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Wamboin Community Assn <https://wamboincommunity.org.au>
Bywong Community www.bywongcommunity.org.au
Fire Brigade <http://wamboin.rfsa.org.au>
Bywong and Wamboin Facilities and Contacts

Bywong Community	Justin Jarvis - President	0404 460 568	president@bywongcommunity.org.au
Bywong Hall Bookings	Bookings Officer		lrhallbywong@gmail.com
Church - Anglican	Gai Donald - Warden	0438 400 364	peterandandrew2012@gmail.com
Community Nurse	Heather Morrison - Bungendore	6238 1333	
Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade	Matt Jackson - Captain	0409 991 340	wamboincaptain@gmail.com
Geary's Gap Pony Club	Cameron Smith	0419 449 747	
Golf	Ken Gordon	0455 839 840	ken.gordon1962@gmail.com
Injured Wildlife	Wildcare – Helpline	6299 1966	
Justice of the Peace	Andrew Stainlay – JP	0408 469 880	stains@bigpond.net.au
Justice of the Peace	Leanne (Lee) Ward – JP	0411 207 317	leannefward@gmail.com
KYB Bible Study Group	Robyn Doran	6238 3469	rdoran4@bigpond.com
Landcare	Kathy Handel - Treasurer	6238 3596	khandel@bigpond.net.au
NSW SES (assist – storm/flood)	NSW Call Centre	132 500	
NSW SES Bungend. non-urgent)	After Hours Duty Officer	6238 0222	
Sutton School Playgroup	Felicity – Contact Person	0413 174 204	Playgroup.sutton@gmail.com
Table Tennis	Mike Muston	0406 606 238	Mike_muston@gmail.com
Wamboin Community Assoc.	Jenny Richards - President	0490 020 165	president@wamboincommunity.asn.au
Wamboin-Bung. Book Group	Sally Saunders	0419 303 229	sally.saunders1@bigpond.com
Wamboin Hall Bookings	Joan Mason	6238 3258	wamboinhall@gmail.com
Wamboin Markets	Meriel Schultz	6238 3309	lmsconsulting@bigpond.com
Wamboin Play Group	Kayla May – Co-ordinator		wamboin.playgroup@gmail.com
Gearys Gap Pony Club	Kate O'Connor, President	0413 008 824	gearysgap.ponyclub@gmail.com
Wamboin Pony Club	Stacey Burgess -Contact Person	0414 672 979	wamboinpcsecretary@gmail.com
Wamboin Thurs Social Grp	Narelle Pumphrey	0438 917 206	pumpbnjc@westnet.com.au
Greenways Mgmt Commtee	Chris Schweizer - Chair	0404 823 022	beltrim1108@gmail.com
Wonderful Women of Wamboin	Merle Ketley		Wonderfulwomenofwamboin@gmail.com
ARF (Rescue Dogs)	Lisa Whitney	0408 260 796	lisawhitney059@gmail.com

The Wamboin Whisper: The Whisper is a monthly community newsletter established in 1981 by and owned by the Wamboin Community Association. The Whisper is printed at Elect Printing in Fyshwick at the start of each month, excluding January. It is distributed to every letterbox in Wamboin, Bywong and Queanbeyan-Palerang Council residents just southeast of the Federal Highway. Each issue goes to volunteer deliverers by the first Sunday of the month and is also then available at www.wamboincommunity.asn.au. Any proceeds from advertisements in The Whisper after printing costs go to the Wamboin Community Association.

Contributions to the Whisper: Contributions from all residents are encouraged, valued and the main content of the newsletter. The current editor is Ned Noel, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 0409 997 082. Paul Downey of Cooper Road also shares the editing. Please email contributions to nednoel@optusnet.com.au or mail them or drop them off. On contentious matters the Wamboin Community Association will strive to maintain a balanced view, by seeking advice from the editorial team and by seeking alternative views to be published in the same edition.

The deadline for each issue is the last Sunday night of the month before. There is, by tradition, no January Whisper, mainly to give all its volunteer workers a rest. The **deadline for the October 2025 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, September 28, 2025.** Advertising prices, per issue, based on rough fraction of the inside the margins A4 area: 1/8 \$24 1/6 29 ¼ \$35 1/3 \$44 ½ \$70 2/3 \$97 Full Page \$140. email or phone the editor as above.

Young Entrepreneurs:

Rebecca Purdie – pet/horse sitting 6238 3343
 Elly and Rex Collins house cleaning 0418 979 474
 Kale Blundell, Fernloff Road, babysitting, 0493 556 689

Can you write something for the October Wamboin Whisper? A story? Thoughts about something in Bywong or Wamboin? An invitation? A poem? Or draw something you've seen in our area?

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Author Catherine Bird

Key herbs for laminitis support



Nutritional support for a horse who suffers laminitis is vital. For the horse that is prone to laminitis, clivers is a useful daily supplement to improve the integrity of the hoof as it is one of the most nutritional herbs available and especially high in Silica.

With the older horse whose circulation may be sluggish, hawthorn berry is a further support and full of bioflavonoids that improve the elasticity of the supportive connective tissue that can become strained when the feet are sore while improving the health of the blood vessels that supply the feet.

For the horse that has low grade inflammation in his feet, turmeric powder will help lower the levels of discomfort. Often when there is systemic inflammation, there may also be arthritis in joints or irritated tendons and ligaments, with these horses adding ginger powder to the mix will increase the efficacy of the turmeric in a similar way black pepper is sometimes used.

For pain relief, where there is ongoing pain yarrow combines well with turmeric as a general management and recovery approach. Devils claw powder can be very effective with acute stages, however if the horse is already on Bute, do not combine these two as you could increase the toxic effects of the drug or irritate the horse's gut. For the horse with a sensitive gut, white willow bark is a gentler option and hawthorn berry will increase the potency of this herb if needed.

Once a horse is through the acute stage, using liver herbs to address the two phases of detoxification will help cleanse the effect of the stress on the body. Dandelion root or St Mary's thistle powder will address phase one, while turmeric powder will address phase two so that any residual drug therapy is not recycled back into the body and the recovery period can then follow on with clivers, restoring integrity to the hoof.

For the horse where stress has been a trigger to the laminitic episode, chamomile flowers will support the nervous and hepatic systems, and help the muscles that have become tense while the feet have been sore.

Choose your herbs carefully when dealing with laminitis, keeping the selection simple also helps not to overload the horse further with too many herbs. Combining a nutritional herb with an anti-inflammatory herb and liver support herb is often enough to start restoring health, and a maintenance program can follow on with nutritional and circulatory support once the hoof is sound again.

Disclaimer: The information provided in this article is for educational purpose only. Some herbs are unsuitable with certain conditions, pregnancy, medications, and competition. As this article does not replace medical treatment, seek advice from your veterinary practitioner before using herbs. Consult your governing sporting body when using herbal products to ensure you do not contravene regulations. Copyright: Catherine Bird has been an equine natural therapist for 35 years working closely with Country Park Herbs for over 23 years offering advice to their clients.

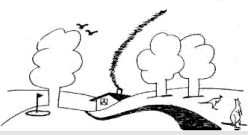



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	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Wamboin Community Association</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">President's Notes</h3>	
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Spring is officially here but winter certainly made sure we knew it was around with that last snowfall on the third last day of winter. Still it *is* now Spring and hopefully some more pleasant weather lurks in the near future.

1. Bonfire and Fireworks Night. The annual Bonfire/Fireworks Night was held on the last Saturday in August as is tradition. Although the weather leading up to the event was well pretty miserable actually the weather on the day was a great winter's day. Cold, certainly, but blue skies and just a gentle wind. All this meant that the Bonfire and Fireworks went ahead as planned. Numbers were down (due to both the weather of the previous days and another event that clashed) but even so it was a great night. Food and beverages were supplied by various community groups and almost all of them reported either a sell out of food or very close to despite the reduced numbers. Everyone who came remarked that it was a great night; every one seemed in happy spirits and it was a successful community event to usher in Spring. Naturally an event of this magnitude has so many willing able helpers but some require special thanks: Keith and Tim our Bonfire/Firework co-coordinators ably assisted by David, Ned and Diana. Fireworks Australia for putting on yet another spectacular show (they never disappoint); the Wamboin Fire Brigade for managing parking, and safety in regard to the Bonfire itself; the various groups who go out of their way to make sure there is enough food to satisfy customers and of course the people who came and enjoyed themselves. To quote an unnamed source: *"it was a great community event that people of Wamboin and around enjoyed fully and showed what we are like"*.

2. Meet And Greet Night. Events aren't over yet. On Tuesday Night **16th September at 7:30 pm** the local Council is holding a **Meet and Greet Night** at the Wamboin Hall. I'm afraid due to personal issues that have kept me away from Wamboin I know less about this than I should but from what I gather this is an opportunity for the residents of Wamboin and Bywong to come and meet with members of Council in charge of certain Departments and also a number of Councillors. I really don't know how formal this event will be. It is a good opportunity to come and talk with people face to face about issues and problems that may be affecting you; therefore I encourage you to attend this meeting. What I can assure everyone is that the Wamboin Community Association will provide tea, coffee and some delicious biscuits after the evening.

3. Various Meetings. There have been this past month 2 meetings of interest here in Wamboin both as it happens on this same day. The first involved representatives of the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network or ACCAN including the CEO of that organization who were interested in gathering information on how bad communications were here in Wamboin and Bywong so that they can take a case to the ACCC. The meeting was small but I believe managed to put forward the idea that Wamboin is a communications dark hole and neglected by successive governments. The second meeting held that same night involved the local Council's recycling strategy. I did not attend this meeting by hopefully a full report on this meeting will be made available in this edition of the Whisper. At any rate it's possibly something that could be raised at that 16th September meeting.

4. Community Christmas Carols. Claiming the date for our annual Christmas Carols event. This is a non-denominational community event to finish off the year on **5th December at the Hall**. The event begins at **7:00 pm** and is a lot of fun. - *Jenny Richards – President.*

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Hi Community!

I am very pleased to announce that I was re-elected as President of the Bywong Community Association (BCA) at our most recent AGM on the 21st of August.

Our committee now includes a wonderful blend of new members and those with extensive experience. We have:

- Mike Wilkins reappointed as Treasurer
- Tony Cotton reappointed as Secretary
- Liz Van Oyen (reappointed), Carol Boughton (reappointed), Greg Gougan (reappointed) and Clive Boughton (New) as members offering their assistance and expertise.

I greatly appreciate the collaboration we have as a team and the diverse perspectives we bring to represent our community's varied needs.

Continuing from last year we continue to seek to elevate the profile of the BCA through organising community events and advocating for our residents. To foster a sense of togetherness, we will be publishing a calendar of events. The dates for all our meetings will be available on our BCA Facebook page and here, in the Whisper.

We warmly invite everyone to attend our meetings—whether you are a regular committee member, have a passion project, or are simply curious and wish to contribute. We understand that not everyone can commit regularly, but we welcome any form of participation. So, if you have some time, we would love to see you at one of our regular meetings or invite you to engage with our Facebook page.

This year, we plan to utilise Facebook more actively to engage with our community. By interacting with our posts, you can help us extend our reach and better understand community priorities. For your convenience, here is a QR code that will take you directly to the Bywong Community Association Facebook page.

Our mission at the BCA is to represent our community, so please let me know how we can work together to keep it vibrant and connected!

Meeting Dates: 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 PM Bywong Hall, Birriwa Road Everyone is welcome!

Upcoming meetings: September 18 October 16 November 20 December - No meeting January 15 February 19 March 19 April 16 May 21

-Justin Jarvis, President, Bywong Community Association

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Callouts and what we have been up to.

Since the last whisper, the brigade has been busy with training, assessments and only one callout for a grass fire.

Fire season only a month away! Get Ready event, Wamboin Fire Station Saturday 20 September 9-12

By the time you read this issue, the “off season”, of 5 months has run its term. Preparation for the next fire season during this time was recommended, as it’s a cooler period to trim trees and vegetation and have a safe period to conduct pile burns of dry vegetation. During September, we make a special time available for the public to come and talk with our qualified Community Engagement Team to discuss any fire related questions or advise on preparation for the next fire season.



Spring is forecast to be wetter than normal, so with this, growth of grass is expected to be above average. Regular mowing and trimming of vegetation will keep it under control, and usually encourage new green foliage to continue, rather than let it die and dry out making a greater fire risk. There are areas where last season’s dry grass exists, and sometimes this will prevent new green grasses from growing. Keeping the area around your home clean and tidy when it comes to the garden will give you a better protection zone, should a fire threaten your property.

Each year, many brigades spend a considerable amount of time and effort to help landowners prepare for the fire season with advice and suggestions. Unfortunately, it’s only a tiny percentage of people take advantage of our services. Many may think, “a fire hasn’t

occurred here for a long time, so I probably shouldn’t worry”. It’s that mentality that leads to being unprepared. Our area has been identified as a “higher risk” than a lot of land in the area.

Summer fires typically come from the west, north or a combination of those wind directions. Our usual road access is on that side of our area as well. Previous large fires have quickly closed access roads, meaning getting home isn’t always possible.

Some “dead end” roads can prevent the RFS from getting to your property so you may be on your own to defend your property if you plan to stay if threatened by fire. A number of residents have added another layer of property protection with sprinklers, generators and self-sufficient water supplies which can be activated quickly or even remotely if a fire to threaten a property.



Whatever you do, any improvement of property protection is better than none, and it has been shown that those that have invested time to facilitate those improvements have often saved the home, where others have been lost. Don’t expect to do preparation when the fire is headed to you, it’s something that takes time!

Fire Danger Period starts October 1 – Permits are required from October 1. Application is by an online process, and subject to an inspection by an RFS Permit issuing officer, which also does NOT guarantee that you will be granted one. Allow at least 7 days for your application to be processed and inspection times organised.

Till next time, stay safe! - Don Evans (Deputy Captain)

Membership enquiries
Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade
NSW Rural Fire Service
Wamboin Facebook page
Queanbeyan Fire Control

Wamboinmembership@gmail.com
<https://wamboin.rfsa.org.au>
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Update from Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council - Meeting with Council at the Community Hall



Council is holding a community meeting in Wamboin. Come along and chat with councillors and senior staff at the Wamboin Community Hall (112 Bingley Way) at 7.30pm on Tuesday 16 September.

Waste Strategy 2025-2045: We are seeking feedback on the draft Waste Strategy 2025-2045. This is an opportunity to provide feedback about operating hours of transfer stations, an upcoming FOGO (food organics, garden organics) collection mandate that mandates weekly collection of FOGO by 2030, the future needs for waste facilities and more. Thanks to those who came along to the information session for the Waste Strategy on 26 August at the Wamboin Community Hall. The draft strategy is open for comment until 15 September at <https://yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au/waste-strategy-2025-2045>

C4 Environmental Living Complying Development: Council considered a draft planning proposal at the meeting on 27 August for complying development in the C4 Environmental Living Zone. Council agreed to lodge the planning proposal with the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for a gateway determination. Once the planning proposal has been considered, if the department issues a gateway determination, then community and government agency consultation will be required. In essence, the draft proposal is to allow the ability to undertake complying development, a fast-track approval process for 'straightforward' development, in the C4 Environmental Living Zone. The approach would allow for minor development ancillary to existing approved dwellings to proceed through an accelerated complying development approval pathway. If you're interested, you can read the draft planning proposal by looking at the papers for the Council meeting on 27 August on the Council website at <https://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/minutes-and-agendas>. This was Item 9.4.

Diwali Mela Lantern Festival 2025: We have teamed up once again with the Queanbeyan Multicultural Centre to create a bigger and better free Diwali celebration for the whole community to come along and enjoy. It will be held at the Queanbeyan Showground on Saturday 18 October 2025, from 5pm-10pm. Open to all, the celebration will be a family friendly event, with great food, entertainment, cultural performances and more. One of the most exciting and inclusive parts of this event is the lantern parade. From around 8.30pm people of all ages and nationalities will journey around part of the showground with their lanterns in a celebration of light. Anyone is welcome to join the parade with their own battery-operated light or lantern. Don't have a lantern? You can make a lantern at the Southern Tablelands Art Lantern Making workshop space from 6pm on the night, it's free and all materials will be provided – by Nathaniel de Hoog, Coordinator, Communications and Engagement, QPRC

Thank you, Each of the Five Sponsors of the Bonfire and Fireworks Raffle Draw

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Kangaroos caught in wire fencing; What you can do.

Many residents have witnessed, either on their own property or on a neighbour's property, a kangaroo caught in wire fencing. Most property fencing is not wildlife friendly, and recently the QPRC have agreed to review this as it relates to new developments.

It's a shocking way to die, being strung up in a wire fence unable to flee a predator and unable to get to water or food let alone the often-horrendous injuries that result from the wire for the animal.

At the Possumwood vet hospital we have rescued, treated and rehabilitated more than 2000 cases of kangaroo fence entanglement over the past 20 years. We have also given training courses, presented at conferences, and written articles on this now specialised field of wildlife treatment and rehabilitation. The road to recovery can be long, expensive, and highly stressful for animal and carer; but the usual successful outcomes can be very rewarding.

With Spring quickly approaching and new infant joeys leaving mums pouch for the first time, we expect a number of these little guys will become entangled in fences as they try to follow their mothers across the landscape; it's a good time to outline what residents can do to help get the best outcomes for these animals.

In almost all cases a kangaroo caught in a fence needs to come in for specialist treatment and rehabilitation as soon as possible. The longer it is caught, the less chance it will have a successful recovery. The rescue needs to be undertaken by trained and experienced first responder wildlife rescuers and it needs to be done quickly, quietly and deliberately. If you feel you need to free the animal yourself to reduce the time delay then, apart from taking safety precautions, you must be able to contain it and protect it from predators and birds until an authorised rescuer arrives. Its not enough just to cut an animal free and expect it will magically hop away. In almost all cases it cant do this as the nerves controlling leg mobility are stretched and inflamed and wounds can be significant and require antibiotics and dressings. In addition, the significant stress involved in being caught need to be treated with IV fluids.

Finally, if you are considering new fencing work on your property its worth looking at some of the wildlife friendly fencing websites to get some ideas. For example:

<https://wildlifefriendlyfencing.org/>

- Professor Steve Garlick, Possumwood Wildlife



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The Wonderful Women of Wamboin

The Wonderful Women of Wamboin (WWOW) continue to meet once a week sharing stories of what's happening in their lives. Nothing is left out; such that some of the stories will surprise you. Sadly one of our founding members, Leatrice Behardien recently passed away. She was a remarkable woman, highly skilled in knitting, crochet and sewing, with a sharp mind and a deep love for her family.

So if you have time between 10am and 12 noon, drop-in for a cuppa at the Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way on a Monday. We' would love to see you. Contact: Jane on 0479 169 874.

Did You Know that a **Twiddlemuff** (or twiddle muff) is a knitted, crocheted, or fabric sleeve with various textures, ribbons, buttons and other small accessories attached to its inside and outside. It provides visual, tactile, and sensory stimulation for people with dementia or restless hands, keeping them busy, soothed, and warm. These non-pharmacological tools are donated to hospitals and care homes by volunteers and knitting groups to reduce agitation and provide comfort to patients. The photo shows Nancy-Lea Legge showing her hand knitted Twiddle Muffs and Baby Angel Bunting Bags that she donates to charities.



— Gail Ritchie Knight

Message from Kristy McBain MP

There has been a lot of talk around the country recently about productivity and the Albanese Government's Economic Reform Roundtable, which wrapped up in Canberra on Thursday 21 August. I'm proud to say we've made so much progress in the economy with inflation down, unemployment low, real wages up and interest rates falling.

This roundtable was all about keeping that momentum, and hearing from a range of voices about the big and consequential economic challenges and opportunities of our time. One of the things that defines the Government is that we're an inclusive government, we are open to ideas from business, from unions, from civil society, from academics, right across the board. One of the outcomes of the roundtable that I am particularly passionate about is looking at how we can build more homes more quickly, which is vital for our region. We need to look at how we can help people who are finding it harder and harder to get into the housing market, or find somewhere decent to rent.

To address this issue, Minister for Housing and Homelessness Clare O'Neil will be looking at how we can reduce the complexity and red tape in the National Construction Code, and work with the states and territories to help speed up decisions so we can get more housing and other kinds of projects underway quicker.

In other news, the National Youth Parliament is officially launched! Have you ever imagined sitting in the House of Representatives, debating real issues, or drafting laws that shape our future? Or maybe you've heard a young person speak passionately and thought, "They'd make a brilliant local representative." Now's their chance to shine. One student from each federal electorate across Australia will be selected to take part in an immersive five-day experience in Canberra as part of the 2026 National Youth Parliament. This exciting program gives 'Youth Members' the opportunity to:

- Explore the role of a Member of Parliament
- Learn how bills are drafted, debated, and passed
- Engage with parliamentary processes in a hands-on way

I can't wait to see young people from across Eden-Monaro put their hand up to represent our region. This is a chance to be heard, to lead, and to make a difference. If I can assist you with a federal issue, please get in touch - Kristy.mc Bain.mp@aph.gov.au.

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Spring Splendour

It's Spring! Birds are more active; temperatures are warming up and the Indian Ocean Dipole is set to bring more wet weather. Here's some Spring inspiration to help you make the most of it all.

Spring provides a great opportunity to observe and encourage birds and other wildlife as their activity increases. Woodland bird habitat depends on vegetation with species diversity, different canopy types, shrubs, habitat connectivity, and the presence of waterways or dams. Evaluate these features on your property to determine if you could create or improve habitat for local bird species with targeted plantings, or by enhancing existing vegetation.

In September Southeast Local Land Services (LLS) is running wildlife workshops in Braidwood and Berry to help landholders monitor and learn about the ecology of local species on their properties. For workshop details or to create a local monitoring group, visit the LLS event page <https://tinyurl.com/bdbery4y>

Feral species are also more active in Spring. Feral Scan is another LLS initiative, in partnership with the Cooperative Research Centre for Invasive Species Solutions and others, that provides for community members to record invasive species. With over 450,000 records, this app facilitates landholder collaboration with neighbours and biosecurity authorities. For more information visit the Feral Scan webpage: <https://www.feralscan.org.au/>

Spring is also a great time to control weeds as they are germinating and actively growing. This means weeds are more easily identified, and herbicides are more effective. Control broad leaf weeds that are flowering now before they set seed. Graziers can reduce seed set of small infestations of weed species that are non-toxic to livestock by using strategic, high intensity grazing in Spring. Species that can be controlled this way include Paterson's Curse (*Echium plantagineum*), Nodding Thistle (*Carduus nutans* subsp. *nutans*) and African Lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*). High intensity grazing applies high stocking rates over a short period of time. Do your research when using grazing for weed control to avoid livestock toxicity, weed spread and damage to desirable perennial pastures. – Leanne Brown, Secretary, GearysGap/Wamboin Landcare

References and further reading

Your Birds on Farms Webinar: The 5 key features of woodland bird habitat. Available on YouTube at:

<https://tinyurl.com/2jvf3ds>

Paterson's Curse Case Studies. Four Case Studies of Farmers Managing Paterson's Curse in Grazing Systems:

<https://tinyurl.com/mvhzr6hw>

Tips and Tools: Managing Saffron Thistle Boosts Pasture

Production: <https://tinyurl.com/2ycjnkjb>

African Lovegrass. Four Case Studies of Farmers Managing African Lovegrass in Grazing Systems:

<https://publications.mla.com.au/login/GetDocViewer/11-10621.pdf>



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Faster NBN Internet coming to the Residents of Wamboin and Bywong in 2026.

An update from the Wamboin Communications Action Group (WCAG)

It's hard to overstate the level of disappointment felt across the community when, in late December last year, the NSW Labor Government cancelled the Wamboin and Bywong Fibre Network project. Aside from the cowardly way it was done, it broke promises, ignored years of local advocacy, and left residents with only NBN's substandard Sky Muster satellite service or the far more expensive services such as Starlink or, if available, local wireless/4G service. The sentiments of the many residents who filled the Wamboin Hall at the community meeting in April to discuss this decision, ranged from frustration to outright anger. It is particularly galling when you consider that, notwithstanding the contrived excuses given, it is clear from the NSW Auditor's report that the primary reasons that led to the cancellation were the many failures of the Government's own project team. While those failures led directly to the cost increases, it was the community that suffered.

Those residents who attended the "Meet the Candidate" event at the Wamboin Hall in the leadup to the Federal Election will recall that this issue was raised and candidates asked how they would address the community's needs. Our local MP, Kristy McBain (subsequently re-elected as Member for Eden-Monaro) responded at the meeting and shortly afterwards repeated her comments to WCAG in writing:

- *I understand the community's disappointment and frustration at the descope of the project.*
- *The way in which this was communicated to the community leaves a lot to be desired.*
- *In the Federal Government's sphere, I have raised this issue with the Minister for Communications and her office and will continue pushing for an expansion of NBN's Fixed Wireless services for Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton.*


On 5 August 2025, the Minister for Communication announced that NBN Co had signed a contract with Amazon to replace its Sky Muster service with Amazon's Project Kuiper satellite offering, with services commencing from mid-2026. Kuiper is based on the same technical solutions as SpaceX's StarLink Satellite service and when completed is expected to offer very similar levels of performance. Importantly, in comparison to NBN's Sky Muster, Kuiper will offer far higher speeds, lower latency and, to quote NBN's press release, standard installations will be undertaken "at no cost for existing eligible NBN satellite customers". As monthly wholesale service charges are to be set by NBN and user costs will need to be competitive with Starlink, it seems likely that monthly fees will be comparable to those in the city. Importantly, for those many residents that have lost access to a home phone service (due to failure of their copper cable), Kuiper is likely to also allow access to voice (VOIP) services as well as support WiFi calling due to its low latency.

While it's not comparable to Fiber based broadband, if Amazon's Kuiper services delivers on its promise, it will likely provide a superior service and certainly greater coverage than either NBN's Fixed Wireless Service or other wireless/4G offerings.

In response to the Kuiper announcement, WCAG reached out to Krisy McBain for comment. Her response was: "It's critical that our regions are not left behind when it comes to connectivity. The agreement between NBN Co and Project Kuiper will help to boost access to reliable, fast and affordable broadband internet across our region. I'll continue to work with the Minister for Communications and NBN Co to ensure Eden-Monaro gets access to better broadband."


For more information about NBN's Kuiper announcement see: <https://www.nbnco.com.au/corporate-information/media-centre/media-statements/nbn-co-selects-amazons-project-kuiper>


Finally, on 26 August 2025, in conjunction with the Wamboin Community Association, the WCAG met with the Carol Bennett, CEO of the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) and her team, as part of its consultations with regional communities on the quality of their mobile and broadband services. It's fair to say that she and her team were pretty shocked by the treatment of our community by the NSW Government in cancelling the fibre project and the lack of mobile and/or 4G coverage in many areas of Wamboin and Bywong. – **by Glenn Archer of WCAG**





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Playgroup Thanks the Community

Wamboin Playgroup would like to extend a huge thank you to the Wamboin Community Association for putting on such a successful Fireworks and Bonfire Night for 2025. A sincere thank you also goes to the Wonderful Women of Wamboin (WWOWs) for their generous contribution to Playgroup's stall at this year's event. The WWOWs along with other families from playgroup and the wider community volunteered their time and baked delicious cakes and treats for us to sell. Coles Queanbeyan donated a \$50 voucher that (almost) covered the costs for the 150 crusty Vietnamese rolls we have baked to order every year.

Our pulled pork rolls sold out quickly, the fireworks were amazing and the bonfire was truly spectacular. It was great to see the community turn up with their big hearts and big appetites!

We are so grateful to everyone who stopped by to say hello, purchased something from our stall, or simply offered their support.

The Bonfire and Fireworks Night fundraiser means Playgroup, along with many other community groups, are able to raise important funds. Your contribution helps us to keep Wamboin Playgroup free for grandparents, parents, carers and children of our community - something we are very proud of.

Wamboin Playgroup is entirely volunteer coordinated, and we meet every Tuesday of the NSW school term from 10 am to 12 noon. All welcome! - **Clair Camilleri**



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What the heck Chapter 39

At the time you are reading this, the Wamboin Community Bonfire and Fireworks would have been held a week or so ago. However at the time I am writing this there are still a few days to go before the event.


Of course I don't know if the weather will allow the event to proceed. The forecast for the weekend is not particularly encouraging. I tried contacting Dr Who to ask if it is possible to duck ahead and see, but so far have had no response. For me, only time will tell. As for you, well, you already know.

The bonfires at Wamboin and Sutton are both good opportunities for the SRMD to remind locals of our presence in the community as well as to fundraise. Fundraising allows us to develop our sites, as we have done at Sutton with the newly completed hall. The hall will be dedicated later this month, by the Anglican Bishop of Canberra Goulburn, following a church service and lunch to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of the present St Peters building. I could say that we are using the visit by the Bishop to "kill two birds with one stone", but that is a cruel statement and does not fit with my purpose in life – nor the Bishops – as well as being an impossible task. I cannot imagine any bird sitting still, waiting for fate, immediately after having its mate flattened by a stone, which would have to be retrieved by the executioner to enable an attempt to repeat the offence on the second bird, using the same stone. I could use the gardeners saying of "fill two spaces with one bush", but I am not that horticulturally organised, so I will just say that the Bishops visit will enable us to achieve two things that we want to achieve, rather than just one. Just as I cannot at this moment tell you about the Wamboin fireworks, I cannot tell you about the success of the 100th celebratory service, because it is still a few weeks into the future. Though the service is not going to be reliant on weather, a nice sunny day would be preferable, so we have sent up a request to "don't send 'er down, Huey", on the day.

Now that we have completed the Sutton church hall we can turn our attention to the St Andrews building in Wamboin. It was designed as a multi-purpose building with the intention that it be used by local groups and organisations, not just as a church building to be used twice each month – plus a few other occasions such as Easter and Christmas and weddings and baptisms and funerals. It is used by a few groups, but we want to expand its involvement in community activities. And as its thirtieth birthday is not that far away it is maybe time it had a little bit of TLC.

Hope you enjoyed the fireworks and maybe feasted on a local sausage roll and fruit pie bought from the SRMD stall.

- Alan Rope



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Mangoes will arrive in Bungendore in early December and must be collected from the [Bungendore Scout hall](#).

For further information contact Penny on 0401 819 277.

Money raised will be used to assist Venturer scouts to go to the New Zealand Venture in January 2026.



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. Guided Walk in Wamboin Crown Reserve 24 August

On 24 August, on a chilly Sunday morning, 19 walkers plus members of the Friends of Wamboin Crown Reserve met at the Wamboin Community Hall. After a quick briefing and the distribution of a brochure on the reserve, six carpooled vehicles set off for the reserve. (The entrance to the reserve is just up the road from the Community Hall opposite 241 Bingley Way.)

The walk began with a tour of a weir constructed by CSIRO in 1975 as part of a larger hydrological study of the upper Yass River catchment. Walkers then travelled to the west of the reserve to view the possible site of an 1872-74 copper mine - featuring a slumped shaft and remains of a building at one site and further west to an old road and possible quarry. We then summited Poppet Hill, taking in the views of Canberra and the Brindabellas before viewing a ACT/NSW boundary marker installed by Percy Sheaffe's survey team in 1912. We also viewed Poppet Hill's wooden quadripod trig tower and the nearby communications tower that broadcasts all of Canberra's community radio stations. The tour ended with a visit to the Kowen horse entrance before returning to our cars.

All in all, the walk was pronounced a success with several walkers encouraging us to hold a wildflower walk in Spring. Stay tuned for more information on that shortly.

The Friends of Wamboin Crown Reserve is a not-for-profit group dedicated to conserving and promoting the environmental and cultural values of the Wamboin Crown Reserve. New members are welcome. To join, email us at friendswcr@gmail.com.

A brochure with information, including a map of walks in the Crown Reserve, is available online at <https://biocollect.ala.org.au/sightings/project/index/88e21952-df19-43bc-9eb5-d160c2eacf16> click on 'Resources'. (Click the above link on the web version of this edition of the *Whisper* at <https://www.wamboincommunity.asn.au/>.) -Peter Komidar

WAMBOIN WEATHER – rainfall and temperature records

(50 years from Cooper Road) by Christine Rieber

August Rainfall Stats	Average August rainfall..... 55.5mm
August rainfall to the 31 st 42.25mm	2024 August rainfall..... 21.25mm
2025 total rainfall to 31/8..... 403.0mm	2024 total rainfall to 31/8..... 498.25mm
	49yr Av. to end of August..... 436.7mm

September Rainfall Stats	Average September rainfall..... 62.1mm
2024 September rainfall..... 22.25mm	Average no. rain days in Sept..... 9.6
Wettest September..... 154.75mm in 2016	Highest no. rain days..... 19 in 1984
Wettest September day. 64mm on 17/9/13	Lowest no. rain days..... 2 in 2018
Driest September..... 6mm in 1994	

September Temperature Stats	2024 Sept. minimum..... -4.1°C
2024 Sept. maximum..... 24.6°C	Av. Sept. temp... 9.6°C (day+night comb.)
Sept. 2024. Av. max 18.0°C & min 3.8°C	Coldest September day.... 5°C (2 times)
Hottest Sept. day..... 29.5°C on 23/9/17	on 4/9/1982 & 28/9/2009
Hottest Sept. night..... 15.1°C on 13/9/17	Coldest September night... -4°C (twice)
	on 1/9/12 and 16/9/24
Average day (max.) temperature.... 14.7°C	Average night (min.) temperature.... 4.6°C
Warmest September..... 2023	Coldest September..... 2015
Av. day temp. 21.0°C & night 4.5°C	Av. day temp. 12°C & night 1.8°C
(highest 6.3°C in 2001)	(lowest 11°C in 2016 & 1.6°C in 2012)

21st September is the spring equinox where day & night are equal length (12 hours).
August 25th was equal hottest August day on record with 20.4°C.

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Can You Create Something for the October Whisper?

Thank you if you helped deliver this September Whisper, wrote something in it or ran an ad in it. It is one more way we residents of Bywong and Wamboin can inform and invite entertain each other.

Deadline for the October issue is 7 pm the last Sunday night of the month before, so that's next Sunday, September 28.

Guidelines for things in the Whisper that seem to me helpful are:

- About or at least related to life in Bywong and Wamboin
- Written by a Bywong or Wamboin resident
- Respectful of the many lifestyles and opinions in our 1300+ homes
- Not printed elsewhere
- If likely to increase your income, paid for as and ad, so we can pay the printer
- A bit of humour never hurts
- An article, an invitation, a short story, a poem or a drawing

Thanks for anything you take the trouble to compose.

Ned Noel, volunteer editor on behalf of the Wamboin Community Association
nednoel@optusnet.com.au or 0409 997 082
17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620

QPRC Mobile Library

The QPRC Mobile Library bus will be at the Wamboin Hall from 10.30-11.30am on Thursday 4 and 18 September 2025, and then fortnightly. I would encourage Wamboin residents to visit this wonderful resource. The staff who work on the mobile library are extremely helpful and can help with all enquiries. After you have visited the library drop into the Social Group and have a cuppa.



Wamboin Thursday Social Group

The Thursday Social Group held a Christmas in July Lunch on 31 July (see attached photo). A delicious lunch was provided and everyone had a lovely meal and catchup. The group operates every Thursday morning from 10 - 12 noon at the Wamboin Hall, Bingley Way and if you have a Thursday morning free, we would love to have you pop in for a tea/coffee, chat or a game or scrabble, rummykub or cards. The group is very welcoming to new comers and provides a wonderful chance to meet up with some local residents. We look forward to seeing you. This item and the one above prepared by Narelle Pumphrey


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

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

So here we are again, at the beginning of another season of markets! The arrangements for stall holders remain the same and I'm still coordinating the monthly event! If you have forgotten who the stall holders are, check them out on the Wamboin Market Facebook page. Many thanks to Merle for getting this set up and working well.


For any new stallholders please email or message me and I'll give you all the information. Don't try and call me as I will be swanning around New York City until quite close to the September market - and it might be expensive for you!

Hopefully by the time I get back spring will be with us and that means some new produce for our markets. So come along and check out the coffee, food, plants, veggies and fruit as well as all the wonderful craft from talented people in our area.



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Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For September I chose the Pallid Cuckoo, an uncommon summer migrant that is beginning to show up in the local region again now that it is springtime.

Pallid Cuckoo (*Heteroscenes pallidus*)

Size: 28-33cm

Status: Uncommon breeding summer migrant

The Pallid Cuckoo is quite plain visually, though makes up for this with a pleasant and loud call. Adults are mostly pale grey overall with a darker back, wings and tail, finely spotted white. They have a bold dark eye-stripe through their black eye, which has a yellow eye-ring. The bill is dark. Males are plainer than females, which have more spotted upperparts. Subadult and immature birds are overall browner and variably mottled white-buff above, on the breast to face, and tail. Juveniles are even more heavily mottled, being patchy pale grey-white and black overall, with pale bill. They are fairly distinctive compared to other cuckoos, being quite plain and grey overall, including immatures which are more grey (not brown) and not barred as in other Cuckoo species. In flight the pointy wings could be confused for a Falcon, but they are a lot more slender and have a much slower flight. Pallid Cuckoos are a local migrant, moving to inland and northern Australia during our winter, and returning around late August to September, when they often begin to be detected by their distinctive vocalisations. The singing males make a loud rising multi-note whistle, often rendered as “co-co-co-co-coo-coo-cooo-cooo”, starting with 4-5 shorter, staccato notes and accelerating into a phrase of about a dozen longer notes. Female birds give a hoarse “brass whistle” call. Other vocalisations include a staccato “pip-pip-pip”, or a rising “crook-yer”. After arriving in early spring, Pallid Cuckoos sing to attract their mates, commencing breeding in late spring. Being a nest parasite, they lay their eggs in the nest of a Honeyeater, Flycatcher, Woodswallow, Oriole or Cuckooshrike. They are most often detected by call, during which this is the best time of year to hear and see them. By late summer to early autumn when they are finished breeding, they usually become quieter and are often overlooked. So keep an eye and ear out from now into spring for this migratory species.



Adult

Photos from Google images



Juvenile



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Hello Whisperers,

Well, we've survived another winter and with the start to spring making an on and off appearance I've found a bit of time to get into the garden and do some planting along with welcoming some new lambs to the family which is always cute.

Firstly, congratulations and thank you to everyone involved in yet another fantastic bonfire and fireworks night! It really is the highlight of my calendar. It was great to see so many locals and visitors coming out to support our fantastic community groups and enjoy the show that rivals any New Years Eve in Sydney.

In the last month I've been busy with lots of committee and council work along with other issues that residents discuss with me.

One issue I've been pursuing is the proliferation of tobacconists and vape shops and while there are no shops or corner stores in Wamboin or Bywong, it's an issue that we see in Queanbeyan without controls for Council to restrict the number of these business types. With over 19,000 tobacconists in New South Wales I think it's something that needs addressing.

To that end, earlier this month Council agreed to put my motion forward to Local Government NSW conference which would enable Councils to work with other levels of government to improve health outcomes, support local businesses and combat the illicit tobacco trade.

Another issue I'm pleased to update you on is the State Government's cut to the TrainLink Discovery Pass. I know many people in our region enjoy regional coach and train travel and I was disappointed to learn about the change to the ticketing system earlier this year which would hit the hip pocket of people in the regions.

In June I brought the issue before Council and advocated to the NSW Government for a reversal of the decision and I'm pleased to report the TrainLink Discovery Pass has now been reinstated which is a great win for travellers.

Finally, many of you contact me about roads and report potholes or areas that are degrading and I do what I can to get traction on repairs so I'm pleased to provide an update on some local roads. –

I'm advised that Norton Road will be resealed and heavy patched in areas from Sutton Road to Bungendore Road. The area of Bingley Way will be included in these works. Markings for reseat will be completed in the next few weeks and the heavy patching should be completed in the next month or so. Please allow additional time and remember the road crews are out in their workplace and deserve to be safe and treated with respect.

Thanks for reading. In the meantime you can find me on Facebook to keep up with my work for our community. As always, free to get in touch if I can help with any issues. – Cheers, - Ross Ross.macdonald@qprc.nsw.gov.au



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How the Whisper Gets Into Your Mailbox Each Month

Thank you Nora Stewart for delivering 7 Whispers to Rovere Lane for a decade. Thank you Chelsea Moore, for taking over this task. Thank you Suzie and Brad Edwards, for delivering 18 Whispers to the northern end of Weeroona. Thank you, Rachel Palmer, for volunteering to take over. Without the month by month donation of time by the 50+ residents listed below, it would be impossible for Wamboin, Bywong and other residents in the newsletter's catchment area to have The Whisper. Please remember all residents listed below, as they do what they do in order to make this place a little bit friendlier and more sociable. Without the businesses that pay to advertise in the Whisper we could not pay for printed copies. Finally, each article, invitation and notice you read in each Whisper is only there because you or others in the community took the time to write it. - Ned Noel, volunteer editor

174: CO-ORDINATED BY CHRISTINE RIEBER: phone 6238 3518					
Fay Kelly	Norton West Area from Cmpbl Pl	20	Christine Rieber	Cooper Rd	27
Dave Power	Fernloff Rd	34	Vicki Still	Canning Cl	15
Andrea Sadow	Poppet Rd	32	Alan Rope	Sutton Rd	47
181: CO-ORDINATED BY KATHY HANDEL: ph 6238 3596 khandel@bigpond.net.au					
Joan Mason	Bingley Way	44	Margaret Hekeimin	Merino Vale Dr	19
Sue Ward	Norton Rd (Bingley to Weeroona)	32	Anne Gardner	Weeroona Dr (Norton to Majors)	32
Kathy Handel	Norton(Weero2Hilltop+Wimdra)	25	Phil Leeson&C Fogarty	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	27
235: CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER: ph 6238 3489					
Lesley Page	Valley View Ln	4	Deb Gordon	Yalana East	45
Colleen Foster	BdoreRd BtwnJoRocks&NortnRd	25	Dominica Lorimer	Norton Rd – North End	44
Cassie Fisher	Clare Ln	12	Lyle Montesin	The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks	65
Jules Clancey	Norton Rd #1033-#1240	37			
204: CO-ORDINATED BY DOMINICA LORIMER					
Sophie Davis	Weeroona (254 – 400)	18	Rachel Palmer	Weeroona (417-512)	17
James Houlcroft	Macs Reef Rd (DenleyToGumFlt)	7	Maria Taylor	Birriwa Rd & Gum Flat Lane	19
Chelsea Edwards	Rovere Ln	7	Justin Jarvis Smith	Macs Reef Birriwa to Harriott	14
Megan Wallace	Harriott Rd	28	Barbera.Wilkins	MacsReef 670,622,618,568,566	5
Sandra Favre	Newington Rd	23	Darrin Lincoln	MacsReef 538,565,587,623,625,649	6
Merle Ketley	Snowgum Road	26	Carol&Clive Boughton	Macs Reef (BankersTo FedHwy)	34
172: CO-ORDINATED BY IAN COILLET ph 0402 027 452 lodestar@ozemail.com.au					
Simon Lewis	Federal HwSvcRd	24	Louise Baldwin	Wattle Flat Rd	11
Lyn Parkinson	Bidges/Hickey/OldGoldMines	53	Fire Brigade	Headquarters on Bingley Way	1
Chris & Kate M	Sutton Park Estate	57	Russell Ball	Macs Reef – Denley Dr to B'doreRd	26
150: CO-ORDINATED BY Chris Fowler ph 0438 591 098 chrisft1@pcug.org.au					
Chris Fowler	Millynn Rd	21	David Featherston	B'doreRd SmHill to&nclgdCrkBRd	31
Cheryl Le Mesurier	Brooks Rd	25	David & Connie Jansen	Wyoming Road	20
Kerrie Gougeon	B'dore Rd (CreekB to Fed Hwy)	33	Peter Sharp	Doust Road	20
252 CO-ORDINATED BY NED NOEL ph 0409-997-082 email nednoel@optusnet.com.au					
Robyn Elsom	Denley Dr (Sth End to 429)	17	JonesFmly+JulieJohnsn	Denley 191 to 414	26
Tony Bond	HoganDr/OranaDr/Yuranga Dr	52	Mary & Paulo Beneforti	Dnly Dr frm MacsReef to Birchmans	12
Janey & Paul Pedersen	BirchmansFrmDenleyUp2SaraRf	16	Helen Longdon	SarahReef&BrichmansFrnSarah2End	11
Murray Goodridge	B'dore Rd (McsRf to&nclSmrhil)	40	Diana Griffin	Majors Close	19
Diana Boswell	Donnelly Rd 29 & Grove Rd 8	36	Advertisers & Misc	Out of area advertiser mailouts & msc	23
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Classifying Wamboin's & Bywong's roads, Part 4: reflections on their etymologies

By David McDonald david [at] dnmedonald.id.au

Earlier this year, in *The Whisper*, I sought to apply an approach to classifying toponyms—placenames, in this case Bywong's and Wamboin's road names—using an approach developed by the Australian National Placename Survey. The [May 2025 issue](#) introduced the series of articles, commencing by classifying Bywong's 36 roads as Aboriginal, Aboriginal-derived, or Introduced. The [July 2025 issue](#) applied the same approach to Wamboin's 32 roads. In the [August 2025 issue](#) I summarised the origins of Wamboin's road names, noting that one is probably derived from a local Aboriginal word, and four are derived from Aboriginal words from elsewhere. The Introduced names were further classified as early (pre-subdivision) settlers, locations/local features/properties, rural-residential developers, community leaders since the rural-residential era commenced, and a residual category of 'other'.

What do the 27 introduced (i.e. non-Aboriginal) Wamboin road names tell us about the community?

First, we have no road names grouped thematically, such as native flowers or musical composers, probably reflecting the small number of roads (sometimes just one) created in each subdivision. In addition, we have none that may be called functional or descriptive, such as boundary road or eastern way. And many of the most prominent early landholders, including Guise, Anlezark, Day, Powell, Leahy, and Hyles, are not commemorated through the road names.

The number of roads in each category is the next thing that stands out. Of the 27 roads, most are named after early settlers or after locations/local features/pastoral properties: 10 in each of these two categories. Perhaps this tells us that we care a lot about the history of our locality, and about the features that characterise the roads' settings?

Settlers. The ten settlers whose names appear on roads—all active before 1972—were farmers or pastoralists, many of whom selected land here in the 1800s: Bingley, Birchman (though named after Stephen Burcher), Campbell, Canning, Cooper, Denley, Gallagher, Hogan, Major, and McEnally. (McEnally's name was almost certainly used because of his gold discoveries, rather than his pastoral interests.) Their names commemorate their contributions to the area, serving a memorialising function, and reflecting on the community's history.

All these names are of people with direct connections to the places where the roads are located (though Burcher and Campbell had interests in the land here but were not resident upon those lands). We do not have any that commemorate prominent people from elsewhere, such as British royalty or Australian governors or prime ministers. This probably reflects the era in which the names were allocated, with the first of Wamboin's road names being conferred in 1972.

Locations/local features/pastoral properties. The other large category, as mentioned above, is locations/local features/pastoral properties. Clare Valley, Fernloff, Lumley, Merino Vale, and Top Flat were land holdings with those names. Three others are named for local geographical features: Poppet (for the hill and trig of that name), Reedy Creek, and Valley View. They reflect the importance to community members of Wamboin's natural environment. Sarah Reef and Woolshed evoke key features of the environment shaped by community members in distinct eras: gold mining and the later wool industry.

Developers. Three roads bear the names of the developers of the subdivisions: Norton, Proud, and Ryan. (That would not occur nowadays as developers are no longer permitted to name roads after themselves.) Some of the early settlers mentioned above could also be classified as developers but, in most cases, they sold their land to others who subdivided it, naming it after the early owners.

Other roads. It is interesting to note that just two of our roads are named after local community leaders who lived in Wamboin in the post-subdivision era, 1972 to the present: Finn and Robertson. It reflects the high esteem in which they were held; the fine contributions they made during the early years of the Wamboin community.

The remaining two roads have one thing in common: mistakes! Kestral Place is the developer's misspelling of the official name of the small falcon Nankeen Kestrel, the incorrect spelling not corrected by the Shire Council. 'Orana', in Orana Drive, is mistakenly believed to be an Aboriginal word. In fact, it is an introduced Polynesian word.

The roads' generics. Another lens that may be applied is to examine the generic parts of the road names. (For Norton Road, 'Norton' is the specific element and 'Road' the generic one.) Wamboin's 32 roads use 8 generic elements: Road (9), Place (8), Drive (6), Close (3), Lane (3), and Crescent, Grove and Way (1 each). They can provide insights into the community's spatial organisation, local environment, history, and perhaps social values.

Note the significant number of generic terms—8 for just 32 roads—which might suggest a certain creativity or commercial savvy on the part of the developers.

Also notable is the absence of generics such as Avenue, Street, or Boulevard. This pattern may indicate the scale and history of Wamboin as a community without a dense urban grid, reflecting semi-rural planning rather than city or town layouts.

Half (15) of the roads take the generic Road or Drive. This is apposite for our rural-residential area, placing an emphasis on vehicular travel and distance between places. 'Drive' often suggests a scenic or leisurely route, reflecting the semi-rural or bushland character of Wamboin, and a lifestyle oriented around natural surroundings and low-density housing.

'Place' is the second most frequently applied generic (after 'Road'). It conveys smaller, quieter, or cul-de-sac type roads that may foster a sense of community and privacy. Its relative abundance suggests that the area is designed for low traffic volumes and neighborhood intimacy, common in developments prioritising local residence and rural lifestyles over through traffic. The three instances of 'Close' and three of 'Lane' convey similar messages. Indeed, half (14) of the 32 roads are Place, Close or Lane, highlighting the proliferation of dead-end roads.

Reflections. Overall, the patterns of road naming point to a community spatially organised for rural-residential living, appreciating natural landscapes, and conscious of its history since European settlement. With little space for future significant subdivision here, it is unlikely that many new roads will be added. Nonetheless, *the roads that we have now reflect who we are. Their names offer a lens through which we can understand Wamboin's identity: grounded in place, shaped by history, and mindful of its environment.*

Nature Notes – August 2025

Jo Walker

Spring is just about here, but the last morning of August was adorned with a crisp white frost – and the previous morning was greeted by a carpet of snow here. But we've had enough rain – and a few days with temperatures hovering around 20 degrees – to keep the vegetation green and thriving.

It's the time of year for golden-yellow to be the dominant colour in the landscape, with lots of Wattles in flower in the local area. The most prevalent Wattle in this area is the Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*), a tall shrub or small tree with feathery silvery leaves. An even taller Wattle is the Green Wattle (*Acacia decurrens*) with large feathery bright green leaves. Another Wattle bearing bright yellow flowers is the Red-stemmed Wattle (*Acacia rubida*). This one has large reddish-green feathery leaves as a juvenile, but the adult plant has long flat 'leaves'. These are actually phyllodes (flattened petioles or stems), a common leaf form amongst Wattles. A tiny Wattle that can be easily overlooked is also flowering. This is the little cream-flowered Ploughshare Wattle (*Acacia gunnii*). It only grows to about 40 cm and has small triangular leaves. There are still a few more local species of Wattles to bloom later.

I haven't seen any birds picking up nesting material yet. But, I've heard a Fan-tailed Cuckoo calling (a downward scale of rapid trilling notes) several times recently so it must be expecting to find some nests soon. The little 'flock' of Crested Pigeons here built up to ten birds, but most days eight or nine appear here to run around on the ground looking for seed.

One of the female Kangaroos from the local mob died at the beginning of the month. I thought she might not see the winter out as her fur was a bit bedraggled and her bones were clearly visible under her skin. At least she had a good life here. The big old apex male who was ousted by a younger male some time ago moved off to live somewhere else for quite a while but returned recently. His successor doesn't take any notice of him any more as he's dealing with a younger competitor at the moment – a long fight was going on this morning.

But, little joeys are just beginning to emerge from their mothers' pouches to hop in wider and wider circles on their gangly hind legs to explore their interesting surroundings. Whatever the state of the world, there's always something peaceful to watch in Wamboin.

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Wamboin Winter Ball 2025

As we left the Hall at midnight Deb Gordon was looking for her glass slipper and a contralto was singing 'I Could Have Danced All Night'. Was it Julie Andrews or Beyonce or Billie Eilish? Who knows? Who cares? It was the nostalgic sound of the winding down of the Wamboin Fireball 2025.

Why 'Fireball' I hear you cry? Because this year is the 40th Anniversary of the Great Fire of Wamboin which swept through the area in 1985. It burned for five days and caused much damage to the environment but, fortunately, little damage to property and no serious injuries. It was bravely fought by the residents of Wamboin and Bywong (then called Geary's Gap) some of whom were in attendance at the Ball. Surrounding brigades also came to our aid. Our little LGA was barely ten years old then, but a shared adversity has a way of bringing people together and thus a tradition was born.

The Hall was dressed, appropriately, in red and black by our wonderful Maria Mayers, as were many attendees (no, not by Maria, silly!). Once again the amazing Soul Plumbers provided the music. Those who came looking for a good time found it, socializing, dancing or just listening to the band – a cool front line, a superb rhythm section and a talented singer who showed she could handle any musical style. Try to imagine a conga line lead by a tall Saxophone player. The award for Best Dressed of the evening went to Ms Sam Urquhart, wearing a skirt which could light up any room – literally.

As you may know, our motto is 'Fun and Filanthropy'. Courtesy of our wondrous sponsors and the sale of raffle tickets we were able to raise \$2,499 for the Royal Flying Doctors Service, to assist in their magnificent work. Our sponsors were Contentious Character, Norton Road Wines, Bungendore Country Butchery (Paul Darmody went to a very good school), The George Bar and Dining, Project lighting Queanbeyan, Ciao Cakes Queanbeyan, The Gathering Café Bungendore, Nitro Roofing Bungendore, Grounded Motion and Inland Trading, The Soul Plumbers who performed gratis, the Wamboin Whisper, the Regional Independent and my boss, SBJ, for not garnisheeing my wages for the ads.

Be sure to save the date for next year: **Saturday, 20 June 2026**. We want to avoid clashing with school holidays so you can spend more time with the kiddos. - **Larry King, reveller**



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Kowen Kapers - Glenburn Homestead

Peter Komidar

Last month we visited the Kowen Public School. Looking northeast from the Kowen School site you'll see the Glenburn homestead. Despite being part of a thriving community in the late 1800s, it remains the only surviving dwelling in the northern half of Kowen.

The homestead was sited on the northwest corner of a 1,270 acre (514 ha) property called *Glenburn* bought in 1891 by John Edmonds Jnr. Upon gaining possession of the property, John Jnr began work on the homestead which was completed in 1897. In that same year John Jnr married Agnes Worthington, and the couple moved into the newly built *Glenburn* Homestead. Starting as a two room slab building, the homestead was expanded over the years with additional rooms (skillions) added on the western side of the building, a four-room pise (rammed earth) home with verandah on the eastern side and a roof covering the two buildings. There were also separate stables and a workshop. The pise sections of the home were likely built by local builder, Gilbert McInnes, who was renown for building in the pise style.

The Edmonds had five children while living at the homestead (they had 11 children overall). In 1898 (following bankruptcy proceedings) John's parents also moved in to make a total of nine people living in the residence - which would have been very cosy, to say the least.

Over the years, the Edmonds' landholdings expanded to over 2,000 acres (800 ha) comprising Glenburn along with Amungula Parish Portions 20, 57, 58, 85, 86 and 9 but it was still insufficient to make a good living. In 1906 John Jnr leased most of their land to local graziers, the McInneses, and the family moved to *Etonsville* Station near Glencoe in northern NSW, with John Jnr droving 31 cattle and 90 sheep the 900 km from Glenburn to their new home.

During their time in Kowen, the Edmonds were pillars of the community. They organised rabbit drives and school dances. Their farewell party was attended by over 60 well wishers from around the district. After their departure, the homestead was used as short term accommodation for shearers and in later years it was mainly used for farm storage. Today, all that remains of the homestead is the two room slab home with one skillion and the pise house. Considerable conservation work has been carried out on the building in recent years.

From 1915, most of the land in Kowen, including *Glenburn*, was resumed by the Commonwealth following the formation of the Federal Capital Territory. Compensation was paid to the affected landholders and the resumed lands were then offered back to the original owners as leases. *Glenburn* was leased back to John Jnr who in turn sub-let the property to the McInneses. When the initial 20 year lease expired, *Glenburn* was subdivided into two blocks with the northern half becoming Block 13 and the southern half amalgamated with the adjoining *Murryong* station to form Bock 29. The reduced *Glenburn* property was leased to Robert (Bob) Alexander Steele McInnes on 23 March 1936. Bob, who resided at *Kowen* homestead 3.5 km to the northwest, chose not to move into *Glenburn* homestead. Following Bob's retirement, other members of the McInnes family leased the area almost continuously up until quite recently. Into the 21st century, Ken and Suzanne McInnes had a three monthly renewable agistment lease for grazing sheep and cattle on the property. However, following the dedication of the Glenburn Heritage Precinct on 19 November 2015, grazing was permanently withdrawn from the area.

Directions: Directions to the west gate of the Glenburn Heritage Precinct can be found in the June edition of the *Whisper* via the Wamboin Community Association web page. From the gate follow Charcoal Kiln Rd east for 300 m and take the mown path north to the homestead.



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