


WE ARE WAMBOIN





We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land. Aboriginal people lived in this region for at least 21,000 years and we know there were several different language groups, including the Ngunnawal, Ngarigo and Walgalu, who hunted on this land and who gathered to feast on bogong moths in the hills and who lived off local native animals and plants. Little trace remains of their presence.

“But you only have to drive to Lake George and stand on the escarpment to visualise what life must have looked like all those thousands of years ago – still, peaceful, beautiful, vast and teeming with wildlife.”

Together we are stronger: creating a community that shares, meets, works and celebrates together

50 years in the making

Centuries after first nations people and decades after early settlers, together – over 50 years – we've grown our vibrant Wamboin community.

Nature and nurture

Together, we fiercely protect and care for our beautiful bush country and its flora and fauna.

Meeting challenges

Together, we tackle our changing seasons from the harshness of cold winters to the summer heat and droughts; we prepare for bush fires and floods, find ways around our 'bush telegraph' communication and share our transport.

What we've built

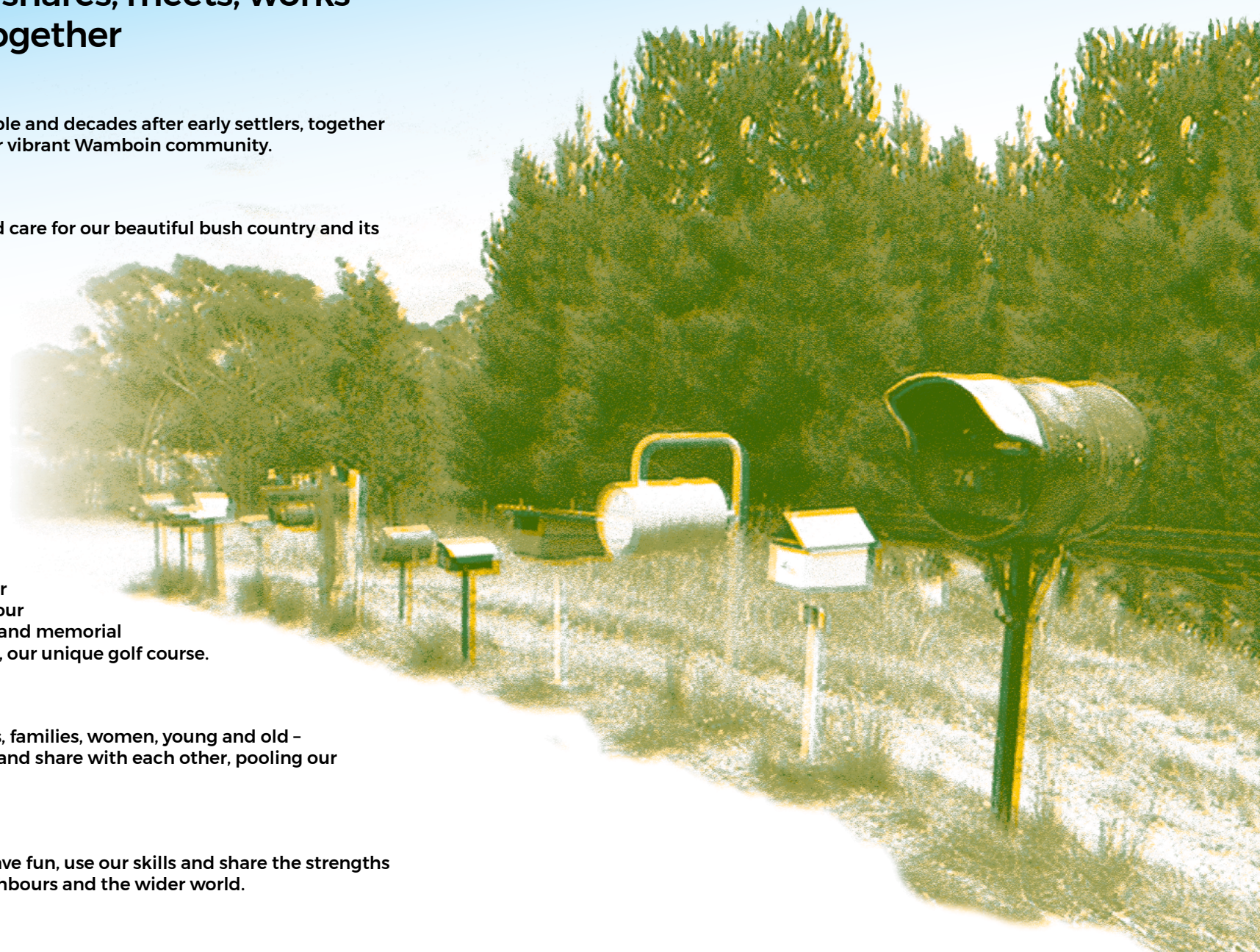
Together, we've built and care for structures and places we value: our community hall, our fire station and memorial grove, our church, our entry wall, our unique golf course.

Meeting Places

Together, whether as individuals, families, women, young and old – embracing every age – we meet and share with each other, pooling our talents and strengths.

Celebrating together

Together we volunteer, laugh, have fun, use our skills and share the strengths of our community with our neighbours and the wider world.





WAMBOIN is somewhat unique, as there is no actual village centre, no shops, no transport, limited services – and yet we are a real and vibrant community.

It's 50 years since our community began. Our family were among the 'early settlers' of Wamboin. We have contributed to, learned from and enjoyed the camaraderie of several generations of wonderful people over more than 40 years.

It's not just about our family though. I've written this booklet for all of us, the people of Wamboin past and present – and for those who may like to join our community or who can learn from the story of Wamboin to strengthen their own communities. It's a reminder of everything that's special about living here. We all know what we give and what we love and how important our contributions and interactions are to our own lives and those of others. We know visitors are always charmed by the qualities we demonstrate – courage

in times of adversity, persistence in 'making things work' and joy at living in this special place. It's all about teamwork, mindfulness and generosity of spirit. And it's here in abundance in Wamboin.

I want to showcase the strengths we have drawn on; to outline the challenges we have faced; to tell the story of how we've worked together to meet them. Most of all, I want to illustrate how a disparate group of residents in a rural location can band together and grow a strong and amazing community.

It's not possible to tell all the stories here, so I hope this account will trigger many, many more memories and stories from each of us; to share, reflect on and learn from – and to enjoy spreading through our community.

As a former Community Association President said – We ARE Wamboin – and we've been 50 years in the making. Of that we should be justly proud.



50 years in the making

"The sky is brown and the sun beats down. I begin to wonder 'How did we get here?'"

In the early 1820s, the land began to attract a farming community. This came at the cost of clearing large swathes of bushland. Some land was arable, but largely the rocky shale was best suited to sheep and goat farming.

Old sheep country began to be sold off for development. In those early days most of the blocks of land were covered in box, schlerophyll bush and wattles or were overgrazed pasture. There were only dirt roads that turned to dust in the summers and bogs in the rainy seasons. A jumble of letterboxes clustered together on the corner of access roads signalled the presence of hidden properties.

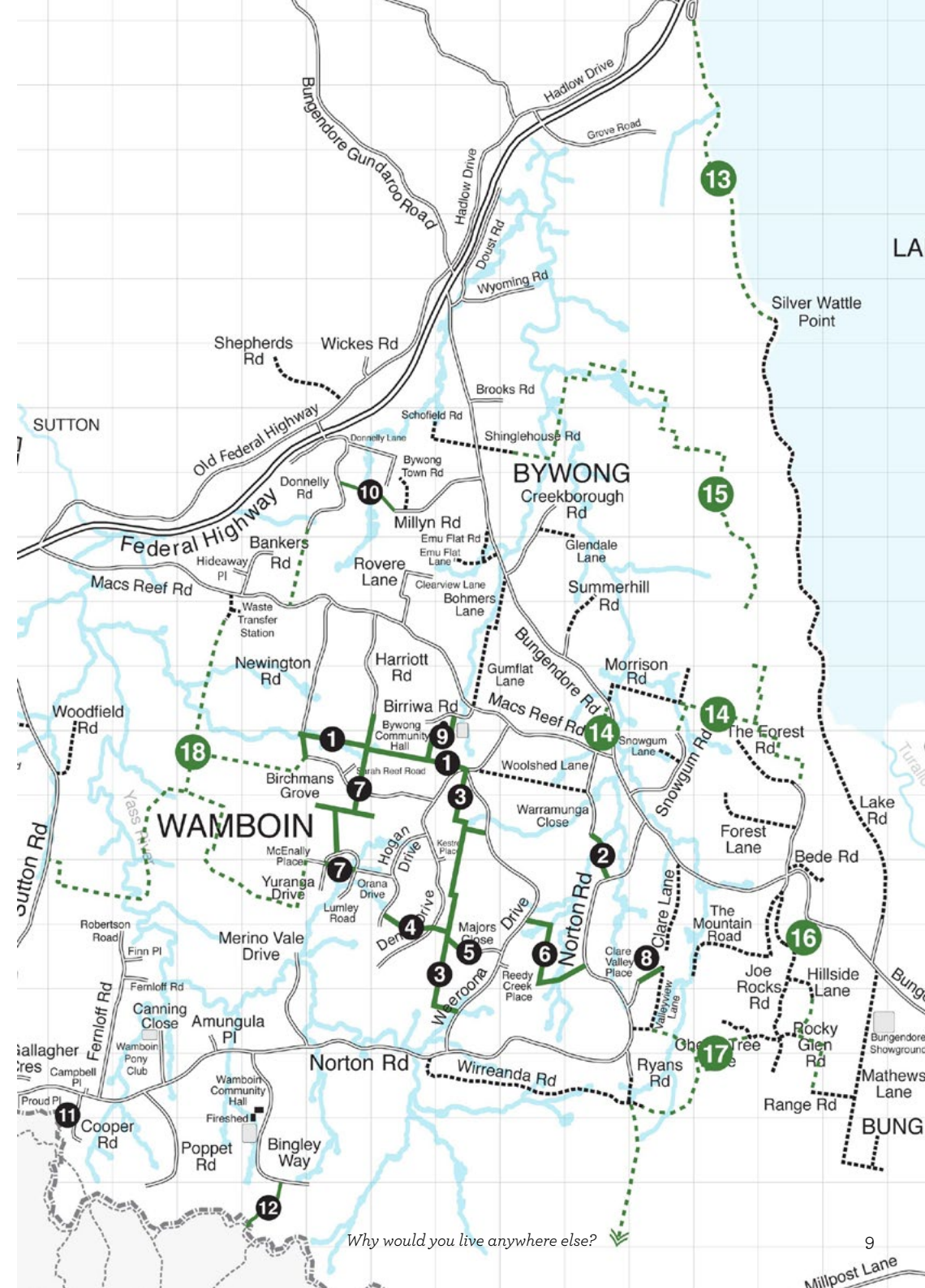
"It was not uncommon for families to start their rural lifestyle in a large shed or garage and to build their homes themselves. Some families spent so long building that their children had grown up and moved on before the 'home' was finished!"

Today, Wamboin stretches from the Sutton Road, through to the Bungendore road and west and east to Bywong and Clare Valley. The old boundary fences and huddles of letterboxes have almost gone and we have sealed roads (albeit scattered with a plethora of potholes).

Section by section the land has been developed so that today we host around 1800 people in Wamboin.

This is not your usual subdivision of land. Unique to Wamboin are the Greenways. These are little corridors of greenspace and paths that meander between our properties. They were created by, and for, all of us.

The Greenways form a traffic-free corridor for local wildlife and a sanctuary for native plants and wildflowers. This means they are also a sanctuary for us humans. We have free passage to walk our dogs or ride our horses uninterrupted through these peaceful green passages without any worry of trespass or exclusion. This amazing community resource is maintained by a group of local volunteers. Of course!



Nature and nurture

"To sit in the quiet evening at the end of a busy day and watch the glory of a golden sunset in the west, brings a sense of peace and joy. Then one by one the stars come out until the vast celestial universe stretches as far as the eye can see."

We work together to nurture and maintain our environment for future generations. We are committed, in so many ways, to the protection of our native wildlife and their habitat. This is one of the things we can be most proud of in our community. And there is no question that it rewards us!

Our winters are alpine cold. There is a smell of woodsmoke in the air and log burners warm our houses.

"Outside a thin cover of snow dusted the ground, bleaching out the long sweep of gumtrees and horse paddocks towards the valley beyond."

Every year, our spring allows the glory of golden wattle, 'cauliflower plants' and many other native shrubs. Later, there are many varieties of orchids and a range of lovely grasses.

Native to the area is the eastern grey kangaroo.

"Yet in an instant, he turned around and jumped the fence in a single bound."

Add to these a number of other marsupials along with most of the eastern Australian range of creatures and reptiles. Possums are prolific but the numbers of little sugar gliders that used to frequent our properties have dwindled.

"The next day I printed a picture to remember our visitor, the sugar glider."

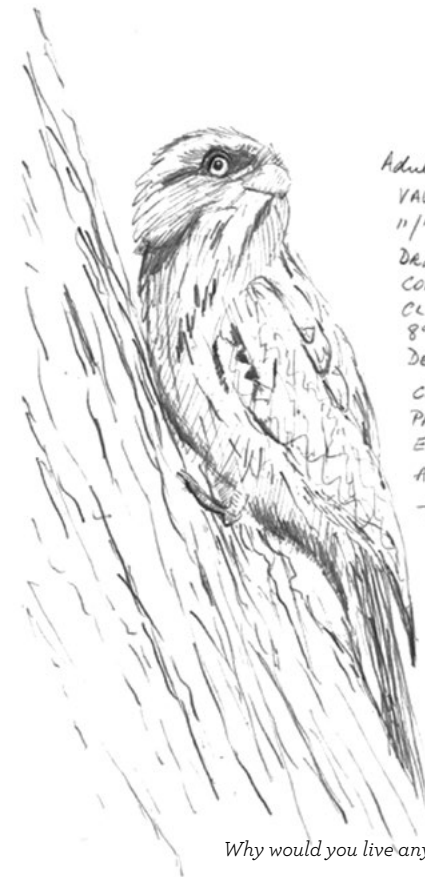
The huge range of resident and visiting birds is an absolute joy to see on early morning and evening walks around the area. From the great wedge-tailed eagles and the powerful, boobook and frogmouth owls to the flocks of tiny wrens, we welcome so many species into our gardens and paddocks.

"The owls are apex predators and I am but a tiny antechinus who they would love to eat for dinner."

The call of the Koel signals the arrival of spring and the shrike thrushes and magpies sing their cheerful and melodic morning chorus for us.



We are Wambo



Adult Tawny Frogmouth
Valley View Lane, Wambo
11/11/2016
Drawn 20/4/20 11:06 AM
CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC
CLOUDY DAY OUTSIDE
8°C - 16°C
DEBUSSY - PIANO RECITALS
CHICK FALLEN OUT OF TREE
PARENTS SAT WITH IT
ENCOURAGED IT ONTO
A NEAR BY BOUGH
TREE - Eucalyptus
Bridgetown
Fibrous bark
just like the
plumage on
the bird
GREY BARK
MATCHING GREY
BIRD

Why would you live anywhere else?

Many of us keep bees, enjoying their hum as they search for nectar from the flowering gums and plants around us.

“Bees fly racetracks between the trees and tirelessly harvest pollen from willing flowers to save as honey.”

Warmer weather brings some unwanted visitors – red bellied black, tiger and eastern brown snakes – but mostly they are passing through and prefer to avoid humans if at all possible. Shingle backs, blue tongues and lizards of all kinds abound and little turtles plod between our dams. When disaster strikes and these local residents need a helping hand, then our volunteer Wildcare workers are there to assist.

We take conservation seriously and we hope newcomers will too. Geary's Gap and Wamboin 'Landcare' group provides advice to those who are still learning about preservation of our natural habitat. Landcare also grows a wide range of native plants for us to plant on our properties.



We are Wamboin



Why would you live anywhere else?

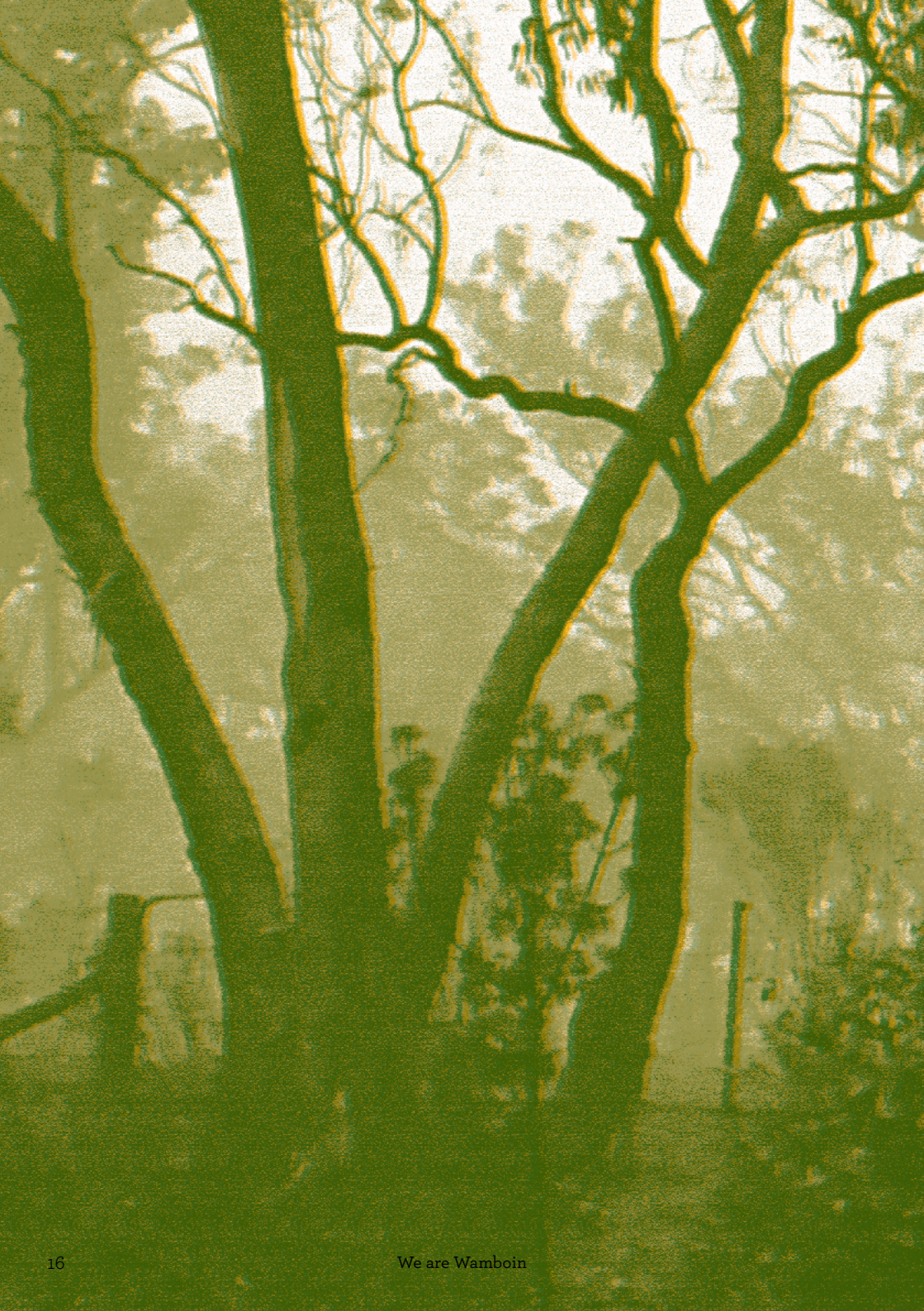


Meeting challenges

"We bought our land on an idyllic spring day after good rain. We didn't realise we would have to prepare and defend our property from bush fires, deal with resident snakes, get home bound when the creek was in flood and manage extremes of weather from drought and heat to heavy frosts and sometimes snow."

Country life is not for the faint hearted, and not always the 'tree change' idyll peddled by the real estate agents. Actually, it takes hard work to make it work!

"My neighbours and friends here are so resourceful and brave. Whatever challenges they face - with good humour, they find a solution and move forward."



Bushfires

Fire is of course top of mind – the most well known here being in 1985. To this day, the smell of smoke in the air sends people rushing to investigate... all eyes turn to the west and the western sides of our properties require the most vigilant attention in preparation for any future disasters.

In 1985 the bushfire burned from the Sutton Rd, all down one side of Norton Road. Residents were unable to leave or return to their homes for some time. And with only one way out, no mobiles and landlines cut, it was frightening.

The 1985 fire has not been the only one of course. There have been other fires locally and devastating fires in both Canberra and the surrounding areas. So in these times, hearts in mouths, we prepare our properties, watch the glow of encroaching flames and battled terrible air pollution and smoke haze. Our rural bush fire brigade, together with all of you, work to help people

enact their fire plans, check on the isolated and elderly and band together to safeguard stock. The community hall acts as a 'neighbourhood safe place' and the little church on Poppet road opens its doors to smoke-affected people, creating an air-conditioned safe haven.

"A sign of great neighbourly kindness was shown to us – when we were unable to return to our property because of the fire. We finally got back a few days later, to find not only had our dogs, cats and horses been taken by neighbours to a safer place but a precious wooden handcrafted sailing dinghy had been lovingly placed in the middle of the sitting room for safe keeping!"

"Warn all the frogs in the pond! Get your friends out... so you don't get swallowed by the pollution."



Floods and drought

Many a time, residents who had built across a creek have been flooded in. Helplessly watching the rushing water until it subsides.

“So pretty to have a babbling brook running under our driveway. Not so aesthetic in flood, especially when it washes away your access driveway!”

Floods however, alternate with drought so at other times, preservation of water is vital. We don't have a major river or water source, only what falls from the sky or runs in the small creeks and dams. Careful water storage and the '2 minute egg timer' in the shower are the order of the day.

So growing a garden and keeping a veggie plot can be fraught with difficulties. Best to stick to native plants, trees and grasses, as not only do green lawns turn to dust and 'English' style gardens shrivel to nothing, but daily and overnight visits from the 'locals' (ie Kangaroos, possums, cockatoos, parrots and the feral foxes and rabbits) cause havoc. Share and share alike!

Transport

Horse, bike, foot or car are our only options – except for the school buses. Nevertheless, informal 'pick up' services from kind neighbours, car pools for those going into town for work, collections at the school bus



stops, rosters to get kids to extra curricula activities in town and a general sense of 'neighbourhood watch' work well. The double-edged sword is encouraging teenagers to get their licence and their first 'old bomb' as soon as eligible – tempered with our fear for their safety as they navigate the country roads and kangaroos.

The Bush Telegraph

Staying connected is everything for a great community like ours.

In the early years of Wamboin development, communication was by landline phone or by walking across to a neighbour. Or sometimes via a kid with a horse...

“I will deliver the Canberra Times to your door each Sunday on my pony Diamond if you will pay me an extra 5 cents for delivery.”

Many people put gates between their boundary fences, so that the kids could run or bike across to their friends with ease.

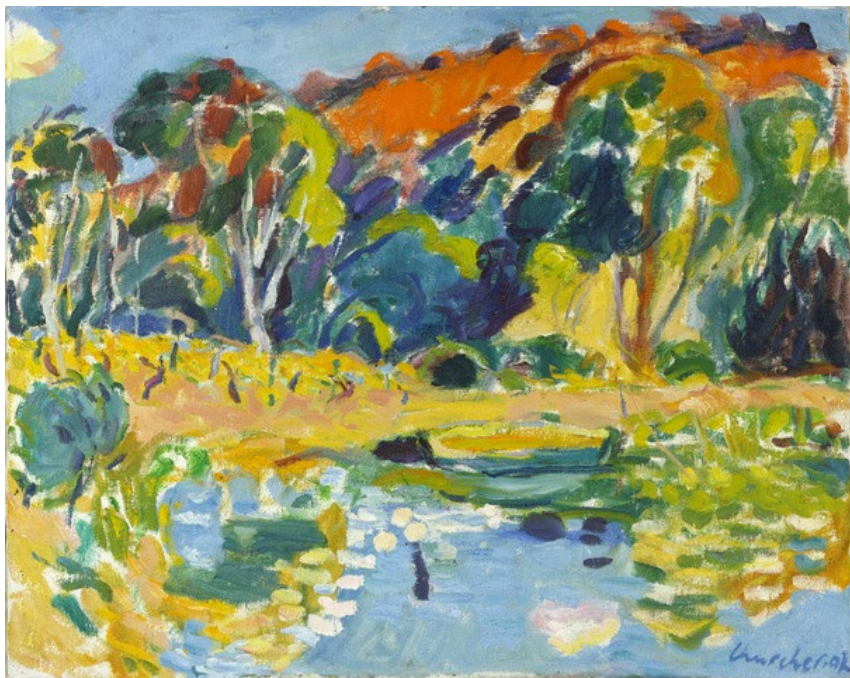
The local news rag – *The Wamboin Whisper* – keeps us all in touch with goings on. Expertly edited by a local family, it is hand delivered to every letter box by a fleet of volunteers. And online.

Mobile phone and internet services are patchy.

“I can just get one bar if I go up a ladder in the middle of the top paddock.”

But somehow some of us run a business or work from home and nowadays our local social media pages provide a marvellous source of information and support when people need help. Lose a dog and within an hour you'll have half the neighbourhood alerted and on the search!

Best of all though are our 'chalk boards', placed at the entrances to Wamboin. Scrawled messages vary from alerts for community meetings and events, garage sales, lost and found animals and new activities in the area – with the occasional 'I love x' or 'welcome to Wamboin' appearing now and then.



What we've built

"So we have a lot of half-built houses and empty paddocks and a lot of enthusiastic volunteers – how do we 'build' our identity?"

Our community hall

This is our 'hub' and meeting place, central to a myriad of events over the years. As Wamboin was developed, areas were reserved for community activity – including the land on which this hall now stands.

"The hall was built by enthusiastic 'early settlers'. The first hall was really a large farm shed. Footings were poured and a working bee organised. Volunteers from throughout the community were ready and willing. But disaster struck! As the shed went up, the timbers used to support the trusses gave way and the whole

structure folded like a pack of dominoes. No-one died, no-one was injured – only minor damage to a couple of vehicles... The remains of the old frame, twisted beyond repair, are immortalised in a plaque on the western wall of the 'new' hall."

Once the volunteers stopped to read the instructions, the shed was successfully installed and a full fit-out achieved – thanks to generous donations from residents. Over the years many structural improvements and refinements to the hall and its surroundings have been made and a hall management committee set up to oversee the ways that the hall is used for community events.

And what a range of events there has been over the last 50 years – community meetings, parties, wakes, exercise classes and table tennis nights, cubs, Christmas carols, the annual Wamboin Ball, the annual



curry night competition, our grand annual fireworks night, a social club, playgroup, the monthly produce and craft market – to name a few. Because of the volunteer labour and support for these activities, we feel real ownership of this hall.

Our Wall

In the 1970s, down at the entrance to Wamboin on the Sutton Road, a sign was put up in large letters grandly proclaiming the 'Canberra Country Estate'. As land parcels were allocated and sold, early settlers quickly decided the name unsuitable and a group of residents, meeting in the original old fire shed on Cooper Road, voted to change the name to Wamboin – which has an Aboriginal meaning of 'Eastern Grey Kangaroo'. As there are probably more eastern greys than residents it seems appropriate!

A beautifully built, freestone wall with the name 'Wamboin' was put in place by a local stone mason. This wall stood the test of time until 2023 when an unfortunate encounter between a car and the wall resulted in demolition. Quite recently, a new wall was established by the next generation of the same family – equally skilled stonemasons. Landscaping around the wall was carefully completed by Geary's Gap/Wamboin Landcare.

"What many people don't know is that the original wall contained a time capsule – with key relics from the 1970s and early 80s. This capsule was replaced in the new wall along with new artefacts."





“A gift for the people of Wamboin.”

As well as regular services (led by visiting clergy from St John’s Canberra), there were group meetings a-plenty – always accompanied by delicious food and a good wine or two, lenten study groups, debates, an annual blessing of the animals, a regular children’s church group and a very popular reenactment of the Nativity play.

“Who can forget the annual Nativity, with its surrogate ‘camels’ (Alpacas), horses, a donkey or two and a long suffering (and long lived) sheep. Each year we managed to find Mary, Joseph and a baby Jesus from among our locals and a regular cohort of wise men could be relied on to turn up, suitably robed. Plenty of little angels and shepherds emerged from the Australian bush.”

Today the church combines with St Peter’s Sutton and St Mark’s Gundaroo under the banner of the Sutton Road Mission District.

Our Anglican church

“There’s a little church on the right-hand side, up the hill a bit.”

In 1985, the first service was held in the community hall. Music was supplied via a very ancient, out-of-tune upright piano. Various musical contributions were to follow – some much appreciated and some – doubtful. Many conversations were held about whether those playing should play faster, slower or not at all!

“I remember that a local family played hymns using a mix of clarinet, guitar, trombone and euphonium – noisy lot.”

The idea was raised of building our own church. Land was needed – and it had to conform to Council requirements..... Several offers were made and in 1997

a small parcel of land was gifted by a local family on the corner of Poppet and Norton Rd.

“We were somewhat embarrassed that we had donated the windiest, rockiest and most barren corner of our property but were reassured by the priests of the day, (as we stood in howling winds examining the cleared site for the building) that, in good Christian terms, building on a foundation of rock was appropriate!”

A generous local benefactor funded the church building which our local master builder – designed and built, with help from many local skilled tradespeople. The church was finally consecrated on 8 March 1998.



Our Rural Bush Fire Station and memorial grove

Back in the early days of 'settlement' the RFS was housed in a shed in Cooper Road and manned by a small group of locals and one truck.

"I recall little in the way of safety and training. When fire swept through much of the Sutton Road area in 1985 and up Norton Road, all us volunteers were just standing on the side of the road and hitching a lift on the back of any firetrucks that came by."

"One year we worked on the Christmas Day fires around Queanbeyan and it was hot and exhausting. I came home and fell asleep over a delayed Christmas dinner with the rubber soles of my boots burned right through to my feet."

Nowadays the training of volunteers is rigorous. The large three bay fire-shed in Bingley Way houses several well equipped trucks and a communication centre. Safety is a key aspect of RFS work. The brigade provides community training events, helpful information about property and household fire plans and timely information about preparation for the bushfire season. Of course their work is not only about fires but also other disasters like car accidents. On a bright side, volunteers also act as marshalls for big community events, helping with car parking and safety. Oh and Santa arrives miraculously every Christmas on the largest fire truck - much to the delight of the littlies!

Commemorating the vital work of past firefighters is our memorial grove, showcasing those who have contributed and passed away, marked by little name plaques and beautiful native trees and bushes.



The Golf Course

Not many communities can claim to have 'built' a golf course out of the bush and paddocks. Such an amazing golfing fraternity out here! Truly, both the course and the players make this one of the most unique golfing groups in Australia. Not only are they a pretty awesome bunch of folks, young and not so young, full of good cheer and doubtful jokes, but they play across carefully mown fairways spread across their respective properties. Not a



great deal of walking seems to happen between those fairways but certainly much conviviality along the way and at the end of competitions. Prizes are awarded for a range of 'skills based' events - 'the Ned Kelly Trophy', the 'Dummy Spit' and the 'Googly Ball' to name a few. 'Almost makes one want to take up golf.'

The goodwill, generosity and camaraderie shown in these Wamboin 'builds' is amazing... Why would you live anywhere else?



Meeting places

Bringing everyone together.

The monthly market

Back in 1998 a monthly market began, held at the community hall. We got really good at growing and saving our veggies from the 'locals' – although never quite beat the cockatoos... The idea was that surplus produce from our properties could be brought to the hall once a month and shared. Very soon, people with craft came along too and before we knew it there was not only seasonal garden produce, but baked goods, jams and preserves, knitted goods, jewellery, hand turned wooden goods, plants, cut flowers and more.

The market grew like topsy and today we regularly host 25-30 stalls (quite often run by young entrepreneurs saving for school trips or their first car.) The second hand clothing stall

“put it on the community clothesline” is always popular – with all proceeds to charity. We enjoy local musicians as we buy and sell and happily munch on home made egg and bacon rolls from the kitchen stall.

“How amazing – I can choose from Italian ‘dolce’, the best egg and bacon rolls, and order my choice in barista coffee – all in a community with no village centre, no shops. Not only that, but I can catch up with friends, sit down and have a chat and a game of scrabble over coffee, check out the neighbours’ new dogs AND stock up on gifts for birthdays, Christmas and the grandchildren!”

Buying or selling at the Wamboin market is truly being part of this vibrant community – so see you there!

Bringing women together

The Wonderful Women of Wamboin (WWOWs) was held in St Andrew's church on Poppet Road every Monday until the dreaded COVID hit. WWOWs has always emphasised that it is a strong community group rather than a group with any religious affiliation – but the warmth and space provided by the church building was very welcome!

“A sudden realisation that I didn't know my neighbour and that there were a lot of women at home during the day – quite isolated and often lonely. The little church was a great venue for meeting together and we could chat and sew and share

our news – good and bad. For some of us this was the best support we'd had for years. We thought up ideas to support charities and set up quite a production line of goods! Some of us even marched up and down Poppet Road to raise our energy levels and keep fit.”

Woman of all ages meet together – nowadays in the community hall. Newcomers are always welcome. You can imagine the discussions, shared skills and topics of conversation! Don't miss out...



Getting social together

Take your pick – there is a weekly social club where cards, Scrabble and other board games are played over cups of tea and coffee. Or a book club for avid readers. A Bridge group meets (yes – in the church) each Monday.

“I often wonder if God is looking over my right shoulder at my hand and nodding approval – or perhaps when I have a poor hand it’s the Devil on my left.”

There’s yoga – great for body and mind – and pilates, very good for keeping us country folk flexible and fit!

Then there’s table tennis – A grant from local council enabled purchase of some table tennis tables and equipment for the Community Hall and so the Thursday evening table tennis group was born!

“It’s a great activity and – apparently – only a few broken wrists so far.”

Bringing young people together

What to do once the school bus drops children home or the school holidays start?

Cubs, scouts and venturers was for many years the ‘go to’ activity for many.

Over the years there have been a number of ‘Ballou’ and ‘Bagheera’ volunteers! There was always a strong emphasis on ‘bush skills’ – so important for young people living out here. Of course there was also badge work, representation at scout camps and jamborees and at Anzac Day ceremonies.

“So sessions expanded onto leader’s properties and then to the neighbouring Kowen Forest. Many young adults today will recall expeditions where, as children, they were given a compass and dropped off in the middle of the nearby Kowen Forest (often at night) and expected to navigate to an agreed meeting place. No one got lost or injured and they all lived to grow up. Great mateship & lasting friendships were formed within our rural community and the confidence and skills learned have continued in their adult lives, with many now sharing survival adventures with their own children.”

Perhaps, in the future, someone amongst us will start up these activities again?





Wamboin Pony Club

What would Wamboin be without a pony club?

“The first question most children ask on arrival in Wamboin is ‘Can I have a pony’ ”?

Quite often the answer is ‘yes’ as there is space and plenty of opportunity to explore the neighbourhood from the back of a horse. Under the expert eye of pony club instructors, both riders and parents learn many skills. In the early days, meetings were held on the rocky ground outside the community hall, guided by our local expert equestrian. Parents supported their (sometimes not very competent or confident) children at the regular pony club days. Over the years there have been both expert and not-so-expert instructors – but they’ve kept it all going and with a lot of goodwill!

“A lasting memory is of a Mum, endlessly running up and down the paddocks leading her daughter’s horse... round the barrels, through the bending poles. This young lass had cerebral palsy and needed some extra help to keep her safe. My goodness, they did such a great job and much laughter and fun was had. That Mum must have been one of the fittest (if most exhausted) women in Wamboin.”

It became clear that a designated site was needed to continue pony club and after many submissions, council meetings and persuasion and a lot of hard work from a couple of families, a site was provided at the end of Canning Close. Since those early days and with huge dedication from a number of local volunteers, the club has grown and the facilities have been extended to include three fenced arenas and a cross-country jumping course. Monthly rally days are held and from time to time, teams represent at inter-club events, camps and local show days. Come and join us!



Playgroup

More and more young families move to Wamboin. While many children attend day care or creche near their parent's places of work there are others who are at home in Wamboin.

"Those early years are so very important for healthy childhood development"

A playground was funded and added onto the side of the community hall, providing a wonderful outdoor space for exploration and play. Today, a lively group of youngsters meet every Tuesday morning. Some of the 'early settlers' are now bringing their grandchildren to the playgroup... and so it goes, as the years roll on.



Celebrating together

“Must be time for a party! Let’s band together and share our many talents!”

We love to share our community events with others. These are some of the favourite events that draw in, not just locals, but crowds from Canberra and surrounds:

The annual ball

A time to wash the dust off our boots; a chance to dress up and dance the night away! From the early years (where the gear was cowboy hats and fringes, the seats hay bales and the dancing of the ‘line’ variety) this event has evolved into the Wamboin Annual Ball. ‘Formal’ attire is requested and seems to range from black tie to woolly PJs! Drag out the glad rags! The Hall is decorated, the wine flows and the music keeps us on our toes.

The curry night

This is our chance to create our own ‘Masterchef’ event! We share our cooking skills and can be in with a chance of winning ‘best hot curry’. On a cold winter’s evening, what better than to bring along a steaming hot curry and share with everyone. It’s an evening full of fun and laughter (and good food). Get in early – the seats fill up quickly!

The Wheels of Wamboin

More than 400 gleaming vintage and ‘interesting’ cars, bikes and vans grace the oval in the autumn. The grand parade onto the oval (and the odd push from volunteers when an old ‘crock’ fails to make the slope up to the paddock) is a sight to behold. It’s a great morning, wandering around admiring these beauties and marvelling at the work that has gone into restoration. The morning is shared with the market so there is plenty more to browse and buy and the ‘fries’ put on a great sausage sizzle too.

The Kowen Forest Runners

Started small and local and now attracts more than a thousand runners twice a year from far and wide. The trails have been painstakingly prepared by our volunteers. You (and your dog) can try out 12 Kms at a walk or run, or the half marathon. The committed can tackle the full marathon. The track runs through Wamboin and into the Kowen forest – up and down hill and through the bush. Spectacular scenery all the way.

The fireworks

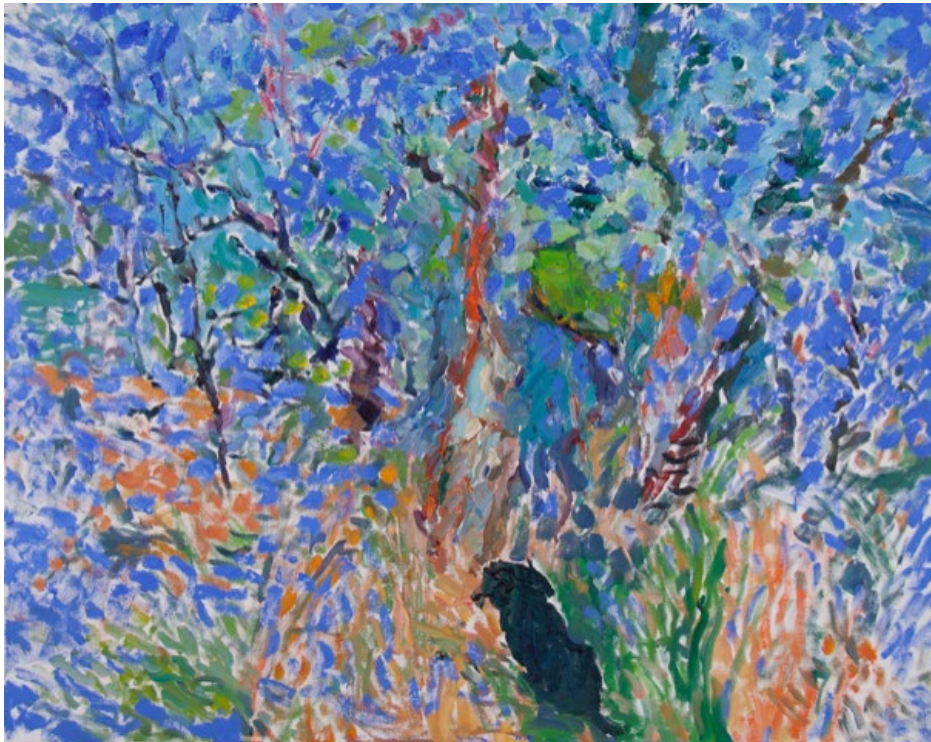
This is our grand annual event with a huge bonfire built from all our green waste from our properties and a firework display to rival Sydney and Canberra! All organised and kept safe by our own rural bush fire brigade and catered for by our own community groups. A tremendous opportunity for fund raising. A tremendous opportunity to mingle and enjoy the glory of the fireworks. Definitely a time to safeguard our pets.

Our local vineyards

Don’t let’s forget our local ‘cold climate’ vineyards. For years ‘Lamberts’ provided a wonderful restaurant and a vineyard with prizewinning wines. Then it saw a name change to ‘Contentious Character’ with the owners continuing the high standards already set. Many convivial and fun evenings have been spent by both locals and visitors – wine tasting or enjoying family celebrations and weddings, having a laugh over cabaret, trivia or movie nights. So many young ‘Wamboinians’ have spent their teenage years as waiters and waitresses, expertly trained under the eagle eye of the managing staff!

Don’t let’s forget ‘Shepherd’s Run’ – another popular venue for locals and visitors alike, with a small but interesting cafe and conference centre. Today this is renamed ‘Biggies’ and once more managed by a local family.





Conclusion

So, after 50 years – there's the story. Do I hear 'but what about'... and 'she forgot'... Well, now it's your turn to pick up the story and add your own memories. Come along to all those meeting places, activities and events, join in the community spirit and add and embellish – that's what storytelling it all about! Our first nation's people call it 'yarning' and we can celebrate their early skills and verbal history by story telling in our own fashion.

In the telling of those stories – about a community with no town centre, a community of disparate peoples in a rural location, consider this: we are a 'glass half full' not 'glass half empty' community. A 'can do' community. Is that what keeps us on our toes and strong?

Remember – we ARE Wamboin and proud of it... why would you live anywhere else?

Acknowledgements

It would have been great to acknowledge the entire 50 years worth of tireless leaders and volunteers and those who have made our community so vibrant – but it is just not possible to name them all in a small booklet – so I have chosen not to use names at all. I hope the stories act as a trigger for all of you to recall and celebrate all those who have made or are making a fantastic contribution to Wamboin, whether it's a large group like the Rural Bush Fire Service or individual leaders, movers and shakers, young, older or maybe even departed.

I'd like to thank especially:

- » The people of our community who have taken such interest in the story telling and contributed so many gems and shared so many great photographs.
- » David McDonald for his chronological history of Wamboin

which acted as a guide to writing this booklet.

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