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

**Contributions to the Whisper:** Contributions from all residents are encouraged, valued and the main content of the newsletter. The current editor is Ned Noel, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 0409 997 082. Paul Downey of Cooper Road also shares in doing the editing. Please email contributions to either [whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au](mailto:whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au) or to [nednoel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au) or mail them or drop them off. On contentious matters the Wamboin Community Association will strive to maintain a balanced view, by seeking advice from the editorial team and by seeking alternative views to be published in the same edition. The deadline for each issue is the last Sunday night of the month before, so the **deadline for the November 2020 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, October 25<sup>th</sup>**. **Advertising prices**, per issue, based on rough fraction of inside the margins A4 area: 1/8 \$24 1/6 \$29 1/4 \$35 1/3 \$44 1/2 \$70 2/3 \$87 Full Page \$140. email or phone inquiries to the editor as above.

### Bywong and Wamboin Facilities and Contacts

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

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<b>Geary's Gap Pony Club</b>	Cameron Smith	0419 449 747	
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<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Andrew Stainlay - JP	0408 469 880	<a href="mailto:stains@bigpond.net.au">stains@bigpond.net.au</a>
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<b>Table Tennis</b>	Mike Muston	0406 606 238	<a href="mailto:mikemuston@gmail.com">mikemuston@gmail.com</a>
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<b>Wamboin Thurs Social Grp</b>	Denise Hales	0400 310 685	<a href="mailto:deniselynnhales40@gmail.com">deniselynnhales40@gmail.com</a>
<b>Wonderful Women of Wamboin</b>	Gail Ritchie Knight	0416 097 500	<a href="mailto:whirlwind1@argonite.com.au">whirlwind1@argonite.com.au</a>
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**Young Entrepreneurs:** Rebecca Purdie - pet/horse sitting 6238 3343 Alex Lea - Pet & House Sitting, Gardening 6236 9657 or 0439 219 865  
 Kathleen Dunkerley - baby sitting - 0435 794 070 [kathleen.dunkerly07@gmail.com](mailto:kathleen.dunkerly07@gmail.com)

Author: Catherine Bird

# Key herbs for LAMINITIS support



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For correct dosage rates on the herbs mentioned in this article please contact Carol when placing your order.

Copyright: Catherine Bird, who is also the author of *A Healthy Horse the Natural Way*, has been an equine natural therapist for 27 years working closely with Country Park Animal Herbs for over 13 years offering advice to their clients.

Disclaimer: The information provided in this article is for educational purpose only and is not meant to replace veterinary advice or treatment.

02 6238 1135 Carol

07 5596 4387 Ruth



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Ad-Design Sandy Morphet



Well spring has not exactly sprung as yet. On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> we had a day as cold as any in winter this year and even a brief snowfall in the higher parts of Wamboin. The rain keeps coming which is a very welcome addition to green the landscape in contrast to this time last year. A few things are slowly edging back to normal with our first markets resuming in September and in November we will be resuming our WCA general meetings back in the hall.

It makes me think whether this will make a paradigm shift in the way we work and as workplaces transition with back to office plans, how many will actually continue to remaining working from home. Can I schedule a teams or zoom meeting? Maybe we need to start a work from home social group?

**Wamboin Home Produce markets** – The markets are back. Our September market was a great success with a number of new stalls due to other markets still being closed. It was great to grab a coffee from Lou to kick off the morning to start the cerebral activity and the hall was set up for a one way flow (with sign in and hand sanitiser at the entry). It was great to see the array of locally handmade wood products on display and I came home with a very nice turned wooden pen. Make sure you make it down to the October market on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October.

**Sutton Road** – well it seems the RMS have changed the speed limit for Sutton Road from Sutton Village to Norton Road with little or no consultation. Be careful as the road still looks a 100 kph environment and it is easy to speed. The local smokey bears have been patrolling the road of late so please remember the new speed limit. The WCA is writing to the NSW RMS to ask for an explanation to the change and the warrant for the reduced speed.

**Christmas Carols Cancelled** – Unfortunately due to the Covid-19 uncertainty going forward and the planning required we have cancelled the Christmas Carols at the hall. We realise this will be a disappointment but we really could not make it work with the restrictions and format of the evening. Like many other events we will look forward to recommencing in 2021.

**Our local Businesses** – Please take the time to support our local businesses this spring. The local wineries in particular are welcoming visitors this spring, so make it a point to support our locals by having a meal or buying some local wine. They are our local community and support many community events so let's support them.

**The QPRC Mobile Library** has resumed at the Wamboin Hall. The Service visits there on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, 10.30 to 11.30am. As you would expect, the Mobile Library bus is well set up and COVID-19 Safe. There is seating if you have to wait and a sanitising station provided outside the bus. This is a case of use-it-or-lose-it!

**Thursday Drop in Group** - The Thursday drop in group is very close to recommencing in late October. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for details.

**WCAG** – please find a project update in this edition of the Whisper

**WCA Meetings** –The WCA will resume monthly general meetings in the Wamboin Hall on 17 November 2020, subject to this still being permitted under the Covid-19 safety regulations. A Covid-19 safety plan has been developed and will be implemented for the meeting. Please see our website or Facebook pages closer to the date for updates.

*We are still Wamboin !!* - Peter Evans – Somewhat less isolated President.

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## CONTENTIOUS CHARACTER

# Spring Out!

We're OPEN Thursday to Saturday from 11am – 9pm, and Sundays from 11am - 5pm.

Every Thursday is Trivia Night, with happy hour drinks & pizza available. Stick around for the finale on 3 Dec!

**12 Sep - 11 Oct : Floriade comes to Wamboin!**

Bring on spring amongst the budding vines, daisies & tulips in our outdoor pavilions, sip on champagne and oysters, or try one of our special springtime menus

Every Sunday 13 Sept - 11 Oct

Jasper & Myrtle chocolate & wine tastings. Morning session at 11am, & afternoons at 4pm. \$45pp

Sun 18 Oct Namaste Rose with Kingston Yoga, class & brunch 9-11am \$60pp

Fri 2 Oct - NightFeast - celebrating Floriade Re-Imagined with the Floriade menu and wood fired pizzas

Mon 5 Oct Monday Public Holiday OPEN

Mon 5 Oct Monday Public Holiday - Namaste Rose Kingston Yoga Retreat & lunch 9-1pm \$99pp

Sat 17 Oct 70's Fondue Party - Dress up and have fun \$70pp

Sat 31 Oct Kid's Halloween Party with lunch or dinner available for Mum & Dad 11am and 6pm

Tues 3 Nov Melbourne Cup Lunch 2pm onwards get the work team back together for a team building day! Packages available

Thurs 5 Nov Sip, Swirl & Learn RIEDEL Workshop

Sat 19 Dec Holy Trinity Cheesemaking lesson, pairing & lunch

OPEN OVER XMAS! Talk to us about your private events!

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## Bywong Community Association News – October 2020

### Bywong and Wamboin WHEELY CHALLENGE

Don't leave it too late:- It's time to **unleash your inner artist**, and create your entry to the **Bywong and Wamboin WHEELY CHALLENGE**. The brain-child of Bywong artist JP Favre, the competition has 3 x \$100 prizes for: Best Primary Student Sculpture; Best Secondary Student Sculpture and Best Local Sculpture. The rules are simple:

- Make a sculpture / montage that includes at least one old wheel (car, bike, trolley)
- Display your creation until 30 November on the boundary of your property where it is visible to passe-by.

To enter, send a photo of your sculpture along with your Name, Age, Address and Sculpture Title to:

[wheelsculpture@bywongcommunity.org.au](mailto:wheelsculpture@bywongcommunity.org.au) by 31 October. Entries will be displayed on the BCA webpage. Winners will be announced in the December Whisper and local social media, with prizes presented at the BCA Christmas Gathering scheduled for Friday 4 December.

Come on, Bywong/Wamboin: if enough of us join in, we can turn the locality into a 'rural sculpture park' in November! The Bywong Community Association 2020 Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 15th September at the Bywong Hall, Birriwa Road. All Committee positions were declared vacant and elections returned the following office holders: President, Mike Wilkins; Secretary Steve Walker; Treasurer Peter Zimmerman; Committee members: Attilio Sciannimanica, Jeanette Krahl.

After many years of energetic work, John-Pierre "JP" Favre is retiring from the BCA. JP has been involved with BCA and its predecessor community groups for around 38 years, including drawing the plans for the Bywong Hall and being part of the team of locals who built the structure! In the past few years he has become a prolific sketcher of local scenes, pets and personalities. He organised and ran a sell-out series of classes on Sketching for Beginners at the Hall, and even built a set of easels using grant funding. JP's teatowel and postcard designs continue to provide a steady source of income for BCA. Overall, it is hard to express how much the local community has benefited from the efforts of such a talented and energetic volunteer. Thank You, JP - we hope you will join us at future BCA events as a Celebrity Guest!

Stay well and stay connected to friends and acquaintances in the area.

- **Mike Wilkins President, Bywong Community Association**  
0417458320 Email: [president@bywongcommunity.org.au](mailto:president@bywongcommunity.org.au)

### HEY KIDS, YOUNG AND OLD!

#### Are you 'wheelie creative?'

Surely, somewhere in your shed, under the house, or in the old dunny, you have an old wheel lying around, perhaps off a car, wheel barrow, bicycle or ride-on mower?

Well, here's your chance to get 'wheelie creative' and build a sculpture: it can represent something obvious or be an abstract collection of bits and pieces. You can weld, glue, paint, polish, bend and twist...we don't care as long as it has at least one wheel!

Kids, as well as one prize for Best Local Sculpture, there will be prizes for Best Primary Student Sculpture and Best Secondary Student Sculpture, so nag mum and dad if you need help to build your creation! Each of the three prizes will be \$100

To enter, send us a photo of your sculpture (which must be mounted and displayed near the entrance gate of the property, where passers-by can see it), along with your Name, Age, Address and your Sculpture's Title to: [wheelsculpture@bywongcommunity.org.au](mailto:wheelsculpture@bywongcommunity.org.au).

Competition entries will close on 31 October 2020.



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# The Wamboin Firefighter

## Bush fire season guidelines -- 24th September 2020

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) is reminding Lake George District (QPRC) residents that fire permits are required during the statutory Bush Fire Danger Period. NSW RFS Superintendent Paul Jones said hotter and drier conditions mean fires are more likely to start and spread quickly during the Bush Fire Danger Period, which officially begins on 1 October.

“From now until the end of the Bush Fire Danger Period, people wishing to light a fire in the open will require a permit, which are free and can be obtained from your local fire station or Fire Control Centre,” Supt. Paul Jones said. “When conditions are particularly bad, such as on days of Severe, Extreme or Catastrophic Fire Danger, the NSW RFS may declare a Total Fire Ban, prohibiting the lighting of any fire in the open, even if you have a fire permit.” On a day of Total Fire Ban the lighting of fires is prohibited. This includes cooking fires using incinerators and barbecues which burn solid fuel, such as wood or charcoal.

Gas or electric barbecues are permitted during a Total Fire Ban under the following conditions:

- › They are on residential property within 20 metres of the house or dwelling, or
- › They are in a picnic area and the appliance is approved by Council, National Parks and Wildlife Services or State Forest, and
- › They are under the direct control of a responsible adult, and
- › The ground around a barbecue is cleared for 2 metres of all material which could burn, and › You have an immediate and continuous supply of water available.

“We urge all residents in the Lake George District area to be vigilant and extremely careful with fire during the Bush Fire Danger Period,” Supt. Paul Jones said. “Every resident should have a Bush Fire Survival Plan so they know what to do on days of increased fire danger and can immediately put their plan into action if their home is threatened by fire.” Information about Total Fire Ban declarations is published at [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au). Locals can also call the Lake George Fire Control Centre on 6128 0600 (bh) or the Bushfire Information Line on 1800 NSW RFS (1800 679 737).

### USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

**Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade:** <http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au>


**Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade is on Face Book**

Classifieds
<b>FOUND</b> at the end of Bingley Way , one walking stick. Phone 0417 212 291.
WCA Electronic Noticeboard: The WCA electronic noticeboard is a convenient way to keep up with community activities. Subscribe by visiting the WCA website at <a href="http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/noticeboard">http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/noticeboard</a>
FOR HIRE: BYWONG COMMUNITY HALL. Suitable for smaller functions and seminars, groups etc. Check availability and booking information on <a href="http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au">www.bywongcommunity.org.au</a> . or email the booking officer at <a href="mailto:lrhallbywong@gmail.com">lrhallbywong@gmail.com</a> .
FOR HIRE:- from Wamboin Community Hall - 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin, - Trestles and chairs. All damages are the responsibility of the Hirer. Must be securely tied during transportation - or they don't go! Contact person is Joan Mason 6238-3258
Whisper Classifieds are available at no charge to Bywong and Wamboin residents to run for one or two months. Long running classifieds may incur a slight charge. Email your classified to <a href="mailto:whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au">whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au</a> or phone editor on 0409 997 082




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"Ellie is extremely easy to work with, clear with information honest and a great communicator. I felt like I knew what was going on all the time. The plan changed frequently due to market changes and this was always clear to me."

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## *It Really is A Dog's Life*

Hello again. Molly here to report on a very active couple of months. It's a wet and cold day today – we even had some snow – so it seems like a good time for me to write my article.

The temperatures have changed a lot. Since I last wrote to you, I've learned more about water in all its forms. There's a dam on Jack's Break which Gretta and I like to paddle in – actually Gretta swims but I still don't do that. One morning on our walks it was frozen – not actually solid but there was ice across the whole surface. You have to be slow and careful to be able to break the ice before taking a step or three to get the pine cone one of our owners threw, without getting too very wet. Gretta didn't really want to go near the ice. Luckily I retrieved the pine cone.

In between lots of walks in Kowen Forest, I'm having a lot of lessons in retrieving balls and sticks from dams. If I don't, then I don't get another game ☹. So it's a good lesson to learn. One of Gretta's owners thinks I can learn lots of things so she's working hard on that while my owner does trail work.

Doing trail work in warmer weather makes our owners nervous – they are afraid we'll see snakes. I've not seen one so far. But I've discovered I'm very successful at sniffing out shingle back lizards. I have found lots at my home. Especially after the grass is whipper snipped. I try not to go too close to them. Finding them helps my owner teach me about LEAVE! She thinks that might be another good lesson to learn because there can be dangerous creatures when the weather warms up. I now only really go out on my own in the early morning when it's cool. Not spending lots of time by myself is not all bad because I love company... and cuddles.

We went walking 'on lead' (more lessons!!) along the river in Queanbeyan. One of Bailey's owners told us about a lovely riverside path for us to explore. When we went, it was 'under construction' so we couldn't get all the way to the Ellerton Drive Extension bridge. Near the bridge the river is more like wetlands than flowing. I learned that makes the water murky. Then the pollen falls on the water. And it looks just like the solid ground. But it's NOT – I got very wet learning that lesson. I even had to dog paddle... just a bit.

My owner thinks I need to be better at meeting other dogs so I am having more 'urban walks'. We don't end up going very far even though we walk about the same amount of time as on a Kowen walk. There are just too many smells to smell, bikes to dodge and people to meet. We went to a wobbly bridge in Weston Park. I didn't like that – neither did Gretta – so we managed to convince our owners that we needed to turn back. Phew!

I also went on a different bridge in Queanbeyan after watching the swans make their new nest. (They seem to have lost their first 2 babies but are looking to build another nest and try to have more babies. I hope they succeed because I'd like to see if the babies are as big as the ducks on my dam.) The bridge is very wide and very noisy and very SCARY!!! It's got trucks and cars and the water is a long *long* way down. I froze but then managed to run to the other side – my owner doesn't like running but she did so I didn't stay scared for too very long. I hope we don't have to cross that bridge again. I don't mind the suspension bridge – you can sometimes see odd looking creatures swimming there. Apparently they are called platypus – I watched a TV show on them a little while ago. I saw two on one crossing.

Have I mentioned my new friend? She's gorgeous. I think that's because she's a kelpie too!!! Her name is Daisy and she's 7 months younger than me. She lives near me. She has a very big field which is fenced and safe for us to play in. We have lots of fun there. I can find old bones and lizards and things like that. I am also teaching her some dog things because she was very young when her puppy Mummy decided farm work was MUCH more fun than child rearing. Daisy now knows how to sniff tufts of grass, act disinterested, sit for treats, sniff puppy bottoms, take it in turns to win at games, find the pocket with treats and she's also got very good at jumping on me!!! That's ok. She needs to do that if I act too disinterested. She is getting very fast at running but for now I am faster. One day we are planning to play with Wilma the greyhound. We're not sure who will be quickest. I can tell you later...

Daisy's owners think she should 'socialise in urban environments' too. They've been investigating dog parks. We all went to a dog park this week. It was better in the smaller yard really – some of the big dogs are a bit too big, especially for Daisy (I tried to be very brave... but maybe I didn't quite succeed...). We're going to a different one this week. You go for coffee afterwards.

Coffee seems very important to humans. We go to the local bakery quite a bit and the humans all have coffee. I like games at the bakery – well not actually *at* the bakery... on the oval opposite. There's a children's playground there too so I am getting used to toddlers. I have two nice 2 year old friends. One thinks I'm a bit too bouncy – but he is learning to throw balls for me. I have to remember he can't throw very far... yet... My other toddler friend has a dog and he's better at keeping me under control. He knows how to get me to sit and come and tells me 'NO!' if I get too bouncy.

I've missed seeing some of my canine friends. They've had operations so have been kept quiet. Bailey was better with his wound so didn't have to wear one of those awful collars for days and days. We had jumping cuddles when we saw each other again. He's bouncy like me. Trixie had to wear a collar after her operation. When I saw that, I was quite clever because I remembered it meant I had to be very careful when I greeted her. I could still lick her face and she didn't mind that so I was happy.

I'm learning a new game – not really a game – a puzzle filled way of making sure I amuse myself and get fed when my owner goes out. She puts some of my bikkies in my 'treat dispensers' and mixes some with some wet food in my 'stuff toys'. Then she puts the stuff toys in containers with lids and then everything goes in a very big box, with a lid. And the box and I get put in my bedroom. And

she goes out. Sometimes for quite a while. I haven't managed to solve all the puzzles yet. But I am getting better. And I get tired so I sleep on my bed rather than chew it. My owner calls this 'success' – she's glad she hasn't needed to buy me a new bed, just treats ☺

I'm so lucky to have learnt I don't need to live anywhere else. - Molly (with quite a bit of help from Jenny) *Full name supplied*

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## Wamboin Golf – September 2020

Sunday 6 September. The other day my old school mate, Percy Shelley, accosted me outside the Lake George and, without preamble, declaimed as follows: “When Winter comes can Spring be far behind?” Now I don’t know about you but that struck me as a blinding flash of the obvious. So not to be outdone I riposted thus: “Spring has sprung, the grass has risen and we’re doing ‘bird’ in a COVID prison”. I was particularly proud of ‘bird’ which echoed the avian reference in the second line of the original couplet. I pointed this out to Bysshe – that’s what we called him at school – but all he said was “truth and beauty are cattered damage in doggerel poetry”, and sauntered off. He’s right of course. His own elegant enquiry expresses a yearning for a better time when the earth, gently fanned by fragrant zephyrs, bursts with renewed fecundity. It is also an allegory of our own yearning to be rid of the pestilence now assailing our world. And so we rejoice in the coming of Spring and its great harbinger the, R&A Wamboin GC Spring Trophy sponsored by Joan and Lofty Mason. We thank them both for the prizes and the food, especially Joan’s legendary Spring Rolls. The trophy, which features two pram springs, would ornament any pool room, mantle piece or cistern. The day’s play was a three-club Stableford. And so the lusty golfers of the region mounted their unicorns, and singing ‘Nymphs and Shepherds Come Away’, dashed into the abundant fertility and tumbling rivers, creeks, cascades and waterfalls of a Wamboin Spring.

Back at camp, as the captain sorted out the untruths from the equivocations, we assessed well-fed Treasurer Rogan Josh Friesanburger’s efforts to bring the economy back from the dead. We agreed it was a noble cause. Based on figures promptly provided from memory by live-wire Aged Care Minister, Dicky Colbeck, COVID infections, recoveries and deaths are each statistically insignificant relative to population. On the other hand, real unemployment, currently greater than 10% of the workforce (and climbing), is a statistically significant result of the persistent decline of GDP over two quarters, otherwise known as a recession. There is nothing insignificant about dying alone, either for the fatally infected or their excluded, grieving families. But neither should the country die of attrition with all its terrible consequences. Without a productive sector earning income (to consume), save (so that others may invest) and pay taxes (so the public sector can continue its work) the economy (i.e. all of us) is headed for the S bend. We agreed to cut the civil authority some slack as it went about its business of solving intractable problems.

The captain introduced our guests Kyle Griffin, scion of a local golfing family, Monty Verdi, Bywong handyman (“If it ain’t Baroque don’t fix it”) and Will Kanya from out West. Victoria Still (an allegory for the lockdown state?) told the Ted Evans memorial joke. The googly ball went to Kyle Griffin for a drive from the tee at Pine Slice which nearly flat-lined Pete Harrison playing on the



next fairway (Short ‘n Sweet). Kyle was also awarded the dummy spit for disputing the reprimand for not calling “fore!” Your correspondent got the encouragement award (long, boring story). NTP and LD ball winners were Glen Crafter 2, Vicki Still 2, Keith France 2, Joan Mason, Kyle Griffin, Tim Barter and Colin Urquhart. First across the line in the junior nine hole comp was the diminutive but talented Robert Thompson with 22 Stableford points from runner-up on 18 points, “Big Al” Gordon (his parents live in fear of another growth spurt). The family theme continued in the senior nine hole comp with Ken Gordon in the winner’s circle on 18 from Deb Gordon on 16. The winner of the 18 hole comp was Paul Griffin 41 from that other burglar, Colin Urquhart 39. Paul also won the Spring Trophy and gets to keep the Ned Kelly award, the burglar’s highest accolade.

Next month is October. So bring your beer steins to the community hall on Bingley Way at 12 .15 pm on Sunday, 4 October. We’ll kick off at 12.30pm sharp. Physical distancing will be observed. Meanwhile let’s hope that Scom and Rogan Josh can get the states to forget their AAA credit ratings and share the heavy fiscal lifting to kick the economy along. Those premiers are all closer than a dead heat. - **Larry King, golfer**

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### Sutton Landcare

The next SLG meeting will be held on 13 October. The presentation will be given by Alice McGlashan, about different nest box designs, materials to use, and local native hollow using animals – birds and mammals.

Alice has set up a comprehensive website, [Nest Box Tales](#), for anyone who wants to learn about which native animals use tree hollows and how to make and install nest boxes. There are numerous nest box design for different hollow using animals. She also runs a Facebook group, called Nest Box Tales, where people share photos, experiences and ask for advice.

Over 300 of our native species in Australia use tree hollows. Of these, 114 or 15% of our native bird species use tree hollows, the majority for nesting purposes. Some bird species, including Masked Owls, Sooty Owls, Australian Owlet-Nightjars and White-Throated Treecreepers also roost in tree hollows year-round. The availability of tree hollows has been significantly reduced across the landscape by wide-spread tree clearing. Where habitat is re-growing, there are few old hollow-bearing trees to enable hollow nesting bird species to breed, or to provide hollow sleeping spots for arboreal mammals.

Alice’s talk will be a show-and-tell presentation, with a combination of videos, nest box examples and some background.

We hope you can join us on 13 October at Sutton Public School from 7:30 pm. If you feel uncomfortable joining us in person, you can follow the presentation via Zoom. Please contact us via email on [sutton.landcare@gmail.com](mailto:sutton.landcare@gmail.com) and we will email you the registration details. With the COVID-19 rules in place, we will not be able to follow our presentation with supper, but there will be an opportunity to ask questions. We hope to see you there. - **Arnold Dekker, Coordinator - Sutton Landcare Group**

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Thank you, Beth Hope, for delivering Whispers to Gum Flat Lane for a long time. Jessica Gourlay has generously offered take a turn delivering them now. Thank you Cheryl and Dave Steele for delivering 34 Whisper to Fenloff Road mailboxes for a long time. Thank you Dave Power for volunteering to do this task. Without the month by month donation of time by our fellow residents listed below, it would not be possible for Wamboin and Bywong to have the Whisper. If you enjoy finding this community owned newsletter in your mailbox, and if you see someone putting it there, think about thanking her or him. It is the only pay they will get.

Advertisers in the Whisper pay their not so easy to earn income to offer you what they sell. Please give them consideration when you want to buy a good or a service they offer.

The articles you read in the Whisper are written by Wamboin and Bywong residents to inform or entertain you. If you read something you like, think about letting the author know. It's the only pay they will get. – Ned Noel, volunteer editor

### 172: CO-ORDINATED BY ALICE SCOTT: ph 0407 005 506 email alicescott@bigpond.com

Fay Kelly	Norton West Area from Cmpbl Pl	20	Christine Rieber	Cooper Rd	26
Dave Power	Fenloff Rd	34	Vicki Still	Canning Cl	15
Andrea Sadow	Poppet Rd	33	Alan Rope	Sutton Rd	44

### 180: CO-ORDINATED BY KATHY HANDEL: ph 6238 3596 khandel@bigpond.net.au

Joan Mason	Bingley Way	44	Margaret Hekeimin	Merino Vale Dr	19
Sue Ward	Norton Rd (Bingley to Weeroona)	32	Anne Gardner	Weeroona Dr (Norton to Majors)	31
Kathy Handel	Norton(Wrona2 Hilltop+Wirndra)	22	Phileeson&CFogarty	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	32

### 231: CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER: ph 6238 3489

Lesley Page	Valley View Ln	4	Deb Gordon	Yalana East	45
Colleen Foster	B'dore Rd to Nrtn Rd	22	Rob Henry	South end Clare Valley	41
Cassie Fisher	Clare Ln	12	Lyle Montesin	The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks	65
Dominica Lorima	North end Clare Valley	42			

### 149: CO-ORDINATED BY JESSICA GOURLAY: mob: 0401 249 778 jessicagourlay@hotmail.com.au

Robyn Elsom	Denley Dr (Sth End to 429)	15	Rhonda&NevParnell	Denley (Birchmans to 1/2 way to end)	26
Maria Taylor & Ned Noel	Birriwa Rd & Macs Rf to Harriott	18	Jessica Gourlay	Gum Flat Ln	6
Connie & Hans Bachor	Dnly Dr to Macs Rf incl Bchm Gr	21	Tony Bond	HoganDr/OranaDr/Yuranga Dr	49
Liza Davis	Macs Reef Birriwa to Harriott	14			

### 103: CO-ORDINATED BY GARETH JONES: ph Ph: 6238 1988 givrjones@bigpond.com

Nora Stewart	Rovere Ln	7	Sandra Favre	Newwington Rd	20
Daryl Bourke	Harriot Rd	25	Don Malcolmson	Macs Reef Rd (Denley to Gum Flat)	7
Carol & Clive Boughton	Macs Reef (Bankers2 Fed Hwy)	33	Cheryl Warnock	Macs Reef Rd (Nwington2 Bankers)	11

### 157: CO-ORDINATED BY IAN COILLET ph 6238 3425 lodestar@ozemail.com.au

Peter Huckstepp	Federal HwSvcRd	22	Louise Baldwin	Wattle Flat Rd	11
Lyn Parkinson	Bidges/Hickey/OldGoldMines	50	Penny & Russell Ball	Macs Reef (Denley Dr to Bungdr Rd)	20
Glen Dorahy	Sutton Park Estate	53	Fire Brigade	Headquarters on Bingley Way	1

### 146: CO-ORDINATED BY DAVID FEATHERSTONE ph 6236 97223 bushranger\_au@hotmail.com

Chris Fowler	Millyn Rd	20	David Featherston	B'doreRd SmHill to&nclgdCrkBRd	28
Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	24	Leigh & Derek Morris	Wyoming & Doust Rds	40
Kerrie Gougeon	B'dore Rd (CreekB to Fed Hwy)	34			

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

Diana Griffin	Majors Close	19	Judy Smith	Weeroona (254 – 400)	18
Diana Boswell	DonnellyRd 29 & Grove Rd 9	38	Susie and Brad Edwards	Weeroona (417-512)	17
Attila & Cherry Hrgsi.	Snowgum Road	27	Murray Goodridge	B'dore Rd (MRR to&nclgd Smrhill)	38
Advertisers & Misc	Out of area advertiser mailouts	33			

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If you notice a nest or swarm in a place where you don't think bees should be, please, please, please don't harm or spray them – let them bee! (sorry, bee puns are mandatory) – then call me. I will come and work with you to safely collect them, at no charge.

PS: If I am not able to answer the phone, please send me a text message and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Adrian Meijer, 0427 101 550.

### WAMBOIN WEATHER – rainfall and temperature records

(45 years from Cooper Road) by Christine Rieber

#### September Rainfall Stats

September rainfall to the 27<sup>th</sup> ..... 34.75mm  
2020 total rainfall to 27<sup>th</sup> ..... 583.50mm

#### October Rainfall Stats

2019 October rainfall..... 21.75mm  
Wettest October..... 198.5mm in 1976  
Wettest October day... 59mm on 17/10/76  
Driest October..... 4.5mm in 2006

#### October Temperature Stats

Hottest October day.... 32.4°C on 31/10/19  
Coldest October day.... 6°C on 11/10/12  
(snowed)  
Average day temperature..... 18.6°C  
Warmest October ..... 2017  
Av. day temp. 22.8°C & nights 8.0°C  
(high. 23.7°C in 19) (high. 9.4°C in 77)

Average September rainfall..... 62.2mm  
2019 September rainfall..... 37.75mm  
2019 total rainfall to 27/9..... 302.5mm  
44yr Av. to end of September... 486.9mm

Average October rainfall..... 57.5mm  
Average no. rain days in October..... 9.1  
Highest no. rain days..... 22 in 1976  
Lowest no. rain days..... 2 in 2006

Av. Oct. temp... 12.9°C (day+night comb.)  
Hottest October night.... 17°C 29/10/77  
Coldest October night..... -2°C (2 times)  
on 18/10/13, 14/10/14  
Average night temperature..... 7.3°C  
Coldest October ..... 2012  
Av. day temp. 16.9°C & nights 3.2°C  
(lowest... 15.8°C in 2009)  
Oct. 2019. Av. max 23.7°C & min 6.9°C

September 2020 was warmer than average. The average maximum temperature (until 26<sup>th</sup>) was 17.7°C which is 3.4°C above the 44-year average. The average minimum temperature (until 27<sup>th</sup>) was 5.6°C which is 1°C above the 44-year average. The hottest days and nights in September are typically recorded in the last week, so we are on track for the warmest September on record (average maximum of 18.6°C recorded in 2018 and minimum of 6.3°C recorded in 2001).



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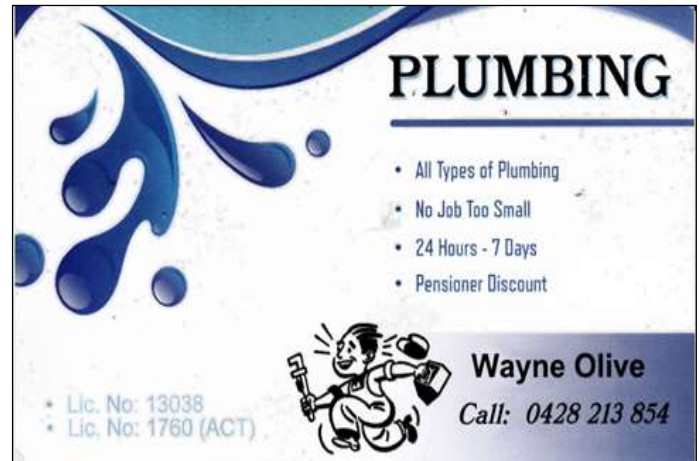
### **IF THE ROAD SIGNS ARE UP – IT'S ON!**

Despite Covid regulations the first market of the season in September was a knock out! We were very lucky with the weather and so were able to split stalls between the hall and outside. We welcomed several new stallholders with some great varieties of woodwork to admire. Many items at the market are ideal for gifts – or like me - purchased just because you'd love a new, beautifully crafted chopping board! There was a good mix of stalls selling garden produce, home baking, craft, cards, cut flowers, plants (lots of excellent plants for spring planting), jewellery and more. Egg and bacon rolls/sausage rolls sold out fast and coffee and scones and some delicious doughnuts kept the wolf from the door.

Because we were required to take the names and contacts of those attending the market we could count up how many people came – 159 including the stallholders – unbelievable! These included quite a few people from Canberra – out for a spring drive and something to do. Many thanks to everyone for following the Covid requirements and making it an easy, safe and happy market morning.

By October there will be more garden produce on offer and plenty of those locally made craft items to store away as Christmas gifts. We will continue to encourage outdoor stalls, young entrepreneurs and will of course continue to comply with the current Covid regulations.

*We look forward to welcoming you back – see you at the market!*




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## Wamboin Communications Action Group – September Update

It's been four months since our last post on the fibre broadband network project for the Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton Communities, so it's time for a quick update on our community fibre network project.

Firstly, I hope this note finds you and your family well and coping with the Covid-19 restrictions and its consequences. In that context, the poor state of our telecommunications infrastructure has been brought into sharp focus. Most residents have been spending much more time trying to work from home lately and the lack of high speed and/or reliable broadband (or any internet at all), has prevented us from doing so. This experience has starkly demonstrated the limitations of the internet service, such as it is, on which residents increasingly depend. Many of you have reached out to us to point out just how impossible it has been to participate in teleconferences, connect to the office, allow your children to participate in online learning needs (especially when the schools were closed), or simply do your email. These needs were a part of what drove the WCAG to lobby the NSW Government for our Fibre network some years ago. Community safety was another aspect and, if the fires last summer taught us anything, it is that communications are critical in both defence and recovery and, as the residents of the south coast learnt, you can't rely on wireless internet or 4G.

So where are we at with our network? For those not familiar with the project, the NSW Government is supporting the construction of a fibre network to connect residences and businesses in the Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton Communities. An 'Expression of Interest' was released on 22 April to the market – asking for telecommunications providers to put forward proposals that encompassed the technical, costing and operational elements of establishing our network. Those proposals are now being considered. The WCAG committee met (virtually) with the Government Project team last month and, based on the advice we were provided, it seems that there has been a very positive range of proposals put forward. Due to the nature of government procurement processes we are unable to say more at this point.

The next stage of the process is to select the organisation to build and operate our new fibre network. We understand that they expect to be in a position to make this decision by the end of the year and to have contracts in place by early 2021 – hopefully with construction commencing shortly afterwards.

The key aspects of our fibre network include:

- The termination point to be within the residence
- Minimum speed of 100/40 Mbps
- Service levels equivalent to metropolitan NSW
- A viable and sustainable pricing and product mix (that should align and provide equivalence) with metropolitan Sydney CBD

Over the last 18 months, WCAG has repeatedly stated its concern to government representatives, the project team, and to our local member, John Barilaro, in regard to the importance and urgency of having this network in place. The combination of Covid-19 and the Christmas/New Year bush fires have certainly demonstrated how our communities are exposed and residents compromised in their capacity to continue to work and support their families and local businesses. With the fire season fast approaching again, and Covid related restriction likely to continue into the new year, we are still no better placed. Many of you have contacted us to express these sorts of concerns and we have certainly passed these on.

In closing, the project is making progress but certainly not at the speed we believe is necessary to meet the urgent needs of residents and businesses in Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton. The WCAG will continue to meet with the project team over the remainder of the year to represent the community's interests and, in particular, push for an acceleration of the projects schedule.

We will keep you posted on significant developments as they happen.


\*\*\*\*\*

**Breaking News Addendum** - On 23 September 2020, the Federal Government made a number of announcements about upgrades to the NBN. This included that NBN would establish a dedicated \$300 million fund for regional co-investment alongside state/territory governments and local councils to improve broadband services for rural and regional communities. This announcement stated that this decision represented “a dedicated source of funding to partner with [state] governments, enabling NBN Co to generate a threshold commercial return on its contributed capital through the application of co-investment funding.”

The WCAG has spoken to our Project team in the NSW Government about the implications of this announcement for us. They confirmed that the commitment to deliver a fibre solution to our communities remains unchanged and that they are now investigating how (if at all) the NBN announcement might affect our fibre network project.

- Regards on behalf of the WCAG team

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spicy salami, portobello mushroom,  
anchovy, olives, mozzarella

#### Vegeteriana 24 v

San Marzano tomato, fior di latte,  
zucchini, roasted capsicum,  
portobello mushroom, caramelized  
onion, olives, garlic oil,  
mozzarella

#### Gamberetti 26

San Marzano tomato, fior di latte,  
prawns, zucchini, parsley, garlic,  
mozzarella

#### Lorenzo 26

San Marzano tomato, mozzarella,  
salami, ham, roasted capsicum,  
caramelized onion, portobello  
mushroom, olives, pineapple

#### Meatlover 26

San Marzano tomato, mozzarella,  
salami, ham, Italian sausage

### PIZZA BIANCA - white base

#### Salsiccia 24

fior di latte, Italian sausage,  
caramelised onion, rosemary, mozzarella

#### Patata 24 v

wood roasted potato, rosemary,  
gorgonzola

#### Garlic Focaccia 12 v

garlic, olive oil, sea salt

#### Rosemary Focaccia 12 v

rosemary, olive oil, sea salt

#### Add Tapenade Dip 3 v

Olives, Basil, Garlic, Olive Oil

### PIZZA DOLCE - sweet

#### Nutella 16

nutella, hazelnuts, icing sugar

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## Nature Notes September 2020

Jo Walker

Showers throughout the month have kept the creek trickling gently. The dam is full and the higher level of the water has encouraged the *Carex appressa* (Tall Sedge), which had been stranded for months on the dry edge of the dam, to produce masses of bright green new growth. The frogs have appreciated this and there is a steady chorus coming from the dam. And there was a patch of frog spawn amongst the sedges last week and a small number of tiny tadpoles basking in the warmer water at the shallow end of the dam.

Most of the local Wattles seem to have finished flowering so we are back to a green landscape at the higher levels of vegetation. But there is plenty of colour close to the ground. Many of the Early Nancy plants (*Wurmbea dioica*) have finished flowering and the female plants are bearing their dark maroon seed capsules, but many of those growing in the shadier or higher areas are still in full flower. Buttercups (*Ranunculus lappaceus*) are showing off their golden flowers, competing with the Billy Buttons (*Craspedia variabilis*) for attention. Another yellow flower beginning to make an appearance is the Austral Sunray (*Triptilodiscus pygmaeus*). This ground-hugging little plant can cover wide areas and looks spectacular when all of its tiny yellow button-flowers are at their best.

Many of our local Spring flowers are yellow, but there is a bit of variety coming in. The purple-flowered False Sarsparilla (*Hardenbergia violacea*) is still flowering and the bushy Austral Indigo (*Indigofera australis*) is displaying masses of purplish-pink flowers. And, if you're lucky enough, you may find a few bright blue Blue Fingers Orchids (*Cyanicula caerulea*). Violets (*Viola betonicifolia*) are also just beginning to flower.

A few Australian Admiral Butterflies (*Vanessa itea*) were taking advantage of the early warm weather and were flitting about and feeding on the nectar of the flowers before the return of wintry days. An insect that seems to be doing extremely well at the moment is a dung-feeding fly, a species of *Euprosopia*. Every time a Kangaroo deposits a dropping on the pavers here it's quickly covered by a jostling mass of these little flies until the dropping looks like some small animal! The flies are a similar size to Bushflies (*Musca vetustissima*) but darker and with some different markings.

Some of the birds that seem to move away from the cold conditions of our region during Winter are returning. A Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike was calling near the house recently and a small flock of Silver-eyes were scooting through the Grevillea bushes followed by a Red Wattle-bird.

Despite the sudden return to a few very cold and windy days at the end of the month, there are a few indications that Spring really is here. A few days ago, I removed a Long-necked Turtle to safety from the road it was crossing. And a gangly little Kangaroo joey here has just done its first tentative exploration of its surroundings before returning to the warmth of its mother's pouch.

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## 27-28 October 2020: the bicentenary of the first non-Aboriginal presence in Wamboin and Bywong

By David McDonald, ph. 0416 231 890, email david [at] dnmcdonald.id.au

On 27-28 October 1820, 200 years ago this month, Charles Throsby, Joseph Wild, James Vaughan and two Aboriginal guides traversed Wamboin and Bywong. They commenced the journey on 27 October from the eastern side of Lake George; crossed Turallo Creek; climbed west over the Lake George Range, probably near Turalla Hill; and continued through what is now the south-eastern part of the locality of Wamboin to the headwaters of the Yass River. From there they followed the river to the west then north to its junction with Brooks Creek, in the vicinity of which they camped the night. The next morning, 28 October, they proceeded east along Brooks Creek to Gearys Gap; descended to the lake; and rode south along its western shore then north along the eastern shore to the expedition's starting point.

In February this year I approached the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, asking if they planned to do anything to mark the bicentenary of this expedition's arrival in our Council area. They referred the suggestion to a committee. Some of us think that an excellent way of marking the occasion would be to officially establish 'Weereewa' as a dual name with Lake George.

### References:

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## Can You Write Something for the November 2020 Wamboin Whisper?

Just like residents of every other one of the millions of localities spread out over the above water parts of the 510 million square kilometers of the earth's surface, each of the around 3,000 of us who live in Wamboin and Bywong or the southeastern fringes of Sutton, is different, believes a unique set of things, does different things, makes mistakes, sees thought provoking scenes, and encounters different people and experiences while out here. The Whisper is just one more place where we can share them. You could try to come up with words to tell a good story in the next issue of the Whisper. You won't get paid, but you could do the rest of us a favour, by entertaining, educating, or amusing us. At least some hundreds of your neighbours who retrieve from their mailbox the next issue of these manufactured blank, but then covered with little bits of ink sheets of paper, would get to roam mentally for a few minutes to a good place. - editor

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## Baby Bird Season Underway

It's that time of the year again. Baby bird season is well underway. Wildcare is always on the lookout for new recruits to help rescue and rehabilitate injured and orphaned wildlife, but in spring there is a special challenge – coping with an influx of orphaned baby birds. They can be great fun – in the way they demand our attention to be fed regularly during the day, but then become silent and go to sleep overnight. Baby birds grow amazingly fast to a young adult stage before being readied for release back into the wild. Great care is taken as to where and when a young bird is released, to prevent all the good work being undone and to give the best chance of a successful release.

As Wildcare's Bird Coordinator, Maryanne says: "With many Wildcare members working full time, there is a need to find additional volunteers at this time of the year who are available during the day. If you care about our native birds, looking after baby birds can be a very rewarding experience. Full training and support is provided and we may also be able to help with cages and enclosures.

Please be aware that not all baby birds on the ground need to be rescued. However, this can be difficult to assess depending on the situation – can the baby fly; are the parents around; what species is it; is it injured/unwell; is the location safe; and are there predators around? So, please call Wildcare on 62991966 and one of our experienced bird carers will provide advice."

Last year, Wildcare dealt with over 1000 calls about birds, covering 84 different species, from Wedge Tail Eagles to tiny Yellow Rumped Thornbills. And you may remember the story about the White Bellied Storm Petrels and Red Tailed Tropic Bird that blew inland – hundreds of kilometres from their normal habitat – which were rescued and later returned to their home turf.

If you have time to help out with the care of orphaned or injured birds that come into care, please get in touch with Wildcare on 62991966 for more information and see how you can get involved. There's a website too: [www.wildcare.com.au](http://www.wildcare.com.au)

- Philip Machin, Wildcare



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## The roads of Wamboin, part 7: Sarah Reef Road, Valley View Lane & Woolshed Lane

By David McDonald, ph. 0416 231 890, email david [at] dnmcdonald.id.au

**Introduction:** This article is the seventh in a series on the origins of the names of Wamboin's roads. (The Bywong Community's website has corresponding information on the Bywong roads.) It concludes the coverage of the nine roads that are named after their locations, local features, creeks, properties, etc. As always, readers are invited to contact me, or the Editor, with any additional information, or corrections.

**Sarah Reef Road:** A short road running north-east from Birchmans Grove. The name was gazetted on 25 September 2009. It is named after the nearby gold reef of that name on the 'Woodbury' property, close to Mac's Reef and the 1860s Newington mining town. *'WOODBURY QUARTZ REEF. DURING the past week operations at Woodbury have been almost at a standstill, excepting in the prospectors' claim, where the sinking has now attained a depth of about 24 feet, the quartz maintaining its character, or rather increasing in richness. Our correspondent reports that a new reef has also been discovered by Mr Bingley, and is now called the "Sarah" reef; it is said to be very promising in its character. The discovery created a little excitement, and several claims have been marked out and miners' rights applied for on the new reef. It is expected that mining operations will commence with spirit from this date, as most of the exemptions have expired ... The township is steadily improving--new restaurants, inns, and dancing saloons, are in course of erection, in fact, says our correspondent, buildings are springing up every direction. A street is extending towards Bungendore and is named Sarah-street'* Presumably 'the township' referred to here was Newington.

Lea-Scarlett (1972) mentions, as part of the town of Newington, '...another track (Sarah-street) straggling away towards Bungendore, presumably along the line of the "Sarah Reef" discovered by William Bingley'.

**Valley View Lane:** The lane runs east from Norton Road, then north along the side of the valley of Brooks Creek, with good views into the picturesque valley. Interestingly, the name 'Clare Lane' was gazetted, in May 1998, for the whole of the road that runs from Norton Road to Bungendore Road, i.e. what we now call Valley View Lane and Clare Lane. In September the following year, however, the Yarrowlumla Council changed its mind:

*Closure of Public Road — Clare Lane via Bungendore. THE Council hereby advises that pursuant to section 116 of the Roads Act 1993 and in accordance with the authority delegated to it by the Roads and Traffic Authority of New South Wales, it proposes to close a section of Clare Lane at mid length. The purpose of the road closure is to prevent through traffic along the lane in order to relieve safety concerns at the Clare Lane/Bungendore Road intersection. Existing properties will be served by the resulting two cul-de-sac roads formed from each end of Clare Lane.*

The road closure, the point where Valley View Lane becomes Clare Lane, is at the border between the locality of Wamboin and the locality of Bungendore. It has an unlocked gate across it. I have yet to ascertain the date upon which Valley View Lane was officially named.

### Woolshed Lane

This lane links Macs Reef road to Denley Drive, and is a delightful part of the Wamboin/Bywong greenways network. Named after the historic 'Clare' woolshed located on Woolshed Lane, close to its junction with Macs Reef Road. The 'Clare' property was developed in the mid-to late-1800s by the Leahy family, commencing with many small selections that were later consolidated to create the property. At one stage the woolshed (more precisely, one of its shearers' huts (Harriott 1970)) was the site of a local primary school. The lane's name was gazetted on 29 May 1998.

Woolshed Creek rises near Weeroona Drive and flows north-east, under Warramunga Close near its junction with Woolshed Lane, and joins Reedy Creek close to Bungendore Road immediately south of the Bungendore Road/Macs Reef Road junction.

'Ray [Murphy] also notes that much of the Wamboin/Geary's Gap shearing was done in the shearing shed that still stands just south of the intersection of Macs Reef Road and Gundaroo Road [the old name for the current Bungendore Road]. The flocks from the Ryans, the Taylors, the Donnelleys, the Reardons, and from Lumley were brought there' (Noel 1997, p. 16).

### References

- 1999, 'Yarrowlumla Council', *Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales*, 3 September, p. 8688, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article231990800> (regarding the Valley View Lane/Clare Lane road closure).
- Harriot, K, in Sibley, Jack. & Bingley, Lillian. & Sheedy, P. B. & Harriot, Keith. & Sibley, Jack 1970, *Mr and Mrs Jack Sibley, Lilian Bingley and Keith Harriot interviewed by Bert Sheedy in the Bert Sheedy and Marj Sheedy oral history collection* [sound recording], <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-212585312>. Keith Harriott (1918-1990) is interviewed in Session 4 at 3:19 minutes.
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- Woodbury Quartz Reef: *Queanbeyan Age and General Advertiser*, 30 Nov 1865, p. 2.

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## **From the Corner**

**Building Certification**—I've written on several occasions about matters relating to building certification and certifying authorities. With the commencement of the new Building and Development Certifiers Act 2018 (Certifiers Act) and the corresponding Building and Development Certifiers Regulation 2020 (Certifiers Regulation) on 1 July 2020, I thought the subject warranted a brief review.

For the benefit of the uninitiated, building certification is the process by which the construction of a building is verified as complying with the specifications detailed in a set of approved plans. Certification is required for any structure that is the subject of a development application or is to be approved as complying development. Such structures must be so certified, through a series of mandatory inspections, before an Occupation Certificate can be issued and the structure can be legally used for its intended purpose.

Prior to the introduction of private certification in 1998, building certification had traditionally been the domain of local councils. In an effort to speed up the building approvals and construction process, the NSW Government introduced a system of accreditation for private certifiers. At the time, there was a perception that the monopoly held by local government on the building approvals and certification process presented an unnecessary bureaucratic obstacle. As might be expected, environmental and consumer protection groups were more concerned with the potential consequences of having builders or construction companies effectively employ the people responsible for the oversight of their work.

NSW, however, wasn't the first state to introduce private certification. Similar systems were already in operation in South Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

While there has been no shortage of compliance issues allegedly arising from privately certified works, the spotlight really turned on the building certification process following several high-profile building failures, first the Opal Tower, then more recently the Mascot Towers and several other apartment building projects in Sydney.

The intent was always that a certifier, private or otherwise, would be acting for the consumer, certifying that a building had been constructed in accordance with approved plans, effectively holding the builder or construction company to account if this was not deemed to be the case. There was then a quite clear conflict of interest when a private certifier was engaged by the builder or construction company whose work was being certified. It was a cosy relationship for some, but it also had predictable consequences.

With the commencement of the new Act and Regulation, the NSW [Government] Building Professionals Board, previously responsible for the oversight and regulation of private certifiers, has been abolished, with its functions now under the control of NSW [Government] Fair Trading. Principal Certifying Authorities are now known simply as Principal Certifiers.

Rather than simply being accredited, certifiers must now be registered and thereby subject to explicit conflict of interest provisions. Although the new regulations have been introduced primarily to address the sorts of problems that have surfaced in larger development projects, the impact on smaller development may also be significant for different reasons. In particular, a certifier is now prohibited from providing professional services, such as design and compliance advice, while at the same time acting as the Principal Certifier on a project. Private certifiers on smaller projects often provided all of these services concurrently. Together with increased liability under the new regulations, and the subsequent costs associated with indemnity insurance, the full commercial impact of these changes in the residential dwelling market is probably yet to play out.

The new Act also amended the Home Building Act 1989 (NSW) to better support consumers in choosing a Principal Certifier. Contractors are now explicitly required to provide their customers with information that explains the role of the certifier before entering into a building contract. This is to ensure that consumers are more aware of the certifier's role and obligations in the construction process. Contractors will also be strictly prohibited from unduly influencing or attempting to influence the appointment of a certifier.

The bottom line remains that a Principal Certifier works for and operates in the interest of the consumer, not the provider of building services. If you encounter a contractor who tries to suggest otherwise, it might be a good idea to consider working with someone else.

**The QPR Blog**—New or related entries in my Blog (<http://peteharrison.id.au/blog>) include:

Building Certification (Sep 2020)

Principal Certifying Authorities (Apr 2018)

Building Approvals (Dec 2013)

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## Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For October I chose the Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, a medium to large honeyeater, which is considered a vagrant in the region, that I was lucky enough to see in Wamboin recently.

### Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*)

Size: 22-26cm

Status: Very rare vagrant

The Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater is a bird that is usually associated with the inland of Australia, where it is one of the commonest honeyeaters. They exhibit a similar behaviour to wattlebirds of ‘bullying’ smaller honeyeaters. Generally, the Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater does not occur in south-eastern Australia. However, recently I received a phonecall from a local resident in Bingley Way who had seen 1



and heard several other Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters on their property. I went over to have a look and confirm the species on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September. I saw 1 bird which was perching and feeding in low scrubby vegetation with many flowering Grevilleas. It was great to confirm a sighting of such a rare bird locally. It is also surprising to note that it is present now, after much rain inland (and everywhere), as nectar-feeding birds are generally found towards the coast only during droughts when plants are not flowering inland and there is limited water. Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters usually inhabit drier woodland and scrub when plants are in flower. Their distinctive features include the size which is smaller than a Wattlebird or Friarbird, but larger than a White-eared Honeyeater. They also have a distinctive pink base to their bill and gape (fleshy area between the bill and eye), and the breast is a plain ochre-buff. They have a white cheek with spiny bristles below extending to the ear (which are not readily obvious from a distance). They are not densely

streaked or grey like a Wattlebird. In flight the pale grey rump is a good feature to note. Male and female birds look similar. They are sociable birds and typically occur in small flocks. Their main call is a repeated “do-do-do-do-do-do-peer-peer-peer-peer-peer”, with other calls sounding like an out of tune Butcherbird. Since they have been sighted locally, please keep an eye out for this species, and try to get photos if you see one. If you see a Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, please submit a record to the citizen science website Canberra Nature Map (<https://canberra.naturemapr.org/>) or eBird (<https://ebird.org/australia/home>) (preferably with photos). Since 2 birds may be present, the possibility of breeding locally cannot be discounted which would be an extremely interesting record. (Photo from Google images)

Given the positive feedback I have received about my ‘Bird of the Month’ articles I have compiled a summary list to enable people to read previous editions if they missed one (all are available electronically [www.wamboincommunity.asn.au/thewhisper/index.php?op=archive](http://www.wamboincommunity.asn.au/thewhisper/index.php?op=archive)).

Bird species	Month	Year	Page number
Painted Buttonquail	November	2017	8
Sacred Kingfisher	December	2017	9
Noisy Friarbird	February	2018	23
Leaden Flycatcher	March	2018	23
Scarlet Robin	April	2018	12
White-eared Honeyeater	May	2018	18
Eastern Yellow Robin	June	2018	15
Grey Shrike-thrush	July	2018	14
Red-browed Finch	August	2018	15
Black & White Birds (Pied Currawong, Australian Magpie, White-winged Chough, Magpie-Lark)	September	2018	12
Red Wattlebird	October	2018	22
Southern Boobook	November	2018	24
Mistletoebird	December/January	2018-19	19
Black-faced Cuckooshrike	December/January	2018-19	14
Brush Cuckoo	February	2019	15
Grey Currawong	March	2019	15
Silvereye	April	2019	18
White-browed Scrubwren	May	2019	19
Superb Fairywren	June	2019	19
Satin Bowerbird	July	2019	18
Bulbuls*	August	2019	18
Gang-gang Cockatoo	September	2019	7
Striated Pardalote	October	2019	19
Brown Thornbill	November	2019	12
Olive-backed Oriole	December/January	2019-20	13
Eastern Spinebill	December/January	2019-20	17
Rufous Fantail	February	2020	23
White-naped Honeyeater	March	2020	12
Spotted Pardalote	April	2020	16
Australian King-Parrot	May	2020	17
New Holland Honeyeater	June	2020	14
White-throated Treecreeper	July	2020	13
Brown Goshawk	August	2020	10
Grey Fantail	September	2020	19
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	October	2020	tba



# Water Delivery

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