

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

December 2006 / January 2007 CIRCULATION: 1072

All proceeds from advertisements after printing costs go to the WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, which started the Whisper in 1981 and continues to own it. 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, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 6238-3484. Contributions which readers may wish to make will be appreciated, and should be submitted to by email to nednoel@optusnet.com.au or dropped into his mailbox at 17 Reedy Creek Place. The deadline for the next issue is always the last Sunday of the month, 7 pm, so for the February 2007 Whisper the deadline is Sunday, January 28, 2007, 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	Helen Montesin	President	6238-3208
Bywong Community Assn	Warwick Cathro	President	6236-9187
Fire Brigade	Cliff Spong	Captain	040-999-1340 bh 6236 9220 ah
Wamboin Playgroup	Leanne Quick	Convener	6238 3435
Sutton School Playgroup	Laura Taylor	Convener	62369662
Landcare	Roger Good	President	6236-9048
Community Nurse	Heather Morrison	Bungendore	6238-1333
Breastfeeding Assoc.	Belinda Dennis	Community Educator	6236 9979
Emergency Services	NSW Call Centre	Staff	132-500
Emergency Services Admin	Colin Brown	Controller	6238-1067
Justice of the Peace	Peter Greenwood	JP	6238-3358
Justice of the Peace	Keith France	JP	6238-3596
Wamboin Scout Group	Peter Harrison	Contact Person	6238-3525
Wamboin Guides	Rosemary Riley	Contact Person	6241-6565
Wamboin Pony Club	Maureen Purdie	Contact Person	6238-3343
Gearys Gap Pony Club	Anne McInnes	Secretary	6236-9883
Play Group	Leanne Quick	Convener	6238-3435
Hall Bookings	Joan Mason	Bookings	6238-3258
Church, Anglican	Robyn Robertson	Warden	6238-3202
Christian Prayer Group	Steve & Imelda Taylor	Contacts	6238-3220
Golf	Peter Greenwood	Golfer	6238-3358
Injured Wildlife	Wildcare	Helpline	6299-1966

THE YOUNG WAMBOIN ENTREPRENEURS

Ashleigh Caird, babysitting	6238 0746.
Deanne Brucic, babysitting & Petsitting	6238-1884
Ellen Smith, petsitting (experienced with horses)	6238-3115
Fiona Skea, babysitting	6238-3290
Rebecca Purdie, petsitting	6238-3343
Frank Deveson, bicycle maintenance	6238-3294
John Brennan, babysitting and petsitting.....	6238 3472
Elena Sutcliffe, petsitting and babysitting	6238-3228
Gabrielle Simpkin & Nicolette Neveu-Abramczuk, petsitting	6238-3600

Macs Reef Tip Hours 7:30 am to 5:00 pm Fri-Sat-Sun-Mon (to 7 pm Sat - Sun in daylight saving time) closed Tue-Wed-Thurs

WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPHS

Christmas Carols –The annual Christmas Carol Service will be held on **15th December** at 7:00pm at the Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way. There will be a Giving Tree for Christmas gifts which will be distributed by the Salvation Army to those in need. The service will be followed by a Sausage Sizzle and a visit by Santa. All proceeds to the Salvation Army.

Wamboin Produce Markets – The final markets for the year will be on **16th December** from 9:00am till noon. They're bound to have a fabulous array of merchandise for the festive season, as well as a chance to catch up with friends over a cup of coffee and yummy food. So be sure to get there early, so you don't miss out. The January markets will be on 21st January 2007.

Wamboin Community Association meeting – Many thanks to Mike Rickard for his very interesting talk on the geological history of Wamboin and Lake George at the last meeting. The final meeting for the year will be a social get-together, with drinks and nibbles on **19th December at 7:30pm**. Everyone is most welcome to attend. The WCA doesn't meet in January, so the first meeting for 2007 will be on the 3rd Tuesday in February.

Community Noticeboards – The community noticeboards erected on Norton Road are for urgent notices of a community nature and for 'little dog lost' notices. They are not to be used for commercial notices – the Wamboin Whisper is a better place to advertise. Additionally, other notices should not be attached to the noticeboards – any attached notices will be removed. Finally, please do not tape signs to the noticeboards as the glue ruins the chalkboard surface.

WCA Electronic Noticeboard – Residents are continuing to subscribe to the noticeboard. It is a great way to keep up with issues of community interest and I encourage everybody to subscribe. To subscribe, simply send an email message (doesn't need any subject or content) to **Wamboin_Noticeboard-subscribe@yahoo.com.au**.

Calendar of events –If you have any events that you would like included in February's Whisper, please contact John van Straaten (ph: 6238 3590).

I hope you all have a happy and safe Christmas and all the very best for 2007.

-- Helen Montesin (helen.montesin@canberra.edu.au)

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CAROLS AT WAMBOIN Friday 15 December at 7.00 pm

In the Community Hall, Bingley Way

Don't miss this popular community event to celebrate the joy of Christmas in words and music. There will be a Giving Tree for Christmas gifts for the Salvation Army to distribute to those in need. Afterwards there will be a Sausage Sizzle and the appearance of Father Christmas. All proceeds to the Salvation Army.

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Community Hall, Bingley Way

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6258 1792

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For sale dark blue table lamp with silver trim made in Morocco \$20, five cream plastic outdoor chairs with cream and green seat covers, \$5 each, metal black CD stacker 1.2m tall \$8, crocodile rider pool toy with handles 213cm X 135cm new in box \$10, Phone Penny 6238 3447. Don't know what to do with all those rubber bands? I can help by reusing them. If you have any to spare, leave them in my letter box at 413 Norton Rd. Thanks Penny Evans
FOR SALE: Two louvre doors, two internal house doors, ridge capping (3.6m), PVC pipe - 60 mm (8 x 3.6 m lengths), concreting tools, 'come-along' winch, copper tubing, fan heater, boat winch, bedside table (3 drawer), Emide electric coffee grinder, fence paint, trench mesh (2 x 3.6 m), black plastic sheeting, quantity of sand (coarse and fine), bush rock (20 pieces), garden hose, fencing wire, RoundUp, extension leads, carpet square, dining chairs. All reasonable offers considered. Steve 6238-0341
WANTED: Cleaner wanted for 2 hours per week in Wamboin. Ph Belinda 6236 9979.
FOR SALE German Shepherd puppies (no papers) ready for Christmas Both parents have great temperaments and the puppies will make great family pets. Males and Females available \$350.00 each. Phone 6238 3221.
LONG RUNNING CLASSIFIEDS
WCA Electronic Noticeboard – Residents are continuing to subscribe to the noticeboard. It is a great way to keep up with issues of community interest and I encourage everybody to subscribe. To subscribe, simply send an email message (doesn't need any subject or content) to Wamboin_Noticeboard-subscribe@yahoo.com.au .
TREE GUARDS - rolled wire (20). Various circumferences but all approx. one metre high. Excellent for protecting newly planted trees/bushes from kangaroos and rabbits. \$20 the lot. TOMATO STAKES - pre-loved. For vegie patch or bracing tree guards. Good for couple more seasons. (90) x 120cm ie 4ft. \$45 the lot. (35) x 180cm ie 6ft. \$28 the lot.
RELN WORM FARM - Good condition. \$20. WORM CASTINGS - Excellent totally natural organic soil conditioner. Great for gardens, plants and vegie patch. Cheaper than nurseries at \$8.50 for 25 litre bag. Supplied with instructions. Free bag with every 10 purchased. Phone Ian 6238 3425.
CHOOKS WANTED – Any age & roosters. Phone Frank on 6297-3523 to arrange collection.
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MATHEMATICS COACHING: All levels and all years catered for by an experienced teacher with special expertise in college levels, including the International Baccalaureate. Please contact Judy Dalla on 6236 9990.
SWARM BEES - Beekeeper happy to offer prompt service to the local community to collect and remove swarm bees that may arrive uninvited over the next few months. A small fee charged depending on distance I have to travel. Please call John 62383791.
Large Holiday house situated in Tuross, 180 degree Ocean views, opposite shops, 2 minute walk to beach, large block for parking, available now. Discounts apply for Wamboin/Bywong residents. Please phone Cherrie 0418 621 462 for further information.
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 6238-3484 for information. Advertising rates: Full Page - \$100 Half Pg - \$50 1/3 Pg \$35 1/4 Pg - \$30 1/5 Pg - \$25 1/6 Pg - \$20 1/8 Pg - \$15
FOR HIRE from the Wamboin Community Association: GAS BBQ - Party Size, Portable, \$30 (includes gas) together with \$30 cleaning bond, both payable on collection. Cleaning bond will be refunded if BBQ is returned clean. Enquiries - Joan Mason 62 383 258.
Trestles and chairs are available for hire by local residents. Hire rates are: Trestle \$10ea and chairs \$1.50 ea. Price does not include delivery or pick-up charges. Available from the Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way. Must be returned in clean servicable condition. All damages are responsibility of the hirer. Equipment must be tied securely on trailer etc. when taken (otherwise they don't go.) Time of pick-up and returned MUST be adhered too (I don't live at the Hall!) -Joan Mason, 62383258.
FOR HIRE: WAMBOIN COMMUNITY HALL. Bookings arranged by Joan Mason 62383258. Local Hire \$65 per use - Bond \$200. Outside Hire \$125 per use - Bond \$250. Teenage/18 year old birthdays/parties (must be supervised by parents) \$160 - Bond \$1000.
The Whisper is a community newspaper for Wamboin and Bywong. If you live in the area and have something to say about living here that is informative, thoughtful or entertaining, think about writing it up for the next issue. For more information contact the editor on 6238-3484 or email nednoel@optusnet.com.au. And thanks if you have already done so.

LAKE GEORGE DAY VIEW CLUB

The final meeting for the year of the Lake George Day VIEW Club will be on Tuesday December 12 commencing at 11.30am for a 12 noon start at Rydges Eagle Hawk Resort, Federal Highway, Sutton. Join us for Christmas lunch and bring along a small "Chris Kringle" gift to exchange to the value of \$5. Cost for lunch is \$20. New members and guests are always welcome. For bookings please ring Kerry on 6238 0603 by noon Thursday December 7. VIEW - a valued member of The Smith Family. – Lydia Teodorowych

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DRAKE OUTPERFORM

TWO GERMAN SHEPHERD DOGS NOT CONTROLLED BY OWNERS

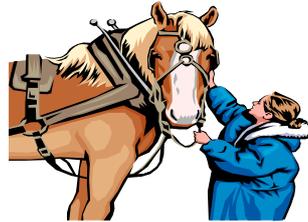
Last week I received in my mail box a letter from a 'neighbour' explaining that two german shepherd dogs had been chasing and killing kangaroos at the top of Denley Drive and asking could we please restrain them if they were ours. I would like to tell my 'neighbour' that those two dogs do not belong to anyone at the roundabout end of Denley Drive. In fact the residents at the end of Denley Drive have been following these dogs with interest for the very same reason. On two occasions we have watched miserably as they have chased and killed kangaroos. I have also seen them at dusk on a number of occasions at the intersection of Denley Drive and Weroona mauling a dead kangaroo. We have tried to no avail to catch them and restrain them. We have phoned the Queanbeyan Police, Palerang Council and Wildcare frantic for someone to stop these dogs. I have three young children who have spent hours in the house as these dogs have roamed through fences and across properties, happily chasing and killing kangaroos. One dog is larger and appears to be a full german shepherd and the other a smaller shepherd cross, mostly black. One has a collar with red a tag. If you own these dogs I am informing you that the residents of Denley Drive are on alert to catch and restrain them and they will be destroyed. - Belinda Dennis

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Wamboin Wobbles

The group is going from strength to strength and we have all enjoyed the great sense of community and belonging. The walking group is still striding forth on Mondays - leaving from the church at 9am and on Fridays leaving at the earlier time of 8am. Newcomers are welcome to join us and many bring four legged companions as well as partners.

After the walk on Mondays we are meeting for two hours of fun and friendship and we also do some crafty activities!! The wealth of talent is amazing with some magnificent Christmas ornaments produced (some maybe for Christmas in the future!). Next year there is a strong support for patchwork to start, although there will always be activities for others to join us. This is really turning into a group Wamboin can be proud of and we welcome all.

Our Christmas break up will take place on the 18th December at 6pm. This will be a Wine and Nibbles evening and we look forward to meeting family members of the group - so they can then find out what the Wobbles are about!! The first meeting of the New Year will be on January 8th. Thank you all for your continuing support. I think we should all be very proud of what we are achieving. Any queries please phone Claire Ayling on 62383347



HELLO!! -

Does anyone else out there give a fig?

Wamboin Brigade needs Support Crew

We urgently need more volunteers to join the Support Crew. Can you help out with or want to learn new skills? We need people to help with communications, map reading, transport, catering, purchasing, fundraising, First Aid, house-keeping at the Fire Station, cleaning and restocking vehicles, restocking ration packs, and other duties under the guidance of the Captain or Deputy Captain. We're all Volunteers. Most of us work or have kids maybe like you and others - and we need more help.

Please phone the Secretary Ian Collet on 6238 3425 or Deputy Captain Support Crew Wendy Downs on 6238 3398 and let's know what together we can achieve for your benefit and that of the broader community.



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Lyneham ACT 2602
Small Animals (02) 6241 3333
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- Dr Richard Lam..



Canberra Equine Hospital is located on the corner of the Federal and Barton H'way, Lyneham.

Your horse can be examined at the hospital or at your own property.

The hospital offers a reduced call out fee to the Wamboin region on Monday afternoons.

Please feel free to call with any questions about your horses health needs.

02 6241 8888

Notes from St Andrews

We have had a busy month at St Andrews. Our services inside the church were enjoyed by all the congregation and



many others with four legs joined us for the annual Blessing of the Animals service. This was held outside and about 50 people attended, and animals of all shapes and sizes were blessed by the Rev'd Peter Grundy whose vestments were enhanced by a very stylish Akubra!! The service was followed by a sausage sizzle again enjoyed by all! The photograph shows Elizabeth and William Gregory with Godfrey the donkey.

We are just entering our busy time of the year and it would be lovely to see new faces joining us. Our services this month are on the 3rd (Matins) and 17th (Holy Communion) at 9am. On Christmas Eve at 7.15pm, we once again are holding our Nativity pageant where the Christmas story is told with the help of lots of locals and animals. This was very well attended and enjoyed by all last year. After the pageant (which for obvious reasons is held outside), our Holy Communion service is held in the church at 8pm. The first service for the

New Year is on January 7th. Any queries can be answered by calling Robyn Robertson on 62383202.



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The Wamboin Firefighter

A newsletter from YOUR volunteer rural fire brigade compiled by Cliff Spong with help from many members of the Brigade (Wamboin Brigade's website is www.wamboin-fireshed.com)

THE FIRE SEASON HAS NOW STARTED.

NO FIRE PERMITS WILL BE ISSUED FOR THE REMAINDER OF THIS FIRE SEASON.

From the Captain's Desk

Last month has been anything but quiet for your brigade. Not only has there been several callouts to various incidents but our training and maintenance activities have all kept us busy.

Early in November we were called out to a grass fire at Sutton Park reported to be at or near the electricity sub-station. As it was a weekday callout we were a bit hampered by a lack of members in the immediate area but Geoff Foster in our rapid response Cat 9 vehicle was first on the scene and with backup from our large Cat 1 tanker not too far away. As the fire was threatening the house on the property other brigades were initially requested to assist. Within a short time the situation was



Coillet from his mobile phone, shows blacking out the fire.

sized up and under control without needing the crews from the Sutton or ACT brigades. As the fire was quickly extinguished before it had caused any major damage, apart from the burnt brown wavy stuff on the ground, the event would not normally attract much attention. However, it was most unfortunate for the culprit who started the fire. It was also quickly evident that it would be extremely difficult to stop another culprit starting another fire the same way. The fire was started by an unfortunate pelican which blundered into and was



the overhead power lines electrocuted. When it burning feathers ignited picture, sent by Ian Peter Greenwood



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On the weekend of the 11th of November the annual NAVEX training exercise was conducted in our area with many brigades from our Zone participating. It was one weekend when the Wamboin/Bywong/Sutton Park areas were overwhelmed with fire trucks and crews! The members from your brigade participating in this exercise, David Doblinger, Keith and Beth Wrench, Ian Coillet, Chris Murdock, Tim Love, Col Prest and Michael Guilfoyle found it to be an excellent opportunity to learn new skills, practice old skills and have a good time! The photos below show the Wamboin contingent, some of the other brigade vehicles and one of the many activities practiced; changing a wheel on one of the Cat 7 tankers.

On the 14th and 15th of November your brigade was called to assist with a fire in a pine plantation several kilometres outside Bungendore. Several other brigades were also called in to help the Bungendore brigade. The fire took some time to get under control and provided some interesting challenges. Most crews needed to be there overnight. Relief crews, including one from Wamboin, were despatched to the scene in the daylight hours on the 15th to ensure the fire had been blacked out.

During our two weekend training days we continued to practise several response drills and honed our fire management techniques. The picture below shows one of these exercises where one of the crews is operating the mobile quick fill pump, an important piece of equipment which can save a lot of time in refilling the fire trucks from dams and other sources of water.

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On the 22nd of November your brigade was called to assist brigades from the Yass Shire with a fire on the escarpment overlooking "Lake" George. The fire is reported to have resulted from a burn-off in a private property getting out of control. It took almost 6 days to finally get the fire out. It presented many challenges because of the steep terrain.

Just before 2am on Monday the 27th of November your brigade was again called out. This time it



was to attend a car accident on the Federal Highway near the Eagle Hawk resort. Luckily the two occupants in the vehicle were not badly hurt. After some tactful negotiations with the ACT fire brigade crew who were able to get to the incident before the Wamboin brigade tankers could get to the scene, the Wamboin crews were turned around and were able to get back to their homes without too much loss of sleep.

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31 Ellendon St Bungendore

At each monthly market day at the Wamboin Community Hall representatives of your brigade will be at the to answer any of your questions about protecting your or any other brigade related matter. It also will be an opportunity for any budding new members to come along to joining. It will also be an exciting excuse for many of the Wamboinites to get a closer look at the big red trucks! We plenty of brochures on many subjects ranging from what you do during the many total fire bans we will be experiencing, to resistant plants you can propagate on your property. We will repeating the very successful demonstration of portable fire pumps for the Wamboin Wobbles group at a later date. If there are any other pieces of equipment or fire fighting techniques you would like some advice on, please let me know and we can arrange a session during future market days. The picture is a reasonable likeness of the Wamboin Captain at the entrance to the fire shed taken by Peter Greenwood during the last market day.



fire shed properties

talk about smaller will have need to what fire also be fighting

If you get to see this edition of the *Wamboin Whisper* before the 5th of December and you are free from around 6pm, why not come down to the fire shed and join us at our Christmas party. We will be very pleased to see you. I also have it on reasonable authority that Santa could be joining us around 6:30 with some little presents for the young'uns. If you cannot join us may I, on behalf of all members of your brigade, wish you and your families a safe, enjoyable and hopefully, fire free holiday period.

THE CAPTAIN'S LIST		
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Heat Stroke In Dogs And Cats

Adam Gaudry BSc, BVSc (Hons)

Heat stroke is a fever that is induced by high environmental temperatures. Animals are at risk when exposed to hot and humid temperatures because effective evaporated cooling in cats and dogs cannot occur in these conditions. This results in the body's core temperature rising drastically to above 40 degrees. Once the body exceeds 41,5-42,5 degrees Celsius, cellular function is seriously affected and unconsciousness and even death may follow.

Situations Or Conditions That Can Lead To Heat Stroke

- * Pets left out doors in hot and humid weather with no shade or water.
- * Exercising your pet in hot humid weather even if you have water available is putting your pet at risk.
- * Leaving your pet in a closed car in direct sun or on a warm day even with cracked open windows can be deadly.

Panting a normal physiological means to cool off actually saturates the air with water vapour making the air in the car warmer and consequently even more difficult for an animal to cool down.

- * Young and old animals are more sensitive to high temperatures because they cannot acclimatize effectively.
- * Heavy coated dogs (Husky ,German Shepherd, Chow Chow)

* Animals with medical problems. History of seizures , heart or lung disease should never be exposed to hot humid temperatures.

* Certain breeds with short snouts such as Shit tzu, Boxers, Pekinese, Bull dogs and Persian cats are particularly susceptible due to their flat faces that make breathing difficult.

Signs of Heat stroke

Early signs of heat stroke include panting, sweating, excess salivation. This can progress further to difficulty breathing, vomiting and diarrhoea. The dog or cat will have an increased heart rate and respiratory rate. The mucous membranes may become bright red. These clinical signs may lead to dehydration, depression, and seizure. Severe heat stroke can lead to coma and death.

Prevention Of Heat Stroke

The best way to prevent your dog developing heat stroke is to avoid situations which may lead to them overheating. Never leave your dog in a parked car. Always provide them with plenty of fresh cool water. If your dog is outside make sure they have adequate shade and ventilation. If your dog has a particularly thick coat you may consider having their coat clipped off in the warmer months.

Heat stroke can be a life threatening emergency for your dog. If your suspect your dog may be suffering heat stroke seek veterinary advice.

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WAMBOIN GOLF CLUB – NOVEMBER COMPETITION RESULTS

Numbers were down a little in November for a Stableford competition sponsored by Larry and Libby King. Many thanks to L & L for the trophies and eats.

When the numbers are down we tend to find (prophetically) that a larger percentage of players tend to win trophies!

Len Ivey won the Googly Ball for a pathetic Googly Ball story about another player!!

Charles Guscott spat the dummy and won the appropriate award.

Nearest the pin ball winners were; Rob Gorham, Peter Greenwood, Len Ivey, Nev Schroder, Paul Griffin x3 and Bob Mettam x2.

Tim Barter and Peter Greenwood shared the 9 hole event. (Same score over different 9 holes??)

A Grade 2nd won by Len Ivey.

B Grade won by Paul Griffin

A Grade won by Charles Guscott.

Congratulations to all winners.

--- Golf enquiries to Peter Greenwood 6238 3358.

Rainfall and Temperature in Wamboin --- 31 year statistics from the Robertsons

Nov rainfall to 25/11 43mm (2005....88.5mm)

Dec average 57.9mm

Hottest Dec day 37 degrees C 21/12/99

Coldest Dec night 3 degrees C 9/12/99

Wettest Dec 164mm 1988

Driest Jan 6mm 1979

Coldest Jan day 17 degrees 6/1/06 and 19/1/06

2006 rainfall to 25/11 442.5mm (2006 to 30/11.... 647mm)

Jan average 64.2mm

Coldest Dec day 13 degrees C 13/12/87

Driest Dec 0mm 1979

Wettest Jan 197.5mm 1995

Hottest Jan day 39 degrees 3/1/90 and 19/1/98

Coldest Jan night 7 degrees 2/1/03

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THE STABLE DOOR

by Ian Collet

Singing in the shower – liquid gold and money down the drain.

Check out the Energy Australia web-site and you'll find they've conducted research showing people are wasting money on hot water by singing and dreaming in the shower. In a sample of more than 400 people, Energy Australia found that the average shower length is seven minutes. And it gets worse with kids aged 5-12 years where the average time spent splashing around in the shower rises to more than eight minutes.

Energy Australia says that setting aside the kids, time in the shower accumulates largely due to activities such as shaving (guilty), playing with toys (shhh), singing – I'll come back to this, daydreaming and brushing teeth. A spokesperson from Energy Australia says that these are activities we should all look at and determine whether this all needs to be done in the shower, or whether over the sink might suffice. I've tried shaving over the basin and it makes such a hell of a mess – basin, floor – and you more often than not end up with a nick or two much along the Norman Gunston line.

So, yeah, there are alternatives but unless I'm outback camping with the bride, shaving outside the shower isn't one of them. Anyway, Energy Australia reckon families can save \$100 a year on their electricity bill if they cut back their shower times. That's not unimportant – nor is the water you can save.

Now back to singing in the shower. I can recall my Dad sometimes let his vocal chords rip once in a while when in the shower. Personally, I'm more the humming type. Lots of people seem to love the sound of his/her own voice in the shower. Just what's so special about this private venue? Well, I believe the shower works like a low-tech sound mixer to modify your voice in at least 3 ways that leave you with the impression that, hey, we've got some talent here. The changes or sound effects relate to volume, reverb and bass boost. Your voice bouncing around in the hard perimeter of the shower boosts the sound intensity leaving you with the impression your voice has the power of Pavarotti. Then there's the reflected sound waves bouncing around – some travelling further than others – your voice tends to hang in the air after each note is made resulting in a richer, fuller sound. Then there's the bass boost which, provided you don't have one of those fancy showers with no walls, certain frequencies of sound get naturally amplified inside the shower cubicle.

The upshot of all of this, if you think you've got it – flaunt it – but only in the shower, 'cos once you're out in the wider elements, the sweet spots quickly disappear. As for karaoke – there's only one worse thing invented by God, and that's a whipper snipper. At least a whipper snipper either refuses to start or dies halfway through the act.

Fire Brigade matters – well I'm sure Captain Cliff Spong will bring you up to speed with what has been happening around the region. But here's something he possibly doesn't know, and I'm sure he might find intriguing if not a little elusive. John Croucher, Professor of Statistics, Macquarie University reports that the proportion of surveyed British women who fantasise about firefighters is 54 per cent; soldiers: 28 per cent; businessmen: 27 per cent; doctors: 26 per cent; footballers: 20 per cent; milkmen: 0.8 per cent.

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Wamboin 15 years ago From the Whisper of January, 1992, circulation 265
 ed: Judy Frazer-Jans
 Yarrawlumla Shire News by Peter Greenwood, Shire President

Recreational Trails have been the subject of much debate lately because of a proposal by the Shire to create a basic network of recreational, or pony trails throughout the Shire. At present no decision, nor even serious consideration has been given to any proposal by Council, the Planning Department is looking at many of the Crown Road reserves with the possibility of opening some of these to create trails. This of course means the possibility of trails along many back fences and the obvious adverse reaction of people affected.The Community Association will be giving further consideration to this subject at the January 28th meeting so if you have some views please come along."

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Don Malcomson	Macs R -- Denley to Gum Flat	24	Rhett Cox Macs Reef /Nwngtn to FdHwy 12
Ann Platts	Denley MacReef to Birchman's	26	Morag Cotsell MReef /Newington/Harriot (A) 30
Warrick Cathro	Macs Reef -GumFlat to Harriott	18	Sandra Favre MReef /Newington/Harriot (B) 20
Joan Milner	Birriwa Road	12	Esther/Ian Rudd MReef/Bankers/FedHwy 25
214 CO-ORDINATED BY LAURA SNOWDON Ph 6236 9609			
Trevor Kirk	Macs R - Denley to Bung Rd	20	Snowdon Family Hogan Drive 30
Len Parrish	Summerhill Rd Area	32	Diana+Keith Gascoine Snow Gum Road 22
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Sue Aunella	Doust/Wyoming/Brooks	25	Judith Miller Wyoming Rd 40
TOTAL FOR WHISPER 1072			

Nature Notes – November 2006

Jo Walker

The two days of rainy weather earlier in the month were very welcome. The grass greened up for a while, making the most of the 24 mm of rain, but the hot weather and strong winds that followed have left the countryside parched again.

The hardy Black Wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*) – one of our later-flowering local wattles – is decked out with its perfumed cream flowers at the moment, but, because of the heat and high winds, the flowering season will probably be short. This has been the pattern for most of our local flora this spring – a spring that has been more like mid-summer. In fact, quite a lot of our local herbaceous plants and some of the pea plants haven't flowered at all this year. Those that did had their flowers quickly dried out by the savage weather before pollination could occur, so seed is very scarce too.

Another increasingly scarce resource is insects. For a long while after I first came to live at Wamboin, if the outside light was left on at night for an hour or two clouds of moths and beetles would be drawn to it: last week when I came home after the Community Association meeting, two hours of bright light had attracted just two very small moths. This lack of insects must be having a profound effect on bats, frogs and night-flying birds. Bats were once a common sight on summer evenings, circling the house in search of flying insects, but I haven't seen any so far this year.

The lizards, however, still seem to be finding something to eat – there are Jacky Lizards scuttling around, and the family of Cunningham's Skinks can still be seen sunning themselves on the big log along the creek. And, last month, I found a Stone Gecko underneath a large rock. These little lizards, easily identified by the short rather bulbous tail, brown flanks and wide grey zig-zag pattern along the back, used to be quite common here. I hadn't seen one for several years, and assumed that as the trees and shrubs grew back the land was a less suitable habitat for them, so it was nice to find they are still around.

The birds are still busy nesting or feeding their fledgling young. A pair of Wood Ducks are teaching their ducklings to live dangerously, shepherding their brood along the edges of Poppet Road. The two Pacific Black Ducks that had been visiting and feeding here for some time have disappeared during the last week, hopefully nesting somewhere. A pair of Welcome Swallows spent an hour or so investigating the eaves around my house, but didn't find a suitable nesting site. Then, a few days ago, I heard a flapping noise as I walked around the corner of the house – two White Ibis had just landed in the dead stringybark tree. They spent a while examining and pulling at the dry twigs, then flapped away.

Last week, I was standing by the window watching the kangaroos on the hillside across the creek when two female Swamp Wallabies hopped over to nibble at a briar bush nearby, one with a joey at foot, the other with one in her pouch. A movement down near the creek caught my eye – and a female Red-necked Wallaby and her joey moved into sight. Three species of macropods sharing the same hillside seems to indicate that Wamboin is a pretty good place to be, in spite of the drought!

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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

It feels like the end of summer, it certainly looks like the end of summer, but according to my calendar, spring has a few more days to run. I was beginning to think that we'd missed a season this year, but as if to prove me wrong, we had four seasons within a week in the middle of the month. Out came the doonas and the not quite mothballed jumpers, and I watched soft flakes of snow flutter down. The cold snap and accompanying rain washed away all gloom for a day or so. If only I'd been more prepared, I might have snatched that window of opportunity to boil my Christmas pudding but alas, I hadn't thought of soaking the dried fruits at that stage. I fear the fruit will be very well soaked this year, waiting for a cool day to cook it.

I'm trying to keep up the watering, but it's a balancing act. Yet, if you don't look too closely, the garden is still rather pretty. Most of the roses have faded, those that withstood the nightly invasion, but there is plenty of cheer. The petunias are flowering, the potato vine is covered with white, there is lavender and the yellow curry bushes have begun to flower. Some plants, which in better times I had pulled out because they were "weeds" are now providing wonderful cover and depth. A weed, after all, is only relative. I've even got one lupin flowering and although the kangaroos have been reduced to raiding petunias, the petunias are holding their own. One surprise is to discover that the agapanthus are already forming heads. I've never had agapanthus at Christmas. We won't have potatoes, though. We only got around to planting the last of them, yesterday.

But looking beyond the garden and the dry creek bed, and focussing on things other than drought, I've started walking with the Wobblers. It is amazing what you can learn when you walk through the bush. I've learned a lot more about the nature of fires and how to be more prepared around your home. I've been introduced to nanotechnology, the best way to plant potatoes, eucalypt identification and gained a few tips on chook husbandry. As a consequence, one family member has been getting more exercise than a month at the gym, moving woodpiles and raking up leaf and bark litter, the chooks are now laying again, and I'm about to begin my second lesson in nanotechnology! I didn't realise that our morning throng of birds, magpies, choughs, galahs and parrots to name a few, had been terrorising the chooks. A new nesting box has made all the difference. The lawnmower no longer has its grass catcher, but there's no lawn to mow, now, anyway! I've also found out about the original farming family in our area, and a mulberry tree that they brought from England, as a cutting, which is still bearing fruit...and what's more, the juice doesn't stain.

As the "Silly Season" looms and there are cakes and puddings to be made, rooms to re configure and beds to be found for the sudden influx of happy holiday bodies, I am reminded that it really is the time to be jolly, and I jolly well intend to be just that.

I wouldn't live anywhere else....and let's face it, I haven't a hope of doing otherwise, at least until after Christmas. Have a happy and joyful Christmas.

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