

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

October 2021

Circulation 1,343

Life Threatening Emergencies Fire/Police/Ambulance - Dial Triple Zero (000) All Hours

Bungendore Police: 6238 1244 Ambulance Bookings: 131233

Wamboin Community Assn www.wamboincommunity.org.au

Bywong Community www.bywongcommunity.org.au

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

Bywong and Wamboin Facilities and Contacts

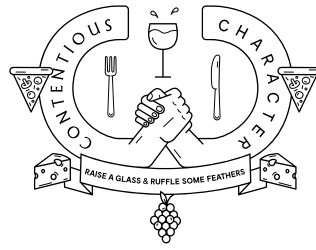
Bywong Community	Mike Wilkins - President	6230 3473	president@bywongcommunity.org.au
Bywong Hall Bookings	Bookings Officer		lrrhallbywong@gmail.com
Church - Anglican	Gai Donald - Warden	0438 400 364	peterandandrew2012@gmail.com
Community Nurse	Heather Morrison - Bungendore	6238 1333	
Fire Brigade	Matt O'Brien - Captain	6128 0600 bsn hrs	wamboincaptain@gmail.com
Geary's Gap Pony Club	Cameron Smith	0419 449 747	
Golf	Peter Greenwood	6238 3358	p.greenwood2@bigpond.com
Injured Wildlife	Wildcare - Helpline	6299 1966	
Justice of the Peace	Peter Greenwood - JP	6238 3358	
Justice of the Peace	Andrew Stainlay - JP	0408 469 880	stains@bigpond.net.au
KYB Bible Study Group	Robyn Doran	6238 3469	rdoran4@bigpond.com
Lake George VIEW Club	Pauline Segeri	6238 1996	
Landcare	Kathy Handel - Treasurer	6238 3596	khandel@bigpond.net.au
NSW SES (assist - storm/flood)	NSW Call Centre	132 500	
NSW SES Bungend. (non-urgent)	After Hours Duty Officer	6238 0222	
Sutton School Playgroup	Belinda Robinson - Convenor	0422 262 426	brobinson35@hotmail.com
Table Tennis	Mike Muston	0406 606 238	mikemuston@gmail.com
Wamboin Community Assoc.	Peter Evans - President	6236 9779	president@wamboincommunity.asn.au
Wamboin-Bung. Book Group	Sally Saunders	0419 303 229	sally.saunders1@bigpond.com
Wamboin Hall Bookings	Joan Mason	6238 3258	joan.mason@internode.on.net
Wamboin Markets	Meriel Schultz	6238 3309	lmsconsulting@bigpond.com
Wamboin Play Group	Coordinator		wamboin.playgroup@gmail.com
Gearys Gap Pony Club	Kate O'Connor, President	0413 008 824	gearysgap_ponyclub@gmail.com
Wamboin Pony Club	Stacey Burgess -Contact Person	0414 672 979	wamboinpcsecretary@gmail.com
Wamboin Thurs Social Grp	Narelle Pumphrey	0438 917 206	pumpbnjc@westnet.com.au
Wonderful Women of Wamboin	Gail Ritchie Knight	0416 097 500	whirlwind1@argonite.com.au
ARF (Rescue Dogs)	Lisa Whitney	0408 260 796	lisaawhitney059@gmail.com

Young Entrepreneurs:

Rebecca Purdie - pet/horse sitting 6238 3343 Kathleen Dunkerly - baby sitting - 0435 794 070 kathleen.dunkerly07@gmail.com
Grace Taylor 0490 758 476 baby sitting and tutoring for primary school students gracetaylor145@gmail.com

The Wamboin Whisper: The Whisper is a monthly community newsletter established in 1981 by and owned by the Wamboin Community Association. The Whisper is 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. 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 or to nednoel@optusnet.com.au or mail them or drop them off. On contentious matters the Wamboin Community Association will strive to maintain a balanced view, by seeking advice from the editorial team and by seeking alternative views to be published in the same edition. The deadline for each issue is the last Sunday night of the month before, so the **deadline for the November 2021 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, October 31, 2021. 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 the editor as above.



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CONTENTIOUS LOCKDOWN MENU

KOREAN PORK STEW WITH RICE \$26

Kookie's famous Korean Pork stew with Korean chili paste, (Gochujang) potato & onion. Served with a side of rice. **GF, DF**

HOUSE BEEF STROGANOFF WITH RICE \$26

Fried Beef strips, onions, mushroom and cream sauce combined to create this classic Russian favorite. Includes a side rice.

PRAWN LAKSA \$26

Prawns, vegetables, & vermicelli rice noodles in our house version of this Southeast Asian spicy noodle soup. ***GF, *DF,**

TOFU LAKSA \$26

Fried tofu, vegetables, & vermicelli rice noodles in our house version of this Southeast Asian spicy noodle soup. ***GF, *DF,**

THAI GREEN CHICKEN CURRY \$26

Thai Chicken Curry with coconut milk, fresh green chilies & vegetables. Includes a side rice. ***GF**

THAI GREEN VEGETABLE CURRY \$26

Thai vegetable Curry with coconut milk, vegetables & fresh green chilies. Includes a side rice. ***GF**

SIDES

Naan Bread \$4

Traditional Naan Bread. **V.**

Additional Rice \$4

Side of house boiled rice. **V, *DF, *VG**

LOCKDOWN PIZZA MENU

THURS – SUN EVENINGS

17.00 – 20.00 (LAST ORDERS 19.45)

CHEESY GARLIC BREAD \$18

Rich garlic and cheese. **V**

MARGARITA \$22

House tomato sauce, bocconcini, fresh basil. **V**

KOREAN BEEF \$26

Bulgogi beef, Spanish onion, capsicum, shallot.

PEPPERONI 🍕 \$26

House tomato sauce, pepperoni, jalapeno.

CHICKEN \$26

House tomato sauce, chicken breast, artichoke, Spanish onion, balsamic glaze. **V**

FUNGHI \$24

Porcini bechamel, mushroom, rocket, parmesan, truffle oil. **V**



POTATO & BACON \$24

House tomato sauce, topped with potato, bacon, aioli.

QUATTRO CHEESE \$24

Honey, four cheese topping. **V**

GLUTEN FREE BASE \$4

	<p>Wamboin Community Association Presidents Paragraphs</p> <p>“Hope on the Horizon!”</p>	
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A glimmer of hope of returning to what will be the post Covid new normal is on the horizon again. At time of writing NSW is looking to open up the stay at home restrictions in the coming weeks and the ACT in mid October, As we all now know this could change in an instant and the whim of a politician. The big message here is to **GET VACCINATED**.

What will the new norm entail and how will the world (and Wamboin)) record it. When will we be back to normal or will we ever be! When will we be able to get a proper haircut to fix up all those DIY attempts? How lucky are we out in Wamboin, imagine being cooped up in town in an apartment for weeks on end. As a famous resident of Bonnie Doon once said “how’s the serenity”,

We are anticipating a few things to recommence in October but as always please check our Facebook page for more frequent updates on our local events.

2021 Local Government Elections –4 December 2021.

2021 Council Elections Meet the Candidates Night – Hopefully we can still host our famous Meet the Candidates Night on Tuesday 16th November at 7.30pm (depending on restrictions).

WCA AGM – postponed date TBA

Home Produce Markets –we are hoping to recommence the October market depending on Covid restrictions. Please check our website and Facebook pages closer to the day for updates

Wamboin Social Drop-In Group– Drop in group in abeyance till further notice.

Local Takeaway - D&K Kitchen at Lark Hill, Contentious Character, Biggies at Norton Road Wines and The Eaglehawk Hotel are all offering takeaway meals during the lockdown period. Please support local businesses and enjoy a local meal.

QPRC Mobile Library – Just a update on the current situation in regard to opening the Libraries in the QPRC. We have been advised that the opening date/schedule will not only be determined by the NSW Government's 'COVID-19 Road Map' but they will take into account the ACT COVID-19 situation [the ACT is currently locked down until 11.59pm on Friday October 15th]. There would need to be 14days since the last case of COVID in the District before the Library will be able to look at a re-opening date. Same rules for The Mobile Library,

The Queanbeyan and Braidwood Libraries do offer a 'Click and Collect' service. Also, there is a 'Click and Deliver' for Bungendore township residents ONLY,

Please look after yourself, families, friends and pick up the phone to your neighbours in these trying times..

Well lets see what another month will bring. *We are*

wamboin -

**Peter Evans
- President.**



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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



Annual General Meeting – Bywong needs YOU!

Postponed to: Wednesday 17 NOVEMBER, 7:00pm at the Bywong Hall, Birriwa Road.

In a “normal year”, the Bywong Community Association organises a number of community events, including the Car Boot Sale, the Trivia Night and the Christmas Gathering. We also raise funds from the sale of local artwork (postcards and teatowels) and use these funds to benefit the community and to add to our local facilities, such as the amazing playground at the Bywong Hall.

We are an enthusiastic group but few in number, which limits our potential. So, if you have ideas for new/improved events or community activities and energy to help organise and participate in them, we invite you to join us! Membership is free, and you can also join the Committee. All Committee positions become vacant at the AGM. If you would like to find out more, please email president@bywongcommunity.org.au , or just come along to the AGM.

IF it becomes necessary to further postpone the AGM, we will advertise this on our webpage and in Bywong-related Facebook groups.

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The Wamboin Firefighter



We hope that you took advantage of the Covid-19 'Stay-at Home' orders and set aside Sept 11-12 to make it your 'Get Ready' Weekend to prepare yourselves and your property for the event of bush fire. We also trust that you found the information and messaging on the brigade's Facebook page and our website helpful. The tips and other messaging are still there, so please visit if you haven't done so already.

BUSH FIRE DANGER PERIOD HAS STARTED

The statutory Bush Fire Danger Period has begun. It runs from **1 October to 31 March** (unless varied).

FIRE PERMITS NOW REQUIRED

If you are planning to light a fire in the open during the bush fire danger period, other than a cooking fire in an appropriately prepared site, you will need to apply for and be issued with a Fire Permit. To seek a Permit, contact your local Fire Control Centre. For property owners in the Queanbeyan-Palerang LGA this is the Lake George Fire Control Centre in Queanbeyan. The issue of a Permit is not automatic, requires an inspection of the planned burn and is subject to certain conditions and undertakings. In addition to securing a free Permit you still need to notify the local fire authority and neighbours at least 24 hours before lighting up.



SEASON OUTLOOK

Our area was spared the wildfire devastation of two years ago and, notwithstanding the recent rains, there is a lot of volatile fuel in the local landscape. There's been a lush lead up to the fire danger period and with the warmer weather grass fires will be of particular concern as the landscape dries out, bringing fresh challenges to us all.

NEW BOUNDARY CLEARING CODE

The Code allows landholders in identified areas to remove vegetation on their side and within 25 metres of their property boundary to help prevent the spread of fire. See NSW RFS website – Rural Boundary Clearing Code and Tool.

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE NOW INCLUDE

Preparing for bush fire is as important as ever. Our message is, if you and your family have not already prepared or updated your bush fire plan then now is the best time to do it.

Update and practise your Plan

Discuss what to do if bush fire threatens your home. *Prepare* your home and get it ready for this bush fire season. *Know* the bush fire alert levels. *Keep* bush fire information numbers, websites and the Fires Near Me smartphone app.

Further information including a guide to preparing a Bushfire Survival Plan can be found on the NSW RFS website. And you can find out how fireproof your plan is at myfireplan. Links to both websites are listed below.

5 small actions that can make your home safer

1. Trim overhanging trees and shrubs.
2. Mow your grass and remove all cuttings.
3. Remove material that can burn around your home.
4. Clear and remove debris and leaves from the gutters surrounding your home.
5. Prepare hose(s) and pressurised water to reach all around the house. NB the electrical power supply is often cut during fires.

USEFUL LINKS and CONTACT INFORMATION

Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade: <https://wamboin.rfsa.org.au>

NSW Rural Fire Service: <https://rfs.nsw.gov.au> and <https://myfireplan.com.au>

Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade is on Facebook

Lake George Fire Control Centre 6128 0600 (business hrs)

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End Of Era for Land For Wildlife

The Small Farms Network Capital Region has provided Land for Wildlife assessments for 64 properties around Bungendore since June 2017. Now it is time for Kris Nash and Jo Walker to hang up their Land for Wildlife assessor hats and enjoy some well-deserved retirement. This intrepid pair brought years of experience along with encyclopaedic knowledge of plants and natural resource management to the program, visiting each property and providing the landholder with advice and education about the plants and animals living on there.

Jo and Kris say they were surprised at the diversity of landscapes in our region and most people were surprised to learn about the diversity they have on their farm.

'It was fascinating to discover the variety of landscapes existing in the area we covered, ranging from tall forests to grassy open expanses and including rocky outcrops of shale or granite, creeks, gullies and dams. Identifying plants involved peering into the high branches of eucalypts, crawling through shrubbery and kneeling to get a close look at Sundews and other tiny plants.'

There were a few surprises too. The most memorable was an understory of purple-flowering *Comesperma ericinum* (Heath Milkwort) in an area of dry forest in Wamboin. This species is not common in this area and usually occurs as an individual plant or in small groups.

The average number of plants per property was 60 species (112 from one property), with 316 different native plants recorded across the assessment area. All properties had at least 0.5 ha of native vegetation, most had far more.

The most common issue discussed was the identification and control of weeds including woody weeds, sifton bush, pine trees, various noxious grasses, pesky annuals and garden escapees. Other issues included erosion control, the enhancement of dams, protecting native seed stock from grazing animals, rehabilitation, salinity control and feral animal management.

The main advice to property owners was to keep weeding along with keeping as much exposed or disturbed soil covered as possible through mulching, laying heavy logs, branches and rocks. The other major goal is to retain and protect remnant trees for their all-important hollows for nesting birds and animals.

The pig purchased as a 'mini' but now grown to an enormous stature deserves a mention, along with the efforts made by people to provide homes and habitat for the animals sharing their properties.

This program was supported by the Geary's Gap/Wamboin Landcare Group, National Landcare Program and John Asquith from the Community Environment Centre. Individual landholders and the broader community have benefited from the expertise and enthusiasm shown by Jo and Kris and we thank them for their generosity in sharing their knowledge.



For more information on the Land for Wildlife program please contact the Community Environment Centre via the website cen.org.au/projects/land-for-wildlife or call 02 4349 4756. - Alex James, alex@smallfarmscapital.org, 0406 338 850

Photo caption: Jo Walker and Kris Nash with new Land for Wildlife member Vicki during a Land for Wildlife Assessment.



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Wamboin Home Produce Market
16 October 2021 Market
OUTSIDE ON THE OVAL

Contact: Meriel Schultz 62383309 or 042 261 4304 Email: imsconsulting@bigpond.com

We still, at time of writing, can't use community halls. Provided the weather is OK and rules haven't changed again, we will hold the October home produce market on the oval (and/or the tarmac area outside the fire shed). We are planning to have take-away coffee set up outside.

We expect this will be a small market as, of course, only locals can attend.

We will all need to check in as usual, wear masks and follow good hygiene and social distancing practice.

So, if the road signs are up, it's ON!

Xx fingers and toes – see you in October - stay safe!

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*Wamboin locals **Louise Burton** and **Ross MacDonald** are seeking election to Council on Saturday 4 December and need your backing for them to support our urban and rural communities.*



*Vote 1 **Liberals** to ensure Wamboin and Bywong are represented and heard on Council.*

Authorised by Chris Stone, NSW Liberal Party, Level 12, 100 William St, East Sydney NSW 2011

Bee Swarms and Beehives

Half September and it is getting warmer. The beekeeping season has started and my bees are carrying a lot of different coloured pollen back to the hives. Last season there was, again, no honey for me to harvest. The early signs and the expectations are promising for a better season. From now up to mid summer is the time for colonies to swarm. Every beekeeper should take measurements throughout spring (and in fact even before winter) to avoid or at least discourage their natural swarming tendency. If you find a swarm of bees on your property contact a beekeeper to try to catch the swarm. Don't wait too long. If they choose to settle in your walls or chimney you have a problem. The ACT regional beekeepers association has a list with names and phone numbers on their website. I am happy to help when I can if you find a swarm, and also happy to help if you are a new(ish) beekeeper.

- Adrian Meijer, Weeroona Drive, 0427 101550



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Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For October, I chose the Tawny Frogmouth, an iconic Australian nocturnal bird, that is currently nesting on our property.

Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*)

Size: 33-50cm

Status: Common breeding resident

The Tawny Frogmouth is a very distinctive and unusual-looking nocturnal bird. They are actually quite common but are masters of camouflage during the day when they roost and therefore are often overlooked, making them seem less common. To stop other birds annoying them when they are sleeping during the day, they try to make themselves resemble a branch of a tree. Their master of deception involves two strategies. Firstly, they assume the posture of a dead stump or branch, and secondly their mainly grey plumage, mottled with black and paler grey-brown, is perfect for blending in with the grey-brown bark of tree branches. Whilst they appear to have their eyes closed, they are actually open just enough to see what is happening. When people or other birds are around, they tense up and try really hard to not be seen by looking like a branch. The male and female are similar but some females have varying degrees of rufous in the plumage (some being almost entirely rufous), however this is more prominent in arid areas and less so locally.

When seen at night, they have large orange eyes, and a very wide yet short bill. The bill is capable of opening very wide to swallow larger prey. It is this wide short bill which gives rise to their name frogmouth. Their diet consists mainly of insects and occasionally small vertebrates, consumed by hawking from a perch at night. Their call is a fairly quiet, low-pitched, resonant and often rapid “oom-oom-oom-oom”, typically only heard at night. Tawny Frogmouths often roost in pairs, and sometimes small groups during the day. Their nests are very flimsy, just a small pile of twigs in the fork of a tree or on a horizontal branch. Due to the flimsy nest structure, chicks are often blown out of trees in wind, or fall out of the nest. The parent incubates 2 eggs, while trying to assume the typical cryptic position when on the nest. Once hatched, babies look like small pale grey fluffballs, and take a while to learn the cryptic roosting habits of adults, as they are often more alert and moving during the day. They can roost in the same site regularly, but often move away from regularly disturbed sites. A pair on our property are currently nesting, for the second year in a row, at the exact same site. They are currently incubating, and will hopefully raise babies again. Last year they successfully raised two chicks.

Tawny Frogmouths are a widespread species across Australia, and can be found in most habitats provided there are suitable roosting trees with greyish-coloured bark. Photos from Google images – right photo shows 2 frogmouths sleeping during the day, and trying to trick you into thinking they are a branch.





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Without the businesses who pay to advertise in the Whisper we could not pay the printer, so please consider these advertisers when you are searching for services or products that they supply. – Ned Noel, volunteer editor on behalf of the Wamboin Community Association

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Cassie Fisher	Clare Ln	12	Lyle Montesin	The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks	65
Dominica Lorima	North end Clare Valley	42			

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Nora Stewart	Rovere Ln	7	Liza Davis	Macs Reef Birriwa to Harriott	14
Darryl Bourke	Harriot Rd	27	Cheryl Warnock	Macs Reef Rd (Nwington2 Bankers)	11
Sandra Favre	Newwington Rd	20	Carol & Clive Boughton	Macs Reef (Bankers To Fed Hwy)	34
Attila & Cherry Hrgsi.	Snowgum Road	26			

157: CO-ORDINATED BY IAN COILLET ph 0402 027 452 lodestar@ozemail.com.au

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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

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Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	24	Leigh & Derek Morris	Wyoming Road	20
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Wamboin Golf – September 2021

Mahogany Ridge, Sunday, 5 September. Hold the defibrillator. All the watts in the world won't start Charlie up. The 80 year old, sartorially splendid human metronome of The Rolling Stones is no more. There are many drummers who can keep the beat and many who can do the fancy licks, but those who can do both are justly famous. Charlie Watts was such a one. Like The Beatles, there are now only two of the original Stones left. When Keef goes – and some say that happened a while ago - Mick can tour by himself as “The Rolling Stone”, free of all moss.

And talking about getting around, the R & A Wamboin GC has come out of diapause now that Our Glad (bless her) is allowing us to gather in groups of five. And exercise outdoors for three hours. It works like this: groups of 4/5 go out to each tee before the shotgun is fired to start play. See? No group meets another group. When play ceases we all gather in an open field – still in our groups of five - and picnic in a responsibly-masked and socially-distanced way. We communicate by semaphore, heliograph, megaphone, bull horn, loud hailer, mobile phone, PMR and tablet/iPad. It's tough for the captain but, leadership has its downsides. Although the course was sodden, those who turned up paddled valiantly over the Eastern Nine (that's all you can do in three hours). We welcomed our guests, Bill and Deidre O'Wheeler. The googly ball was won by local rhinologist John Barrelo (Porky to his friends) who can identify the source of waste products by smell alone. The dummy spit went to the 18 US intelligence agencies who accurately predicted when the Taliwhackers would reach Kabul. (These are the same guys who brought you weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.) Winners and place getters all elected to remain anonymous in keeping with these isolating, self-effacing times.

Staying with sport, we mourned the loss of Deb and Ken Gordon to Oztag in the region after 20 years association with the game in Bungendore. Doubtless, freed of that onerous burden, greater honours await them on the golf course. We then congratulated the Wallabies on regaining the Bledisloe Cup. True, the All Absence of Colours won the first two games but forfeited the series for not turning up for the third game on the agreed date and time. Maybe they need a new bus driver. I can't see the Mudhooks being that silly.

We marveled at the cooperation being shown between the Taliban and US forces who are bombing the Al Qaeda-linked ISIS faction bent on exploiting the chaos in Afghanistan. The aphorism “the enemy of my enemy is my friend” springs to mind. It is, apparently, an ancient Sanskrit proverb dating from at least the 4th century BC but first expressed in English in 1884 by American architect, Gabriel Manigault. I pass this on for what it's worth – which is considerably more than any deal you could strike with the Taliwhackers. On a brighter note, Kabul radio is playing the current No. 1 hit: “The Boys are Back in Town” by The Taliband. Of course, back home the plague always gets a mention. Delta seems to be getting away from us. In Qld and WA, Premiers Palaskerzuk and McGoon are steadfastly sticking to the futile policy of containment but Our Glad (bless her) is warming us up for the great re-opening which will restore fun and prosperity. You see, the real purpose of a lockdown is to get us vaccinated. Its motive force is fear: fear that we'll catch the virus and die; and fear that we'll lose our jobs, go broke and never recover. At 80 per cent double-jabbed it'll almost be back to normal. Let's hope we get there by Christmas. The other 20 per cent can take their chances. This is a variation on achieving herd immunity. Look up the Spanish flu. Without vax or cure it petered out in Australia after about two years. In essence, the variants that followed the original outbreak became progressively weaker. Let's face it, a virus which kills its host isn't going to survive for long. The general political response to the present pandemic has less to do with medical science and more to do with the understandable reluctance of civil authorities to be seen to be doing nothing as people die. Who can say they're wrong? My courageous prediction is that when this is over the international death toll, expressed as a percentage of world population, will pale into insignificance when compared to that of the Spanish flu.

Why not repair your mental fabric by joining us in a paddock to be confirmed, at 12.15pm on Sunday, 3 October for the 12.30pm start. Meanwhile, think about lying by a sun-drenched tropical pool, sipping an FLA as zephyrs waft about your body. Now think about how you're going to get there. - Larry King, golfer dreaming

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Nature Notes September 2021

Jo Walker

With a few good rainfalls during the month and the days beginning to lengthen, the vegetation is off to a good start to its growing season and the countryside is green and thriving.

At ground level, the bright yellow flowers of Austral Bears Ears (*Cymbonotus lawsonianus*) are still appearing and a few more Early Nancy (*Wurmbea dioica*) are producing their maroon-centred white flowers. Buttercups (*Ranunculus lappaceus*) are now at their peak flowering period and the tall yellow Billy Buttons (*Craspedia variabilis*) are beginning to add a bit of colour to their surroundings. And masses of *Vittadinia muelleri* (New Holland Daisy) are turning several hillsides at my place into a soft, bright green carpet – although their little blue daisy flowers are still buds at present.

The yellow-centred white daisy flowers of Hoary Sunrays (*Leucochrysum albicans*) are evident along several local roadways – due to the moisture in the soil some of them are growing much taller than usual this year.

The *Melichrus urceolatus* (Urn Heath) have almost finished flowering but appear to be developing seed this year, something they seem to do only periodically. Another heath plant, *Lissanthe strigosa* (Peach Heath) is just beginning to open its flowers. The buds are dark pink but this colour fades to almost white as the flowers open. A small plant that looks similar to the heath plants (Epacridaceae Family) is actually in the Rhamnaceae Family and closely related to *Pomaderris*. That little plant is *Cryptandra amara* var. *longiflora*. It is low-growing and has small dark green leaves and masses of tiny tubular white flowers. It grows in this area and is flowering at present.

Now that the Grevilleas in the garden are bearing lots of nectar-laden flowers, Honeyeaters are making regular visits. Several little Eastern Spinebills are competing with White-eared Honeyeaters and a Yellow-faced Honeyeater joins them occasionally. A Red Wattle-bird is back too. Its favourite plant here seems to be a planted *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* tree, and, sure enough, this is just beginning to bear copious amounts of red flowers. There is often fierce competition between the Wattle-birds and some Noisy Friar-birds, but the Friar-birds haven't appeared yet.

Long-necked Turtles are beginning to appear in the dam now it's a bit warmer and a lot of frogs are calling from the dam and all along the creek. There are some small tadpoles in the little pond below the dam and the creek is still trickling gently so there should be water in the pond long enough for the tadpoles to reach maturity.

Brown Blowflies (*Calliphora stygia*) are already about, and one was recently caught by a Daddy-long-legs Spider (*Pholcus phalangioides*) that had taken up residence just inside my front door. After binding up the fly securely, the spider fed on it for the rest of the day – probably the first meal it had had for a while.

A few days ago, the local Sulphur-crested Cockatoos were lining up on my verandah railings for their afternoon feed. Suddenly one dropped down to the verandah – and began to dance! It jumped up and down, tapping its feet, flapped its wings and twirled in circles. Maybe somebody had trained it? Anyway, however it learned to dance, it was lovely to see. Nature is full of surprises.



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Living With Snakes

by Bec Quinn

The return of the beautiful spring weather is a time many of us look forward to after the cold, dark days of winter. It is a time when wildlife becomes more active, too, with animals of all kinds actively searching for a mate and enjoying the increase in available food. Snakes are no different, and early spring is a time of increased activity for them as they emerge from their winter brumation (like hibernation) and start foraging for food after many weeks without eating. Snakes are ectothermic (cold blooded), relying on external sources of heat to warm their bodies and so are often seen basking in the sun. This behaviour generates numerous articles and posts on social media which frequently have overtones of fear and misinformation. So how do we learn to coexist with our scaly friends?



Most snakes have an area of territory, or home range where they hunt for food and go about their daily business. By understanding where these areas typically are, it is possible to avoid unwanted interactions with these creatures. These places require suitable food sources and are often close to a body of water. A snake's diet can include small mammals such as mice, frogs, insects, small birds, and reptiles. They are essential to keeping populations of these animals in balance and so seeing a snake in a particular area is a good indicator that the ecosystem is functioning as it should. Snakes will seek out water to drink and it is a good idea to locate fishponds and other water sources a short distance from areas frequently used by humans and pets. A snake's habitat will also have areas it can escape to so that it can conceal itself when it feels threatened. These can be holes or small crevices between rocks. Stacked stone retaining walls are a popular home for snakes in the urban environment. Photo by Simone Letheby: Eastern brown snake basking in the sun

If you have snakes close by your house or use an area for recreation where snakes are likely to live, there are some things you can do to reduce the risk of snake bite.

- Appropriate clothing is essential, including long pants and enclosed footwear, especially when gardening or out in the bush.
- Stay on pathways and out of long grass or rocky areas.
- Ensure bird netting on fruit trees and vegetable beds is above the ground to avoid a snake becoming entangled in it.
- Look, but don't touch. Snakes are fascinating creatures to observe quietly, from a safe distance. Most people who are bitten by snakes are trying to move or kill the snake. If you don't get close, you won't get bitten. Please note that the penalty in NSW for individuals who kill protected wildlife is up to \$22000.
- Carry a snake bite compression bandage and know how to correctly apply it. These can be purchased at most pharmacies, or you can contact fundraising@wildcare.com.au to discuss your needs.

Wildcare Queanbeyan Inc will happily provide advice to the public regarding snakes and has snake handlers who can remove snakes entangled in netting or found in chook pens etc, relocating them or bringing them into care as required. Wildcare also provides a rescue service for sick, injured or orphaned native wildlife. Our Helpline is operational 24/7 by phoning 6299 1966.



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WAMBOIN WEATHER – rainfall and temperature records

(46 years from Cooper Road) by Christine Rieber

September Rainfall Stats

September rainfall to the 26th 75.5mm
2021 total rainfall to 26th 687.50mm

Average September rainfall..... 61.8mm
2020 September rainfall..... 44.25mm
2020 total rainfall to 26/9..... 583.5mm
45yr Av. to end of September.. 489.2mm

October Rainfall Stats

2020 October rainfall..... 151.75mm
Wettest October..... 198.5mm in 1976
Wettest October day... 59mm on 17/10/76
Driest October..... 4.5mm in 2006

Average October rainfall..... 59.6mm
Average no. rain days in October..... 9.2
Highest no. rain days..... 22 in 1976
Lowest no. rain days..... 2 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)

Av. Oct. temp... 13.0°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. 2020. Av. max 20.3°C & min 8.5°C

The 45-year average total rainfall for the entire year is 687.8mm, almost exactly the same amount as we have had so far this year (i.e. until 26 September 2021).

Can You Create Something for the Next Whisper?

The Whisper is just one of the many ways we residents of Wamboin and Bywong can inform, entertain or invite each other. The main content is meant to be items created by residents. It should respect the many views and ways of life that we pursue. Deadline for the November 2021 issue is 7 pm, the last Sunday night of October, which is Sunday October 31. Writing something for the rest of us is one way you can do something nice for possibly one or more persons living in the 1300 or so homes around you. If what you contribute could increase your income or improve your business, put it in, but think about paying for it as an ad. If you've ever appreciated someone else's effort to fill up a Whisper, you could repay them by taking a turn.

- Ned Noel, volunteer editor on behalf of the Wamboin Community Association, ph 0409 997 082 or email whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au or nednoel@optusnet.com.au or mailbox at 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin

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Early close settlement history of Joe Rocks Road and The Mountain Road, Wamboin area, NSW, 1983-1985

by R. Michael ('Mike') Bourke

Introduction: This note arose from a request from the Secretary of the Wamboin Community Association (David McDonald) for information on the early close settlement history of Joe Rocks Road (JRR) and The Mountain Road (TMR), that is, the creation of the present day blocks, not the history of European settlement in the area or the very much longer occupation by indigenous people. In April 2021, I interviewed current JRR and TMR residents from five households about the early settlement history (1983 to 1985). All had purchased lots in the JRR/TMR area between 1983 and 1985. These were Bob & Zydre Pember, David Odell, Sue Halden-Brown, Bob & Angie Angel and Brian & Ann Lamont.

This summary is based on the interviews, supplemented by comments on a first draft from those interviewed, information from other residents and some written material (see acknowledgements). I have not included all the material here from the interviews, for example, the names of those who purchased properties from the first owners after 1985. Occasionally memories differed in some detail and I omitted this information.

Joe Rocks Road: The title deeds of the farmland which became the Joe Rocks Road blocks was established in the mid-1800s. The farmland was used for cattle grazing. Bill Ryan¹, the owner in the early 1980s of what was to become Joe Rocks Road, tried to sub-divide his land, but the council would not let him do this. So, he sold blocks with the original titles instead and advertised them as a private estate. Therefore, the JRR blocks are larger than most sub-divided land in this area. In about August 1982, Bill Ryan put the blocks on the market and built Joe Rocks Road and two side lanes. Right of Access was given to owners who purchased blocks. To this day, the road network on Joe Rocks Road (and The Mountain Road) is owned by the landowner through which the road passes. It is neither owned nor maintained by the Council beyond the first 800 m of Joe Rocks Road from the turnoff from Bungendore Road.²

The blocks put on the market in 1982 extended along Joe Rocks Road, with two side lanes (Hillside Lane and Rocky Glen Road). Blocks beyond Rocky Glen Road were not marketed in the initial sales.

The first people to buy a block were Bob and Zydre Pember who purchased a block on Hillside Lane in January 1983, but did not build a house on it. (However, the Pembers bought an adjacent block with a house on it in 1996. This had been purchased by Ron and Carol Cotter soon after the Pembers bought their first one in 1983. The Pembers were living overseas at this time and returned to live in their house in 2007). Number 28 Hillside Lane was purchased at about the same time by Carol Cotter's sister and her husband. The block at 231 JRR was bought by the Larkin family at about this time.

David Odell became the first resident of Joe Rocks Road when he moved to Rocky Glen Road in 1984. Initially, access was via tracks, not properly formed roads. Joe Rocks Road finished at the picnic area (the junction of JRR and Hillside Lane) when David bought his property - after that, JRR was just a track.

Other early residents in the JRR area included Max Thompson and Sue Halden-Brown. Sue had bought the block in mid-1985 from a solicitor who had purchased it earlier, but never built there.

The Mountain Road: The land that was used to create the blocks on The Mountain Road was owned by Tony Reardon. He sold the individual blocks, as happened on JRR. This was done about two years after the first lots on Joe Rocks Road were sold. Tony Reardon was the son of Les Reardon, a long-time councillor on the former Yarrowlumla Shire Council.

Bob and Angie Angel bought a block on The Mountain Road in late 1984, and lived there in a tent and a caravan until they built their house from mud bricks. Soon after the Angels purchased, Brian and Ann Lamont bought a block on TMR in 1985 and moved into the newly constructed house in May 1986. The Mountain Road was a well-made dirt road when Brian and Ann Lamont moved there.

Naming of the roads: Information on naming of the roads provided by different residents was occasionally contradictory and memories were stretched at times. The former landowner (Bill Ryan) named Joe Rocks Road. There are different versions of how this name originated.

It seems that, up to the mid-1990s, the entire Joe Rocks Road system was known as Joe Rocks Road. Mail was delivered by the post office to Rural Mail Bags, with a different number for each property³. However, in the mid/late 1990s, landowners were asked to allocated names to all the lanes. This occurred as the postal service wanted to change addresses from Rural Mail Bag numbers to street number and street name, while continuing to deposit mail at the start of JRR, near Bungendore Road. This seems to have been driven by

¹ William (Bill) Patrick Ryan, a retired grazier from Gundaroo NSW, passed away in his 95th year on 3 May 2015 at Calvary Hospital Bruce after a long illness. His wife, Patricia, died two years later in 2017. See: <https://www.heavenaddress.com/obituaries/funeral-notice/William-Patrick-Ryan/1051344/>
<http://stmarysbungendore.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/20170528-The-Ascension-of-the-Lord.pdf>

² David and Lyn Crossley, the former owners of 73 JRR wrote as follows: Re the comments on Council maintaining JRR to approximately 800 m from Bungendore Rd. Our property was No 73, so the front gate is 730 m from Bungendore Rd. When the residents (mainly through The Mountain Road Association) convinced the council that the JRR/TMR intersection was dangerous, the council agreed to change the 'Y' junction into a 'T' junction. This meant resuming a significant part of our land which included our main road frontage as well as part of our block that runs up The Mountain Road. As part of the negotiation, Council agreed to "resume – and thus forever maintain" the road from Bungendore Rd to the new T junction, as well as the portion of JRR that extends from the 'T' junction to approximately 100 m from the junction, as well as The Mountain Road up the hill to our boundary fence on the left-hand side.

³ RMB numbers are still on two of the mail boxes at the start of Joe Rocks Road.

the decision in the 1990s to implement an Australia-wide approach to rural addresses to ensure that emergency services could readily locate a rural property which historically just had a 'RMB' number based on sequential numbering of habitation of rural areas.^{4 5} A name was proposed in a Council meeting in about 1997 or 1998 for what became named Hillside Lane ('Primrose Road' or something similar was originally proposed). However, the three residents did not like this name. Bob Pember proposed naming their road 'Hillend Lane'. After discussion between the three households who then owned blocks on this lane, the consensus was 'Hillside Lane' and thus this became the official name. David Odell named Rocky Glen Road after his property. Cherry Tree Lane was named by the then residents of 46 Cherry Tree Lane. They named the lane after the native cherry trees (*Exocarpos cupressiformis*) that grow in the area, including at the top of the lane.

Angie Angle wrote about the naming of The Mountain Road as follows:

When we first moved here, our postal address was RMB 675 Gundaroo Rd via Bungendore 2621. There was only signage for Joe Rocks Rd generally. Later the authorities decided to make the addresses clearer and delineate the new roads. They renamed Gundaroo Rd as Bungendore Rd and allocated house numbers based on the distance from the start of each road.

The Mountain Road Association existed by then, as did the name Joe Rocks Road. Hence, the Mountain Road Association decided to keep the name Joe Rocks Rd as an acknowledgement of history. Everyone along the network agreed to name our branch 'The Mountain Rd'. I remember there was some neighbourhood debate about how to name roads.

A few more stories during early settlement of JRR and TMR: The Mountain Road Association (as it was then known) was organized by David Odell in the early 1980s. JRR and TMR residents used to close the road once a year at the junction of JRR and TMR (the Y junction), then have a bar-b-que. This was done to assert that the road system was a private one.

There was no telephone when the blocks were initially taken up. Telecom services were installed in a wide area, including Wamboin, in early or mid-1985. Bob and Angie Angel recalls that it took Telecom staff about three weeks to dig the trenches for the line and that the connection fee was modest. Bob notes that the new service was much needed and the telephone service was reliable and appreciated.

Acknowledgements: The assistance of those interviewed (Bob & Zydre Pember, David Odell, Sue Halden-Brown, Bob & Angie Angel, and Brian & Ann Lamont) and their comments on earlier drafts is acknowledged. Other current or former residents who provided comments, information or documents include David & Lyn Crossley, Graeme Harlor, Heidi Lodi, Lili Spedone, Jan Gough-Watson and Murray Gough. This note was commissioned by David McDonald who provided the links to websites giving information on the deaths of the former landowner of JRR, Bill and Patricia Ryan. Links to local government council sites on naming of rural properties was provided by David and Lyn Crossley. The input of all who assisted is acknowledged with thanks, with the usual caveat that they are not responsible for any remaining errors.

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⁴ For more information on naming of rural roads see, for example:

https://www.brewarrina.nsw.gov.au/f.ashx/p1213010_gnb_rural_addressing.pdf

<https://council.lithgow.com/development/road-naming/>

⁵ The memory of some long-term residents is consistent with the minutes of The Mountain Road Association held on 22 June 2002 (detailed minutes taken by the chair, Murray Gough). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the demand from Australia Post that residents of the Joe Road Road/The Mountain Road system should change their address from Bungendore 2621 to Wamboin 2620. It was proposed that postal services for some households in JRR and TMR would be provided from Bungendore but for others it would be via Queanbeyan. The proposal for the change from Bungendore to Wamboin/Queanbeyan was emphatically rejected by the JRR/TMR landowners and this change did not proceed.

In the context of understanding when and why new names were proposed for side roads off JRR, it was noted in these minutes that residents had been told of the changes to the road names and numbering which had been undertaken over the past three to five years, that is, in 1997 to 1999. This is consistent with Bob and Zeidre Pember's recollection that Hillside Lane was named in 1997 or 1998.

From the Corner

SI Zone Definitions — Following on from last month's discussion of the Standard Instrument (SI) Local Environmental Plan (LEP) template, let's take a look at the elements of a land use zone definition. First up, my apologies for an error in the printed version of last month's piece—at one point it incorrectly referred to the Rural zones as R1–R5. The reference should have identified the Rural zones as RU1–RU5, distinguishing them from the entirely unrelated Residential zones (R1–R5).

An overarching objective of the land use planning reforms that gave rise to the Standard Instrument template was the standardisation of the structure of all NSW LEPs. Where optional clauses can be inserted, their wording too is generally standardised so that the preparation of an LEP is largely an exercise of picking appropriate clauses from a menu of options.

When it comes to land use zones, the SI offers a set of predefined Land Use Zones. These definitions include two elements: the zone objectives and a land use table. Each of the SI land use zone definitions includes a set of core development objectives, and a number of mandatory land uses, some of which must be permitted and others that must be prohibited, within the zone.

Land use zones are defined within a Local Government Area (LGA) by matching one of the predefined sets of zone objectives with desired development outcomes in a given area of the LGA. Councils have the option to add other objectives (that are consistent with the core objectives) to clarify the intent of the zone in their given LGA. The land use table for any particular zone is subsequently populated with land uses that are considered appropriate for that zone within the LGA in question. Once again, however, land use descriptions must be chosen from a standardised list provided in the SI *Dictionary*.

A land use table, in turn, has three sections, identifying land uses that are permitted without consent (i.e. no council approval required), those that may be permitted with development consent (i.e. with council approval, and conditions generally apply), and those that are prohibited (not allowed under any circumstances) in the relevant Land Use Zone.

It is important to note that the land use table for a particular zone quite often varies between LEPs in different LGAs. Apart from the mandatory requirements, there is a degree of flexibility in the way in which land use tables can be populated, allowing for the fact that the character of a particular land use zone may vary from LGA to LGA. Development in a medium density residential area (R3 zone) in metropolitan Sydney, for example, might reasonably have a different character to development in an R3 zone in Queanbeyan. The list of permissible or prohibited land uses in the two might thus be expected to vary. It might, for example, be perfectly reasonable to allow *Car parks* or *Hotel or motel accommodation*, for example, in a metropolitan R3-zoned area, but not in a smaller urban centre like Queanbeyan.

In the context of the current local debate over the zoning of some of our rural residential areas, it is important to appreciate that the issue has moved on from the earlier discussion over the translation of previous zone objectives to a standardised set under the SI. The definitions of each of the E4 and R5 zones within the Palerang and Queanbeyan LEPs are slightly different, reflecting the more urban nature of residential development in and around Queanbeyan. In creating a new LEP for the merged LGA, the R5 zone definition, which is used around new development areas like Googong, has therefore moved towards one more suited to an urban environment—*Extensive agriculture*, for example, requires council consent and *Animal boarding and training establishments*, which includes land uses like horse riding schools, which are not uncommon in the former Palerang rural residential areas, are prohibited. The E4 zone, on the other hand, has remained essentially as it was under the Palerang LEP, with the former YLEP 1(d) rural residential areas and associated land uses remaining its predominant application.

Either way, quite apart from any land use zoning, development must comply with applicable lot size limitations, building height restrictions and controls on terrestrial biodiversity and riparian lands to name but a few. All of these controls are applied quite independently throughout an LGA, through individual LEP clauses and associated map overlays.

As such, land use zoning is only one of the controls provided in an LEP and it is good to keep its purpose in mind, that simply being the promotion of a particular style of development in a given area. In the present context, the E4 (Environmental Living) zone is used to ensure that residential development is consistent with the environmental capabilities of the land in question, while the R5 (Large Lot Residential) zone is used to ensure that development is consistent with the residential amenity of adjacent urban development. The difference is perhaps subtle, but one promotes residential development and associated land uses that are consistent with any local environmental considerations while the other promotes development and land uses that area consistent with the amenity of adjacent urban areas.

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

SI Zone Definitions (Sep 2021) Land Use Zoning (Aug 2021)
Cr Pete Harrison Ph. 6238 3640 Mob. 0427 711 028 Email:
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Our Time in North Wamboin

by Aidan and Jacquelyn O'Leary

Please note that the photos are reduced in size due to space limitations. Please consider looking at them in colour in the online version of the Whisper at www.wamboincommunity.org.au

We purchased our land in north Wamboin in May 1984 after a work colleague bought the block next door. I described the area as “goat country” but my wife was keen to have a look at what was on offer.

At the time it wasn't even called Wamboin – it was via Sutton or via Bungendore. We didn't realise it was east of Canberra – we thought it was more north than east until the big fire east of Canberra in about 1986 burnt to within 500m of our place!

Macs Reef Rd at the time was gravel, there was a low-level crossing on the Yass River which flooded regularly, and the area was very under-developed. But we thought the block had potential and,

after doing a few sums, we decided we could buy it.

In August that year we had a dam constructed close to our preferred house site.



37 years later, the view has changed considerably.

We started building our rammed earth house in 1988 using material from below the dam.

Progress was slow as 1988 was one of our wettest years with 925mm. 1989 wasn't much better with 882mm. Our long term average up until 2020 is now 699mm.



Our wettest year was 2016 with 1014mm, but 2021 could well set a new record.





The Bywong Community hall was built about this time and there were irregular working bees, mostly coinciding with wet weather!

As well as the rain, we have also had some fairly amazing snowfalls over the years as our part of Wamboin is at about 800m above sea level.



We also had several droughts, but didn't take any worthwhile photos!

The house site was pretty rough, but provided a nice view of the dam and much of the rest of the block and the surrounding hills.



Our choice has been vindicated, with great views over the whole property. And we have rarely needed a lawn mower!



Construction of the garden has been a major and ongoing project especially as the house site and surrounds was mainly rock with very little topsoil. Fortunately, the lower part of the block has up to a metre of topsoil. The next pictures show the site around 1991.



Today things are very different which is just as well as our 73 year old bodies wouldn't be up to the efforts we put in as youthful 45 year olds! Sadly it will soon be time for us to move back into the bush capital. How we will miss our little piece of paradise.



And to finish up, here are some aerial photos of the property, the first from 1996 and the second from 2020 courtesy of Google Earth. The change in vegetation is pretty amazing.

