between 0700-0900 and pay \$20 – you then depart after 1200. Buyers can enter from 0900.

Bring the family along to:

- hunt for toys, books and 'treasures'
- watch the Dog Flyball and Pony Club displays
- grab a coffee
- enjoy a snack from the BBQ or
- relax with tea and cakes in the Hall.

The Car Boot Sale brings the local community together, as well as visitors from further afield – one regular plans a visit from Melbourne to be here each year!

How YOU can help!

This year BCA will run the BBQ and the car parking as a way to boost our proceeds from the Sale – but we need YOUR help to succeed.

We invite you to join in for a few hours on the morning of Sunday 24 March to help with any of the following roles - You don't need prior experience, and guidance/equipment will be provided as needed:

- **BBQ: Cooking, serving food, cash handling, or general multi-tasking.**
- **Parking: directing cars into parking areas.**

Choose from 2 shifts: 0730-1000 or 1000-12.30, or tell us a time slot that suits you.

Yes, it's a bit of effort on a Sunday morning, but I'm prepared to bet you will enjoy pitching in as part of the community, and renewing old acquaintances and/or making new ones!

Please let me know which task you can help with and the best time slot for you.

Thank You in anticipation.
Cheers

Mike Wilkins, President, Bywong Community Association, 0417458320
Email: president@bywongcommunity.org.au

See you there!

Keep in touch via the **BCA website:** www.bywongcommunity.org.au and **BCA Facebook Page**, where we welcome YOU to contribute your ideas and/or get involved with any of our events.

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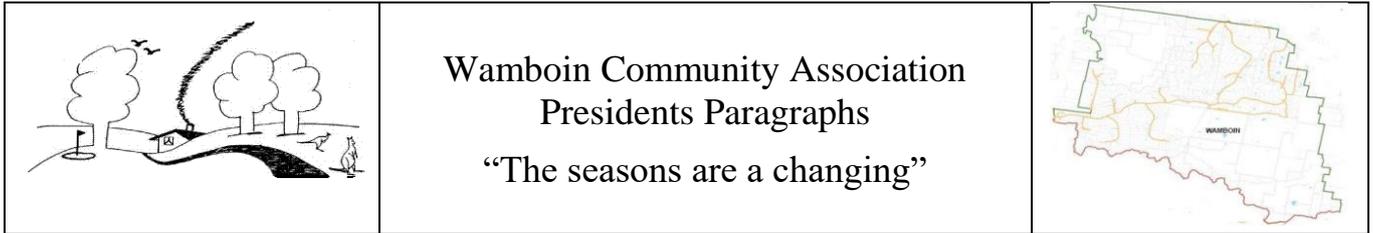


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The big dry continues, flooding in the north, bushfires in Tasmania and everything in between. Ah “I love a sunburnt country, a land of sweeping plains, of ragged mountain ranges, of droughts and flooding rains. I love her far horizons, I love her jewel-sea, her beauty and her terror, the wide brown land for me! Dorothea Mackellar pretty much sums up here Australia and much of Wamboin. Next we will be complaining about the frost and cold!

Jenny Warren – It was very sad to accept Jenny’s resignation from the committee due to an increase in personal commitments. Jenny has been a tireless worker and was responsible for a great many behind the scenes activities like the Spring Talks and the New Residents Pack. She was also the driver behind the grant for our new AV equipment in the hall. Jenny’s enthusiasm and dedication will be sorely missed and we look forward to her possibly returning at some point in the future.

Meet the Candidates Night – Well it’s election time again and this time it is for the NSW State Government election on Saturday 23rd March. The WCA will once again host a “Meet the Candidates Night” at the Wamboin Hall. It will be held on **Tuesday 12th March at 7.30pm** (all major parties have committed to attending). This will be a close fought election so please make sure you mark it on your calendar and come down and hear what each candidate will do for our local community.

Wheels of Wamboin – pencil in the Wheels of Wamboin for Saturday 18th May this year (change to may due to Easter). Tell your friends and start preparing those sleeping beauties.

Wamboin Social Drop-In Group – the drop in group is now running 10 am – 12 noon every Thursday. Drop into the Wamboin Community Hall for morning tea and activities. Everyone is welcome.

Policy – Yes living this close to Canberra we need to have some policies. We have been going through lately and updating a few policies due to changes over time. One we have updated recently is advocacy at the markets. If you want to promote a particular cause, be either personal, community, politics etc.. you will be required to ask the convenors for a table or designated area for display of materials or the discussion and presentation of petitions and pay for a table. You can contact either the Market Convenor Meriel of the WCA Committee for further details and a copy of the policy.

AGM - another year rolls around. The 2018 Annual General Meeting of the Wamboin Community Association, Inc., will be held in the Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin, at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 16 April 2019. So once again I say, things like the Wheels of Wamboin, fireworks night, Christmas carols, meet the candidates, spring talks all do not happen by themselves. We need some new committee members. The commitment is not great with one meeting per month. Please if you are interested contact David McDonald as per the AGM notice in this month’s Whisper.

New Members – Be a part of your local community and help make Wamboin great. We welcome new members to our monthly meetings. It’s only one evening a month and you get to meet others in the local community.

WCA Meeting – next meeting is 7.30 pm, Tuesday 19th March at the Wamboin Community Hall.

We are Wamboin ! **Peter Evans - President.**

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The Wamboin Firefighter

The Wamboin Firefighter newsletter is produced by the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade for the benefit of residents and property owners in the brigade's area that includes the localities of Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton (south of the Federal Highway) and Bungendore (along and west of the Lake George escarpment).

**FOR ALL EMERGENCY CALLS
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The NSW Rural Fire Service supports a number of apps for use on smartphones.

For information on fires:

FIRES NEAR ME (NSW only)

Shows information on current bush fires and other incidents across NSW only. Recently updated to include feature of push notifications for total fire bans and provides other important information including the status fires and warnings for fires that may affect where you live.



the
of

FIRES NEAR ME AUSTRALIA (includes Australian Capital Territory)

Shows bush fires for participating fire and emergency services across Australia, and is useful if you are travelling, or you live in an area such as ours near the A.C.T. where the prevailing bush fire weather (and is typically from the west.



threat)

If wanting to report an emergency:

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* * * * *

OTHER INFORMATION SOURCES

- NSW RFS Bush Fire Information Line ph 1800 679 737
- NSW RFS Facebook Feed
- NSW RFS website
- ABC 666 (AM) RADIO CANBERRA (emergency broadcaster for Canberra and surrounding areas in NSW).

For further information including on the above go to the NSW RFS website at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

LINKS AND CONTACT INFORMATION (Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade)

If you have any non-emergency enquiries, e.g. need guidance with your Bush Fire Survival Plan or you would like a brigade member to visit you to provide helpful comment on your property preparations, please contact the Brigade directly by email or phone.

- Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade Website: www.wamboin.rfsa.org.au
- Facebook: wamboin rural fire service
- Brigade Captain: wamboincaptain@gmail.com or ph 0409 991 340

Finally, you can always find us at the Brigade's Information Shopfront on Wamboin Market Days,



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WAMBOIN WEATHER: (rainfall and temperature records) 44 years from Cooper Road by Christine Rieber

February Rainfall Stats

February rainfall to the 24th 30.0mm
2019 total rainfall to 24/2..... 94.25mm

Average February rainfall..... 58.3mm
2018 February rainfall..... 76.75mm
2018 total rainfall to 24/2..... 68.25mm
43yr Av. to end of February..... 118.8mm

March Rainfall Stats

2018 March rainfall..... 8.5mm
Wettest March..... 303mm in 1989
Wettest day..... 160mm on 15/3/89
Driest March.. 3mm (2 times) 1986 & 1998

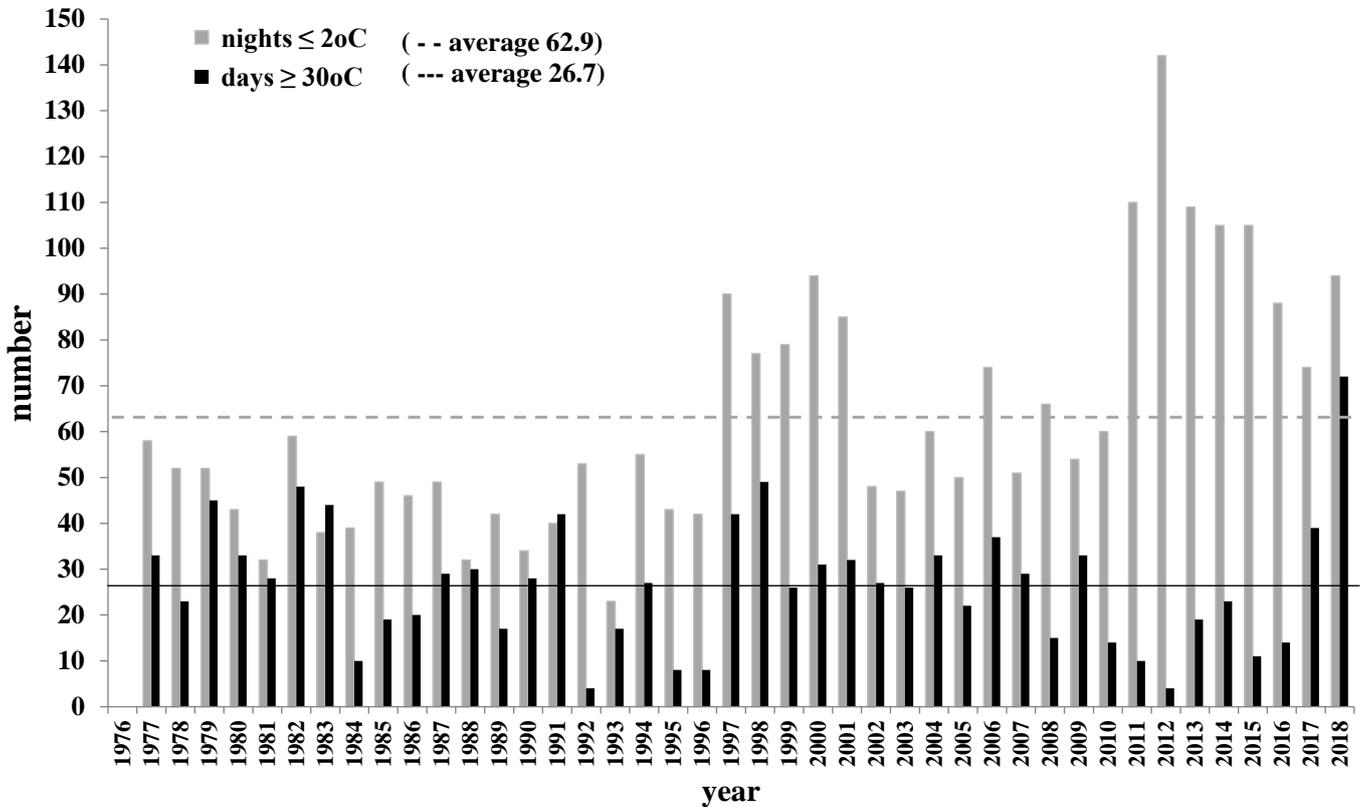
Average March rainfall..... 57.0mm
Average no. rain days in March..... 8.0
Highest no. rain days..... 17 in 2017
Lowest no. rain days..... 3 (8 times)
81, 86, 92, 98, 02, 06, 09 & 18

March Temperature Stats

Hottest March day..... 35°C on 9/3/83
Hottest March night..... 26°C on 9/3/83
Average day temperature..... 22.4°C
Average night temperature..... 11.8°C
Warmest March..... 1983
(Av. max day temp. 25.5°C & night 15.2°C)
(warmest day temp. 26.3°C in 1998)

Av. Mar. temp.. 17.1°C (day+night comb.)
Coldest March day.... 13°C (3 times) on
14/3/94 & 3-4/3/12
Coldest March night..... 2.1°C in 2018
Coldest March 2012
(Av. min day temp. 17.3°C & night 8.6°C)
(coldest night temp. 7.9°C in 2015)
March 2018. Av. max 26.2°C & min 11.7°C

The graph below shows the number of days $\geq 30^\circ\text{C}$ and nights $\leq 2^\circ\text{C}$ per year (black and grey bars respectively) and 42-year averages (lines) for Wamboin. These values are used by BOM. In 2018 there were 72 days of 30 or above which is 23 higher than the previous maximum number, and 94 nights $\leq 2^\circ\text{C}$ which was the 6th highest. In January 2019 we had 25 days of $\geq 30^\circ\text{C}$; highest on record and almost the yearly average. January was also the hottest month on record with a mean day temperature of 34.1°C (2.5°C above 2018 which was the previous hottest).



Wheels of Wamboin 2019 - Saturday 18th May 2019

With the Wheels of Wamboin approaching again, I thought it might be interesting to look at what anniversaries can be expected to be seen amongst the gathering throng.

Our first and probably most famous is everyone's favourite the Mini. The Mini was voted the second most influential car of the 20th century, behind the Ford Model T, and made its debut in 1959 making it a spritely 60 years old this year. The mini was produced for 41 years from 1959 to the end of production in October 2000. We always get a great roll up for the fabulous Mini club and this year we say happy 60th birthday.

Another huge anniversary is Bentley's 100th. The legendary W.O. Bentley founded the company that carries his name on 10 July, 1919. Before World War I, Walter Owen Bentley and his brother, sold French DFP cars, but W.O., as Walter was known, always wanted to design and build his own cars. At the DFP factory, in 1913, he noticed an aluminium paperweight and thought that aluminium might be a suitable replacement for cast iron to fabricate lighter pistons. The first Bentley aluminium pistons were fitted to Sopwith Camel aero engines during World War I. The Wall Street Crash of 1929 and the resulting Great Depression throttled the demand for Bentley's expensive motor cars. In July 1931, a receiver was appointed. Rolls Royce eventually bought Bentley. In 2003 Volkswagen bought the Bentley rights and BMW still holds Rolls Royce.

In 1969 the HT introduced Holden's first home grown V8 with the 253 and 308 motors. These motors become the mainstay for Holden for the next 31 years. More than 541,000 holden cars were fitted with the Australian V8 down the production line. Interesting the engine designer, Ed Silins was actually born in Latvia, graduating in 1940 with a doctorate. His thesis on the V1 rocket program earned him a role in the German Luftwaffe as a pilot. In 1949 he immigrated to Australia as a displaced person, and joined GMH as a draftsman in 1951. Once his expertise was known, he was made an engine project engineer. He was instrumental in the development of the first Holden V8.

The XD Ford Falcon turns 40 this year (can you believe 40 years). First introduced in 1979, it was the first iteration of the fourth generation of the Australian-made Falcon. Over 197,000 XD Falcons were built prior to the XD being replaced by the Falcon XE in March 1982. Anyone who had one will know the production of those door handles far outweighed the car.

As the best-selling two-seat convertible sports car in history, the MX-5 has been marketed globally, with production exceeding one million sales. The MX-5 has won many awards including being named in the ten best sports cars of all time. The MX5s sold as the Miata in North America meaning "reward" in Old High German.

Next month we will look at a heap of the other great motoring anniversaries expected to be seen at the Wheels of Wamboin. – Peter Evans

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Wamboin Home Produce and Craft Market - Saturday 16 March 2019 9am -12md

Contact: Meriel Schultz 02 62383309: 0422614304 lmsconsulting@bigpond.com.

The February market was full with stallholders and busy for most of the time. Marita ran a raffle in aid of Cancer Council with a great prize of a basket of International Trading Company's (ITC) selected wines. ITC is a Wamboin-based company exporting high quality Australian wine around the world. Marita was delighted at the response to the raffle and the generosity of the people buying tickets. She raised \$350 for the Cancer Council. Even better was that the prize was won by our very own hard-working barista Lou!! Hope you are enjoying the prize Lou.

We currently have a good range of stalls selling:

-garden produce (especially good at this time of year!) - native tube stock -craft and knitting of all kinds -jewellery
-jams, preserves, pickles -strudels and pastries -eggs -local art work -hand printed tea towels and book bags
-recycled furniture locally made creams and cosmetics -local meat (pork) -pasta and bread

and more.....

Don't forget the café and Kathleen's award winning scones. Also don't forget to check out the fire brigade stall and the good info you get there about managing your property and preventing or preparing for fires. We are not over fire danger yet. In fact March can be a problem.

SEE YOU AT THE MARCH MARKET!

The Wonderful Women of Wamboin

By Gail Ritchie Knight

It's been two months since the Wonderful Women of Wamboin (WWOW) resumed their weekly get-togethers. This summer has created many challenges for the gardeners amongst us. But not so for one particular WWOW, namely Sue Ward. Her garden is to die for but what she brought in a couple of weeks ago defied imagination – her Zucchini Tromboncini. Some of her zucchinis were about a metre long while others had taken on the strangest configurations. I challenge anyone in the neighbourhood to better Sue's horticultural efforts.

During the recent Seniors Festival, local Bywongian Jean-Pierre Favre successfully gained funding to conduct two free drawing classes. Out of a class of 15 there were six WWOW. In his unique style, J-P has unearthed some hidden talents amongst us and we look forward to continuing the sessions on a monthly basis.

All women are welcome. We meet at St Andrew's church, corner of Norton and Poppet Roads, Wamboin on Mondays 10 am-noon. For more information contact Gail Ritchie Knight 0416 097 500 whirlwind1@argonite.com.au.

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Authorised by Andrew Blake for The Greens NSW, 1/275 Broadway GLEBE NSW 2037

Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist St Mary's Parish, Bungendore 2019 Preparation Program

For baptised Catholic children in Year Three or above. Information session (both sacraments) parents / guardians and children on Sunday 24th March at 9:30am in St Mary's Hall, 28 Turallo Tce, Bungendore.

Sacrament of Reconciliation. Preparation sessions during Sunday Mass 8:30am 24th & 31st March. Reconciliation Service:- St Mary's Church Wednesday 3rd April 6:30pm.

Sacrament of Eucharist. 1 Hour Preparation sessions after Sunday Mass at 9:30am on 26th May and 2nd, 9th & 16th June. The sacrament of First Eucharist will be celebrated in St Mary's Church on Sunday morning 23rd June at 8:30am Mass. More details and enrolment forms on the parish website <http://www.stmarysbungendore.org.au/> or phone 6238 1247 (11- 5 Wednesdays) or email bungendore@cg.org.au

Many Thanks, -Mary Coombe, Parish Secretary, St Mary's Bungendore, Office Open: Wednesdays 11-5, Phone: 6238 1247 Email: bungendore@cg.org.au

Vale Bishop Ian George

Many of the older residents of Wamboin will recall Bishop Ian George.

Thirty five years ago, as Rector of St. John the Baptist church in Reid, Rev'd Ian George was, along with the late David Robertson, the main instigator of the commencement of church services in Wamboin, which were held in the then new, Community Hall. Services were initially held monthly, led by a priest from St Johns, with the congregation having to borrow the necessary items from St Peters in Sutton. As the membership grew a second monthly service was added to become a Morning Prayer service on the first Sunday and a Holy Communion on the third Sunday of each month. This continues to this day.

Later, thanks to the generosity of Lance and Meriel Schultz, and David and Robyn Robertson, the congregation moved into the brand new, locally built, St Andrews church building on the corner of Poppet and Norton Roads. Rev'd George went on to become Assistant Bishop of the local Canberra and Goulburn Diocese and subsequently Archbishop of Adelaide.

Bishop George died in Melbourne on 29 January following a stroke, he was 85.

A thanksgiving Service in honour of Bishop George will be held at St Johns, Reid, on Friday 8 March at 10.00am.

- By Alan Rope

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Notice of the WCA Annual General Meeting - Tuesday 16 April 2019

The 2018 Annual General Meeting of the Wamboin Community Association, Inc., will be held in the Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin, at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 16 April 2019.

The main business of the AGM will be the election of a new Committee for 2019-20.

Nominations for the election of Committee members should be made in writing, signed by two Association members, and contain the candidate's written consent. A person nominated as a candidate for election as an office-bearer (other than the president or vice-president) or as another committee member, must have been a member of the Association for at least one year. A person nominated as a candidate for election as president or vice-president must have been a member of the Association for at least two years, which should include at least one year as an office bearer or as another committee member.

Nomination forms can be obtained from the Secretary or downloaded from the WCA's website:

<https://wamboincommunity.asn.au/communitygroups/index.php?op=wcadocuments> .

The Committee is keen to have some new members, so please consider nominating as an office-bearer or as an ordinary Committee member. The WCA and the events it has promoted have been well managed for many years, and the Committee would benefit greatly from some new members to help maintain this momentum.

Should any member have any business to be dealt with at the AGM, please advise the Secretary more than 14 days before the meeting, or more than 21 days before if it requires a special resolution.

Agenda: Opening; Acknowledgement of Country; Apologies for non-attendance; Adoption of the minutes of the 2018 AGM; Presentation and adoption of the President's, Treasurer's and other reports; Election of the office-bearers of the Association (the president, one or two vice-presidents, the treasurer & the secretary) and at least three other committee members; other matters for which notice has been given; Close of meeting.

- David McDonald, Hon. Secretary, WCA, email secretary@wamboincommunity.asn.au , tel: 0416 231 890 or 6238 3706.

Remembering Ellen

On Friday March 8, 2019 I am heading off on a charity bike ride from Canberra to Queensland to raise money for Red Nose (formally SidsnKids), 'Ellen's Ride 2019', I will be riding solo through NSW country towns such as Crookwell, Cowra, Wellington, Gunnedah & Tenterfield to name a few.

I am aiming to raise \$5000 for this ride, I have done this ride in 2017 & 2018 raising over \$15,000, I cover over 160k's some days with a few short recovery days in the middle. This will be the 7th time I have done this ride to Qld (3rd time for Red Nose), riding on some really nice quite roads.

For those that are interested I am doing this ride solo on my Pinarello Dogma race bike, where I have a seatpost bag attached, where I carry clothes to change into of an evening and spare bike clothes. I also carry a few spare tubes and a tyre. I stay in motels along the way, where I generally arrive pretty tired from the days efforts, and then have to clean my bike clothes I have worn that day, and also shop for some food for the next days ride, then find somewhere to eat, I good pub meal of steak, veges and chips goes down well, and hopefully followed by a sound nights sleep.

This ride is in memory of our daughter, Ellen, who was born still in January 2010. If you would like to help me raise money for this wonderful charity and sponsor me please just type the following link into your Internet browser and follow instructions':

<http://www.everydayhero.com.au/event/EllensRide2019>

To follow my ride you can also go to my Facebook page where I will be doing nightly updates.

Kind Regards, Tony O'Connor



Bird Of The Month

by Luke Downey

- For March I chose the Grey Currawong, an uncommon bird who has been visiting our house for the past weeks.

Grey Currawong (*Strepera versicolor*)

Size: 45-50cm

Status: Uncommon breeding resident

- The Grey Currawong is a rather dull coloured bird that is not seen very often. It is similar to its relative, the Pied Currawong (feathered in my Black & White-birds article Sept. 2018), but is greyish instead of black (it sometimes can be quite dark in colour) and it is also slightly larger. Its bill is straight, and does not have the hook on the end like the Pied Currawong does. Another key distinguishing feature is the call, which is a high-pitched "chling", often repeated. Grey Currawongs are mainly insect-eaters, and sometimes I see them 'climbing' trees and peeling off bark in search of bugs. They have a yellow eye, black legs, white on the wings, tail tip and underneath. These birds are shyer than their cousins, moving away when you approach, and often are a bit secretive, just sitting in a tree quietly or hopping around. They are found throughout southern Australia and Tasmania. (Photo from Google images)

Nature Notes February 2019

Jo Walker

With temperatures still reaching into the thirties in February and not much rain, the ground has nearly dried out. The eucalypt trees and large shrubs are still putting on bright new growth so must have their roots reaching some moisture. But smaller shrubs and the grasses and herbaceous plants are having a hard time of it now. The soil is dry and hard, and on some of the really hot days you could probably do some cooking on the rocks on the hillsides here.

Not a lot is flowering at the moment. In fact, quite a few of our attractive local plants didn't flower at all this summer. But the *Cassinia quinquefaria* is still covered in lacy yellowish-green flower-heads. Another plant flowering here at the moment is the little Slender Mint (*Mentha diemenica*). It is a suckering, low-growing plant that grows along creeks and in soakage areas, and it bears small clusters of pale blue or mauve flowers for a long period of time.

Carex appressa (Tall Sedge), a fine-leaved tussocky sedge that borders dams and creeks, suffered badly last winter. It was presumably affected by some of the very low overnight temperatures we experienced. I'd never seen it die back like that before and had doubts that it would recover. But it has come back well, forming a bright green rim around the dam although it hasn't flowered this summer.

During a bit of rain one afternoon, I heard some excited bird calls. It turned out to be two Galahs hanging upside down from a branch of the tree in the driveway with their wings spread wide and obviously enjoying a shower. Two other Galahs here have raised two young ones who are now making heart-rending demands for regurgitated food. A pair of Grey Fantails also have two young ones in tow, but they seem to be learning to look for their own food.

I hadn't seen Leaden Flycatchers here for a while, but saw a pair of them a week or two ago. White-throated Treecreepers were common visitors here once. There were two of them that used to roost under the eaves of my house overnight after calling loudly as they looked for a comfortable place. I hadn't seen (or heard) one for a while but there was one searching the bark of a Yellow Box tree (*Eucalyptus melliodora*) near the house recently – although it didn't look as if it was finding much due to the increasing paucity of insects.

Detouring a bit – I saw a bird I hadn't seen before when we were walking in Monga National Park a little way beyond Braidwood recently. After a cursory glance, we thought it was a White-throated Treecreeper – then saw a red mark near its eyes. It turned out to be a Red-browed Treecreeper. Incidentally, that's a beautiful area to visit – always something interesting to see.

Red-necked Wallabies are fairly frequent visitors here but usually stay up on the hill across the creek. But, a few evenings ago, there were two of them feeding just down from the house. There is a bit of grass there but not much. However, quite a lot of Pigweed (*Portulaca oleracea*) has come up there and they, along with the Kangaroos, seem to find the succulent leaves an acceptable food.

It will be autumn in a few days time – hopefully with lower temperatures and, perhaps, a little rain to make Wamboin green again.

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Open letter from some neighbours

TIME FOR CHANGE

at the NSW election March 23

WHY? For those of us who love our natural environment and animals and want action on greenhouse gas emissions and climate disruption now, the National Party in NSW has been a very negative and destructive force. The National Party, whose leader is the Member for Monaro, John Barilaro, holds the reins within the Coalition of major natural resource portfolios. Policies on water, native vegetation, forests (i.e. also habitat and wildlife survival) are directed by the Nationals under the Primary Industries banner.

You may have heard of the fish/wildlife and regional community disaster on the Darling River; the current logging of coastal forests and the historic Corn Trail near Monga National Park east of Braidwood--destroying homes of endangered species; the dismantling of tree clearing rules (that red dust from the west may be the result); open season on some NSW wildlife as a bid for farmer votes; attacks on national parks; No sign of support for renewable energy, related new jobs and farmer incomes. That's them.

Selling off state assets under the Baird/Berejiklian Coalition and using the proceeds as \$\$ vote bait by the Nationals and Liberals is no compensation for destroying the environment.

There are good candidates running for Monaro against the Nationals.

 <p>Animal Justice Party: Frankie, standing for the voiceless — Frankie Seymour</p>	 <p>Greens: Act on Climate Change, fix National Parks — Peter Marshall</p>	 <p>Labor: Solar on half million homes; free TAFE courses — Bryce Wilson</p>	 <p>Shooters Fishers and Farmers: Challenge The Nats — Mick Holton</p>
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Find more information about these candidates at www.districtbulletin.com.au

Realistically, Labor is best placed to form an alternative government. Here are some promised **policies that embrace change for our environment.**

- Build clean energy industry – equivalent to 9 new power stations = climate change action and thousands of regional jobs
- Review and fix destructive inland water, forest, native veg, NP and wildlife management policies (Shadow Environment Minister Penny Sharpe)
- \$\$ support for Landcare and Rivercare
- Support for rail trails (recreational environment and regional business boost)
- \$\$ support and boost for live music sector (therapy environment + jobs!)

Remember on March 23: Number every box and PUT THE NATS LAST!

Carmen Ryan, Jan Provis, Clare, and Maria Taylor
Mothers for Environment, Wildlife and Climate Action (open to all)

How the Whisper Gets Delivered Each Month

Five thank you messages to Ken, Louise, Lauren, Lily & Isabelle Steinman for delivering for the past three years Whispers month after month to residents on Wyoming and Doust Roads. And thank you also to Leigh and Derek Morris, their neighbours, who have volunteered to take over the job.

Without the donation of time and energy by the 50+ individuals and families below, we could not afford to have the Wamboin Whisper printed and delivered to your mailbox. Mailing them out costs \$2 per issue. Added to the \$1300 or so it already costs to print the 1,326 copies, we'd have a price it's very hard to see that advertisers could afford to bear. So each volunteer deliverer adds up to Wamboin and Bywong having the power to circulate a printed copy into each area mailbox.

If your own deliverer has been on the job for a long time and you have a bit of time you could spare, think about offering to take over the job or help out. If you already have too many tasks in your month, every now and then give your volunteer paperwoman/man/boy/girl a thank you. - Ned Noel, volunteer editor.

167: CO-ORDINATED BY ALICE SCOTT: ph 6238 3178 email alicehscott@bigpond.com.au

Fay Kelly	Norton Rd West Area from Cmpbl Pl	20	Christine Rieber	Cooper Rd	23
Cheryl and David Steele	Fernloff Rd	35	Jill & Richard Gregory	Canning Cl	17
Julie Veal	Poppet Rd (for all on road)	32	Alan Rope	Sutton Rd	40

180: 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)	31
Kathy Handel	Norton (Weeroona to Hilltop+Wirndra)	23	Phil Leeson&Coleen Fogarty	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	32

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

Lesley Page	Valley View Ln	4	Deb Gordon	Yalana East	45
Colleen Foster	B'dore Rd to Nrtn Rd	22	Rob Henry	South end Clare Valley	41
Cassie Fisher	Clare Ln	12	Lyle Montesin	The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks	65
Dominica Lorima	North end Clare Valley	42			

270: CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN: ph 6238 3590 jnpvds@bigpond.net.au

Robyn Elsom	Denley Dr (Sth End to 429)	15	Rhonda&Neville Parnell	Denley Dr (Birchmans to 1/2 way to end)	26
Don Malcolmson	Macs Reef Rd (Denley to Gum Flat)	7	Cheryl Warnock	Macs Reef Rd (Newington to Bankers)	11
Connie & Hans Bachor	Dnly Dr to Macs Rf Rd incl Bchm Gr	35	Daryl Bourke	Harriot Rd	28
Nora Stewart	Rovere Ln	7	Sandra Favre	Newwington Rd	20
Carol & Clive Boughton	Macs Reef Rd (Bankers to Fed Hwy)	33	Joan Milner	Birriwa Rd plus Macs Rf Rd to Harriott	31
Beth Hope	Gum Flat Ln	6	Tony Bond	HoganDr/OranaDr/Yuranga Dr	48
Miscellaneous		3			

156: CO-ORDINATED BY IAN COILLET ph 6238 3425 lodestar@ozemail.com.au

Peter Huckstepp	Federal HwSvcRd	22	Louise Baldwin	Wattle Flat Rd	11
Lyn Parkinson	Bidges/Hickey/OldGoldMines	50	Penny & Russell Ball	Macs Reef (Denley Dr to Bungdre Rd)	20
Glen Dorahy	Sutton Park Estate	53			

137: CO-ORDINATED BY DAVID FEATHERSTONE ph 6236 97223 bushranger_au@hotmail.com

Chris Fowler	Millyn Rd	20	David Featherston	B'doreRd frm SmHill to&nclgdCrkBRD	27
Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	24	Leigh & Derek Morris	Wyoming & Doust Rds	34
Kerrie Gougeon	B'dore Rd (CreekB to Fed Hwy)	32			

187: CO-ORDINATED BY NED NOEL ph 6238 3484

Diana Griffin	Majors Close	19	Judy Smith	Weeroona (254 - 400)	18
Diana Boswell	Donnelly Rd & Ln 29 & Grove Rd 7	37	Susie and Brad Edwards	Weeroona (417-512)	18
Attila & Cherry Hrgsi.	Snowgum Road	27	Murray Goodridge	B'dore Rd (MRR to & nclgd Smmrhill)	38
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Cheers Pauline Segeri <psegeri@bigpond.com>

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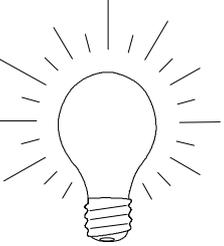
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Tanja Mitton 2 day Clinic
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Bookings: sheronypark@bigpond.com

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Wildcare & Wombats

Did you know that wombats are closely related to koalas? Both are part of the diprotodontia order of marsupial mammals and they both carry pouched young. The wombat's pouch is of interest because it faces backwards, so that it doesn't fill up with dirt, as the wombat digs a burrow. Wombats can grow to between 25–40 kg. Like koalas, baby wombats are generally cute and cuddly, but, because they are wild animals, their wild instincts return as they grow up. Just like humans, some are placid and social and others fiercely aggressive. Certainly, as with all animals, there is a need to respect their space, as they may well defend themselves and attack. So watch out, over a short distance, a wombat can reach speeds of 40 kph, which is very close to catching Usain Bolt, who has been clocked at 45 kph. A 25–40 kg wombat, having bowled you over, will quickly turn around and bite your 'bum'! So, take care.



Whilst our bare nosed wombats are nocturnal, some wombats like to sunbathe and can emerge from their burrows to see what is happening outside. However, a wombat grazing during the day, in the warmer months, is unusual and it could be affected by mange or some other affliction. Wildcare can sometimes treat many wombats. Wombats are herbivores and feed on grass, roots, bark and other vegetation. And if you come across a scat (poo) shaped in a cube – sometimes on top of dead branches or mounds – it is a wombat's leaving card.

Wildcare has a steady flow of wombats coming into care – mainly due to motor vehicle accidents. It is important to be very vigilant, on the road, especially in wildlife-rich areas to reduce the risk of hitting an animal. Orphaned baby wombats, like koalas, are delightful to rear and observe. But don't be tempted to raise an animal yourself, as it is illegal. There are also particular feeding and caring regimes, which need to be followed, or else the wombat will die. If you want to be involved with wildlife rehabilitation, there is only one way, which is to join Wildcare (or the wildlife group in your local area), get trained and do it the right way. To raise a baby wombat to release size, takes about two years. In that time they will move from a box in the house to a smaller enclosure and then to a large secure enclosure with a burrow, where they can de-humanise and learn to be a wild wombat. Appropriate care, the right facilities and release processes are vital to allow the wombat to become a wild animal, capable of surviving in the wild.

Depending on when you read this article, you may have time to sign up and come along to Wildcare's next wombat carers training course for beginners at the Wamboin community hall (off Bingley Way) on Saturday 2 March between 10.00 am and 4.30 pm (register from 9.30 am). Contact training@wildcare.com.au and wombats@wildcare.com.au to register interest. For advice and help with your wildlife problems, including living with wombats, contact Wildcare on 6299 1966 (put this number in your Mobile for future reference). - Philip Machin for Wildcare *Photo: Orphaned wombat in good hands*



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Fight for Fairness for Our Greenways This Election

By Nora Stewart

The Bywong & Wamboin Greenways are in danger of slowly disappearing as NSW crown land gets sold off in an ad hoc manner, as there is no proper government system to help protect these unique public accessways into the future. Meanwhile, NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian has announced a **Minister for Public Spaces**,* with a budget of **\$150 million**, all of which will be spent in Sydney to improve existing parklands across urban areas, with a further **\$100 million** to secure new parklands across Sydney. According to Member for Ryde, Victor Dominello: "This is great news for families across NSW."

Where do we in Bywong and Wamboin fit in to this plan? Nowhere. The **Bywong & Wamboin Greenways Renewal Working (GRoW)** group has been working since April 2010 to try to expand the existing greenway network in our area. We have tried very hard to work with Palerang Council, now working with the Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council who have a Department of Parks, but to no avail.

In August 2018, **I met with our local NSW MP and Deputy Premier John Barilaro** to pitch the idea of a project to develop the architecture needed to provide a template or turnkey approach to creating recreational public access ways across NSW, using our existing greenways network as the pilot. These accessways need a uniform approach to development - naming tracks, physical track signs or markers, maps, education materials, etc.

Most importantly, what is needed is a **mapping layer in the Crown lands system** that FLAGS crown roads and lands that have the potential for recreation and those that are already used for recreation like ours. Those flags would potentially prevent lands being sold off in the ad-hoc way currently used.

Mr. Barilaro said it was a good idea, and that he would raise it with QPRC, and get back to me. That has not happened despite repeated phone calls and emails to his office over the last 6 months. I have also recently raised this issue with **Bryce Wilson, Labor candidate**. He understands the concept and said he prepared to raise this with Labor shadow minister, Penny Sharpe.

This is a legacy project – not one that is vital this year, but with each passing year, the opportunity to create wonderful recreational public accessways will diminish as population rises and more land is in private ownership. We need some **long-term planning** and a government that is committed to doing that for everyone, not just for residents of Sydney.

MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT is on 12th March 7.30pm at the Wamboin Hall. PLEASE JOIN US and raise this issue with each candidate standing in the seat of Monaro.

MORE INFORMATION on greenways can be found on Bywong Community Association website <http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au/greenways/> or on FaceBook Greenways Bywong and Wamboin <https://www.facebook.com/GreenwaysBywongWamboin/>

-**Nora Stewart, Co-ordinator GRoW group.** * <https://www.nsw.gov.au/your-government/the-premier/media-releases-from-the-premier/new-minister-for-public-spaces-protections-for-public-land-150-million-for-new-park>



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St Andrews, Wamboin and St Peters, Sutton (SRMD) Church Notices

Summer is officially behind us and with autumn we know that Easter is not far away. As such, we enter the four weeks of Lent. Lenten studies begin at St Andrews at 7pm on Tuesday, 5 March, Shrove Tuesday (pancake day), and continue each Tuesday at the same time and place until just before Easter. Easter services will be held on Good Friday, 19 April, and Easter Sunday, 21 April.

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Pastor: Ven. Dr Royce Thompson 0416265600 Dr David McCarthy 0409383620

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Improvements to Wamboin Hall Parking and Driveways

The Wamboin Hall Management Committee has been successful in obtaining a *Stronger Community* grant to improve the parking and driveway facilities at the Wamboin Community Hall. The grant will be used to improve drainage, to make the parking easier and safer, to suppress the dust and to reduce the erosion that has been happening in the area. The Committee would like to thank our local member John Barilaro and the Queanbeyan –Palerang Regional Council who assisted in obtaining this significant grant for the Wamboin Hall Management Committee. The work should be completed by mid-year. - Tim Barter

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wamboin.playgroup@gmail.com
0439 586 188

Wamboin Community Association Inc. (WCA) February General Meeting (GM)

Date of Meeting: 19 February 2019, Meeting chaired by Pete Evans, President WCA

Outline of topics discussed:

WCA President: Pete Evans welcomed everyone at the meeting back to a new year which promises to be a busy one for the WCA. He mentioned that the Wheels of Wamboin will be held on the 18th May. Organization for this event is well underway. Pete also informed the meeting that one of the Committee's dedicated members – Jenny Warren – has had to resign due to work and study commitments. He thanked her for all her past help and wished her well in her future endeavours.

Vice-President: Jenny Richards reported that following the outstanding success of last year's carols night this year the event will likewise be held early on the 6th December so it doesn't clash with school events.

General Business: 3 items of interest were in general business during the February meeting.

a) Clean up Australia Day on the 3rd March will not be officially recognised by QPRC but individuals are advised that on that day they can clean up their own areas and take advantage of free drop off at both Bungendore tip and Mac's Reef Road waste transfer station.

b) Meet the Candidates. Planning for the first Meet the Candidates evening is proceeding well. This is for the NSW State Election and the evening will be held at the Wamboin Hall at 7:30 pm on 12th March. So far 5 State candidates have indicated that they will be attending.

c) Advocacy Activity at the Markets.

Wamboin Markets convenor Meriel Schultz presented an excellent draft for guidelines to be considered for advocacy activity at the Wamboin monthly markets. This draft will be considered by Committee with Meriel's input and formal guidelines will be implemented before the next Market day in March.

The WCA meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each (except January) at 7:30pm at the Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin. The meeting will be on 19th March 2019. All are welcome to attend. Jenny Richards Vice-President Wamboin Community Association Inc.

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Wamboin, Sutton And Bywong Get Faster With Fibre

Over 4000 local residents in Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton will soon have access to high speed, reliable internet!

Today I announced the NSW Government is providing the Wamboin Communications Action Group (WCAG) with a grant of \$5 million to undertake a major project and install a fibre network across Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton.

The internet is now a fundamental part of everybody's personal and professional lives.

With 1,300 homes and 50 small businesses across the district, today's announcement is a big win for local residents.

No matter if you're from Bondi or Bywong, you deserve access to fast and reliable internet. With recent storms and reoccurring lightning strikes, many households and businesses in the region have been left to deal with the consequences and suffer without access to the internet.

Soon, home-based small businesses can be run without the fear of faulty internet and subsequent business loss, local kids can complete their homework without continuous dropouts, and families can get together in the lounge room and enjoy an online movie.

The Wamboin Communications Action Group has been hard at work, rallying the community and doing the necessary research to get the project off the ground.

If you would like to get in touch to have a chat about the proposal, I will be holding my annual stall this weekend at the Bungendore Show. Please swing by to have a chat if you are at the show.

If I can ever be of any assistance with this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact my office at any stage.

Kind regards, John Barilaro

Editor's note: This press release came to the Whisper from John Barilaro's Office on Friday, January 25. It should have been printed in the February Issue, so, belatedly due to a failing on my part, it is printed in this March issue.

Wamboin Golf – February 2019

Mahogany Ridge, Sunday, 3 February. A beautiful sunny day for cricket at Manuka Oval - which is where your correspondent was instead of playing golf at Wamboin. You'll be interested to know that during drinks in the morning session the crowd was abuzz with the thrilling news that Slomo had decided to lash out on re-enacting Capt J Cook's historic circumcision of the continent of *Terra Australis* – i.e. the incisive removal of New South Wales from New Holland. Can't wait for that; have put my name down as cabin boy on HMB Endeavour. Meanwhile in Wamboin preparations were in hand for the monthly competition, sponsored on this occasion by the Schroder and Whitney families whom we thank for the eats and prizes respectively. The sponsors declared the comp to be determined by stroke play after handicap.

Your correspondent is informed by a reliable source that back at the Hall a lively debate ensued on whether recent climatic events are harbingers of doom: did the drought followed by our local December inundation, the January heatwave in the South and the torrential rain fall and flooding in the North, the Tasmanian and Victorian fires and the Great Sutton Earthquake all mean that the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse had been set upon the Earth as punishment for our neglect of the environment? Could we expect war, plague and pestilence (oh! The humanity!) to come next? Luckily, before those and other crackpot ideas could gain a grip on the fevered imagination and the galloping hysteria the captain called for order and introduced our guests, local pathologists Col and Maria Onoskapi. Ted Evans rolled out a story about ice cream. The googly ball was claimed by Raylene Beckett but my informants won't tell me why. The dummy spit went to Samantha Urquhart because her husband lost his Christmas present 5 iron. It was then passed on to Joan Mason who, after invoking rule 5b of the 3rd Amendment, teed off early at 6.15am (to avoid the heat of the day) and complained that the greens hadn't been prepared. LD and NTP ball winners were Pete Harrison X 4, Paul Griffin, Ken Gordon, Tim Barter, Colin Urquhart and John Whitney. Winner of the junior nine hole comp was Phoebe Beckett 68/32 from runner-up Alex Gordon 54/35. Lofty Mason took out the senior nine hole comp 41/27 from Joan Mason 43/32 and Samuel Urquhart 3rd OCB 49/34. Winner of the 18 hole comp was Paul Griffin 81/64 from Tim Barter 76/67 with Keith "I never win anything" France in 3rd place on 80/69. Well done, one and all!

Join us at the Hall on Sunday, 3 March for the Mad March Hare comp. You know the drill: be here at 12.15pm for the customary 12.30pm cast off. Which reminds me - local fishmonger, Murray Darling, has asked me to let you know that he has large stocks of the rare Menindee white fish going cheap. Get 'em while they're fresh. - Larry King, golfer

Wheels of Wamboin 2019



Saturday 18th May 2019

9.00am to 1.00pm

(in conjunction with Home Produce Markets)

Wamboin Hall - Bingley Way Wamboin

Start getting ready for another great day out with all things automotive.

Please email peter.evans@wamboincommunity.asn.au for further information

2 Perspectives on a Bywong and Wamboin Fund Raising Event

By John-Pierrel Favre and Anne Goonan

Opera - without the boring bits!
That's how Carl Rafferty described his latest "Opera by Candlelight" concerts. After an 'out of the blue' phone call offering a 'special deal' for Abbeyfield Bungendore (half the ticket price would be donated to our project!) there was real incentive to organise for more than a few friends! All up some twenty-six locals packed their dinners and came along to enjoy the concert on Sunday 17th February. Local drawing talent Jean-Pierre Favre took the opportunity to



record a moment on paper - you can see Carl on the piano with the musicians...and the singers on stage.

The programme was packed as always- with Carl's tongue in cheek descriptions of the individual items e.g. for "O mio babbino caro" he notes "Lauretta throws a tuneful teenage tanty....." While his concerts include overseas artists, he mainly gives young Australians the opportunity to show their promising talents. And the concerts always include popular pieces that have you humming - or simply take your breath away!

The added benefit of this concert was the help for our Abbeyfield House project in Bungendore. We're all ageing - and while some of us are secure in our future accommodation options, others are not....which is why the Abbeyfield House is so important. In Bungendore rents are well above the NSW average and a real challenge for some seniors. This not-for-profit and non-denominational house will accommodate some twelve residents - taking only a percentage of their pension and any rental assistance. They'll have their own bedroom and bathroom- and a housekeeper to prepare meals. The architect has drawn up House plans which are being finalised before the DA can be submitted. The project needs ongoing and strong support from the broader community not just the village! Any donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Just visit the website www.abbeyfield-bungendore.org and go to the FUNDING, DONATIONS SPONSORS PAGE. Donations are made via Give NOW.

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Wamboin's Wyanga School

By David McDonald, email david [at] dnmcDonald.id.au

The locality of Wyanga

If you peruse the old 19th century [parish maps of Wamboin](#), you may notice an anomaly: a two-acre block set among the many 40-acre-plus selections in what we know today as Clare Valley. It is the site of the Wyanga school. It lies between Reedy Creek and the track that formerly ran from Queanbeyan north-east to join the Gundaroo Road (what we now call Bungendore Road) immediately south of the Bungendore Road/Macs Reef Road intersection. Today's Weeroona Drive follows part of that old track. The school site is on private property east of the sharp curve in Weeroona Drive, three kilometres from Norton Road and 2 ½ kilometres from Denley Drive.

In the 1870s the area was known as Wyanga, despite the parish name 'Wamboin' having been assigned in the mid-1860s (McDonald 2018). Lea-Scarlett (1972, p. 7) referred to Wyanga as:

...an isolated and tiny community of struggling selectors in the Lake George Ranges, about twenty miles from Queanbeyan. Although a surveyed road from Bungendore to Gundaroo ran close to the settlement, communications were inconvenient because the pass through Smith's Gap which today simplifies travel from Bungendore through Wyanga to the modern Federal Highway was not then in existence. With Bungendore only a few miles away, the only link was by horseback or on foot. To the north it was far easier to travel to Gundaroo, about sixteen miles distant, and westward there was a rough track connecting with the busy town of Queanbeyan.

The school site appeared on various maps dating from the earliest parish map (1881) to at least the 1967 County of Murray map where it is shown as 'WAMBOIN P.S.' (NSW Dept. of Lands 1967).

In the 1870s, when the school was established, a small number of large land holdings (each of one square mile) were found in the area, though most of what is now Wamboin was small blocks: [selectors' conditional purchases](#).

Samuel Edmonstone Plumb: the Wyanga school's first teacher

Plumb was born in Calcutta/Kolkata on 14 Nov 1827. He was a commissioned officer in the 6th Bengal Native Infantry, based in Calcutta, and subsequently emigrated to NSW around 1857 and found employment as a clerk in the GPO, Sydney. He commenced working as a teacher in the Manning River region of NSW in 1859, and while there qualified as a teacher. The following year he commenced teaching at a private school near Cassilis, moved to Muswellbrook in 1866 and later established a private school in the Goulburn area for the children of the people building the railway. He had a reputation for 'arrogance, snobbishness and irascibility' (Lea-Scarlett 1972, p. 4) which, along with his propensity for heavy drinking and consumption of tincture of opium, underlay the poor relationships he had with many of the communities within which he lived and worked.

Plumb departed the community of railway gangers under a cloud, and found his way to Wyanga in early 1870. Lea-Scarlett points out that

The principal families [in Wyanga] with children of school age in 1870 were John Lee, Thomas and William Smith (who were Anglicans), Edward Murphy, Michael Byrnes, Bernard Cunningham and John Walker (who were Roman Catholics). There were fourteen Church of England children and twenty-one Catholics, all apparently living in harmony (op. cit., p. 7).

The descendants of some of these families still live in the Bungendore area, and are active contributors to the Bungendore History Facebook Group.

Plumb found Wyanga to be virgin territory for a school teacher, writing that:

The Lake George Ranges consist of wild hilly country through which there is no mail communication. On visiting the place (which I was induced to do at first from hearing of the beauty of its mountain scenery) I found on it a scattered body of free-selectors, almost all wholly illiterate, with children growing into men & women in utter ignorance. My proposals for a school found favour with them (quoted by Lea-Scarlett, loc. cit.).

Lea-Scarlett explains that Plumb's '...time at Wyanga was his most prolific period as a writer and the result is that from his pen came the only descriptions of the locality in those times and some careful analyses of social conditions' (loc. cit.).

The school was built in early 1870 as a slab and bark hut measuring 30 feet by 15 feet, with a small room attached in which the teacher lived. At the time of writing his 1972 Memorial Lecture, Lea-Scarlett noted that the building '...is still in existence, although now more deservedly used as a shed on the farm of Mr Patrick Mathews at Turalla Reserve, Bungendore' (op. cit., p. 8). His paper includes a photograph of the shed as reconstructed there. It still stands on the property 'Turallo Reserve', visible from Mathews Lane.

Plumb (an Anglican) found himself in the midst of bitter conflict between the Roman Catholic and Anglican selectors in Wyanga, and his own behaviour (including his heavy drinking) exacerbated conflicts he had with the local selectors and with the Catholic hierarchy.

The school opened as a private school in early 1870, though later in the year it became non-viable as the Catholic pupils were withdrawn by their parents. The only pupils remaining were those of John Lee and Thomas Smith, and those men provided some financial support to Plumb as their private teacher.

In early 1871 a Provisional School was established in the single building that then existed in Sutton, a weatherboard building used as a Wesleyan chapel that had been moved there from the Mac's Reef goldfield once the village of Newington was dismantled. Plumb was appointed as the teacher there, with some sources (e.g. Gillespie 1999) stating that the Sutton and Wyanga schools were half-time schools, with Plumb attending them on alternate days. Conflict and chaos reigned, however, with Plumb's appointment to the Sutton school ending in September 1871. He again became a private tutor to Smith's and Lee's children as there were not enough pupils for the Wyanga school to be viable as a Provisional or Public school. (continued on next page)

In August 1872 the Dept of Education recognised it as a Provisional School, with the teacher being Mrs Mary Whyte, the daughter of selector Edward Murphy—she had no teacher training. By this time Plumb had left Wyanga.

The school closed, never to re-open, in December 1874. In the same year the land surrounding the school site was selected by Michael Byrnes, as can be seen on the early maps, though the school site remained excised from the selection.

Today

As you walk, ride or drive along Weeroona Drive, at 3 km from Norton Road and 2 ½ km from Denley Drive, look to the east, down towards Reedy Creek, and think of the selectors' children walking, or perhaps riding their horses, to Wamboin's Wyanga school, some 150 years ago. I do!

Sources and further reading

Much of this article draws on Lea-Scarlett, EJ 1972, 'Magnum Bonum Plumb--terror of the Australian bush. A study of the teaching career of Samuel Edmonstone Plumb', *Descent*, vol. 6, pt. 1, T. D. Mutch Memorial Lecture, read before the Society of Australian Genealogists, 17 August 1972, pp. 3-29. Parts of the Lecture's content is summarised in Lea-Scarlett, EJ 1972, *Gundaroo*, Roebuck Society Publication no. 10, Roebuck Society, Canberra, pp. 68-9.

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- New South Wales, Department of Lands 1967, *Map of the County of Murray [cartographic material]: Eastern Division, N.S.W. / compiled, drawn & printed at the Department of Lands, Sydney, N.S.W*, Dept. of Lands, Sydney, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-598629458>.

Note: the version of this article online at the Wamboin Community Association's website:

<http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/thewhisper/index.php?op=localhistory> includes appendices that discuss the likely boundaries of Wyanga, the origins of its name, and identify the Wyanga families involved with the school.

St Andrews, Wamboin and St Peters, Sutton (SRMD) Church Notices

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Bronwyn Elliott 62383359 Gai Donald 0438400364 Alan Rope 0429434944

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From the Corner

Earthworks Revisited—While I touched on this subject some years ago, in going back to check what I'd written then, I was a little surprised to find that it was actually seven years ago. Nonetheless, the following are some more general comments than the specific examples I have discussed previously.

Within the Standard Instrument (SI) Local Environmental Plan (LEP) dictionary, earthworks are simply defined as “excavation or filling”. Fortunately, more information is provided elsewhere, within both the LEP (Clause 6.1) and Exempt and Complying Development Codes State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP), to clarify what is, or isn't permitted without formal development consent.

In general, in order to be carried out as exempt development (i.e. not require a DA), the works should not involve cut or fill more than 600mm below or above the existing ground level. There are then two guiding principles that should be considered, although I must emphasise that these are my own simplification of a much longer list of specific requirements (refer to the current LEP and SEPP for details).

First, the works must not redirect the flow of surface water onto an adjoining property or cause nuisance to neighbours, and second, any fill that is imported to the site must be ‘clean’, the most obvious contaminant being building and other demolition waste.

In the case of the first principle, note that creating channels that would concentrate the flow of water onto a neighbouring property at a single point may constitute a nuisance even if it is not generally diverting the normal flow of surface water.

Less obvious sometimes are the factors that might contribute to the second principle. Normal garden landscaping, even at the scale that might reasonably be undertaken on a rural residential property, will not generally require development consent and as such council would not need to be notified of the source of imported soil. My own experience, however, would lead me to suggest that one should still be very careful about the source of imported material. A reputable landscape supply company or commercial quarry will generally be the safest option.

I once sourced a load of fill, at a ‘good price’, on the recommendation of the guy doing the earthworks for me. It was certainly clean, in the sense that it had been nicely sieved. But as I soon found out, it was replete with the seeds of (at least) two prolific weeds—capeweed and another that I was never able to formally identify. Neither was noxious, but they were a real nuisance. It took me over 10 years to get rid of the capeweed. The other, fortunately, was ultimately displaced by [wanted] healthy plantings and associated mulching.

More significant earthworks will generally require some form of council consent, if only indirectly as work that is ancillary to an approved development (and that, in itself, will be the subject of a future discussion). For example, formation of a pad for a structure may involve more than 600mm cut or fill, but would be managed under the development application associated with the structure in question. Similarly, construction of an access road in a rural residential area, which may also involve more than minor earthworks, would generally require development consent, with any necessary earthworks noted and managed through the associated consent conditions.

If your plans don't fit into any of the above, or if in doubt, you should consult council's planning staff. The advice they offer is free and doing things right from the outset can save a lot of aggravation down the track.

The QPR Blog—New or related entries in my Blog (<http://peteharrison.id.au/blog>) include:

Earthworks Revisited (February, 2019) More on Earthworks (June 2012) Earthworks (September 2011)
-by Cr Pete Harrison, Ph. 6238 3640, Mob. 0427 711 028, Email: contact@peteharrison.id.au, Website: www.peteharrison.id.au
[This article is provided for information purposes only and does not represent any recommendation or formal position of the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council]





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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

A pair of blue wrens twitter excitedly as they gather up the crumbs under the tree stump after the cockatoos, galahs and rosellas have had their fill. The king parrots remain aloof. The stump is for commoners. It is another fresh dewy morning with a hint in the air of what is to come; autumn feels just around the corner. As the breeze picks up a crab apple shivers, its green cover speckled with yellow. Does this really signify a change of season or is it simply a lack of rain?

A few days earlier gale force winds had whipped up top soil from the far west and carried it towards us, blotting out the hills and casting an ominous light. Then a fleeting shower splashed the trees and shrubs and left them dull and rusty red. The gardens and paths were a mess. Shards of eucalyptus bark, dead branches and new growth ripped from the tops of the trees littered the surrounds. We arrived home to find a tree had fallen, snapped three metres above ground. It was a tree I hadn't really registered as being there, a victim of dry rot. Along that shale ridge three other eucalypts had already died and a fourth, very large tree was showing signs of severe stress. It was time to call in the experts, the amazing, death defying "tree men".

I hate seeing native trees cut down. It is like razing a whole village or town and displacing its inhabitants. Joseph Banks might not have made kindly comments regarding the shade offered by our great eucalypts but I won't be alone mourning the loss of both shade and habitat. However, it had to be done.

In the 1930s timber cutters came through ours and adjoining properties. Times were hard, it was poor grazing land and any extra income would have been welcomed. But there were no chain saws then and access was difficult. Norton Road was not the well engineered sealed road that it is today. Timber trucks dragged a log behind to assist braking going down the hill. The track through the bush was steep, rutted, greasy when wet, and rocky. In fact, gradient aside, much like our once smart red gravel driveway, today! After the chain saws have been silenced I fear it will be the turn of the bulldozers and graders to take over.....and the cheque book to come out once more.

And to think I said, when championing the idea to move here all those years ago, that we'd actually save money because "we can grow our own vegetables." I hadn't factored in the need for trees to be removed, septic tanks to be emptied, water tanks to be drained and resealed, fences to be repaired, roads to be maintained and sheds to be built to house all the equipment needed in order to be self reliant!!!

There is always so much to keep you busy and entertained on a Wamboin block! And when the chain saws and heavy machinery have gone, peace will reign....until next time.

I wouldn't live anywhere else.....

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