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Local community group information



Sunday 23 March 2025

Buying & selling from 9:00 am–12:00 noon

**Sellers \$25/Car Boot
Buyers entry optional gold coin donation**

*Sellers must arrive and set up from 7:00–8:45am, and depart after 12:00 noon
(no early departure for the safety of all).*

If you would like to have a food stall please contact us ASAP. president@bywongcommunity.org.au

Where: 67 Birriwa Rd, Bywong (the Les Reardon Reserve)



Proceeds from the Car Boot Sale are used by the Bywong Community Association for local projects and events.
Other local community groups also attend with fundraising and information stalls.



Wamboin Pony Club

By Zara Warren

The beginning of February was Michelago Sporting weekend! All Wamboin participants had a fantastic weekend filled with smiles, improvements and of course ribbons! This weekend is always something to look forward to! Thank you to all participants and organisers of the weekend it was smoothly run and a great environment. Zone 16 camp is coming up fast! Don't forget to put your entries in via justgo for a fun week filled with learning! Entries close 15th March, more info on Zone 16 Pony Club Facebook page!

Wamboin Playgroup Kicks Off the New Year

The Wamboin Playgroup is back for another year in 2025 of fun, friendship, and community connection! After the summer break, our playgroup is ready to welcome familiar faces and new families alike to the Wamboin Community Hall.

With little ones bursting with energy and excitement, it's the perfect time to bring them along for a morning of play and exploration. Whether it's running around on the shaded and fully fenced play equipment, getting creative with indoor toys, or making new friends in the cubby house, there's something for every child to enjoy.

Playgroup remains unstructured by design, giving children the freedom to choose their own adventures, whether that's building with blocks, creating artwork, or running around outside. Structured activities may pop up from time to time, based on the interests of our little ones and their carers, but the focus is always on fun and socialisation.

Each carer is asked to bring some fruit or a healthy snack to contribute to a shared platter for the children. For those who enjoy baking,

our rotating baked goods roster is always a hit—so feel free to bring along a treat to share!

Playgroup runs every **Tuesday of the NSW School Term from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm** at the Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way. It's free to attend, and all children aged 0-6 are welcome. **Bring the Essentials:** Hats, sunscreen, water bottles, and snacks are all important to keep little ones happy and comfortable.

Playgroup is more than just a place to play—it's where memories are made, friendships blossom, and families feel supported. For any questions, please reach out to wamboin.playgroup@gmail.com.

In other news – the WCA along with Playgroup committee are seeking qualified businesses to submit quotes in relation to the replacement of the fence around the playground at the hall. The fence, built by the local community more than 30 years ago needs replacing and we are seeking a grant to fund the much needed works. Please email wamboin.playgroup@gmail.com to arrange to quote on this replacement.





March 2025

Circulation 1,364

Ambulance - Dial Triple Zero (000) All Hours
Bungendore Police: 6118 1240 Ambulance Bookings: 131233

Wamboin Community Assn <https://wamboincommunity.org.au>

Bywong Community www.bywongcommunity.org.au

Fire Brigade <http://wamboin.rfsa.org.au>

Bywong and Wamboin Facilities and Contacts

Bywong Community	Justin Jarvis - President	0404 460 568	president@bywongcommunity.org.au
Bywong Hall Bookings	Bookings Officer		lrrhallbywong@gmail.com
Church - Anglican	Gai Donald - Warden	0438 400 364	peterandandrew2012@gmail.com
Community Nurse	Heather Morrison - Bungendore	6238 1333	
Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade	Neville Schroder - 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	leanneford@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	Denise Lang – 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	Gail Ritchie Knight	0416 097 500	whirlwind1@argonite.com.au
ARF (Rescue Dogs)	Lisa Whitney	0408 260 796	lisaawhitney059@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 April 2025 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, March 30, 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.

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Hi everyone!

This MONTH is the best month to be a month. It is the CAR BOOT SALE...

The Car Boot Sale is on the 23rd of March and is the main fundraiser for the Bywong Community Association. It is also one of the best opportunities to find a bargain or to move on some stuff that you no longer need AND reduce waste!

But more on that after this quick community announcement: The aim of the Bywong Community Association is to help bring the community of Bywong together by holding various activities, connecting people and working to keep the local area cohesive. To achieve this we work alongside a number of other groups in the area.

This includes the Bywong Hall Committee who are the custodians of the Bywong Hall at Les Reardon Reserve, off Birriwa Lane. I can assure you that if you need to rent a location for a party or a gathering, THIS is the place to do it! There are great facilities with a full kitchen and outdoor area as well as a children's playground. Have you got a party you want to hold, but don't have the space? Reach out to the Bywong Hall Committee and line up to hire the hall ('Bywong Hall' lrrhallbywong@gmail.com).

So anyhow ... Back to the CAR BOOT SALE>>> Now is the time to get go through your cupboards and shed/s and sort through your treasures and get a stall together. There are things that you are not using are things that others might. You can convert that stuff in the corner of your shed into cash. Turn YOUR unfinished project into someone else's unfinished project! And if you are looking to unearth a treasure, this is the time to do it. The Car Boot Sale is the perfect time to pick up a bargain and help the environment by re-using or repurposing. Alternatively you may want to get to crafting or turn all those summer bumper crops into preserves and sauces – think about getting together with some likeminded friends and set up a stall!

We have some shout outs to the Guides who will be running their famous Devonshire Tea stall. The Wonderful Women of Wamboin (WWOW) will share some information on their various social activities and how to get involved. Wildcare, Possumwood and Landcare will all be adjoining the Greenways group. These local groups are doing great work so come and find out a bit more or learn how you can help. As always, Landcare will have many locally appropriate native plants and seedlings available to help us rejuvenate the bush and connect wildlife corridors across our properties. As usual we are super grateful to the Wamboin RFS who will be managing the Car parking with their usual finesse.

In addition to these local community groups, we have lined up the QPRC mobile Library (<https://library.qprc.nsw.gov.au/>) who will be joined by some other reps from the local council and we will have the Wamboin RFS (<https://wamboin.rfsa.org.au/>) on hand, giving out advice on how to keep your place ready for the fire season. And no community event of this scale would be proper without some of the local businesses helping out. We once again thank O'Sullivan's waste (<http://www.osullivanswaste.com.au/>) for their long term support in providing bins to keep our event clear of waste! This year the BCA is getting snags and bacon from Priam Meats, a local family company. <https://www.priammeats.com/> And just to repeat that... The BCA will be hosting a Sausage Sizzle / Bacon and Egg roll BBQ. It will be hard work picking up bargains without some sustenance direct from the BBQ so pop along and keep those energy levels high! You will be able to Snag a treasure.... And also treasure a Snag..

Come down to the Car Boot Sale. 23rd of MARCH. Stall set up – 07:00-8:45 am Buying & selling – 09:00-12:00pm \$25 for a stall. **Bring Cash!!** This is always a great event and this year.... who knows, maybe the biggest ever! See Facebook or the Bywong Community Association website for all the details. <https://www.bywongcommunity.org.au/> - Justin Jarvis, President



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Wamboin Community Association
This month my page is turned over to 3 announcements

Clean Up Wamboin & Bywong Week, 2-8 March 2025

A suggestion from the Wamboin Community Association, Inc. Clean Up Australia (CUA) Day, Sunday 2 March, is a great opportunity for all *Whisper* readers to contribute to the amenity of the wonderful localities in which we live.

For 27 years, the Wamboin Community Association, with the full support of the Wamboin Bushfire Brigade, and of Council, successfully led the cleaning up of Wamboin's road verges. Some years ago, QPRC ceased their support, citing safety hazards. This means that cleaning our roadsides cannot be an official CUA Day event.

However, we don't need Council's approval for us to individually clean up any rubbish found along the roadsides in front of our, and our neighbours', blocks. Let's do it!

By the time you read this, Sunday 2 March may have passed. No problem, let's make the first week of March Clean Up Wamboin & Bywong Week!

Disposal of rubbish collected in CUA Week: please dispose of it using your normal household rubbish arrangements. Contrary to what was mentioned in the February *Whisper*, CUA Day and Week rubbish **cannot** be left at the Wamboin Community Hall. Only recyclables can go in the bins provided there.

Let's show our community pride and keep Wamboin and Bywong looking their best!

WHEELS OF WAMBOIN



Saturday 17 May 2025

9.00am to 1.00pm

(in conjunction with Home Produce Markets)

**Wamboin Community Hall - Bingley Way (off Norton Road)
Wamboin NSW.**

Proceeds to

Follow us



Launch of *We are Wamboin* booklet Wamboin Hall 10.00 am, Sat. 15 March

To mark 50 years of closer settlement in Wamboin, the Wamboin Community Association (WCA) has recently published the 38 page, full-colour, booklet *We are Wamboin: the story of our unique community*. Booklet project management and writing was by long-term Wamboin resident, Meriel Schultz. Funding for the project was provided by the Community Bank Bungendore and the WCA.

The launch will take place at the March Wamboin home produce & craft market, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin. Soon after the launch, a copy will be delivered, by volunteers, free of charge, to every letterbox in Wamboin.

Do come along to the launch, and celebrate *We are Wamboin!*

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Callouts and what we have been up to.

Since the last whisper, the brigade has been busy with 1 x MVA & 2 x Grass fires.

Outlook for the rest of the fire season

Despite some cooler conditions, the weather has warmed up again, with temperatures going into the mid 30's at the end of February and predicted to continue into March. If you didn't know, the largest fire in our area occurred in March in 1985. The forecast is to be a drier March, and the fire danger period will continue until April 1, 2025, so permits are still required. Grass fires continue to keep happening in the district as there is still lots of dry grass around that will easily burn. Most fires are still occurring from human error, so please be aware of that when using any machinery outdoors.

Access to properties

Many RFS brigades around the state are still finding some properties difficult to locate and get access to, when called to an incident. If you drive around our area, how many properties do you see where you can't easily identify a street number? What about at night? Other emergency services like the ambulance service have similar issues. Whether it's a fire or life-threatening event, every second can make a difference in getting to your home as soon as possible. Consider a simple reflective sign, visible, and possibly double sided so an approaching vehicle can see from either end of the road you live on. Most local sign makers can easily make up these for you.



Access for RFS or NSW Fire & Rescue vehicles requires very different thinking than your family car. The recommended width required is 4 metres wide, 4 metres high & allow up to 10 metres

for the length of an appliance. A high security gate that has no emergency access could result in us not being able to get into your property. A road or track should be capable of safely supporting between 13 and 26 tonnes, in all-weather conditions. These large heavy vehicles need a larger turning area, and if possible, have a "turning circle" in front of the house. Overhanging trees can damage mirrors, pump equipment or essential critical communication aerials on the roof. The driver will assess access as to whether it is safe to enter the property without risking the crew, damaging the vehicle or equipment or get stuck in unstable or boggy ground. A damaged vehicle is a vehicle taken off the road, and one less asset to protect the community. As homes get established, trees grow and outbuildings, sheds, stables and yards are built. Quickly, access to the rear of the property can get blocked off without thought. Drainage, buried pipes, septic



tanks and absorption trenches are forgotten, and can be a real hazard if driven over and a costly exercise to repair if damaged. Take the opportunity to draw up a plan of your property where you think it is safe to drive, and where it is not, due to buildings, uneven ground or underground assets. If you can't access parts of your property, you need to be able to let the emergency service know, before or when they arrive. Consider access through a neighbour's fence if you are on good terms. A wide gate can be a valuable addition that both parties can



share and use in an emergency. Lastly, we only carry a limited amount of water on our vehicles. We can use a tanker full in less than 5 minutes with large hoses and nozzles. Having a dam close by, with vehicle access will save us leaving the property to refill or having a tank with a "Storz" fitting that we can connect to, can make a huge difference. Access and accessible water is part of what you should include in your fire plan. Our Community Engagement team are available to discuss any of these items, or you can arrange to have a visit by our brigade.

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

Membership enquiries	Wamboinmembership@gmail.com
Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade	https://wamboin.rfsa.org.au
NSW Rural Fire Service	www.rfs.nsw.gov.au
Wamboin Facebook page	Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade
Queanbeyan Fire Control	6128 0600 (business hours only)



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2025 Wheels of Wamboin - 17 May 2025

Well, the year is off to a flying start and we are at March already. There was a great response to my last article with a few local businesses putting their hand up to sponsors to help out to cover the insurance costs (we are still finalising the insurances). This way all monies raised on the day can go directly to our charities including the Wamboin RFS, Possumwood Wildlife Hospital and Camp Quality.

I was at the Wheels show in Queanbeyan on the weekend and when in discussion with another car crazed enthusiast it occurred to me just how much owning a classic car is good for your well being. For a start if you join a car club then you instantly have at least 20 or 30 people just as nuts as you. Classic car shows (including the Wheels of Wamboin) provide opportunities to meet new people, share knowledge and celebrate your shared passion. Even when someone starting a conversation about your car at a random petrol station. It's like a travelling men's shed on wheels. You never have to talk about the weather again because you can talk about cars, how to find parts, what you are doing to your car, and how to solve that annoying squeak or rattle. Never underestimate what blue tack can do for a rattle.

A while ago a man named John mentioned to me that everyone has a car inside them. Great words because cars can bring back a sense of nostalgia, great memories of riding in your family car, going on holidays and taking us back to a time when life was simpler. You can also create and pass these memories onto your kids. This way we create the next generation of car nuts. You may suddenly also become the coolest person at work. Classic car owners often take great pride in their vehicles. They name them, they are symbols of individuality and personal style and self-expression. You and your new fellow car nuts can also appreciate its beauty, the classic hand drawn lines, chrome and paint work. You can also gain some culture, you may have to call or email someone in Europe, Japan, America or England to find parts or that really hard to get period accessory.



Old cars are pretty basic and simple to repair. No new fangled computer stuff, just spark plugs and carby's. Sometimes it's the journey in life and not the destination, actually it's the journey hoping you don't breakdown and absolute relief when you make it to your destination. Improve your skin with all that Solvo hand cleaning cream, oils and grease and the occasional skun knuckle. Heaps cheaper than a manicure.

Have a think about that car inside of you, then look up and join the local club, even if you don't have a car yet. Club members will welcome you with open arms as you are no doubt on the way to being a fellow nutter. A classic car can be had for under \$10,000, use it as a second car, drive it once a week, rego is only \$60 per year for club rego. It doesn't need to be expensive and gives you reason to go along to the next car show (Wheels of Wamboin of course) or just to get out for a drive. I'm sure you and your world will be better for it. – **Peter Evans**

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Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For March I chose the Superb Lyrebird, a characteristic Australian bird that I have seen recently, not a common sight locally.

Superb Lyrebird (*Menura novaehollandiae*)

Size: 86-100cm

Status: Rare resident

Many people know of the Superb Lyrebird, an iconic Australian bird often known for its amazing ability to mimic other noises, ranging from other bird calls to natural and man-made noises in the surrounding environment. The lyrebird is a large ground-dwelling bird, mostly grey-brown with richer brown on its wings, forehead and throat, with greyer underparts. They have strong dark legs adapted to digging and foraging in the leaf litter on the forest floor, similar to a chicken. Whilst they may resemble a chicken or gamebird in many ways due to their large size and ground dwelling habits, they are actually not closely related at all and instead are a type of passerine or songbird, one of the largest members of the family! Both sexes of lyrebird have a long tail, which consists of regular feathers in the female, drooping at the end. The male has a much more impressive collection of tail feathers, consisting of two club-like “lyre” feathers, striped glossy black, white and rufous, then two slender pale ribbon-like “guard plumes”, and 12 wispy filamented feathers which take several years to fully grow out. The male creates a display arena in his territory and displays with his tail feathers inverted over top of his body (see image) whilst calling with his repertoire of mimicry and dancing to attract females. Outside of the male’s song, a typical loud “bilik, “bilik” contact call is often heard. Lyrebirds are usually found singly or in pairs to small groups. They tend to be rather secretive, foraging on the ground in dense forest undergrowth, though sometimes will be seen in the open. As such, the local area is not particularly suitable as it is mostly drier open woodland. The only area they are in locally is along the hillsides bordering onto Kowen Forest and down to Molonglo Gorge due to the denser forested habitat present. Even there the habitat is not particularly favourable and there are not many birds present. I recently observed several times a male Lyrebird whilst walking in Kowen Forest, a bird I have only seen there a handful of times before. This bird was seen alongside a firetrail and on one occasion when disturbed in the late evening was observed clambering up into the pine trees to about 30 metres high. This is unusual for



Male in display

the species which seldom flies, though they do roost in trees at night. If you are ever in the area, keep an eye and ear out for this species, though don’t let the mimicry fool you as sometimes it can be confusing when they make other bird’s calls! Your best luck at seeing one is probably not here though, and rather in wetter forest towards the coast or in the Brindabella Ranges to the west.

Photos from Google Images



Female

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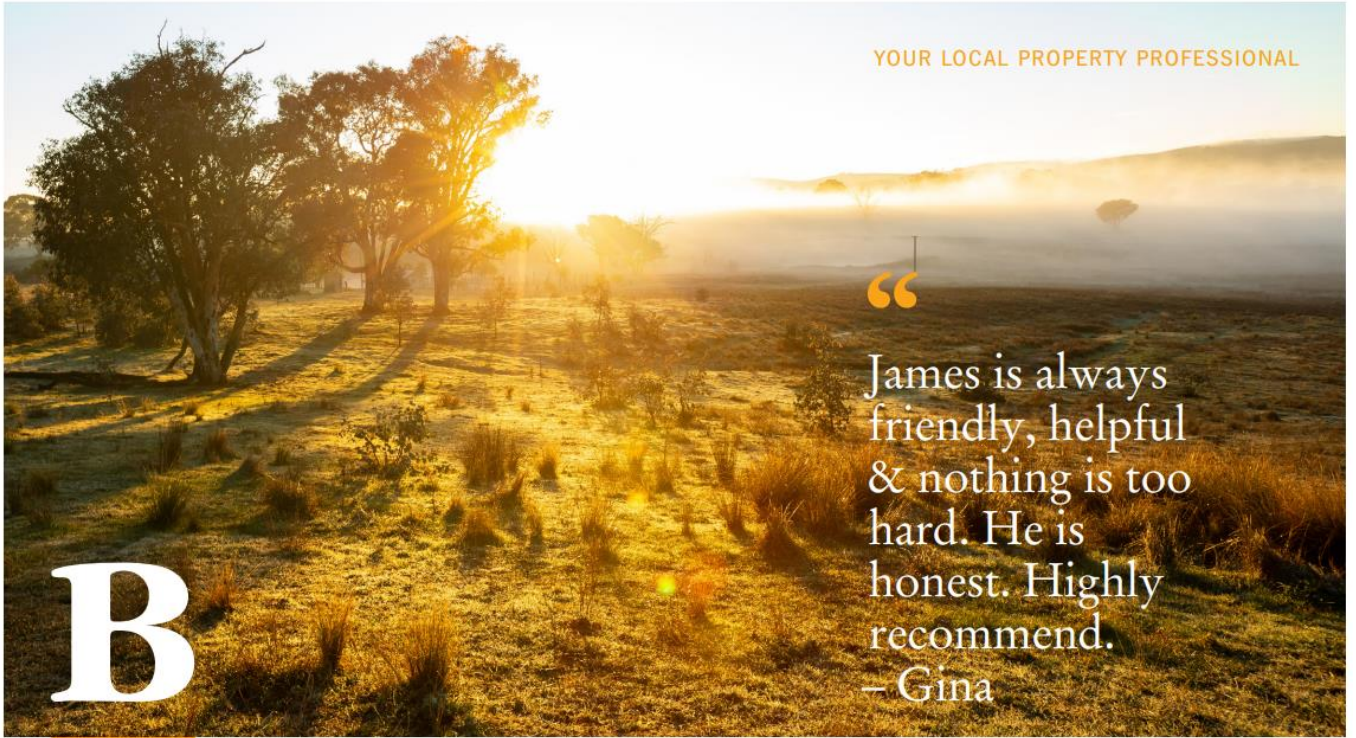





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BLACKSHAW

From Our Local Federal MP

The Government is rolling out a \$573.3 million women’s health package, which will deliver more choice, lower costs and better health care for women in Eden-Monaro. Women deserve to have their health care taken seriously and these changes could save women and their families thousands of dollars across their lifetimes.

Here’s the detail:

- The first PBS listing for new oral contraceptive pills in more than 30 years, with the listing of Yaz® and Yasmin® saving 50,000 women hundreds of dollars a year and work underway to list more contraceptive pills.
- More choice, lower costs and better access to long-term contraceptives, with larger Medicare payments and more bulk billing for IUDs and birth control implants saving around 300,000 women a year up to \$400 in out-of-pocket costs.
- More Medicare support for women experiencing menopause, with a new Medicare rebate for menopause health assessments, funding to train health professionals, the first-ever clinical guidelines and a national awareness campaign.
- The first PBS listing for new menopausal hormone therapies in over 20 years, with around 150,000 women each year saving hundreds of dollars a year.
- More endometriosis and pelvic pain clinics treating more conditions, opening 11 new clinics and ensuring all 33 clinics are staffed to provide specialist support for menopause.

It’s about time women across Eden-Monaro had more choice, lower costs and better health care. I’m proud we’re taking action – and I hope you are too. If I can assist you with a federal issue, please get in touch by emailing me at

Kristy.McBain.MP@aph.gov.au

- **The Hon Kristy McBain**, Member for Eden-Monaro, 1/21-25 Monaro Street | Queanbeyan NSW 2620 | 02 6284 2442



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A Jar of Blackberry Jam: A Taste of Community and Purpose from the Bungendore CWA

At first glance, it's just a jar of blackberry jam. But behind this beautifully bottled delight lies a story of community, collaboration, and advocacy that speaks to the heart of the Bungendore Branch of the Country Women's Association (CWA). The jam, made from plump, sun-ripened Thornless Blackberries picked from a Wamboin garden, is a symbol of

teamwork and shared purpose. It took the hands of more than eight dedicated people from the CWA to pick the berries, prepare the ingredients, source the jars, apples and preserve the jam to perfection and then package and sell the jam to raise funds.

The jam is more than a recipe; it's a product of long hours spent together, a reflection of laughter, shared stories, and a deep-rooted commitment to community. The proceeds from the sale of this humble jar contribute to the CWA's broader mission of supporting local projects, advocating for important issues, and empowering women in regional and rural areas. For the Bungendore CWA Branch, it means funding programs that benefit the area, promoting the importance of education and tradition and addressing critical challenges faced by women and families.

The CWA is more than scones and jam - It's about bringing women together to share knowledge, skills, and camaraderie. It's in the moments of stirring pots, discussing blackberry-picking strategies, or debating the right balance of sugar and fruit that these women weave the fabric of advocacy and change.

From Wamboin's blackberry crops to Bungendore's community halls, this jar of jam is a testament to what happens when country women gather, not just to preserve fruit but to preserve the essence of their communities. It's a sweet reminder that even the smallest actions can support big goals, bringing people together and driving positive change.

The Bungendore CWA is a thriving community to join us please check out www.bungendorecwa.org. Service to the Country, Through Country Women, For Country Women, By Country Women



WAMBOIN WEATHER – rainfall and temperature records

(50 years from Cooper Road) by Christine Rieber

February Rainfall Stats	Average February rainfall..... 58.9mm
February rainfall to the 19th 55.25mm	2024 February rainfall..... 73.0mm
2025 total rainfall to 19/2 127.75mm	2024 total rainfall to 19/2..... 184.5mm
	49yr Av. to end of February..... 120.8mm
March Rainfall Stats	Average March rainfall..... 59.7mm
2024 March rainfall..... 57.0mm	Average no. rain days in March..... 8.3
Wettest March..... 303mm in 1989	Highest no. rain days..... 17 in 2017
Wettest day..... 160mm on 15/3/89	Lowest no. rain days..... 3 (8 times)
Driest <u>March</u> , 3mm (2 times) 1986 & 1998	81, 86, 92, 98, 02, 06, 09 & 18

March Temperature Stats	2024 March minimum..... 3.8°C
2024 March maximum..... 35.5°C	March 2024. Av. max 27.1°C & min 11.5°C
Hottest <u>March day</u> 37.4°C	Av. Mar. <u>temp.</u> 17.2°C (<u>day+night</u> comb.)
on 19/3/23	Coldest <u>March day</u> 13°C (3 times) on
Hottest March night..... 26°C on 9/3/83	14/3/94 & 3-4/3/12
Average day (max.) temperature... 22.7°C	Coldest March night..... 1.1°C on 31/3/19
Average night (min.) temperature... 11.7°C	Coldest March 2012
Warmest March..... 1983	(Av. min day temp. 17.3°C & night 8.6°C)
(Av. max day temp. 25.5°C & night 15.2°C)	(coldest night temp. 7.9°C in 2015)
(warmest day temp. 27.1°C in 2024)	

In February 2025 we had the coldest February night on record being 3.7°C on the 16th (previous record 5°C – 3 times) and the previous record was also broken on the 17th with 4.4°C.

During the month of March daylight length will decrease by 1.1 hours from 12.8 hours on the 1st to 11.7 hours on the 31st.

The **autumn equinox** is on the 20th March during which the daylight and night times are both approximately 12 hours long.



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Thank you to each of you who gave time to make sure residents found this March 2025 Whisper in their mailbox, wrote a report of article in it, or paid for an ad to enable it to be printed. Deadline for the April Whisper is 7 pm Sunday night March 30. These guidelines seem to me helpful, if imperfect. Written by a resident with author's name to be printed. Respectful of the many lifestyles and views out here. Not printed elsewhere. If likely to increase money, run it as an ad. At least related to life in Bywong and Wamboin. – Ned Noel, volunteer editor on behalf of the community association, nednoel@optusnet.com.au, mobile 0409 997 082

Shelterbelts, Windbreaks and Hedges

By Leanne Brown, for Wildcare

Some call our region ‘Windy Wamboin’ and for good reason. Summer heat and wind may have inspired you to reduce wind movement on your block with a shelterbelt or windbreak. If so, you can capitalise on the autumn growing season by getting plants into the ground and growing well before winter. With some planning, shelterbelts, windbreaks or hedges can be used to protect buildings, paddocks, crops and livestock. They may simply create enjoyable, protected garden spaces that can encourage wildlife.

Windbreaks refer to single or few rows, usually of trees only. For windbreaks look for tree species such as Eucalyptus, Acacia, or Casuarina.

Shelterbelts often feature multiple rows of shrubs as well as trees, with a range of heights and growth forms. For shelterbelts consider tree species mentioned above, and shrubs such as Melaleuca, Callistemon, Leptospermum or Dodonaea. Depending on the intended purpose (such as for habitat), low shrubs and ground covers could be planted.

Hedges are usually a single row of the same species in a uniform planting, generally manicured to delineate a space such as a paddock or garden beds, or lined up against a wall to protect buildings from sun and heat. Closer planting and regular pruning of shrubs will encourage thick growth, eventually forming a green wall. Suitable genera include Prostanthera, Westringia, Correa or Grevillea. Use more open growing, local species such as Dodonaea or Daviesia for a more informal hedge.

For shelterbelts or windbreaks, situate plantings perpendicular to the prevailing wind direction. Shelterbelts provide variation in height that can be more effective in reducing wind speeds on the downwind side. Wind speeds can still be high on the downwind side of windbreaks, as wind can simply flow up and over. Likewise, some air penetration is best to reduce wind speed. An impermeable barrier can ultimately increase wind speed downwind. Longer planting rows are more effective; shorter rows allow wind to flow around the break.

Establish your new planting with watering in the first few months. Apply weed-free mulch and fence out livestock if possible. Ideally as plants grow, remove lower branches to allow air circulation and tip prune shrubs to encourage growth. Ensure weeds, pests and diseases are controlled.

For more information and some hardy, locally grown plants come along to our upcoming Landcare plant sales at the Bywong Car Boot Sale on 23 March and at the ‘Wheels of Wamboin’ on 17 May.

References and further reading

Environment NSW Note 7 1999 - ‘Native Shelterbelts’

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/nature/factsheet7nativeshelterbelts.pdf>

Agriculture Victoria 2024 - ‘Shelterbelt Design’ <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/soil/erosion/effective-shelterbelt-design>

ANU Sustainable Farms 2025 – ‘Establish Shelterbelts’ <https://www.sustainablefarms.org.au/on-the-farm/shelterbelts/>

Sutton Playgroup

Sutton Playgroup is an informal play session in a relaxed and friendly environment. We welcome babies and children up to five years-old (and their grown-ups) to enjoy some playtime, art, craft, music and morning tea. A great way to meet people in our community!

Thursdays 9:30 - 11:30am
at Sutton Public School

\$2 per family and a piece of fruit or sandwich to share for morning tea. Hats and sunscreen also recommended.

Playgroup is held at the After School Care building and courtyard next to the hall.
Contact us at:
e: playgroup.sutton@gmail.com
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Wamboin Golf

By Ken Gordon

Sunday 2 February 2025. A group of 20 golfers ventured out to play in the Wamboin Golf competition and despite the threat of hot weather a pleasant day was had by all. The sponsors this month were the Schrodgers and the Whitneys and we thank them for the refreshments and prizes. We welcomed Brad Dawson this month and hope he is able to join us again.

The competition was played using the Eastern course this month. In a low scoring game (destined to keep the handicapper busy) the winner of the 18-hole competition was Stephen Miners (87/62) from Col Urquhart (87/64) with Keith France (81/67) in third place on count back from David Bailey (86/67). The 9-hole competition was taken out by Gerard Ryan (34/27) from Tony Bond (40/28). Vicki Still finished in third (39/29) on count back from Steve Lambert (41/29). Ball winners for longest drives and nearest the pins went to: Matt Hawke, Gerard Ryan, Tim Barter, Glenn Crafter, Col Urquhart, John Whitney and Vicki Still.

The googly ball was shared around several golfers this month. It started with Matt for his amazing shot on Lambert's Leap that landed on the green and prompted the green keeper to consider moving the tee's further away. Col then recounted the tee shot from Glenn in which his club head was seen tracking in the same direction as his tee shot. The googly ball promptly moved to Rob after he encountered an issue with the seat on the aptly named Timber Trap. The final recipient was Vicki (lucky not to have been awarded the dummy spit) for sharing the story of two golfers seen driving their golf buggy over her ball that had come to rest on the path at Overdrive. The dummy spit was initially awarded to Glenn for his reaction to hearing Col's handicap, but was swiftly moved to Larry for his commentary about never getting a ball. Several other comments from Larry throughout the presentation meant the dummy remained firmly affixed. The Ted Evans Joke involved the effects of ageing on golf players.



Next month, the competition will be on Sunday 2 March and sponsored by the Baileys and the Gordons. It will be a stableford competition, but the trusty computer will be available to do the calculations back at the 19th. Nine-holers will play the Western course next month. We hope you can join us at the community hall at 12.15pm on Sunday, 2 March for a 12.30pm start.

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What the Heck Chapter 32

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away.....(well actually this galaxy but we are far away from other galaxies), the Sutton churchgoers had a dream.....(with apologies to both George Lucas and Martin Luther King, or their copyright holders).

The dream was for larger church space and modern facilities. Not much

happened for many years until one day in 2019 when earthmoving equipment started moving dirt adjacent to the church, levelling the site. Soon a frame appeared, then before we knew it, a hall was erected...well the frame and shell at least. With assistance from Covid, and lack of funds, progress slowed, but

by late 2020 it was obvious that there was a building under construction. Successful fundraising ventures started in earnest and with the help of one extremely generous donation, construction cruised along, even if it was not noticeable from the outside.

Today, the finish line is in sight. In the past few weeks the plasterboard wall and ceiling has been installed allowing the vents to be connected to the air conditioning system which has been in place for some time. Also this has allowed the electrician to commence connection of the light and power points. So what is left to do?

First, the electrician will finish his connections, and then the builder will finish off the things like skirting boards, architraves, and the fiddly things I cannot think of because I am not a builder. Once that is done the painters move in, and then the floorcoverings will go down. Finally once everything else, most of which I am unaware, has been completed and the usual legal obligations by Council have been accepted, passed and approved, it is time for the celebrations and partying. Stay tuned! – Alan Rope



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How the Whisper Gets Into Your Mailbox Each Month

Without the month by month donation of time by the 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 their communities 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.

174: CO-ORDINATED BY CHRISTINE REIBER: 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 dlorimer@internode.on.net

Sophie Davis	Weeroona (254 – 400)	18	Susie & Brad Edwards	Weeroona (417-512)	17
James Houlcroft	Macs Reef Rd (DenleyToGumFlt)	7	Maria Taylor	Birriwa Rd & Gum Flat Lane	19
Nora Stewart	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
Chrystal Earle	Snowgum Road	26	Carol&Clive Boughton	Macs Reef (BankersTo FedHwy)	34

170: 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	55	Russell Ball	Macs Reef – Denley Dr to B'doreRd	26

150: CO-ORDINATED BY DAVID FEATHERSTONE ph 0413 074 619 bushranger_au@hotmail.com

Chris Fowler	Millynn Rd	22	David Featherston	B'doreRd SmHill to&nclldgCrkBRd	31
Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	24	David & Connie Jansen	Wyoming Road	20
Kerrie Gougeon	B'dore Rd (CreekB to Fed Hwy)	33	Peter Sharp	Doust Road	20

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

Robyn Elsom	Denley Dr (Sth End to 429)	15	JonesFmly+JulieJohnsn	Denley 191 to 414	26
Tony Bond	HoganDr/OranaDr/Yuranga Dr	52	Mary & Paulo Beneforti	Dnly Dr frm MacsReef to Birchmans	12
Janey & Paul Pedersen	BirchmansFrmDenleyUp2SaraRf	16	Helen Longdon	SarahReef&BrichmansFrmSarah2End	11
Murray Goodridge	B'dore Rd (McsRf to&nclSmrhl)	40	Diana Griffin	Majors Close	19
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QPRC Councillor's Report

G'day Whisper readers, The short month hasn't meant less action and I've managed to squeeze in a lot of work as your Councillor.

As Council's new representative on the section 355 Committee for the Wamboin Hall I attended my first meeting recently and it was a jam-packed agenda. One exciting issue we discussed was about an opportunity to make the hall more user friendly and appeal more to different age and user groups. The hardworking members of the Committee will have more to say about that in coming weeks and months I'm sure and they'll have my backing in their ongoing efforts.

I attended the Wamboin Community Association's February's meeting and gave my report as well as taking away some ideas that some locals would like me to focus on. Unsurprisingly, one of those issues included road maintenance.

Roads are vital infrastructure and particularly so in communities like Wamboin and Bywong so issues around road maintenance come up often. Snap, Send, Solve is the first stop for reporting maintenance issues though I'm always happy for you to let me know once you've made a report so that I can keep an eye out on the progress. Then there are bigger 'fixes' like the condition of Weeroona Drive which some have spoken to me about – I've been out and had a look at some of the problematic patches and I've spoken to Council's senior staff in the last week. I've explained how the road has numerous areas which need addressing and how frequently the road is used. I'll hopefully have an update for you on any scheduled works soon.

Heading East, many of you would have seen the Mulloon Institute's sign along the Kings Highway and wondered it's about. I had a chance to explore the Institute's farms with Jo van der Plaats, the Liberal's candidate for Eden-Monaro recently and see first hand the work they're doing. It's really exciting and encouraging. The Mulloon Institute is a research, education and advocacy not-for-profit and they work on environmental regeneration through rehydrating and restoring landscape and ecosystems. This builds resilience in our natural environment, supports marine, bird and native wildlife, combats climate change and enables better and more efficient land use for agricultural production in farming communities. Seeing the contrast of lush green pasture and native vegetation along flowing creeks brimming with fish against some of the degraded local landscapes caused by years of outdated farming practices and overgrazing was really eye opening. The Institute holds open days from time to time so if you see one advertised I'd recommend having a look.

Finally, as many of you would know from reading the Whisper, from direct communication or picking up info along the bush telegraph, the State Government's project to deliver a fibre network to Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton has been 'descoped', which in reality means scrapped for the vast majority of residents. I spoke with members of the Wamboin Communications Action Group recently and following that, I'll be asking Council at its last meeting of February to write to the State Government to reverse its decision. The case for reliable, affordable internet is open and shut. Residents in Bywong and Wamboin were made a promise, and I'll continue to argue for the State Government to honour that promise. I'll provide an update on my social media following that debate.

Thanks for reading and as always, please get in touch via email or on social media if I can assist in any way.

Cheers , Cr Ross Macdonald




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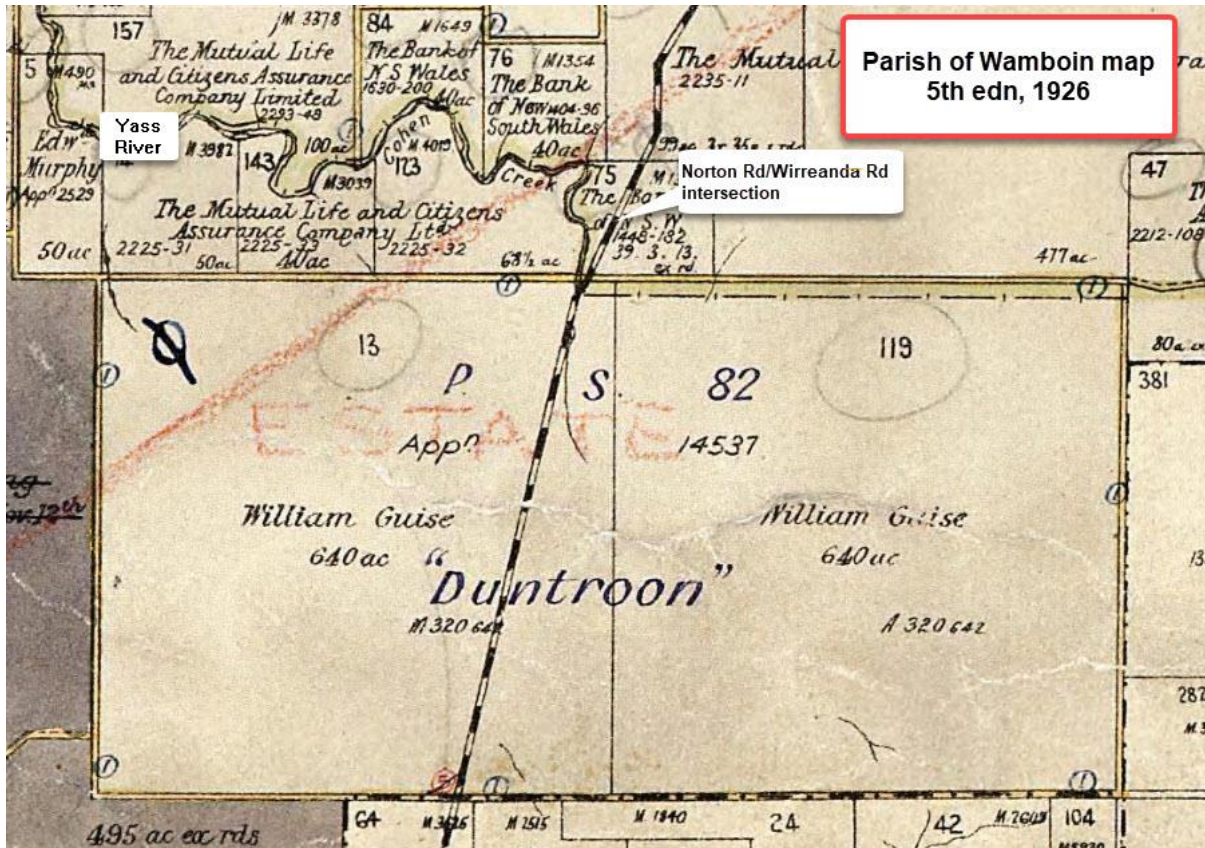
Wamboin's link to Duntroon's past

David McDonald (david [at] dnmcdonald.id.au)

Many of us travel past the Royal Military College at Duntroon without realising its fascinating connection to our own Wamboin area. A beautifully handwritten annotation on a 1926 map of the parish of Wamboin has unlocked a story that goes back to the very first colonial-era settlers in the region.

This map, found on the NSW Land Registry Service's Historical Land Records Viewer, has the word "Duntroon" written across two one-square-mile land grants. This seemingly small detail reveals a link between Wamboin and the famous 'Duntroon Estate'.

Back in the 1820s and '30s, when Europeans first started settling the area, land along the more mature reaches of the Yass River was highly prized. While the rougher country further south—Bywong & Wamboin included—was not as popular initially, shrewd individuals like William Guise (1796-1850, pronounced 'guys', not in the French manner 'geeze', as sometimes stated) established the 'Bywong' property on the Yass River immediately north of what is now the village of Sutton, in the mid-1820s, with his brother Richard Guise (1794-1855).



On 11 April 1838 Guise purchased at auction, in Sydney, the two adjacent one-square-mile blocks shown on the map, above. The one to the east, portion 119, lies immediately south of what is now Wirreanda Road, Wamboin. The westerly block, portion 13, extends to about the Merino Vale Drive/Norton Road intersection. The Yass River, and Kowan Creek, its headwaters, flow through the eastern block. The old track from Queanbeyan to Gundaroo, established in the colonial era, traversed the western block. Guise could

run his stock in the unpurchased land between these blocks and 'Bywong', a straight-line distance of some eight miles.

Guise later sold these blocks to William Moore, who owned 'Creekborough' on the Gundaroo/Bungendore track. The land changed hands again in 1855, when Alexander McDonald (1804-1885) bought it and named it 'Glenkowan Estate', obviously after Kowan Creek. (McDonald was a Scot, born in Inverness-shire.) The story does not end there, however. In 1862, McDonald sold 'Glenkowan' to George Palmer Campbell, the owner of the vast and prestigious 'Duntroon Estate'. This part of Wamboin was incorporated into Duntroon!

This highlights just how much land the Campbell family owned, and how the ownership of land in our area has changed over time. Interestingly, even after the sale, it seems that Alexander McDonald continued to live at 'Glenkowan,' perhaps as a tenant farmer.

After George Campbell and his wife passed away, the 'Duntroon Estate' was managed by trustees. Eventually, it was decided to auction off the entire estate so as to settle the provisions of Campbell's will. Following a messy court case disputing aspects of the will, the auction took place in Queanbeyan on 30 October 1906. While most of the land was sold, one lot, number 13, which included Guise's original two square miles in Wamboin, did not sell at the auction. This lot, along with some other smaller pieces of land, was bought by Richard Hyles (1841-1921), whose descendants still farm in our area, and the neighbouring ACT.

This piece of local history, revealed by a simple annotation on an old map, shows how connected our community is to the wider region's past. It is a reminder that even seemingly small details can unlock fascinating stories about the places in which we live.

Notes:

1. A fuller version of this article, which includes additional graphics and the references, is online at the website of the Wamboin Community Association <https://wamboincommunity.asn.au/localhistory/>.
2. AI tools were used in the creation and drafting of this article.



Wamboin Hall Management Committee Update

New Ceiling in the hall & meeting room!

For those who have recently been in the Wamboin Hall, some well needed changes have occurred! The original ceiling has had a hard life. Water damage from storms, acoustic issues, wear and tear and outdated lighting have been on the agenda for over a decade. The Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade has used the hall since its inception for training, fundraising events and the hall being listed as a “Neighbourhood Safer place” (a



place of last resort) during a bushfire. Although the brigade uses the hall for lesser periods of time than 40 years ago, its an important asset that we can use when required. The two lower photos are of a training activity over a year ago of a simulated major fire event that needs a large flat floor area with good lighting. The new lighting will be a much improvement on what we had. As thankyou to the community, the Wamboin brigade fully funded the replacement of the ceiling, removal and replacement of all lighting with energy efficient LED dimmable lights and top of the range acoustic dampening ceiling tiles. The brigade fundraising team thanks the Kowen runners who are a huge part of our fundraising efforts that we do each year. A special thanks to Tim Barter (Deputy captain and Chair of the hall management committee) & Matt Jackson (Senior Deputy Captain) for their efforts in arranging and managing the project. The hall

management S355 committee comprises Tim Barter, Don Evans, Joan Mason, Lofty Mason, Deb Gordon, Mike Muston, Vicki Still, Ken Gordon, Peter Greenwood and Pete Harrison. Many of those in this group have maintained the hall for over 40 years in their own time and only with funds raised by hall hire. (5 of the committee members are also RFS members too!) The committee isn’t getting any younger and at some point in the future, others in the community will hopefully take over the role and have the same feeling of ownership of the hall that we have done for so many years. If you use the hall, please take care of it. Cheers! Don Evans



Wonderful Women of Wamboin (WWOW)

By Gail Ritchie Knight

To the women in the area: do you ever feel you can’t take any more? Well never fear. Come along to WWOW for a couple of hours and you’ll feel much better finding out that you’re not on your own after all. It’s amazing what chatting over a cup of tea can achieve. Even the simplest of issues can be aired without any fear of dismissal. For example, how to get a good night’s sleep if you find the decibel rating in the bedroom has reached intolerable levels. I now realise why my grandparents slept in separate bedrooms. So two solutions immediately – separate bedrooms or ear plugs. Who’d have thought.

We are a social group for women in Wamboin and the surrounding rural areas of Bywong, Sutton, Bungendore and Gundaroo. Women in Queanbeyan and the ACT are also welcome to come along. We would love to share our Monday mornings with more women. So pop in and enjoy a cuppa with us.

The Wonderful Women of Wamboin (WWOW) meet on Mondays 10–12 at the Wamboin Community Hall. Contact: Gail Ritchie Knight (0416 097 500, whirlwind1@argonite.com.au).

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Kowen Kapers - Mt Amungula

Peter Komidar: Wamboin

At 915 metres above sea level, Mt Amungula is only nine metres lower than Mt Cohen and the third highest peak in Kowen. Like Poppet Hill, it also has a wooden quad trig (but with galvanised iron vanes) however this one has long since collapsed. Unlike Poppet, the Amungula trig also has a cairn of stones still standing. These stones take us back to the early days of land surveying in Australia. Cairn trigs are rare with only a few remaining in the ACT. Kowen boasts two of them, with stone cairns at Mts Amungula, and Atkinson which were constructed in 1878. Furthermore, the remnants of stone cairns can be found at Mts Reedy, Cohen and Poppet.

Land surveying began soon after European settlement and by 1830 most of the settled areas of around Sydney had been mapped. Surveying in the far counties, was often difficult. Surveyors spent many months living in tents at base camps and working alone during survey transects. A 'piling party' would work ahead of the surveyor collecting stones and erecting the cairn and pole over the survey mark established in the ground. By the time the surveyors reached Kowen, however, the area was already settled and they could avail themselves of the hospitality of locals.



The place name, Amungula, is a fairly common one in the nearby area. Before the creation of the ACT, the northern-most part of Wamboin and most of Kowen formed part of the then Amungula Parish. Wamboin residents will be familiar with the name 'Amungula' due to the presence of Amungula Place; home to the ailing Wamboin telephone exchange and notorious police speed trap location. There is also Amungula Creek which meanders north alongside Sutton Rd from near the Norton Rd intersection, crossing the road close to the intersection with Woodfield Rd before flowing into the Yass River. At the turn of the twentieth century, Woodfield Rd was home to the Amungula School while at the other end of Amungula Creek just down from Norton Rd you would have found the Amungula Receiving Office/Post Office/Telephone Office. The Office which operated from 1908 to 1957 was located on the property of Gilbert McInnes called Amungula

and when he moved to Queanbeyan in 1925 he named his house (on 27 Campbell St) ... you guessed it, Amungula. And finally, there is an Australian Taxation Office building of the same name in Narellan Street, Canberra.


The name 'Amungula' is of First Nations origin. However, despite being closely associated with the region its meaning is unknown. Two possible meanings, proposed by folklorist, Henry Slater in 1934 are 'alive with light' and 'gleams'. However, his suggestions need to be taken with a grain of salt as he primarily based his scholarship on First Nations word lists from the Sydney region rather than the local languages. He was also renown for proposing the kooky theory that indigenous Australians were descended from ancient Egyptians!

While we do not know the meaning of the word, we do know that First Nations words rarely begin with a vowel. According to ANU academic, Harold Koch, vowels at the start of words are often preceded with 'ng'. Given that 'ng' was a consonant that was often dropped when anglicised, "one can suspect that ... Amungula actually began with ng".

Directions: From Bingley Way (A) proceed to the horse entrance to Kowen (B) turn left and follow Wamboin Break, passing Welch's Road (C) followed by two significant climbs. At the top of the second climb you'll find an intersection (D). Turn right and look out for three coppiced Eucalypts in a row on the left hand side of the road. The Mt Amungula trig point is near to the first of the three trees. The return trip covers 8 km.



Date	Kowen Event	More Info
21-23 March	Rally of Canberra	https://www.rally.com.au/rallyofcanberra/
April - Sept	Sled dog training weekends	https://www.canberrasleddogclub.com/



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