

December 2021 / January 2022

Circulation 1,343

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

# The Whisper

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**Wamboin Community Assn [www.wamboincommunity.org.au](http://www.wamboincommunity.org.au)**

**Bywong Community [www.bywongcommunity.org.au](http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au)**

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

## Bywong and Wamboin Facilities and Contacts

<b>Bywong Community</b>	Mike Wilkins - President	6230 3473	<a href="mailto:president@bywongcommunity.org.au">president@bywongcommunity.org.au</a>
<b>Bywong Hall Bookings</b>	Bookings Officer		<a href="mailto:lrrhallbywong@gmail.com">lrrhallbywong@gmail.com</a>
<b>Church - Anglican</b>	Gai Donald - Warden	0438 400 364	<a href="mailto:peterandandrew2012@gmail.com">peterandandrew2012@gmail.com</a>
<b>Community Nurse</b>	Heather Morrison - Bungendore	6238 1333	
<b>Fire Brigade</b>	Matt O'Brien - Captain	6128 0600 bsn hrs	<a href="mailto:wamboincaptain@gmail.com">wamboincaptain@gmail.com</a>
<b>Geary's Gap Pony Club</b>	Cameron Smith	0419 449 747	
<b>Golf</b>	Peter Greenwood	6238 3358	<a href="mailto:p.greenwood2@bigpond.com">p.greenwood2@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Injured Wildlife</b>	Wildcare - Helpline	6299 1966	
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Peter Greenwood - JP	6238 3358	
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Andrew Stainlay - JP	0408 469 880	<a href="mailto:stains@bigpond.net.au">stains@bigpond.net.au</a>
<b>KYB Bible Study Group</b>	Robyn Doran	6238 3469	<a href="mailto:rdoran4@bigpond.com">rdoran4@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Lake George VIEW Club</b>	Pauline Segeri	6238 1996	
<b>Landcare</b>	Kathy Handel - Treasurer	6238 3596	<a href="mailto:khandel@bigpond.net.au">khandel@bigpond.net.au</a>
<b>NSW SES (assist - storm/flood)</b>	NSW Call Centre	132 500	
<b>NSW SES Bungend. (non-urgent)</b>	After Hours Duty Officer	6238 0222	
<b>Sutton School Playgroup</b>	Belinda Robinson - Convenor	0422 262 426	<a href="mailto:brobinson35@hotmail.com">brobinson35@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Table Tennis</b>	Mike Muston	0406 606 238	<a href="mailto:mikemuston@gmail.com">mikemuston@gmail.com</a>
<b>Wamboin Community Assoc.</b>	Peter Evans - President	6236 9779	<a href="mailto:president@wamboincommunity.asn.au">president@wamboincommunity.asn.au</a>
<b>Wamboin-Bung. Book Group</b>	Sally Saunders	0419 303 229	<a href="mailto:sally.saunders1@bigpond.com">sally.saunders1@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Wamboin Hall Bookings</b>	Joan Mason	6238 3258	<a href="mailto:joan.mason@internode.on.net">joan.mason@internode.on.net</a>
<b>Wamboin Markets</b>	Meriel Schultz	6238 3309	<a href="mailto:lmsconsulting@bigpond.com">lmsconsulting@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Wamboin Play Group</b>	Coordinator		<a href="mailto:wamboin.playgroup@gmail.com">wamboin.playgroup@gmail.com</a>
<b>Gearys Gap Pony Club</b>	Kate O'Connor, President	0413 008 824	<a href="mailto:gearysgap.ponyclub@gmail.com">gearysgap.ponyclub@gmail.com</a>
<b>Wamboin Pony Club</b>	Stacey Burgess -Contact Person	0414 672 979	<a href="mailto:wamboinpcsecretary@gmail.com">wamboinpcsecretary@gmail.com</a>
<b>Wamboin Thurs Social Grp</b>	Narelle Pumphrey	0438 917 206	<a href="mailto:pumpbnjc@westnet.com.au">pumpbnjc@westnet.com.au</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>
<b>ARF (Rescue Dogs)</b>	Lisa Whitney	0408 260 796	<a href="mailto:lisawhitney059@gmail.com">lisawhitney059@gmail.com</a>

**The Wamboin Whisper:** The Whisper is a monthly community newsletter established in 1981 by and owned by the Wamboin Community Association. The Whisper is printed at EnvoPrint in Fyshwick 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 February 2022 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, January 30, 2022.** 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.

**Young Entrepreneurs:** Rebecca Purdie - pet/horse sitting 6238 3343 Kathleen Dunkerly - baby sitting - 0435 794 070

[kathleen.dunkerly07@gmail.com](mailto:kathleen.dunkerly07@gmail.com) Rebecca Purdie - pet/horse sitting 6238 3343

Grace Taylor 0490 758 476 baby sitting and tutoring for primary school students [gracetaylor145@gmail.com](mailto:gracetaylor145@gmail.com)

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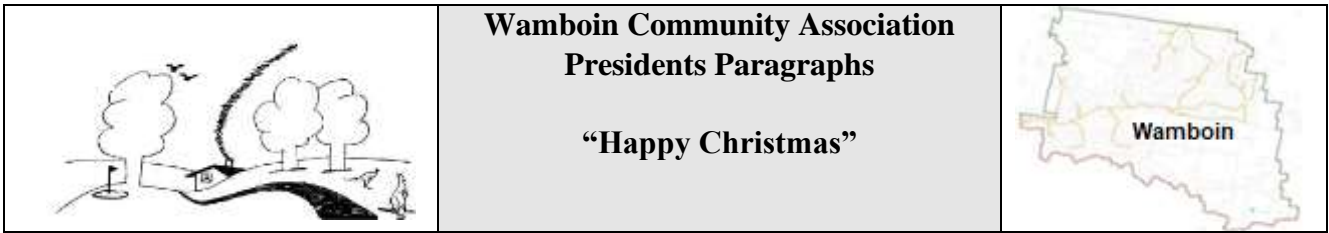
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Ellie Merriman - 0402 117 877

Doug Merriman - 0419 999 001

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Well what a difference a month can make. Just when you thought things were settling down a new variant of Covid is on the loose and threatening our recently granted freedoms, we have had a record rainfall for November (and I think the yearly record is about to fall as well) including 100mm in a day on November 15<sup>th</sup> and by the time we go to print we will have a new Council and then in January a new mayor,

**Markets** – The last markets for the year will be on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2021 (come down for that handmade Christmas gift). The markets will be back in January 15<sup>th</sup> in 2022.

**The Mailbox and Entrance Christmas Decoration Competition** – Many thanks to the Wonderful Women of Wamboin for once again organising and facilitating this competition. In a fairly bleak year it is great to spread some Christmas joy and colour to the local area and show our Christmas spirit. Details of the competition are in this edition of the Whisper and there are two Christmas hampers on offer valued at \$150 each sponsored by both the Wamboin and Bywong Community associations. Please brighten up everyone’s Christmas and make your gate and mailbox a winner. The winners will be announced at the December markets.

**Council elections** – Yes they will have been run and won by the time this edition hits the mailboxes. It was a good rollup to the meet the candidates night where we heard the candidates pitch for our votes. I thought it was a great night and I was heartened by what was a great group of deserving candidates. If the positive views and passion shown by the candidates on the night is anything to go by I think the next Council will be in good hands. It was also very positive to see three local candidates on the night (Mareeta Grundy, Lousie Burton and Edwina Webster) who if elected will give us a voice at Council. Good luck all.

**Haley Jensen** – I hear Haley, who is an ex Wamboin resident is nominated for the Country Music’s “Golden Guitar – Female Artist of the Year”. Best of luck and maybe we can get her home to the Wamboin Community hall for a gig.

**Christmas Carols** – Sorry Folks, the carols are cancelled this year due to Covid-19 logistics.

**Wheels of Wamboin 2022** – Saturday May 21st 2022, shampoo the hubcaps over the Christmas Break.

**Wamboin Social Drop-In Group**–has resumed. The club is open to anyone who wants to get out of the house and have a chat over a cup of tea/coffee; join in a game of scrabble, cards or something else; or have a game of table tennis. It is an informal, friendly, atmosphere that caters for both young and old alike.

**QPRC Library** - Please find an article for the library in this month’s Whisper.

**Road Line marking** – hopefully in time for Christmas we will see some new paint on our local road to replace the aging and very much faded paint on many of them. The WCA has been making representations to QPRC to renew our markings on our local roads for some time now so we are very interested to see the amount of line marking proposed. One key thing is to also paint the edge lines where the road width allows. As we all know it can get very foggy in around the local area which makes night time driving hazardous, so this would be a great safety improvement. (As a side note, did you know that glass beads are added to the line marking to increase the reflectivity of the applied paint. There are a number of different bead mixes and some use recycled crushed glass. There is actually an Australian Standard for the beads to comply with).

**Get Vaccinated** – Thanks science.

**Christmas Wishes** – To all our residents on behalf of the Wamboin Community Association we wish you a very safe and happy Christmas and New Year Period. It’s time to celebrate with family and friends and also time to appreciate the special people around us in these very difficult times. We also would like to thank all the wonderful people who have made our community great over the past trying and unsettling year. Please drive carefully on our roads over the Christmas and New Year break and fingers crossed that 2022 brings a positive outlook to the world in general and allow some of our everyday things get back to a new sense of normal. Who knows what we will be writing about in December next year. From my family to yours, have a very happy and safe Christmas and New

Year period. **We are Wamboin**

-Peter Evans,  
president

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## XMAS GATHERING



- Family-friendly catchup - ALL welcome!
  - Drinks, sandwiches and wraps provided
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  - COVID SAFE event / No RSVP needed
- Bywong Hall, Birrawa Rd

On 17 November, **Kristy McBain MP, federal member for Eden-Monaro**, visited the Bywong Hall.

Following an introduction by Pete Evans, President of the Wamboin CA, Elinor Archer, a local educator in Indigenous Languages and Cultures who has strong connections with Ngunnawal Elders and community, delivered an Acknowledgement of Country. Bywong artist John-Pierre Favre then presented Kristy with his portrait of her that was the catalyst for this meeting. Kristy answered questions from the 30-strong audience for two and a half hours, including through the short refreshment break!

The **BCA Annual General Meeting** was held on Wed 24 November. All Committee positions were declared vacant and the following new Committee was appointed: President=Mike Wilkins; Treasurer=Jeanette Krah; Public Officer=Greg Gudgeon; Secretary=vacant (nominations welcome!); Ordinary Members of Committee=Tim Sloane, Bob Angel, John-Pierre Favre, Steve Walker, Attilio Sciannimanica, Sharyn Cheetham. The Committee will meet in January to start planning events for 2022, hopefully with fewer or no COVID restrictions! If you would like to pitch in with planning/organizing, email [president@bywongcommunity.org.au](mailto:president@bywongcommunity.org.au)

BCA wishes you all the best for the Festive Season, and hopes you'll join us at the **Xmas Gathering on Friday 10 December, 6.30 to 8.30pm** (see flyer for details). Make sure you **Dress LOUD** – there will be prizes!

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# The Wamboin Firefighter

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As another testing year draws to a close the members, of your brigade would like to wish everyone a safe and joyful Christmas and New Year.  
If you are seeking a permit to burn of please contact Lake George Fire Control Centre 02 61280600 or go to the NSW RFS webpage.  
Merry Christmas everyone, please look after one another

## USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade	<a href="http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au">http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au</a>
NSW Rural Fire Service	<a href="http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au">www.rfs.nsw.gov.au</a>
Face Book	Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade
Queanbeyan Fire Control	6128 0600

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## Offer Of Assistance To The Wamboin/Bywong Community From The Salvation Army

The Wamboin Community Association has received a communication from Joanne Paull, the Community of Hope Leader, Queanbeyan, in the Salvation Army Australia Territory. Joanne writes: I just wanted to touch base with you again at this time to see if there is anything we can do to assist your community over the Christmas period. I am pleased to let you know that the Salvos Queanbeyan Christmas Assistance applications are now open. To apply please go to:

<https://salvationarmy.typeform.com/Christmas2021>

Just select the Queanbeyan link - All the details are there. Just follow the prompts. I would be happy for you to share this with folks in your community who need some extra assistance at this time. Bless you heaps. - Jo

If anyone in our community needs support at this time, or if you know of any friends or neighbours who could benefit from the supports that the Salvation Army team can provide, please do not hesitate to contact Joanne at:

Joanne Paull, Community of Hope Leader, Queanbeyan, The Salvation Army Australia Territory, [salvationarmy.org.au](http://salvationarmy.org.au)

Email: [joanne.paull@salvationarmy.org.au](mailto:joanne.paull@salvationarmy.org.au) Address: 226 Crawford Street Queanbeyan, ACT 2620

Mail: PO Box 738, Queanbeyan NSW 2620 Phone: (02) 6299 1138 Mobile: 0401 234 974

## News from the QPRC Library

Queanbeyan and Braidwood Libraries are now open with density limits and reduced services. Queanbeyan opening hours are Monday-Friday 11am-4pm & Saturday 10am-1pm. Braidwood is open Monday-Friday 11.00am-12.30pm & 1.30-4.00pm. Click and Collect options are still available for both branches. Bungendore Library will open Saturdays 9.00am-12.30pm starting 4 December, with a continued Click and Deliver service to the Bungendore township.

**The Mobile Library service will stop at the Wamboin Community Hall from 10.30-11.30am on Thursday 2 & 16 December, with no stops in January and resuming in February.**

It will also make an additional stop in Bungendore at Mick Sherd Oval every Friday between 9.30am-12.30pm until 17 December 2021.

Join us for a Christmas Storytime in the park where we will feature Christmas books and craft. These will be held:

- Wednesday 15 December at Queanbeyan Town Park – 10.00am
- Thursday 16 December at Braidwood Memorial Park – 11.00am
- Friday 17 December at Bungendore Park, Gibraltar St – 10.30am

Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for January school holiday activities.

All Queanbeyan-Palerang Libraries will close at 1pm Friday 24 December and will **reopen Tuesday 4 January 2022.**





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## WCAG – Community Fibre Project Update – 30 November 2021

It's been three months since the last update on our community fibre Project and we know that many residents are anxious to know how the project is progressing.

As outlined in our August update, the Department of Regional NSW, which is undertaking the procurement on behalf of the NSW Government, had contacted WCAG to advise that its evaluation of the RFT had been completed. While none of the tenders submitted met the requirements specified in the tender documents, the Department would now pursue alternative options to progress the construction of the network.

The WCAG is very much aware that this announcement resulted in numerous rumours and some speculation that the project was unlikely to proceed. To paraphrase Mark Twain, those rumours greatly exaggerated the facts. Specifically, despite what you may have read on some social media sites, or heard at community forums, our project remains very much alive.

Earlier this month, the Department of Regional NSW confirmed that it remains "committed to improving connectivity in the Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton region".

Over the last three months:

- the WCAG has met with senior officers of the Department to discuss options and alternatives to move the project forward;
- the Department has identified how the outcome and learnings from the RFT process could best be used to improve aspects of the projects technical, financial, procurement and operating models;
- in mid-November, the Department approached a shortlist of telecommunications providers (that had responded to the original RFT) and sought an updated response from them based on this (via an EOI process);
- WCAG was invited to assist these providers in responding to the EOI by clarifying the community's needs for better broadband and in refining and recasting their technical and deployment solution;

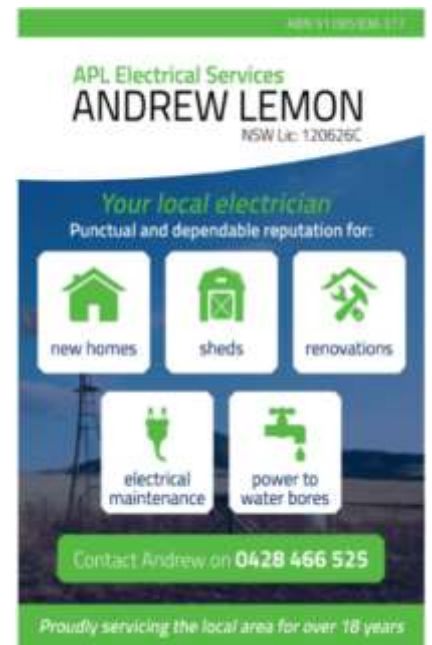
The Department is now considering the responses to the EOI.

Lastly, the WCAG understands that many residents are disappointed in the delays experienced in getting the construction of our fibre network started. It would be an understatement to say that we share your frustration.

In the meantime, best wishes for Christmas and hope you and your family have a happy and safe festive season. - WCAG



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## WAMBOIN WEATHER – Rainfall And Temperature Records

(46 years from Cooper Road) by Christine Rieber

### November Rainfall Stats

November rainfall to the 28<sup>th</sup> ..... 200.0mm  
2021 total rainfall to 28/11..... 1007.5mm

### December Rainfall Stats

2020 December rainfall..... 47.5mm  
Wettest December..... 177.75mm in 2010  
Wettest day..... 68mm on 2/12/10  
Driest December..... 0mm in 1979

### December Temperature Stats

Hottest Dec. day..... 41.5°C on 21/12/19  
Coldest December day.. 12°C on 16/12/16  
Average day temperature..... 25.5°C  
Warmest December ..... 2019  
(Av. day temp. 32.0°C & night 12.3°C)  
(warmest night 14.9°C in 1994)

Average November rainfall..... 76.2mm  
2020 November rainfall..... 75.5mm  
2020 total rainfall to 28/11..... 817.5mm  
45yr Av. to end of November.....625.0mm

Average December rainfall..... 62.8mm  
Average no. rain days in December... 8.2  
Highest no. rain days..... 17 in 2010  
Lowest no. rain days..... 0 in 1979

Av. Dec. temp.. 18.9°C (day+night comb.)  
Hottest December night.... 23°C (2 times)  
on 20/12/94 & 24/12/05  
Coldest Dec. night..... 2°C on 5/12/11  
Average night temperature..... 12.4°C  
Coldest December ..... 2011  
(Av. day temp. 19.5°C & nights 8.7°C)  
Dec. 2020. Av. max 26.1°C & min 11.0°C

*The summer solstice occurs on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021, which is the day with the longest daylight, but interestingly it is not the day with either the earliest sunrise or the latest sunset. That is because sun rises and sun sets are not related to solstice. The earliest sunrise occurs about 2 weeks before the summer solstice and the latest sunset occurs 2 weeks after the summer solstice.*

*November 2021 has been the wettest November on record with 200mm to the 28<sup>th</sup> day. The total rainfall to the 28<sup>th</sup> of November is 1007.5mm, which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> wettest year on record. If we get the average rainfall for December, 2021 will be just short of the wettest year on record. However, the forecast for the region issued by BOM (Bureau Of Meteorology) for December is for above average rainfall.*

### January Rainfall Stats

2021 January rainfall..... 65.5mm  
Wettest January..... 197.5mm in 1995  
Wettest day..... 74mm on 21/1/95  
Driest January ..... 5.5mm in 2010

### January Temperature Stats

Hottest January day..... 43.6°C on 4/1/20  
& 43.5°C on 31/1/20  
Coldest Jan. day..... 12°C on 29 & 30/1/78  
Average day temperature..... 27.7°C  
Warmest January ..... 2019  
(Av. day temp. 34.1°C & night 16.8°C)  
(highest night 17.1°C in 91)

Average January rainfall..... 59.8mm  
Average no. rain days in January..... 7.7  
Highest no. rain days..... 16 in 1976 & 78  
Lowest no. rain days..... 2 in 2003 & 14

Av. Jan. temp.. 20.9°C (day+night comb.)  
Hottest January night.... 26°C on 25/1/82  
Coldest Jan. night..... 5°C (4 times)  
on 24/1/00, 12-13/1/12 & 1/1/13  
Average night temperature..... 14.2°C  
Coldest January ..... 2012  
(Av. day temp. 11.1°C & night 23.2°C)  
Jan. 2021. Av. max 28.6°C & min 12.5°C



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## Wamboin Social Drop-In Group – Wamboin Hall, Thursdays 10-1.

The group is open to anyone who wants to get out of the house and have a chat over a cup of tea/coffee, join in a game of scrabble, cards, rummikub or something else. It is an informal, friendly atmosphere that caters for young and old alike. Please note the group's last get together will be Thursday 9 December 2021 with it recommencing on Thursday 3 February 2022. For further information, please contact Narelle Pumphrey on 0438 917206.

### Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For December I chose the White-necked Heron, an uncommon visitor to the Wamboin area.

#### White-necked Heron (*Ardea pacifica*)

Size: 76-106cm (wingspan 1.6m)

Status: Uncommon breeding visitor

White-necked Herons are very large and distinctive waterbirds. Their plumage consists of a white head and neck, which contrasts strongly with the slate-grey body. In breeding plumage their neck is plain white, and they acquire plum-coloured breeding plumes on the back and breast. In non-breeding and juvenile plumage, the front of the neck is spotted black. The bill and legs are black. In flight White-necked Herons have a hunched neck and have white "headlights" on the front of the wings, a useful feature for identification when they are flying. Their flight is very slow with long, slow wingbeats. The male and female look similar. White-necked Herons are usually found singly or sometimes in small groups. They rarely call, but if they do, it is a guttural grunt or croak, typically only given in alarm or around the nest. White-necked Herons are an uncommon visitor to our area, mainly over summer, but they are also present in smaller numbers during winter. They very rarely breed locally, however a pair has been nesting in Wamboin this spring. They are not typically resident and move widely in response to where suitable habitat is. White-necked Herons can be found at most waterbodies including farm dams, lake edges, flooded paddocks, wetlands and sewage ponds. They typically wade on the shallower edges of waterbodies and stalk fish, yabbies, tadpoles, frogs and other small aquatic animals, which they spear with their large, dagger-like bill. They are the third largest Australian heron, only surpassed in size by the Great Egret (*Ardea alba* - found throughout Australia) and the Great-billed Heron (*Ardea sumatrana* - found in coastal northern Australia from central QLD to the Kimberley, WA). In the local area, the White-faced Heron also occurs regularly which is overall grey in colour with a white face, as opposed to a white head and neck. (Photo from Google Images)



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## Nature Notes - November 2021

Jo Walker

With copious amounts of rain falling during most of November, the dams are full and overflowing, creeks still audible and the vegetation growing fast in a green and lush landscape.

This has been the wettest November recorded in the Canberra region. On the last Thursday of the month, we had two very heavy downpours here. I had 55.5 mm in my rain gauge and the creek flooded beyond its banks in places. The water was hurtling along so strongly that it uprooted reeds and sedges in places and left them on the banks – as well as almost uprooting two sizeable shrubs. Not sure where the tadpoles developing in the previously quiet pools along the creek ended up.

Masses of cream flowers are covering the dark green Black Wattles (*Acacia mearnsii*) along Sutton Road and at the bottom of the hill on Norton Road. This is a curious species as it doesn't develop its seed to maturity until the next lot of flowers are almost blooming. If you look at them now – when they are flowering, or almost so – you'll find well-developed seed pods that will mature round about the Christmas-New Year period. The flowers that are on the trees now will produce tiny seed pods that will stay that way until about the middle of next year, when they will start growing as next year's buds are developing.

*Daviesia mimosoides* (Bitter Pea) bushes have finished flowering and are now covered in triangular shaped reddish seed pods. But many of the other pea plants are still bearing a lot of colourful flowers – including *Dillwynia sericea* (Parrot Pea) a low-growing compact plant with masses of orange-yellow flowers – there are quite a few of these along local roadsides at present. And the Pale Wedge Pea (*Gompholobium huegelii*) is showing off a lot of large bright yellow flowers.

Bluebells (*Wahlenbergia stricta* and *W. communis*) are having a bumper show of flowers this year – growing extremely tall and producing lots of bright blue flowers. A bit of purple colour is provided by Mountain Kangaroo Apple bushes (*Solanum linearifolium* and the smaller (and prickly) Narrawa Burr (*Solanum cinereum*). And, along some local roadsides and beyond, Cauliflower Bushes (*Cassinia longifolia*) are beginning to flower. Their large white flower-heads above the large patches of Sticky Everlasting Daisies (*Xerochrysum viscosum*) waving their golden flowers form quite a picture.

I haven't seen many lizards around yet – possibly because of the tall vegetation – but the Long-necked Turtles are moving around over local roads – I moved three to a safer place last week.

It looks as if we're going to get still more wet weather. With everything growing so fast and luxuriantly, my place already looks more like a coastal area than Wamboin. Interesting times.




### Yoga in Sutton

It feels so good!  
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## Local Church News

You may be wondering how we are going with the new Church Hall at St Peter's in Sutton, part of the SRMD, which includes St Andrews in Wamboin. Well, the answer is very slowly thanks to the last 2 years of COVID 19 and so much lovely rain!!!! However, we will soon complete stage 1 of the project which provides us with much needed toilet facilities (we no longer have to use the dreaded old Port-a-loo) and the shell of the new building to lock up stage. We have achieved all of this with the fundraising efforts of our small congregation and some wonderful and generous donations from some lovely people. We have stretched our available funds to build the best building we can.

We can't wait to finish the project. It will be such an asset to the church and the wider community. We want to make the new hall available to everyone for all sorts of activities. It'll have space for meetings, a big space for indoor activities like dance classes and small exhibitions, a lovely kitchen and of course space for the community to celebrate events such as weddings and christenings.

We also hope to landscape the grounds to encourage people to utilize the space for spiritual contemplation, play, community get togethers and recreation. It's all in our grand plan to boost the facilities of the lovely village of Sutton. In our quest to achieve this goal

we hope the community will help us and join in our events and fund-raising activities in the coming months. We would also appreciate offers of help from professionals in the building industry who live in the local community. We would especially appreciate materials (sorry no used or second-hand materials unless they can be readily certified – this is a commercial grade 9b building and we need to stick to the regulations) and services for the interior fit-out – air-conditioning; gyproc sheeting; electrical and plumbing fitting/s; semi commercial kitchen fit out; plastering; painting; flooring etc.

Our first service since lock-down closure will be on 12 December 2021 at 9.30 am and then on Sunday 19th December we will celebrate Christmas with our usual Carols at 6.00pm. Services will be at St Andrews Wamboin on 19 December at 9.30am and again on Christmas Eve at 8.00pm. Christmas Day service will be at Sutton at 9.30am.

If you'd like a sneak-peak at what the hall looks like now come along to the Carols and we can show you.

We hope to see you all soon. Have a wonderful and safe Christmas and if you can help us please contact us. **Pastor Royce Thompson 0416265600 or Robyn Hardy, Project Manager, 0402760014.**



**Sutton Community Christmas Carols**



♪

♪

**St Peter's Church**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December 6.00 pm** ♪

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## A Chronology of Wamboin and District, from the Beginning to May 1828

David McDonald

The June 2021 issue of *The Whisper* included a note about the availability of the first edition of an historical timeline of our local area, titled 'A Chronology of Wamboin and District, NSW'. I have now completed a second edition. It contains 311 entries, in chronological order from c. 444 million years ago to the present time. You can access the full chronology (as a PDF file) at the Wamboin Community Association's website. It is at the local history page there: <https://www.wamboincommunity.asn.au/localhistory/>. At that page, navigate through the left-hand-side menus Wamboin Locality | Chronology.

If you have an interest in the history of our area, you are invited to peruse the document, and pass on to me any suggestions for additional entries, additional topics, or other comments on its contents. I can be contacted at phone 0416 231 890, or email david [at] dnmcdonald.id.au.

Commencing with this issue of *The Whisper*, I have extracted some items from the Chronology that focus specifically on Wamboin and District, rather than the broader, contextual happenings. Future issues will continue the series. The full version at the website provides the documentary sources underpinning these contents and, in some cases, additional information, as well as other entries for the time period covered below.

Date	Occurrence/comment
c. 444 million years ago	Late Ordovician geological period. Huge volumes of sediments (turbidites) deposited into the deep ocean far off the east coast of the Gondwana mega-continent. Subsequently folded and metamorphosed into the quartz-rich sandstone, siltstone, and shale that we see over most of Wamboin and district today.
c. 10-5 million years ago	The tectonic elevation of the Cullerin Uplift/Cullerin Horst during the Late Miocene to Early Pliocene epoch. The downcutting of the Molonglo River gorge kept pace with the uplifting of the lands. The eastern escarpment of the Cullerin Horst blocked the flow of Allianoyonyiga, Taylors, Butmaroo & Turallo Creeks to the Yass River through Gearys Gap, creating Lake George/Weereewaa.
c. 50,000 years ago, onwards	Aboriginal people were the custodians of the lands that we call Wamboin and district for up to 50,000 years (and possibly longer) before Europeans first visited the area. Tobler <i>et al.</i> (2017) present evidence '... that the settlement of Australia comprised a single, rapid migration along the east and west coasts that reached southern Australia by 49-45' thousand years ago. Apparently, no historical documents, nor recorded oral history, exist clarifying what these traditional custodians called themselves, nor what they called their language. We do know, however, from scholarly linguistics research covering the National Capital region more broadly (especially Koch 2009 & 2010), that their language was similar to, if not identical to, that of the Monaro people: the <i>Ngarigu/Ngarigo</i> language, and <i>Ngarigu/Ngarigo</i> was apparently the name the Monaro people called themselves.
c. 30,000 years ago	Lake George/Weereewaa at its fullest, extending from north of Collector to south of Bungendore, and overflowing at Gearys Gap into the Yass River drainage system.
1797, 1 Jul	Introduction of merino sheep to the Colony of NSW.
1813	Passage across the Blue Mountains found by Blaxland, Wentworth & Lawson, along with their guide James Burn, and four convicts. Aboriginal people had crossed the Great Dividing Range for millennia prior to the arrival of the British settlers.
1820, Aug	The peak of the Sydney influenza epidemic's devastating impact on mortality rates among the Aboriginal people of the Sydney region, the Southern Highlands and, by extension, the Wamboin district and further inland.
1820, 19 Aug	Joseph Wild (1773–1847) and party left Throsby's road construction gang in the Goulburn area, travelled south, and became the first non-Aboriginal people to visit Lake George/Weereewaa.
1820, 27-28 Oct	Charles Throsby, Joseph Wild, James Vaughan and two Aboriginal guides whose names are not recorded, traversed Wamboin and Bywong. Route: from the eastern side of Lake George, crossing Turallo Creek, west over the Lake George Range, through what is now the south-eastern part of the locality of Wamboin, to the headwaters of the Yass River in Wamboin, followed the river to the west then north to its junction with Brooks Creek, east along Brooks Creek to Gearys Gap, descended to the lake, south along its western shore then north along the eastern shore to the expedition's starting point.
1822, 30 Jan	First map to show part of what became the Parish of Wamboin. Compiled by NSW Surveyor General John Oxley.
1824 (possibly earlier)	Sydney-based Captain Richard Brooks (1765–1833) established the 'Bungendow'/'Bungandow' property (including 'Turalla'), the most southerly inland location at which the colonial settlers had taken up land at that stage. In 1 Dec 1824 he was 'Allowed temporary occupation of land at the southern end of Lake George for use as a grazing run'. It subsequently became a land grant of 4,000 acres.
1825	First European settlement at Gundaroo. Gundaroo subsequently became the village serving the settlers in Wamboin and district before a road to Bungendore was built.
1826, 5 Sep	'By a Government order on 5 September 1826 Governor Darling created an area known as the "limits of location". Settlers were only allowed to take up land within this area. 'A further Government order on 14 October 1829 increased this area of approved settlement to include an area called the Nineteen Counties.' The area that Wamboin and district now occupies lay inside the south-western edge of the Nineteen Counties, as the Murrumbidgee River constituted the boundary.

1827	'In 1827, the Bungendow run [including what became Brooks' 'Turalla' property] affected by a severe drought which soon became prolonged, forcing the district's stockmen to look for new pastures for the starving animals' in the Monaro district.
1828	'The NSW Census of 1828 recorded that there were 126 persons living at twenty different places in the County Murray, although the boundaries had not been officially defined. At Captain Richard Brook's Bungendow (Bungendore) property eighteen people were employed, and Bowen and Balcombe on the Molonglo River had another thirty'. 'The 1828 Census recorded that of the 126 persons living in County Murray, 73 were convicts and by 1836 50% of the population were convicts, that is 864. This created an uneasy situation between those who were free and those who weren't'.
1828	William Guise (1797 - 1850) running stock at his 'Bywong' (Sutton) property, and beyond.
1828, May	Robert Dixon undertook the first survey of the area, a feature survey only. 'Dixon's survey in 1828 and 1829 permitted the proclamation in October 1829 of the [County] of Murray, the area within a radius of about thirty-five miles of where the town of Queanbeyan later developed'.



## Tomatoes '21

No ripe tomatoes so far however we now have quite a lot of set fruit.

Of the 6 varieties of tomatoes we planted, the first to set was a San Marzano (left - looks like a tall Roma), as per the attached photo taken November 26. Maybe this one will be ripe by Christmas? The most prolific tomato at this stage is an Apollo (right). As you can see by the photo it is well



advanced.

Perhaps the cold weather delayed thoughts of gardening as I was about a month late planting the Siberian Tomato seed. This variety is going great now. At the other end of the season, I cut back an Apollo to about 150mm about the end of January and was rewarded with fruit until late June. Lofty Mason.

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Local resident of Wamboin *Dave Collins*





## Tawny Frogmouth Family

Yesterday I spotted a family of Tawny Frogmouth Owls perched on a gum tree branch down by our Creek. There were three babies and what may have been their mother sitting watchfully behind them. Naturally camouflaged against the bark of the gum trees, they sat motionless and with their eyes closed for what appeared quite some time.

This is typically their breeding season between August to December and we are thrilled they chose to visit or perhaps nest on our Wamboin property.

Some research indicates they **mate for life** and live up to **14 years**. At night the breeding pair take turns incubating the eggs, but the father normally takes the day shift. So perhaps this photo shows the father guarding the newborn young. This made me feel wonderful to observe. We have been here almost 14 years and have never seen an owl in bush. Wondering if anyone else has similar stories like this in this region. I love wildlife in all its form and as a local artist can't wait to include these wonderful creatures in my landscapes. So happy to have witnessed this and feel proud to share the wildlife that Wamboin has to offer its residents. – Sylvie Carter

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## 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 relate to living in Bywong or Wamboin. It should respect the many views and ways of life that we pursue. Deadline for the February 2022 issue is 7 pm, the last Sunday night of January, which is Sunday January 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 [ogm](mailto:ogm@nednoel@optusnet.com.au) or [nednoel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au) or mailbox at 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin

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## Kowen Iso Freedom Trail Run

I'm standing on the concrete drain at the Wamboin Community Hall. There is no one around except for a lady sitting in her car. She has run the course and is waiting on her husband to finish. This is not like any other Kowen Trail run. Pam and her loud hailer are not to be seen or heard. There is no coffee stand or hundreds of other runners milling around. There are no queues for the loos, I can walk straight in. It's all very quiet and somewhat disconcerting. I'm on my own. The weather is dry (what a surprise) and cool, perfect for running.

After abstaining from the previous Kowen Iso runs I have decided to give this one a go. I don't feel fast but I think I can do a reasonable time after a fairly sedentary time under COVID restrictions.

There is no point in hanging around, let's get this done. I walk up to the concrete drain and push the button on my watch, that's my starter's gun. I'm off. There is no crowd jostling as we turn on to Bingley Way, I'm on my own. There is no one passing, nor can I check on other runners to see who I might use as my pace setters. I'm on my own. This is like the Moonlighter run when I ran up Bingley Way at 4.00am, on my own. This time there is daylight.

As always it's up Bingley and a right turn on to the dirt road. I run to the steeper section and then slow my pace as I climb to the right hand turn into the bush. On the left there is a new track well marked with a boundary of rocks. Do I go that way? No, stick with the track you know and then there it is, Pam's pink tape. I'm where I should be.

It's about 800 metres through the bush and then the crossing into the forest. A left turn and I can settle my pace on these forestry roads. I think about that age old question is it Cow-wen forest or Co-wen forest. I let that debate run in my head while I focus on my foot placement and breathing. The body is warming up and my breathing is settled. I'm not fast but I feel comfortable. Now where are these steep bits.

And there it is, a steep downhill. The one advantage of being on my own is I don't have to think about other runners behind me or in front or those trying to pass. I weave across the track trying to find the best line. No need for runner's etiquette when you are on your own.

Is that a dunny lying on its side? Yep, that's a dunny and what's it doing here? How did it get here, how do you use a dunny on its side and who is going to lift it back up? Was there someone in it when it fell over? These are the questions I entertain myself with as I run past a random toilet in the bush.

There is a very wet section across the track. I can see many foot prints but there is no dry path. I choose a high section but pretty quickly the ground subsides and my foot is underwater. So now it's wet feet! I hit some very wet clay and my foot loses traction. It's like driving an empty ute around a Canberra roundabout in the rain, the backend slides and then you steady as you get traction and you're off.

Over a hill and then there it is, Amungula. I have a steep decline, a long flat section and then the climb up THAT hill, no it's a mountain. I am careful going down as I want to preserve my knees and I don't want to trip. Across the flat and then the climb. I try to maintain a respectable pace but that is not to be. I slow and the climb gets steeper and longer. There are no clues from other runners who might have slowed to a walk. It's my decision how I attack this bloody hill. I set a marker and decide that at that point I'll be walking.



## The 2021 Christmas Decorating Competition

**TWO PRIZES** Best mailbox  
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Send one photo of your creation, with name, address and phone number to:

[WWOW.XmasDecoratingComp@gmail.com](mailto:WWOW.XmasDecoratingComp@gmail.com)

**DEADLINE:**  
8pm Monday 13 December

**Winners announced at:**  
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Prize hampers funded by Bywong and Wamboin Community Associations

Coordinated by the Wonderful Women of Wamboin



I can hear what sounds like heavy machinery. Is someone operating a rock hammer? Maybe it's that new subdivision where they are operating heavy equipment. It's a slow rhythmic thump, thump, thump. It's coming from a long way away. I slow down and listen. Then I realise that's not heavy plant, that's my heart pumping! That's a good thing I guess.

I get to the top of THAT hill and try to get my legs running again. Now it's time to look for the markers for the turn around. So far Pam's pink tape has been very visible. There is the cross road and now I am looking for a three way intersection. I'm sure the turnaround must be coming up. I'm trying to recall the map I had been studying on the web site. What does my watch say about how far I have run? There's the three way intersection, a nice long flatter section and there it is, the stone cairn and lots of pink ribbons. It's the turnaround, now I'm going home.

My legs are feeling less energised but I only have 6 kms to go. This time it's down Amungula and again time to preserve the knees. I wonder is it A-mun-gulla, A-mun-goola, or A-mung-gulla. No time for that debate, I can't think, I'll stick to the running. I am back to running up a steep climb and again I can hear that rock hammer. Oh, that's right we decided that was my heart pumping. Again, a good thing.

Back through the mud, past the unusable dunny and I am looking for the gate out of the forest. Finally, I think I can see the gate. I am back into NSW and the native forest. No need for a mask since I am outside. Through the forest and back to the dirt road to Bingley. I turn on to Bingley and that short climb which never fails to annoy me at this late stage of the run. I can hear Pam's words, 'It is a Kowen Trail run' and I must expect hills.

Now its downhill all the way to the finish line. There are no runners I can chase down or that are passing me. I'm on my own. It's past Lofty and Joan's place and I am looking for the entrance to the hall. I turn on to the gravel, being sure not to slip and there it is the concrete drain, the finish line.

There are no crowds cheering or milling around. No queues of runners waiting for the steak sandwich. I press the button on my watch and I'm done. I look around, let my breathing settle and think what now? I don't have to take the timing bib off, I don't have to calm my breathing so I can talk to other runners. There is nothing to do so I guess I'll go home. I get into my car, sit for a minute and drive home for a hot shower.

After my shower I download my results onto the web page and discover I am the only male in my age group that has run the 12 km course. That makes me first in the male, 60-69 group. There are however six more days for people to run this course. My time was 1:33:05. The lady who was waiting at the carpark when I started had a time of 1:22:49, a great result. Along with the 12 km run there is a 21 and a 31 km course.

Hopefully the next Kowen run will be back to the old format with lots of people. In the meantime the Iso version was still lots of fun, thanks to Pam Muston and her team. - Kevin Rowe, The Three Score Plus Trail Runner



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## Wamboin Golf – November 2021

Sunday, 7 November. “Free at last, free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!” And so, with the closing words of Martin Luther King’s famous “I have a dream” speech, your correspondent (sadly, no relation) welcomes the great reopening of the land and the joys that go with it – such as golf. And what an occasion to come back to: the highly-esteemed Wamboin Open when golfers throughout the region, the nation and, indeed, the world vie for the chance to get their names on the honour board. As if to share our joy, the weather gods smiled down on us with a warm and sunny day punctuated by mid afternoon rumblings from the West accompanied by a brief, gentle shower which affected only the 18 holers, and who cares about them. Sponsored by the Club itself from its vast financial resources amassed from years of usurious green fees, the Open is scored on stroke play with a subsidiary handicap division for those doing it just for the fun.

Back in the Elysium of our familiar, comforting community hall, as the acting captain tried to remember the rules, etiquette and Byzantine scoring systems of the beautiful game, we congratulated each other on withstanding the plague and remembered with affection those who didn’t. Much had occurred since last we met. Firstly, Premier Glad (bless her) picked up her ball and walked off, then Deputy Barrelo (Porky, to his friends) did the same. After that, Dom Perignon (the Premier Cru) got Glad’s job, Mr Toole became deputy premier, Mr Dick became Treasurer and Mr Ayres (Curly, to his intimates) became 2IC of the Libs. Moving right along, back home our dear leader, Tim Working Trousers, dropped the bomb that he was stepping down as captain of Queen’s Park Rangers just as his lovely wife announced she would contest the vacancy in the state seat of Monaro. Crickey! This’ll keep the thousands employed by the ABC manufacturing political trivia engaged for years. At the federal level the Barnaby Country Party, egged on by a guy who can’t spell caravan, were holding poor old ScoMo to ransom over his trip to Scotland to have a drink in the Last Chance Saloon and talk about the weather (I hope he took a broolly). When he got there he was ambushed by his old Froggy pal, Manny Macaroon, who identified him as a liar. ScoMo retorted that it was water off a duck’s back and released an elliptical email from the French Prez suggesting it was really Manny who was peddling porkies. The email said “Can I expect good or bad news tonight?” Well, we all know what a Frenchman means by that. Napoleon set the tone with his famous “Not tonight, Josephine?” (Everyone forgets the question mark!).

Now that COVID-19 is nought but a bad memory we looked back in summary: the only states where it got a real grip were NSW and Vic; our Glad (Charity Queen at the Wagga Agricultural Show) fought valiantly and well while Dancing Dan (who’s never to blame for anything) took out the lockdown record; Qld did OK but even a virus finds Queenslanders repellent; the ACT didn’t fair too badly as did the NT unless you’re a blackfella; South Australia and Tasmania are still there, as mendicant as ever; and the Golden West’s broken record, Mr McGoon, is still rattling his sabre about access for Easterners (Ah, McGoon, you’ve done it again!). At the federal level ScoMo could have done better if he’d listened to Elbow. Apparently the virus rages in the rest of the world, throwing up variants plain and fancy. But now that we’re all vaccinated, if not immunised, we’ll be fine – except for the frail aged, the halt and the lame. But that’s not all bad news. As soon as the Boomers leave the scene an enormous tax burden will be lifted off the Millennials, the Ys and the Xs who will also benefit from inherited wealth and lower house prices, win, win, win. You have to go all the way back to the Black Death to find a better distributor of wealth. (OK, Henry VIII’s dissolution of the monasteries wasn’t bad either.) We then scratched our heads over the identity of COP 26. Who could the mysterious crime fighter be? Suggestions included Capt. Kate Beckett, Officer Jake Peralta, DI Barnaby, Officer Barbrady, Deadpool, Kick Ass, Theo Kojak, Frank Columbo, Father Brown, Robocop and Judge Dredd. The name of the cryptic sleuth will be revealed in Glasgow on 12 November.

The a/g captain welcomed our visitors, Charles Guscott making a rare but welcome appearance, and Spanish cattle breeders, Pam and Juan Ploner. Ted’s joke concerned a 72 year old man determined to get his alcohol consumption down to net zero by 2050. The gooly ball was frittered away on a dull and very ordinary comment about the water on the course. Tim Barter spat the dummy

(beating Vicki Still by a nanosecond). The encouragement award went to Madison Gordon. The junior champion was Robert Thompson (destined for a green jacket). In the handicap division, the nine hole winner was David Thompson 50/33 from Ken Gordon 39/35 with Colin Urquhart 51/38 in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The 18 hole handicap winner was Rob Gorham 84/66 from David Bailey 99/72 and Dave Hubbard 95/75 3<sup>rd</sup>. A hush fell over the crowd as the a/g captain revealed the names of the 2021 R&A Wamboin GC Open Champions. They are: Men’s 18 holes Tim Barter 72; Ladies 18 holes Vicki Still 102; Men’s nine holes Glen Crafter 37; Ladies nine holes Deb Gordon 58; Eclectic 18 holes Glen Crafter; Eclectic nine holes Deb Gordon. Congratulations to our worthy winners and all who competed.

Next month we contest the Christmas Cup, overflowing with tidings of comfort and joy. Join us at the Hall at 12.15pm on Sunday, 5 December for the usual 12.30pm start. Meanwhile you can tune into Kabul radio, Triple K (not to be confused with a Southern USA social club) to hear the current No. 1 which is the old Banana Boat Song. The popular verse goes “Come Mr Taliban, tally me banana”. - Larry King, golfer



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We are holding a book fair at the market again this month – outside next to the Queanbeyan library mobile van. Take the opportunity to join up as a library member. Bring along your unwanted books (in good condition please) to donate to charity and buy others to read at your leisure. Unsold books will be donated to Lifeline. This will be the last book fair for a while, so clear out those bookshelves before your new Christmas selection appears!

The November market was wet and chilly but thanks to the RFS we were able to use their sheds as well as the hall – so Land Care vendors were dry and the book sales had space! All our stall holders and more returned for this market. We welcomed the Bungendore Men's Shed with handcrafted gifts and handy gadgets.

This month will be our Christmas market:

- A number of stalls will have Christmas decorations and gift ideas – so stock up on jewellery, art work, beautiful wooden chopping boards, hand made quilted items, knitted goods, cakes and more.
- Garden produce is now in abundance – unless the heavy rains have ruined it! Hopefully not.
- Enjoy Joan and Marita's yummy egg and bacon rolls and Lou's coffee (and a chat) and take away packs of sausage rolls for those friends that now can drop bye for a chat and a bite to eat!
- Poetry in Motion will be back to cheer us along with Christmas songs and carols.

COVID-19 regulations continue - we are very impressed with the willingness of stallholders and visitors and their respect for others, through compliance with the various rules. Thank you. See you at the Market!

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Hope to see you at Sherony Park again very very soon! Until then stay safe!

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## Working Bee at Wamboin Hall

On Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> of December, weather permitting, our local community is getting together to mow, weed and generally clean-up the surrounds of Wamboin Hall. Gearys Gap/Wamboin Landcare will come in and replace any dead plants as well as helping with the clean-up. We will start at 9 am and finish at 11 am and morning tea will be provided in the fire shed.

Please let me know if you are coming and if you can bring machinery such as a mower, whipper snipper, brush cutter, trailer, etc. We will not need any chainsaws this time but there is plenty of whipper snipping/brush cutting and mowing to be done. As always there will be some rubbish picking up around the recycling bins too. If you are unable to help with the physical work you might like to help with morning tea. Thanks and looking forward to seeing you there. - Vicki Still, E: [vickistillnow@gmail.com](mailto:vickistillnow@gmail.com), M: 0404013898



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## From the Corner

**Signing Off**—By the time most people read this, I will no longer be a councillor, so this will be my last column on Local Government matters. It's been an interesting, if at times challenging, ride over the last 10 years and I have been encouraged by the positive feedback from readers of my ramblings.

Most of the issues that I have discussed over the years relate to planning matters. Dealing with, and understanding these issues is probably the most complex and contentious part of a councillor's role. The breadth of the legislation involved is just part of the story. Being seen, often a little unfairly I might add, as the reason why someone is or isn't allowed to do something they might want to do with or on their property, however, can be a very effective way of minimising one's social set.

But getting back to the election itself, I believe, but have not been able to personally confirm, that with recent changes in the necessary legislation, this will be the first time all preferences will actually be counted in a local government election. Regulations hitherto have not taken into account the fact that we have computers capable of executing this task much more quickly than can human beings. In the past, the regulations required that the distribution of preferences be based on a sample of ballot papers, not the counting of every individual paper, even though all ballot papers have been electronically tabulated (*i.e.* 'computer ready') for at least the last ten years.

So, given the number of essentially unknown candidates and the fact that two of the four sitting councillors who are contesting the election have not nominated in electable positions on the ballot paper, there could well be a few surprises and a [politically] unpredictable Council. The NSWEC, however, in almost theatrical fashion, is not committing to finalising any results for several weeks after election day, so it could be a less than relaxing Christmas for some.

If you're after a bit of light(er) entertainment (actually, given that this is a genuine documentary, it's not exactly 'funny') while you await the announcement of the Council election results, take a look at the [1996] documentary *Rats in the Ranks*, an account of the 1994 Mayoral election in Leichardt Council.

More entertaining may be the subsequent satirical comedy (actually, closer to a documentary than most people would like) TV series *Grass Roots*—Australian humour in the vein of *The Games* and *Utopia*.

For anyone who was too young to know what was going on, or who just missed it at the time, *Grass Roots* (just Google it, some of the episodes are available on YouTube and the whole series, while it can be a little difficult to find now, was released on DVD) is the next best thing to—some might suggest even better than—reading my articles in past editions of the Whisper. The series, and the *Rats in the Ranks* documentary (that's available on YouTube too), do indeed offer a more in-depth coverage of the political machinations of local government than I ever contemplated presenting.

From the DVD cover:

Welcome to Arcadia Waters Council, where the local politicians dream and scheme, intent on climbing the political ladder through corruption and shady deals. Where the Staff work hard to keep all the skeletons neatly in their cupboards, and where the ordinary local people just want their rubbish collected, their streets cleaned, and for someone at the council to pay attention for a minute and for heaven's sake, stop the dog next door from barking all night!

It's only days to the local government election and Col Dunkley, Mayor of Arcadia Waters, wants to be re-elected for another term.

Col's main political opponent, Bidy Marchant, also wants to be Mayor. She's a charming, ruthless conspirator. She could win.

The election night results take Col and his faction back into Council but without a majority. He and Bidy have equal numbers and the position of Mayor will be decided by an independent new councillor.

The story unfolds when we meet the councillors, as they succumb to the pressure of local politics and the local people tear out their hair and get on with their lives.

And with that, hoping that the words of Douglas Adams won't be too apocryphal, so long and thanks for all the fish!

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

Signing Off (Nov 2021)

-Cr Pete Harrison Ph. 6238 3640 Mob. 0427 711 028 Email: [contact@peteharrison.id.au](mailto:contact@peteharrison.id.au) Website: [www.peteharrison.id.au](http://www.peteharrison.id.au)

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 E P T C S D P A E T O L A D R A P D E T A I R T S N Y S I A C Y P O Q S I O I A  
 R K O S R F J D S X Z R V E P U M M G D F B W K S I U U T X P H U T V T B W N L  
 E B I T G E C S Y C L E K E B U F H D R H B P I D R I B E L T T A W D E R N Y E  
 L X R R T J D R S E U Q F H R C V D W I L O R M H L J D E R H I P E R R E T C I  
 T L U O H E K K T H C N I F D E W O R B D E R T E A H Z A E D S A B N N W H H P  
 S X E C W S D R I Y A K X Q S R Y S L R F T E R G O X B R T W T I Y R S O O E G  
 I R H A A N O Q R N Q I M O I Q Y E K A A K F R D L M N E I H R N E H P B R E A  
 H Z E U D B F O U X G O N N X J G K O I I P O L W H B I D Z I I T J Z I N N K M  
 W S C L I E X A K A W F G R E Y C U R R A W O N G O M B H E T A E S K N I B E M  
 S T M N T H N A L C I P I B W W K O H F J P S D O S N R O X E T D M M E T I D H  
 U Z J X N S L F M C U L O S E L G S V Y K A K B J E A K N Y N E B F A B A L H Z  
 O T G E O R I O L H O C T U H W Y L A S R Y O R R Q K I E H E D U G J I S L O Y  
 F U V A T I Q H W Y F N D H R E A T V I H O T W C W A N Y W C T T K E L M C N O  
 U B G Z R X L K W P C F Y E R U R D J O K A Y Y A K O P E H K H T U T L G I E O  
 R R P A A F L B A N L A O G C U F B W N W R I H D H B B A K E O O M O P L E Y J  
 W G A T O P N Z E Z E Y T G O A S O W C I Q S Q D P S Z T K D R N E L Q V I E Q  
 O H D O C M I U Q F R D V C N V F H U A S O T E A Q U U E A H N Q O A E Y R A S  
 S B I U E U S M L Y R O L H H O Z K F S G K P Q V H K D R X E B U Y D J U E T K  
 X D R T V Z W F N S V A T O O E W B C N F A T F T L J Y O D R I A X R C U T E R  
 O I R R E M U P S H M U Z B G J R A W A N A M E N N N O O R O L I S A B Z A R A  
 R O E I D B H J T P O P L W G E H O R E L O N C B O S P U T N L L A P U V E S L  
 X S T C B E R I U M X C W T P G R O T R K B O T N T T G D D K D J B D L Q Y I G  
 G R L A Y E P O G R G X X U U B L I I A U S T R A L I A N M A G P I E B H E C N  
 V U U X K V O O W R T R S O X I H O M Y X C F F D I D S U V E V R K T U Y N D O  
 H L Q K Q C R T E E J T H F V W L Q F L U S D C A P L D H O K A B W T L M O Z S  
 W P W E E F O Y E K D C C E N B G C A U E Y Q E O U D K J M D X U U O S G H U S  
 P H Q O Y D F C I L D S B O O K C U C H S U R B I Q C C R H I A S H P D Z D Y U  
 F C O N N A N T G E T A C N V C N G J D R D U J C P M C J R J E H U S M R N P O  
 K F W P N R M H G N C S L R E P E E R C E E R T D E T A O R H T E T I H W A J F  
 K A W T K Q A N V K A U I F U D A S N E A S T E R N Y E L L O W R O B I N L P U  
 T L A E B N I B E M X G X M H B A U S T R A L I A N K I N G P A R R O T Z L E R  
 A I S L B W V D V Y C T G A A D W C O M M O N B R O N Z E W I N G L K Y O O X I  
 L F G B E U O U M M W A X N Q M H R S I B I E T I H W N A I L A R T S U A H T N  
 I U T T V R E Y C B A L W B A Z U K E B E R G N A I S A L A R T S U A Y K W Z T  
 R E I A I F Y R H Y L D D C V G G P K N H O D W O U X X A L J M A D H N I E W M  
 X H J O W J W Y E L L O W F A C E D H O N E Y E A T E R Z M R L W G J Y X N K Q  
 W V L K U M G A X Y I U H M Z T P Z K G P L T A S M V Q S O M K M R Y X W E P D  
 P E U E V F S Y M V T Q T B R O S E R O B I N B U R P I Q N N C A H X H N W X D