

COMMUNITY



ASSOCIATION

# The Whisper

August, 1999

CIRCULATION: 800

All proceeds from advertisements after printing costs go to the WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, which started the Whisper in 1981. This Newsletter is distributed to all RMBs in Wamboin, Bywong, Clare, and Yalana at the beginning of each month, except January. Editor is Ned Noel, 28 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 6238-3484. Printer is the Queanbeyan Age. Contributions which readers may wish to make for the September, 1999 edition of the Wamboin Whisper will be welcome, and should be submitted to the editor's mailbox (or sent by fax to 6238-3562 or by email to nednoel@acslink.net.au) by the last Sunday of the month, or Sunday 29 August, 1999, 7:00 pm.

## LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCIES Fire/Police/Ambulance - Dial 000 All Hours

Queanbeyan Police 6298-0599

Wamboin Fire Brigade Info Centre 6238-3396

Ambulance Bookings 131233

## WAMBOIN FACILITIES AND CONTACTS

Wamboin Community Assn	Libby King	President	6238-3222
Gearys Gap Community Assn	Richard Miller	President	6236-9321
Fire Brigade	Bernie Broers	Captain	040-999-1340 bh 6238-3316 ah
Community Nurse	Heather Morrison	Bungendore	6238-1333
Emergency Services	Kevin Anderson	Controller	6236-9333
Wamboin Cubs	Paul Brugman	Leader	6238-3539
Wamboin Guides	Rosemary Riley	Contact Person	6297-7632
Joey Scouts	Robyn Slater	Contact Person	6238-3472
Pony Club	Maureen Purdie	Contact Person	6238-3343
Play Group	Cindy Dykes	Convenor	6236-9119
Hall Bookings	Joan Mason	Bookings	6238-3258
Church, Anglican	Robyn Robertson	Warden	6238-3202
Christian Prayer Group	Steve & Imelda Taylor	Contacts	6238-3220
Wamboin Store	Faiz and Suzanne Rizvi	Owners	6238-3585
Yarrowlumla Shire	Peter Greenwood	Councilor	6238-3358
Golf	Peter Greenwood	Golfer	6238-3358
Injured Wildlife	Wildcare	Roster	6299-1966

## THE YOUNG WAMBOIN ENTREPRENEURS

Ula Zammit, babysitting .....	6238-3230
Levi Zammit, lawn mowing .....	6238-3230
Sarah Thomas, babysitting .....	6238-3344
Fiona Skea, babysitting .....	6238-3290
Rebecca Purdie, babysitting and odd jobs .....	6238-3343
Emma Picker, babysitting .....	6238-3325
Julia Noel, babysitting, petsitting .....	6238-3484
Michelle Montesin, babysitting .....	6238-1481
Alicia McCudent, babysitting .....	6238-3103
Mia Donald, babysitting .....	6238-3276
Frank Deveson, bicycle maintenance .....	6238-3294
Andrew Barker, odd jobs, petsitting, baby sitting .....	6236-9012
Tammie Bachta, babysitting, odd jobs .....	6238-3496

Mac's Reef Tip Hours 7:30 am to 5:00 pm (7:00 pm during daylight time) Thurs-Mon, closed Tues & Wed



## WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

There will be no meeting in August. The next meeting of the Wamboin Community Association will be Tuesday 21 September at the new time of 7:30 pm.

You may be aware of the fire that destroyed a home in Bingley Way recently. Fortunately the owner escaped injury but all personal belongings were largely incinerated. There have already been offers of help from other residents. Despite the wonderful work of our volunteer brigade, this incident should serve to remind us that living so far from a full-time fire brigade requires us to be more than usually careful. On behalf of the Wamboin community I extend our sympathy and assistance to the family.

Election of Councillors to Yarrawluma Shire Council will be held on Saturday 11 September. An invitation is extended to all residents to attend a "Meet the Candidates" evening on Monday 30 August at the Bywong Community Hall at 7.30 pm.

**Looking ahead through the rear view mirror:** I would like to thank the outgoing committee, particularly Judith Evans and Helen Montesin for their input, assistance and good humour during their time on the committee. At the same time I would like to welcome the committee for 1999/2000; it is especially pleasing to have some "new" faces on the board.

The community hall was once again the focal point of community activities. The various groups continued to use the hall for focus for meetings and social events. Unhappily the hall was also the focus of some mindless vandalism and as much as it disturbs me to say so, these episodes often occurred during school holidays. Damage also to the property of others became a popular pastime in the last year, letter boxes being a regular target.

Controversial issues came our way via NSW Government legislation, namely septic tank licences and Council amalgamations. Some residents of the shire have expressed strong views on septic licences while some Councils have expressed strong views on amalgamations. We will soon be voting in local elections and in the light of both public meetings and comments, it will be interesting to note any effect these particular issues have on the result.

The Whisper expanded its distribution range this year to include residents of the Bywong area. More recently the Whisper has incorporated an edited Wamboin Bushfire Brigade Newsletter - courtesy of Cliff Spong.

Finally thank you to the community groups for their support of the WCA throughout the year. A special thank you to Ned for the Whisper, Joan and Judith for looking after the hall and the regulars who can always be relied upon to attend meetings, working bees, etc. These people give the word "community" its meaning.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting. - Regards, Libby King, President

## *The Curry Night*

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## YARROWLUMLA COUNCIL NEWS

**Rates** Unfortunately its rates time again and notices are in the mail. This year the new B Pay bill payment facility will be available for easy rate payment. Its good to see our Fire Services levy at work already with the recent delivery to Wamboin Bush Fire Brigade of a brand new fire fighting tanker, a valuable new asset to the brigade.

**Aircraft Noise** The Community Association at the July meeting resolved to write to Airservices Australia concerning aircraft flight paths over Wamboin. I will certainly be keeping a close watch on this issue through Council and I will also be discussing flight paths with the air traffic controllers in Melbourne, with the aim of directing aircraft arrivals over the Kowen Forest. (Aircraft into and out of Canberra, other than the immediate clearance to take off and landing, are controlled from Melbourne.)

**Local Government Elections** Saturday September 11 is the date this year for the NSW Local Government Elections. The Wamboin Hall has been booked and once again it will be a polling booth for this election. I will be nominating for re-election in A Ward which covers Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton and surrounding areas. Whilst being a Yarrawlumla Shire Councillor is a very time consuming job it is one which I enjoy and I believe that I have been fairly successful at in looking after the interests of our local and surrounding communities. I am already keenly looking forward to the challenges of the next four years on our Council however before that happens there is an election campaign to be presented and an election to be won. I am presently gearing up for what is a big task and in this regard I would greatly appreciate any assistance if anyone has a few spare hours. I will need to prepare, print and distribute election material and there will be about four polling booths to be manned on election day.

I understand that someone in the Ward is organizing a meet the A Ward candidates function at about the end of August. I have not as yet been approached and therefore do not have details but it possibly may be held in the Wamboin Hall, watch out for local notices. There are indications that there could be at least seven candidates for the three positions in A Ward but this won't be confirmed until nominations close about mid August.

**Septic Tank Licences** The NSW Government directive on Councils to register and licence septic tanks has become a hot potato with some residents who find it easier just to blame the Council and make it a bigger issue than it really is. I've written on this a number of times and I won't go on and on, however, this is a health and safety issue and in all honesty, apart from ratepayers and the Council having to pick up the cost, is probably well justified. I know of many septic tanks and particularly absorption trenches which are not up to scratch and overflows inevitably end up in dams and local streams, and then rivers. Unfortunately many people do not realise the dangerous nature of effluent. They consider that the septic tank renders the effluent harmless. This is not true, the discharged liquid is highly dangerous as it contains infectious organisms, causes odours, and attracts vermin and insects. To help you out in maintaining your system and get it to a state where you will pass an inspection, the following is reproduced hopefully as a helpful guide.

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### Septic Tank Maintenance Procedures

There are some maintenance procedures that need to be carried out regularly. Some care must also be taken not to overload the tank beyond its capabilities or harm the biological process in the septic tank. The following is a summary of what you need to know:

1. Periodically the sludge (inert solid material) in the septic tank builds up, reduces the liquid capacity, and allows the sludge to flow into the soil, which will clog up. Desludging is considered necessary when the sludge takes up half of the liquid capacity. Your septic tank should be pumped out every 3-4 years. If kitchen sink wastes are connected to a septic tank via a grease trap, the trap should be cleaned at least once a month.

2. Some additives to the septic system are harmful, and their use should be avoided. These include bleaches and strong detergents, particularly those containing chlorine.

Do not place newspaper or fibrous materials such as disposable nappies, sanitary napkins, paper towels etc., nor allow plastics, cigarette butts, bones and coffee grounds into the system. The only beneficial additive is lime, which should be added when the tank is first brought into usage, or when odour problems occur.

3. In many cases septic tanks can become overloaded by both liquid volumes and by the excessive solid contents.

- Liquid overloading is easily caused by automatic washing machines and dishwashers. Large discharges of water scour the contents of the tank and force untreated effluent into absorption trenches.

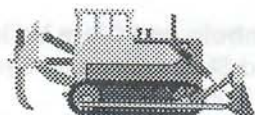
- Solid overloading by the contents of garbage grinders, and by kitchen greases and oils, produces a similar problem when this material flows through the septic tank directly into the absorption trenches or collection well.

4. When trench breakdown occurs, the liquids normally absorbed by the soil or transpired by vegetation, break through ground surface in the vicinity of the trench. The trench breakdown can be caused by:

- Overloading with liquid volumes.
- The clogging of the trench with solids not trapped by the septic tank.
- The fact that the tank needs desludging.
- The age of the trench.

Illegal Discharges: Offences have been committed by siphoning the contents of the collection well or absorption trenches to the street or a watercourse to offset the cost of having the collection well pumped out or by eliminating problems on properties. These offences are considered quite serious and offenders are liable to prosecution. Peter Greenwood Your Local Councillor 6238 3358

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## Wamboin Community to Vet Council Candidates

Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton communities will hold a combined "meet the candidates" evening before the Yarrawlumla Council elections. The three communities all fall within "A" Ward, which elects three Councillors. Community Associations understand that at least seven candidates will nominate for the three positions. They hope all will attend the information evening to meet local residents, outline their agendas and answer questions.

Last election there was no vote as the only three candidates to nominate were elected unopposed. This year however, when the Bulletin went to press, community members understood that at least seven candidates were proposing to nominate. Sitting Councillors Peter Greenwood, Peter Tierney and Suzanne Ridley have indicated they will be standing for re-election, and at least one other candidate has given a firm confirmation that he will be contesting the election. Representatives of the three community Associations have urged all residents of the three localities to attend.

The public meeting, sponsored jointly by the three associations, will take place in the Community Hall on Birriwa Road at 7.30 pm on the night of Monday 30 August. For those coming from Wamboin or Sutton, Birriwa Road is a short road off Macs Reef Road. Coming from Wamboin, turn left out of Denley Drive into Macs Reef Road then take the first road on the left. Coming up Macs Reef Road from Sutton, Birriwa Road is the third bitumen road on the right. The election will take place on 11 September. The returning officer for the Yarrawlumla election is Dale Wallace, of Braidwood tel 48422885.

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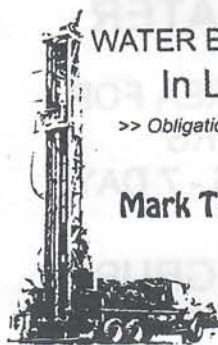
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## The Wamboin Firefighter

Compiled by Cliff Spong with help from many brigade members

### From the Captain's Desk...

So, you've made the decision to move into the "bush" and here you are. Nice views into the surrounding countryside, with lots of fresh air, nice people to meet and all the things you have always wanted. Not too far from town yet isolated enough to feel the freedom away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Suddenly the hot weather creeps in and you discover that there is a limit to the water supply and you have just run out. Should have kept an eye on the tank, I guess! What to do? What was the name of that local paper that automatically appears in the letterbox each month? Ah – the "Whisper"! I guess they must mention water carters...but there's a wait of at least two days! What to do now? The realities of rural life have now hit home.

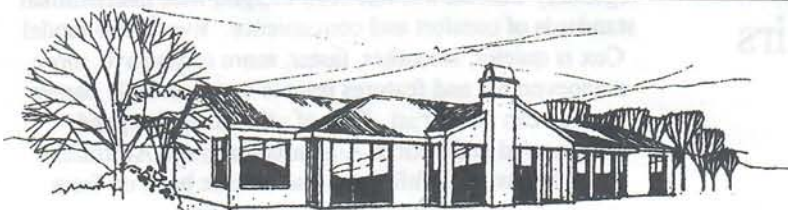
Then a nice hot day arrives. It is 38 degrees, the wind picks up and there in the distance you notice a large column of smoke. It is heading straight towards you. Now what? No one has mentioned that we could lose the "farm" in a bushfire or that we should have read the bushfire prevention information in the "Whisper". We can hear sirens in the distance and we can see lots of flashing lights. It must be the bushfire brigade going to put the fire out. How nice to know that there are people involved with skills to face a large fire like this one. This might be comforting but those people heading to that fire are people just like you. The difference is that they have got involved with the bushfire brigade and learned about firefighting not only on the trucks but also around their own homes. They spend some of their spare time training, maintaining equipment but are involved! With large areas of country to protect, there is only limited equipment and personnel to protect our properties. Self-help is definitely a goal to set when living in the country. Lots of people take the volunteers for granted and an attitude of "it can't happen to me" does not make sense in the bush. There are ways to prepare ourselves for the lifestyles we like to live. We can get involved and face these situations with a little foresight and preparation. It is easy to forget to clean the gutters and cover the vents under the house, but at the last moment when a fire is approaching, time is very limited.

Getting involved with your local bushfire brigade can be a sure way of protecting your property in case of an emergency. Learning what to do eliminates the worry of what you may have to face on your own. As for the water tank; that is something we often take for granted, but we do keep an eye on it from time to time. It can be used to save the most precious possessions in a time of need.

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**Local Fund Raising Dance** The Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade is raising funds to send its Field Day Team to represent the Shire at the State competition in September. A dance will be held at the Community Hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September – 7pm for 7:30 start. There will be live music. Tea and coffee will be provided and people are requested to bring a plate. The tickets are \$15 per adult and \$5 for children under 13 years. Please contact **Cherrie Beaver** (6258 2630) for more information.

**Call-Out News** On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July, the trailer of a waste oil tanker overturned on Sutton Road at approximately 11:20 pm. Bernie Broers, Richard Hobbs, Neville Schroer, Tony Martin, Cliff Spong, Linda Aunela and Ken Welham responded in four brigade vehicles. Phris Powell also assisted at the scene. The incident continued until 1 am.

On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> of July at approximately 5pm, a call was received about a fire seen in Reedy Creek Place. **Lyle Montesin, Jason Knight, Geoff and Scott Foster, Andrew Dunn, Dave Hubbard, Tony Martin, Richard Hobbs, Neville Schroder and Chris Powell** responded to the call but it turned out to be a resident burning off some rubbish.

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> of July at approximately 10:30 am, **Maurice Clark, Richard Hobbs and Chris Powell** responded to a motor vehicle accident on Sutton Road.

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July, a house fire occurred in Bingley Way at approximately 12 pm. Many members of the Wamboin, Queanbeyan City and Headquarters Brigades responded. Members from the Wamboin Brigade included **David Loft, Dave Hubbard, Les Worden, David Cochrane, Libby King, Robert Gorham, Lyle Montesin, Andrew Dunn, Geoff Foster, Scott Foster, Bernie Broers, Richard Hobbs, Helen Righton, Chris Powell, Trent Abel, Graham Heathcote, Cliff Spong, Linda Aunela, Darryl Dykes, and Peter Cullerne.**

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**Home Fire Safety Checklist:** Almost two months ago it had been planned to print the following article. It now has a deeper significance given the recent tragic events in Bingley Way. It only takes a few minutes for a house fire to take hold. It is a fact of rural life that it is almost impossible to have any local brigades respond fast enough to save a house once a fire has taken hold. The NSW Rural Fire Service has provided the information below.

#### In Case of Fire

Is the direct telephone number for the local Fire Brigade posted on or near the telephone?

Are the numbers large enough to quickly read in a fire emergency?

- Is your house number visible from the street so that emergency vehicles can find you?  
Can it be seen easily?
- Has your family made and practiced a fire escape plan with at least two ways out?  
If you deadlock your doors, do you keep the keys ready for an emergency escape?  
Are they located near the exit doorways? Have you arranged a safe meeting place outside?
- Do you have a smoke detector installed in your home? Is it checked monthly?
- Do you have a fire extinguisher in your home?
- Is your garden hose permanently attached to the tap and does it reach all points of the house?
- Do all members of your family know to Stop, Drop and Roll if their clothing catches fire?

#### Electrical Fire Safety

- Do you always have electrical repairs, alterations or renovations done by a qualified electrician?
- Are the cords to electrical appliances kept in good repair and not placed under rugs or through doorways?
- Do you ensure that power points are not overloaded?
- Is your electric blanket switched off before you get into bed?
- Are televisions, stereos, videos and other electrical equipment operated with enough space around them to prevent overheating?
- Are all your electrical appliances switched off and unplugged after use?

#### Home Heating Fire Safety

- Do you always use a fire screen with an open fire in your fireplace?
- Is the heating equipment in your home properly installed and maintained so the flues and filters are cleaned and there are no leaks or defects?
- Are heating appliances kept safely away from combustible items such as curtains, furniture and laundry?

#### General Housekeeping for Fire Safety

- Are matches kept out of reach of the children?
- Are light bulbs prevented from touching any material that could ignite?
- Do smokers dispose of ashes, used matches and other materials carefully? Do they ever smoke in bed?
- Are flammable liquids stored in proper containers away from heat or open flame? Are they used with care, with good ventilation?
- Do you regularly remove old rags, newspapers, and other household rubbish that could feed a fire?
- Do you regularly clean the lint filter of your clothes dryer?

**Smoke Detectors:** Smoke detectors save lives. Installing them at home is an easy and inexpensive precaution against tragedy. Smoke detectors do not prevent or extinguish fires, but they do provide an early warning that fire has started, giving you precious extra time to evacuate and call the fire brigade. This is especially important at night, when occupants of the house are asleep. Most fatalities from house fires occur at night.

**Choosing a smoke detector:** While there are a wide range of fire alarm units and systems available, for most existing homes a battery operated smoke detector which you can install yourself is sufficient. New dwellings must have the smoke alarm connected directly to the dwelling's power supply as well as a battery back up. There are two kinds of smoke detectors: ionisation or photo electric. With either operating principle, an alarm is sounded at the first trace of smoke. Features you should look out for in choosing a smoke detector include:

- Australian Standards. Self-contained smoke alarms must comply with AS 3736. Look for the Standards mark issued by the Standards Australia. Alternatively, smoke detectors labelled Scientific Services Laboratory AS-3786 are acceptable.
- Battery requirement. Look for smoke detectors that require low cost, low voltage batteries that last at least one year.
- Low battery warning. Smoke detectors emit a "beep" every 30 seconds for up to a month to indicate the battery needs replacement.
- Test button. Smoke detectors must be tested regularly. The test button should be easy to locate and operate, even when the smoke detector is installed on the ceiling.

**Where to install your smoke detector:** Because smoke rises, to detect smoke as early as possible your smoke detector should be installed on the ceiling or high on a wall. The best placement of smoke detectors depends upon the situation in your individual home. Keep the following pointers in mind:



- One smoke detector may not be enough. Install a smoke detector outside each sleeping area and on each floor of the house. You may also wish to install a smoke detector in the bedroom of someone who is a particularly sound sleeper or who is apt to be careless with smoking materials.
- Kitchens. Many home fires start in kitchens. However because smoke from cooking will set off the alarm installing a smoke detector in kitchens can cause a nuisance. Special models are available for use in kitchens and caravans. Avoid draughts. Do not install smoke detectors near windows, doors or air sources where drafts could affect alarm sensitivity.
- Avoid dead air spaces. A dead air space is an area in which trapped hot air will prevent smoke from reaching the alarm. This generally occurs at the apex of cathedral ceilings and the corner junction of walls and ceilings and between exposed floor joists.
- On a ceiling. The smoke detector should be located 300mm from any exposed beam, cornice or wall.
- On a wall, the smoke detector should be located 300mm to 500mm from the ceiling.
- On a cathedral ceiling, the smoke detector should be located 500mm to 1500mm from the highest point.

Stairways. On stairways, install detectors in the path people will most likely take to evacuate the building. This will ensure an alarm will be raised before smoke makes the exit impassable.

**Testing and maintaining your smoke detector:** A smoke detector that doesn't operate in an emergency is a dead loss. To keep the safety edge, remember to maintain your smoke detector following the manufacture's instructions.

It is important to test the unit regularly, once a month at the minimum. You should test the unit manually even if it has an indicator light or low battery warning. When the batteries are low, replace them. This is usually necessary once a year. Make it a habit to replace the batteries once a year on a date you can remember, such as your birthday, or when you change the clocks for daylight savings.

Keep the unit clean. Usually this requires carefully vacuuming out the dust and dirt once a year. Never paint your smoke detector- paint could damage the unit.

**What to when the alarm sounds:** A fire alarm is only effective when people respond properly. When you install your smoke detector, have a family meeting to discuss fire emergencies. Draw a floorplan of your house and mark exit paths and alternative exits. Post the 000 number near your telephone. Practise with your family what to do when the alarm sounds. Exit quickly and meet outside at a pre-arranged meeting point (the letterbox is a good place) to ensure everyone is safe. Crawl low in the smoke. Feel doors before opening them. If they are hot, fire may be on the other side; take another route. Once out, stay out. Remember, a smoke alarm gives you advance warning; use those precious minutes to get out safely.

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### WHEN IS A TREE A BAD TREE?

During the last Community association meeting Geoff Butler gave a short presentation on Land Care activities. Part of this included some future plans. Included in these were the intention to destroy a stand of pine trees that are growing in the Greenway that runs west off Weeroona Drive near the Norton Road intersection. These trees survived the drouth of the summer before last and most are between two and three metres high. A few are approaching the magical 3.66m height that brings them under the protection of the Shire's Tree Preservation Order, which may explain the timing of the threat against them. Before going further I will happily acknowledge a vested interest in these trees as they are very much in my view. The issue is, however, potentially a more general one.

I approached Mr Butler after the meeting to try and discuss the matter but was advised (some would say brusquely) that the Greenways are Public Land, that they are to be brimming with nothing but native vegetation, and that this situation had been arrived at after extensive community consultation. In other words, the pines are going and the issue is non-negotiable. There is also some history in relation to these trees and I acknowledge that they should probably never have been planted. The point is, they were planted, they have grown, and the purpose of a plan is to look forward, and not back.

East Wamboin clearly shows its grazing heritage. Whilst natives are great, and I have planted a good many, my view is that at this stage in the development of the area any tree is a good tree. Any tree provides some wind protection, shelter for animals, helps hold the soil together, converts carbon dioxide to oxygen and last, but not least, provides visual screening and something nice to look at. As a general rule I would therefore suggest that we all plant more trees of any species and start being selective once we reach the stage where one can't see a dozen houses from almost any point in the district.

With specific reference to the Greenway in question I would suggest that native vegetation should be planted alongside the pines. In the small number of areas where there may not be space for this a small number of the pine trees could be removed (up to a third) to make space. The pines will provide shelter as well as physical protection from the significant number of kangaroos that use the Greenway. If and when the natives thicken up and reach a reasonable height, perhaps two metres, more of the pines could be removed. I believe that this approach will move us towards the desired end without resulting in the need to create another patch of virtually bare land whilst native seedlings become established.

What do you all think? Am I at odds with the general community consensus or am I not? Please let me know. Either drop me a line at 87 Weeroona Drive or send me an e-mail at 'luddite@dynamite.com.au' (a former colleague called me one and from him it was a compliment).

Thank you for your time. - Simon Blake

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## All Creatures Great and Small

A Continuing Series by Dr. Blair Lamont, BVMS, MRCVS

Conclusion of a two part series on Pregnancy Toxaemia

Treatment in the early stages is usually successful, and involves the increasing of energy intake and utilisation - often combining drugs and glucose and/of glycerine type drenches. In severe cases, or where the condition is pre-partum (before birth) the outlook is often poor. Veterinary advice should be sought immediately. This could even involve abortions or caesarians in some circumstances. Prevention is obviously preferable and should be practised by the competent stock owner. This involves continual assessment of the feed value and body condition of the stock. The latter is important, as there are times when feed may appear adequate but other factors influence its utilisation, e.g., lameness, worm or fluke burdens, dental problems, etc. In addition, feed which may normally be suitable in good weather may be inadequate in prolonged wet and windy weather in exposed areas, where there is a marked increase in the energy required to maintain body heat, and some animals will not forage well in these adverse conditions.

The normal prevention measure is to provide sufficient extra energy intake to compensate for the increased demands on the mother in late pregnancy and at times of high milk production. This usually means feeding out hay or grain supplements as required. Hay should be of good quality and may have molasses added: the best grain is oats, and ground limestone can be added to maintain a reasonable calcium balance. Lupin seeds are very good for sheep and goats, as they are high in fibre as well as being a high energy source, and are therefore less likely to cause bowel upsets though palatability is sometimes a problem. Wheat and barley are roughly equivalent in energy content, but are more inclined to cause digestive upsets. Incidentally, it is wise to ensure the Enterotoxaemia vaccination is up to date, if supplementary grain or concentrate feeding is anticipated. Anyone anticipating breeding their stock at present should consider a vitamin ADE injection, as both male and female fertility can be greatly depressed after a long absence of good feed, which is the source of those vitamins. One injection lasts for several weeks.

P.S. Dog and cat owners, the new companion animals act commenced July 1<sup>st</sup> with implications for you.

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Dr. Blair Lamont and Dr. Gary McComb advise the continuance of their Wamboin/Clare Valley/Sutton area "Home Visit Days" on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of each month. This is in addition to our normal attendance, but with only nominal mileage charges.

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**NOTES FROM ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH**

Services are held on the first and third Sunday of each month at 9 am. Sunday School for younger children during the service. Please come to your local church. The building is warm, the welcome warmer. Enquiries to Robyn Robertson 6238-3202.

**Sutton Road - Minister Brendon Smyth's Letter Reprinted Here**

Dear Ms King,

Thank you for your letter of 14 June 1999 regarding the condition of Sutton Road from the ACT border to Pialligo Avenue.

The ACT Government is aware of the condition of this section of the regional route to which you refer and undertook a study in 1998 to identify the necessary remedial treatment. That study recommended a range of improvements to the geometry and width of the road, and my Department is now progressing design work for the various improvement options, including resolution of environmental issues. The first stage of what is expected to be a multi-million dollar project is currently included in the draft Capital Works Program for 2002/03.

In the meantime, my Department is undertaking necessary repairs to the edges and pavement, reinstating the linemarking and improving the signposting to ensure that the existing road is maintained in a safe condition. The edges of the road are cleared of debris annually to reduce the risk of bush fires, and I have asked that particular attention be given to leaning trees that might be of risk of falling or impeding vision.

I can assure you that the Government recognises the need for improvements to this road, but I am sure you will understand that the project will need to compete for limited capital funding with other construction projects of a similar nature.

Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Leigh Palmer, Manager of ACT Roads and Stormwater, on telephone 6207-6588.

Thank you for raising your concerns with me. I trust that this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely, Brendon Smyth, MLA

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**RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES IN WAMBOIN - 23 Yr Stats - by David Robertson**

Average August Rainfall	57.3 mm	May 99 rainfall	33 mm
Wettest August	1985 - 170 mm	June 99 rainfall	42 mm
Wettest August day	6/8/85 - 35mm	Total 99 rainfall to 30/6/99	307mm
Driest August	1994 - 5.5mm	July 99 rainfall to 25/7/99	17.5 mm
Coldest August Night	9/8/97 - minus 4c		
Hottest August day	3/8/82 - 20c		
Coldest August Day	8/8/89 - 5c		

**WAMBOIN CLASSIFIEDS**

Stress Management Course, Qbyn Community Health, four sessions, day and night options, starting 30 or 31<sup>st</sup> August. The group will discuss goal setting, time management, improving self esteem, assertiveness, and living with stress. Phone Qbyn Community Health on 6298-9233 for details.

Bungendore Markets, War Memorial Hall, Molonglo Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month, 10 am - 4 pm, enquiries to 6294-7171.

Does your grass need cutting? I have a ride on mower at reasonable rates. Phone Michael on 6230-3321.

**ADVERTISING RATES:** Local classified advertisements are free, as are announcements from community organisations and clubs. Business advertisements attract a small fee (see below) which is donated to the Wamboin Community Association. Please make your cheque out to this association, but post it to the editor. Contact editor on 238-3484 for information.

Advertising rates: Full Page - \$70 Half Page - \$35 1/4 Page - \$20 1/6 Page - \$15 1/8 Page - \$10

NSW Southern Area Health Service offers, for Continence Awareness Week (1-7 August) a booklet on continence problems. Bladder problems often follow from childbirth, as well as from many other causes. A booklet is available. Phone 02-9840-4165.

Leading Scientist Talks to Graziers: Professor David Kemp, a leading agronomist, will talk at a workshop organised by Friends of Grasslands. The topic of the workshop is "Pasture Management for Production, Catchment and Biodiversity". Qbyn Kangaroo Football Club, Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> of August, cost including lunch \$10, inquiries to Geoff Robertson on 6244-5616 (w) or Leon Horsnell 6231-6738.

- For Hire: Wamboin Community Hall - Bookings arranged by Joan Mason - 238-3258

Local Hire \$55 Bond \$120 Outside Hire \$85 Bond \$150

Teenage Parties (must be supervised by parents) \$125 Bond \$250 Gas Barbecue Extra

When you come to the Mac's Reef tip, please ensure you have your tip pass or some form of ID (such as a driver's licence) that shows you are a local resident. If you need a new tip pass, call the shire on 6297 1311. - Greg Nye, Tip Manager.

For Sale: Selection of good quality riding jodhpurs and breeches (John McDoougall, Pikeur, Chevalier). Range of sizes from 10 years to adult. \$10 each. Also navy Andy Ellis Hacking jacket and waistcoat. Excellent condition, size 12. \$100. Also portable electronic typewriter (Brother, excellent condition \$30. Ph 6238-1898.

For concreting, stonework, concrete stencil, rendering, tractor ripping done, call Sam Lantini on 0418-621-744. Also, for sale 500 2m star pegs and 100 2.1m wooden posts.

Work Wanted Weekends. Concreting, Bricklaying, Paving, General Labour. Phone 041-350-2151 BH or 6297-1363, AH, ask for George.

- For Hire from the Wamboin Community Association: Gas Barbecue - Party Size, Portable \$25.00 per hire (includes gas) and \$25.00 cleaning bond, both payable on collection of barbecue. Cleaning bond is refunded if barbecue is returned clean - Bookings arranged by Helen Montesin- 238-3208

House Cleaning Wanted: Working in area. Reasonable Rates. Please ring 6299-1876 or 02-4840-2301. Ask for Therese.

- The Whisper is Wamboin's community newspaper. If you live in the area and have something to say about living here that is informative, thoughtful, entertaining, or interesting, think about writing it up for the next issue. For more information contact the editor on 238-3484.

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## GEARY'S GAP WAMBOIN LANDCARE GROUP (GGWLGC) MONTHLY UPDATE

**NEW COMMITTEE:** The new committee of the Geary's Gap Wamboin Landcare Group elected at the July 12 AGM is as follows: President: Colin Johnson; Vice President: Geoff Butler; Secretary Maria Taylor; Treasurer: Rosemary Hurley; Committee: Jaqui O'Leary, Richard Hobbs, Brian Higgison, Angie Higgison, Jan Gough-Watson.

Elections were followed by a brief general meeting at which time it was agreed to focus on a major revegetation project on Joe Rocks Road in the Spring.

As a group we have developed some consensus that we would like to pursue a two-pronged strategy to landcare in this area:

(1) maintain levels of existing remnant native vegetation (including regrowth in native ecosystems) and move towards reconnecting sections of it; and,

(2) plant up selected areas on public lands and areas cleared for pasture or as a result of roadworks.

Fencing off remnants, removing various species of weeds from areas of remnant native vegetation, particularly the Greenway Network and roadsides, and replanting individual blocks as well as selected public land, all play a part in this overall strategy.

So does the education effort which will most visibly materialise with our landcare booklet, which should be out next Spring.

**DEMONSTRATION SITE PLANTINGS:** We propose to do a combined demonstration site planting, for visibility, and neighborhood roadside planting. Several members from Joe Rocks Road have proposed siting the project on public verges adjacent to their blocks and the Gundaroo Road, and possibly on their blocks as well, and will organise the residents of Joe Rocks Road to make it a communal planting.

The landcare group as a whole will support this neighborhood effort and provide labour and organisation for the demonstration planting. For the project as a whole, there is a possibility to involve Greencorps labour, depending on how extensive the plantings become.

The Council will be requested to rip the site.

A propagation workshop will precede the on-ground effort for new members and as a refresher for existing members. The seed and tube stock will come from local provenance and it remains to be organised just what kind of mix we want to plant. It is desirable that we plant a mixture (diversity) of species - trees and understorey of species that grow well here - to be an effective demonstration site. This effort will get underway in the spring.

A visible sign will be set up to publicise the site and the landcare group.

The group is eager to support other neighbourhood planting efforts that involve public and private land. If you have a project in mind, please make a proposal.

Colin Johnson is collecting information for a mapping project on remnant vegetation in the Geary's Gap Wamboin area. Please contact Colin to add information about your block or area. Ph# 6236 9295

**LANDCARE FORUM AND GREENWAYS:** Geoff Butler reported on the latest Shire Landcare Forum with the following: The Greenways Taskforce is being reconvened to try and make some headway with the Shire-wide Greenways project. Maria Taylor and Julian Thompson are currently representatives from this area and Geoff Butler is very involved as well. Councillor Suzanne Ridley chairs the Taskforce.

The opened Greenways in Geary's Gap Wamboin need working assistance from Landcare and the community to manage them in accordance with the agreed objectives for Greenways. Those objectives are non-motorised public access and ecological protection. Works include erosion control, weed removal and maintenance of remnant native vegetation or planting of appropriate native species.

The Greenways map for Bywong and the northern part of the district is with Council awaiting formal ratification.

Geoff Butler asked YSC to consider (at next meeting) approval for "Land for Wildlife" scheme, which at this stage involves only signs for gates of interested landowners. He is preparing discussion paper for next Landcare Forum meeting.

Another issue raised at the Forum was the mowing and slashing of native vegetation on roadsides by residents. This is an issue of maintaining (mostly) remnant native grasslands, which is protected under state law.

**GREENFLEET CORRECTION:** A previous bulletin about Greenfleet was unfortunately a tad premature. The area currently under consideration for Greenfleet assistance does not extend further north than Queanbeyan. Negotiations involving our (Yass area) Landcare coordinator Katie Hollingsworth are underway, to extend Greenfleet support into our area. However at the earliest, this program will become available in 2000. In the meantime it's back to personal initiative, or for larger projects the possibility of Greencorp.

**NEXT MEETING:** Committee report on planned activities for 1999/2000. Meetings are on the second Monday of the month and start at 7.30 in the community hall on Birriwa Rd. For general information contact the Secretary GGWLGC 6236 9386.



### Wamboin Playgroup

Wamboin Playgroup meets at the Community Hall, Bingley Way, each Tuesday from 10:30 am until 12:30 pm (school term only). Come along and enjoy amorning full of activities for the kids while you have a cuppa (tea/coffee/milo/biscuits provided!). As most of you already know, I will no longer be the convenor of the playgroup. I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience of looking after our playgroup and will really miss my dose of Tuesday mornings. Playgroup has been a big part of my Wamboin life. I first attended the playgroup in 1993 when there were only about six member families. I have enjoyed being part of an always expanding playgroup, which now boasts 30 member families. I am handing over to Cindy Dykes, phone 6236-9119, and Lee McMillan, phone 6238-3497, so if you have any problems they will take care of them. Thanks for making our playgroup such a great place to go, both for the parents and their kids. Happy playgrouping. - Jennie Hayward

### WAMBOIN COUNTRY GOLF CLUB - JULY COMPETITION RESULTS



Whilst I was on holidays out driving the Simpson Desert (and practicing my sand bunker shots,) the game went on in Wamboin. Trophies were kindly donated by an international company Thomson Radar Australia and Thomson CSF of France, through Charles Guscott and they were greatly appreciated.

Visitors trophy won by Glenn Wilson, Googly Ball to Nev Schroder and Rhys Ollerenshaw won the NAGA (with 24 points!!) and I believe Charles G spat the dummy. Amongst the Provisional Handicappers, Dennis Walker won a trophy and the golf ball trophies for nearest the pin, long drive etc. went to each of the following; Glenn Wilson x2, Dennis Walker x2, Charles Guscott x2, Matthew Montesin, Rhys Ollerenshaw,

Lofty Mason and Neville Schroder.

9 hole comp won by Matthew Montesin. B Grade was won by Michael Guscott from Ben Hubbard. A Grade second won by Len Ivey.

A Grade was won by Ken Gordon with 42 points and I believe our famous Ned Kelly trophy has been duly delivered and the handicapper has paid close attention.

New players are always welcome on the unique but very playable 18 hole Wamboin Country Golf Course on the first Sunday of every month at 12.30 from the hall.

Peter Greenwood, Golfer 6238 3358

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