

July 2022

Circulation
1,349

Food Bonfire Fireworks
Saturday Night August 27
Food 5:30 pm
Bonfire 6:36 pm
Fireworks 7:06 pm

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

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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	
Geary's Rural Fire Brigade	Neville Schroder - Captain	0409 991 340	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
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KYB Bible Study Group	Robyn Doran	6238 3469	rdoran4@bigpond.com
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	Pip Easy – Contact Person	0414 366 856	Playgroup.sutton@gmail.com
Table Tennis	Mike Muston	0406 606 238	mikemuston@gmail.com
Wamboin Community Assoc.	Jenny Richards - President	6238 1329	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	Zoe Walker - 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
Greenways Mgmt Commtee	Kathy Handel - Chair	6238 3596	khandel@bigpond.net.au
Wonderful Women of Wamboin	Gail Ritchie Knight	0416 097 500	whirlwind1@argonite.com.au
ARF (Rescue Dogs)	Lisa Whitney	0408 260 796	lisawhitney059@gmail.com
Building Community Resilience	Amanda Jones		Ajones.advisor@gmail.com



Wamboin Community Association Annual Bonfire and Fireworks Display By Fireworks Australia

**Wamboin Community Centre 112 Bingley Way Wamboin
Saturday 27 August 2022**

Food stalls from 5.30, Bonfire lit at 6.36, Fireworks 7.06
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Well the weather is certainly colder now and of course it may seem like the WCA events are drawing to a well earned break. Not so for the WCA members themselves who are actively planning things for the Community Interest or Entertainment. .

1. **Art Show at the Markets.** We were very pleased to help organise and jointly sponsor an art show at our June Markets. Other sponsors were Contentious Character Vinyard, Inland Trading Company, and LMS Consulting. You can see some of the prize-winners printed out in colour further on in this edition of the Whisper. Many thanks to Meriel for organising it, the judges, and of course the competitors. An item of note: our monthly Markets now go into recess until the third Saturday of September. Hope to see all of you back at the Markets in September.
2. **Councillor visit.** Taking heed of our invitation of last month, Councillor John Preston made the time to attend our June monthly meeting. He answered a number of tricky questions and another good rapport was established with a member of our LGA. Thanks for coming on such a cold night John. A quick note to our Councillors – the Community Association welcomes the attendance of any Councillor at any of our monthly meetings. We are delighted to see you. Please just ring me before coming on **6238 1329**.
3. **Building Community Resilience.** We were also pleased to welcome at our June Meeting Amanda Jones the representative of the Building Community Resilience program. Amanda spoke to the meeting outlining her role and areas that she will be focusing on. Greenways are one of these and she hopes to organise a series of walks in the Spring. Thank you for coming Amanda and we hope you will keep in touch.
4. **Wamboin Communications Action Group.** Glen Archer of the WCAG was going to speak to the Meeting on the recent developments regarding communications in Wamboin. Unfortunately Glen fell ill and was unable to attend in person although he did email me a comprehensive report which I read out at the Meeting, on his behalf. Things seem to be finally moving in this area. Glen hopes to attend the July Meeting in person to answer questions.
5. **2022 Bonfire and Fireworks Night.** Yes it is definitely on this year. Preparations for the night are well and truly underway. Mark the date in your calendars **Saturday 27th August at 5:30 pm at the Wamboin Hall**. As usual, the WCA, Fire Brigade and Hall Management Committee are collaborating to make it an enjoyable event for everyone. Don't miss out on the food & drink, the bonfire, the spectacular fireworks - the fun. Food and drinks from 5:30pm at Wamboin Community Hall. I believe the oval is now open for such deliveries. Also note those things which we don't allow please. Tim Barter is doing a great job pulling this all together and we all hope for a great night.
6. **A final reminder that the Community Association is there for all the people of Wamboin**, so please come along to the monthly meetings held every 3rd Tuesday at 7:30 pm in the Hall at Bingley Way. - *Jenny Richards – President.*



Bonfire and Fireworks Night – Bonfire Fuel Wanted

The 2022 Wamboin Bonfire and Fireworks Night is on Saturday the 27th of August so why not reduce the fire hazards on your property and help us at the same time by clearing unwanted branches, prunings and brush. Delivering suitable material to the bonfire site at the Community Centre, Bingley Way will help make the night a memorable occasion. **Please do NOT mix in: building waste, treated timber, old carpets, soil, metal fittings, or large green logs.** It may be hard to believe but other non-burnable materials such as wire, bricks and old sheets of corrugated iron have been illegally dumped in past years. **Pallets are not wanted** because after they burn they leave a bed of nails, which can puncture the tyres of the clean-up tractors. **Very large logs and stumps are also not wanted** as they smoulder and smoke for many days and have to be separated and taken away.

So what should you bring? The ideal is to have a large fire that burns quickly which calls for prunings, branches and brush compacted and stacked high. We need to stop delivery of material by about August the 22nd to allow for compacting and stacking.

Bonfire Night is the major, and sometimes the only, fund raising activity for our community groups who run all the food, drink and novelty stalls. – Tim Barter 0410492750.

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. 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 August 2022 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, July 31, 2022.**

Advertising prices, per issue, based on rough fraction of inside the margins A4 area: 1/8 \$24 1/6 \$29 ¼ \$35 1/3 \$44 ½ \$70 2/3 \$87 Full Page \$140. email or phone the editor as above.

Country Park

Winter Herbs

For our horses that are a bit stiff with their movements when the weather turns chilly there are a few approaches you can take to help them.

Traditionally herbs rich in minerals and vitamins that provide nutrients that are needed for joint repair along with diuretic actions to help remove excess metabolic wastes are chosen, such as nettle, dandelion, celery seed and parsley. However you may want to look at a general tonic to improve the blood flow in the tissues surrounding the arthritic joints so the muscles are more flexible. Such herbs might include yarrow, hawthorn, rosemary and ginkgo.



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On Sat 18 June, Bywong Community Association held its first Trivia Night since 2019, after the previous two years' events were cancelled due to COVID restrictions.

About 50 locals (Bungendore is within the definition) attended, representing the full demographic range from the silver-haired, through parents-with-pram, to a feisty table of teens. Some had attended Trivia Nights stretching back into the mists of Bywong past, while for others this was their first one (of many, we hope!). Imaginative team names abounded, fitting with the Titanic/pirates/ nautical theme: First Class (with classy costumes to match the name), SwashBywongers (my favourite title), Birriwa Buccaneers (10/10 for alliteration), Birriwa Overboard (the young 'uns making political overtones?), Australian Pirates (sounds like a political party, shame they weren't on the ballot paper a few weeks ago) and finally...the Liquorice Allsorts, who obviously hadn't read the Memo.

After TEN punishing and pun-ful Rounds of Questions, the Aussie Pirates were ahead...BUT then the Liquorice Allsorts lurched ahead to clinch first place, thanks to the Marvel Movie knowledge of their younger teammates. While earlier incarnations of the Allsorts have been regular Trivia Champions over the years, it definitely paid off to have a range of ages on the team this time! Well done to veteran team leader Jill, backed by Jeanette, Michelle, Maraiana, Victoria and Scott!



The Aussie Pirates (pictured – have you ever seen such a scurvy bunch?) AKA Thelma, John, Jennifer, Michael, Bill, Leigh, Rainer and Elizabeth, had to console themselves with the well-deserved Best Dressed Team accolade.

It was a great night. Special thanks go to the small BCA team who pulled everything together: compiling and scoring the trivia presentation, organising the catering, setting up the Hall: John-Pierre, Steve, Karen, Jess,

Damian, Thelma and Greg – it wouldn't have happened without you!

I would strongly encourage others to join the Association. We could run other community events like a Teddy Bears' Picnic or a Junior Trivia challenge, but for anything to come to fruition requires a 'team'. Please bring your ideas along to the **AGM on Sunday 17 July, 4.00-5.30pm** at the Bywong Hall, or send me an email to president@bywongcommunity.org.au.

- Mike Wilkins, President, Bywong Community Association.

The advertisement for AquaSafe Water Filtration Systems features a blue background with a large tree on the left. The AquaSafe logo is prominently displayed at the top left. Below the logo, the text 'Your local Water Filtration Specialists' is written in white and blue. On the right side, a list of services is provided in white text. At the bottom, various water filtration units and components are shown, including a large white tank, several smaller white and blue units, and various filters. The contact information is listed at the bottom in white text.

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<p>The Wamboin Firefighter Community FireWise Groups</p>	<p>For ALL Emergency calls</p>  <p>Prepare. Act. Survive.</p>
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To help increase the physical and emotional resilience of our community to deal with the risk and effects of potential impact by fire, starting in 2012 the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade has helped our community to establish Community FireWise Groups. A FireWise Group is made up of residents or community members with common bonds such as:

- commonality of location e.g. residents all live on a ridge line, or on one or two adjacent roads;
- similarity of terrain and/or vegetation on individual blocks;
- proximity to a common or shared risk;

Belonging to a Community Firewise Group gives many benefits including:

- higher levels of personal emergency awareness and safety protocols;
- mutual assistance preparing for fire emergencies bringing better chances of preserving lives and property;
- increased neighbourly interaction and support if desired;
- faster and more reliable exchanges of local emergency information.

Each CFWG is coordinated by a volunteer Convener who is not expected to have any firefighting qualifications or experience. They are a focus of local action, meetings and a conduit for queries. Wherever possible an Alternative Convener is also in place to assist and stand in for the Convener.

Since December 2012, twenty eight groups have been established in our brigade area. Some have flourished while others have lapsed or languished. Although the creation and maintenance of the groups is facilitated and supported by the Brigade their ongoing success is entirely due to the support and energy of individual group members.


There is no limit to the number of FireWise Groups that we can establish; it only requires that there be sufficient community interest and resolve to enable each group to operate autonomously. All residents in the Brigade’s ‘area’ of Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton Park are encouraged to participate in their local FireWise Group regardless of whether they intend to **Leave Early** or **Stay & Defend** in the event of a fire.

A detailed list and map of existing FireWise Groups and more explanatory notes will be published with next month’s Wamboin Whisper which will enable you to check if a Community FireWise Group already exists in your area or even offer to create a new group.

USEFUL LINKS and CONTACT INFORMATION

Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade - Website
 Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade - Facebook
 Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade - Captain
 NSW Rural Fire Service
 Queanbeyan Fire Control Centre

<https://wamboin.rfsa.org.au>
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Wamboin Curry Night ... Saturday 20th August 7 for 7:30

Put the date in the diary; 20th August; 7 for 7.30 the return of the Curry extravaganza. Usual deal, I provide the venue (Wamboin Community Hall) and you turn up with your curries and everything else required to consume them {as well as what you would like to drink}; be prepared to share dishes and to meet new people in the doing so. From experience I have found that a maximum of 90 people in the hall is a manageable number so to keep this limit you will need to book seats to dave.hubbard@bigpond.com . Gold coin donation requested. Looking forward to meeting you all on the night. - Dave Hubbard



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Broadband Fibre Network Project – Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton Region Update from the Wamboin Communications Action Group (WCAG)

Our Community Fibre network project continues to move slowly but inexorably forward. Before detailing recent developments and progress however, for those residents unfamiliar with this project, or with WCAG, it's worth doing a quick review of their history to help you better understand how we came to be where we are today.

The WCAG was formed in 2017 by a small group of local residents following the decision by NBN to abandon our three communities to the inferior Sky Muster Satellite service. Over a period of 18 months WCAG undertook an extensive community consultation process, and in August 2018, submitted a detailed proposal and business case to our then local member, John Barilaro MP, seeking government support for the construction of a fibre based broadband network supporting the three communities. In January 2019, on behalf of the NSW Government, he announced a grant of \$5m to support this project. A year later the proposal to provide a "grant" was effectively withdrawn and replaced by a commitment that the Department of Regional NSW (DRNSW) would undertake a procurement process to select a telecommunications provider to build and operate the network. Unfortunately, in August 2021, the Department announced that this process had failed, and no tender was to be awarded. Following an independent review of that process (which WCAG assisted with) in November 2021, the DRNSW invited a small number of telecommunications providers to enter into direct negotiations in order to identify a preferred provider, agree a solution and, hopefully, finally form a contract to construct and operate the network.

With the approval of the Department, from January 2022 to April 2022, the WCAG held meetings with representatives of these potential providers to ensure that they were well informed about the needs of our community.

This same period coincided with the NSW by-election. In that context, WCAG sought and received confirmation from our new local Member, Nichole Overall MP, that both she, and the NSW Government, are "*one hundred percent committed to the delivery of this project*", and that "*the committed funding for this project is being delivered...*". The WCAG has been in regular contact with her office since her appointment.

The past three years have been a particularly challenging time for residents – made more so by the absence of reliable, high-speed broadband. The various false starts to the project, in addition to the changes to timing, scope and direction, have proven confusing and frustrating for everyone – including the members of the WCAG committee. Nevertheless, we have not lost sight of the critical need for residents and businesses across our communities to have access to better Internet services. As outlined below, we think that it may not be too much longer before we can expect to have confirmation that the construction of our network will begin soon.

Current Project Status: On 16 June 2022, the Department contacted WCAG to advise that it had completed its evaluation of offers provided and shortly afterwards issued the following statement on its website, summarising the same advice we were given: *The NSW Government is in final negotiations with a preferred supplier to establish a fibre network, providing high speed and reliable internet services to the Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton regions.*

The government is committed to providing better internet connectivity to these communities, and we expect to have an outcome in the coming weeks. An update about the project will be provided to the community at that time.

Our fibre network is one of several projects being funded under the banner of the **NSW Gig State** initiative. The NSW Government budget papers published on 21 June 2022 included an allocation of "...\$112.2 million for the Gig State Pilot Project to deliver a metro-level internet service to regional communities and businesses". *

Where to from here? As mentioned above, early this year WCAG spent time working with each of the telecommunications providers bidding for our project. However, we have not seen their final submissions or been briefed on the details of their subsequent discussions with the Department. We did, however, make it clear to all parties that, as far as we are able to, WCAG will work with the successful tenderer to ensure that the project is a success and that it meets the expectations and needs of the residents and businesses across the three communities.

We anticipate that the Government will shortly advise WCAG and residents of the outcome of the tender process, including the identity of the successful telecommunications provider. Once that advice is issued, the WCAG will provide a further update to those residents registered with it by email. As part of a previous commitment by the Department to ensure community consultation, WCAG will then also commence discussions with the provider in order to review details of the proposed solution and WCAG's capacity to assist – specifically as a conduit to the community throughout the construction and commissioning phases.



WCAG Background: In recent discussion with a number of residents it has become evident that there seems to be some confusion about the WCAG and its role in the fibre network project. As mentioned above, the WCAG was formed in 2017 by a small group of local residents following the decision by NBN to abandon our communities to the inferior Sky Muster Satellite service. Firstly, WCAG is run entirely by volunteers who have donated their time (and money) to advance a cause they each passionately believe in. Specifically, that the residents and businesses in our communities deserve access to reliable, high-speed fibre-based internet services, at a cost that is comparable to our neighbours in Canberra and Queanbeyan. The WCAG's mission is to lobby government to achieve this outcome and to then work with any commercial parties constructing/operating such a network to represent the interests of the community. The committee includes residents from each of the three communities of Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton.

To be clear, the WCAG has never received any funding from the NSW Government and has not accepted any money, or goods, from any commercial entity. You can find out more about the WCAG and, if you haven't already done so, register with us at our website at <https://sites.google.com/site/wamboincommunications/home>

* <https://www.nsw.gov.au/snowy-hydro-legacy-fund/regional-digital-connectivity-program/gig-state/wamboin-bywong-and-sutton>

Wamboin Home Produce and Craft Market

Wamboin Playgroup Update

Welcome to our Wamboin Playgroup update our winter programme! The cold has set in, and it is more important than ever to find opportunities for our kids to head outside and get some fresh air, sunshine and socialisation. On lovely days we always prioritise play outside on our amazing local play equipment and playgroup cubby house - and if it is miserable weather we have plenty of indoor play activities in the heated hall.

In the last few weeks we have had a great mix of playgroup sessions. Even though it has been cold, we have been fortunate with the weather. There has been plenty of opportunities for the children to get outside and run amuck in the sandpit, play pretend in the cubby, and make use of the slides and swing set. For us parents and carers, coffee and tea has been keeping us warm inside while we chat and get to know each other while our children play.

Playgroup is a wonderful place to bond and create memories that last a lifetime! A bad weather day, gave us the inspiration to hold an amazing disco event. We had the kids music playing and disco lights flashing and the kids had a great time. Our children learned the Hokey Pokey, and also showed us their free style moves while the babies got to listen to the lovely music. Parents and carers also got into the swing of things with their children, doing dips and dancing around the hall. It was a great opportunity for us all to get some exercise, and build the self-esteem and physical confidence of our little ones.

How Wamboin Playgroup Works: The beauty of our local playground facilities in Wamboin are they are totally fenced in and child safe - so we can let our kids run free, and enjoy our time with other adults. This allows us to be an unstructured Playgroup where parents and carers can to use the time to relax with a cuppa and chat to other adults. Every few weeks we will organise a structured activity to spice things up a bit, but most of the time, the children decide what they want to do each session.

Our children are getting the opportunity to practice their social skills in a safe, familiar setting and get to know other kids in the community who they are likely to end up going to school with when they are older. Us adults can get both friendship and support from people who understand exactly what they are going through. Being half way through the year now, we are seeing solid friendships have formed just from our weekly sessions. The kids are now talking about each other at home, and really looking forward to coming to playgroup and see all their friends.

Each carer brings a piece of fruit, so we can make a healthy morning tea for our children to enjoy. Currently we are also enjoying a voluntary rotating roster, where those of us who like to cook, take turns to bring in a delicious cake to accompany our tea and coffee.

PLAYGROUP IS NOT JUST ABOUT THE KIDS – PARENTS AND CARERS, IT IS ALSO FOR YOU! Your job as a parent or carer is one of the best in the

world, but raising children is not always easy. Playgroup is here to lighten the load. You can connect with other people in the same stage of life as you. At playgroup you can share, have a coffee, relax in a safe environment. Playgroup is designed to be a comfortable space where you can be yourself. It helps to reduce isolation you may feel and discuss things of interest to you.

What we would love to see: If you are home on a Tuesday with little ones, please make it a priority to come to our local free Playgroup as it can be one of the first, and most important social networks for children and families. In our playgroup, the children get the opportunity to practice their social skills in a safe, familiar setting and get to know other kids in the community who they are likely to end up going to school with when they are older. Us adults can get both friendship and support from people who understand exactly what they are going through.

If you have children in your care between 0 – 6 years old we invite you to join us! We are a free community group running on Tuesdays between 10am and 12pm at the Wamboin Community Hall at 112 Bingley Way. - Zoe Walker- Wamboin Playgroup Coordinator If you have any enquiries email wamboin.playgroup@gmail.com

Image: Children playing in our Wamboin Playground sandpit



A Chronology of Wamboin and District, Part 6: 1901-1919

By David McDonald

The third edition of an historical timeline of our local area, titled 'A Chronology of Wamboin and District, NSW', is available at the Wamboin Community Association's (WCA's) website. Visit <https://www.wamboincommunity.asn.au/localhistory/> and 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.

This is the sixth article presenting some items from the Chronology that focus specifically on Wamboin and district, rather than the broader, contextual happenings. It covers the period 1901 to 1919, and future issues will continue the series. The full version of the Chronology at the WCA website provides the documentary sources (including URLs where appropriate) underpinning these contents and, in some cases, additional information, as well as other entries for the time period covered on the facing (next) page.

Date	Occurrence/comment
1901, 29 Mar	First election to the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia. The electoral division of Eden-Monaro was one of the original electorates. Austin Chapman (later Sir Austin) (b. Bong Bong 10.07.1864, d. Sydney 12.01.1926), Protectionist Party, was elected as the member for Eden-Monaro in the House of Representatives. The election took place under the provisions of the NSW electoral legislation.
1903, 16 Dec	The first election held under Commonwealth electoral legislation. Austin Chapman was re-elected as the member of the House of Representatives for the electoral division of Eden-Monaro.
1904	Third edition of the Parish of Wamboin map published.
1905, 21 Jul	Bywong Post Office at the Village of Bywong closed.
1906, 7 Mar	Yarrowlumla Shire proclaimed, with its headquarters in Queanbeyan. This was a disappointment to the people of Bungendore who had expected it to be built there, thus boosting the town's status and resources. The Shire administration commenced on 1 January 1907, with the first Shire President being Mr William Foster Rutledge (1851–1912), known as Foster Rutledge, owner of 'Gidleigh' Station, Bungendore. The Wamboin and Bywong parishes were part of the Shire.
c. 1907	Sutton Anglican Church: 'By 1907 a weatherboard church had been built on the Anglican Church Reserve and was dedicated to St Peter by Bishop Barlow. This church was consecrated in 1908 and used until 1924 when it was condemned due to a severe infestation of white ants.'
1908, 1 Jun	The Amungula Receiving Office, on the Bingley's 'Woodfield' property (Sutton Road), opened, Mr G. A. McInnes was the receiving office-keeper. McInnes had requested that it be named Woodfield Receiving Office, but the Deputy Postmaster General did not accede to the request as the name 'Woodfield' was in use elsewhere in the Commonwealth. Named after the parish it which it was located, Amungula.
1909, Dec 14	The NSW Government transferred land to the Commonwealth for the creation of the Federal Capital Territory. A significant proportion of Yarrowlumla Shire was lost to the new Territory.
1910, 24 Nov	Daniel Leahy's 'Lumley' property (Macs Reef Road near the Federal Highway) put up for auction following Leahy's death. 3,448 acres, a seven blocks sub-division.
1911, 3 Apr	The first census of the Commonwealth of Australia was conducted. Yarrowlumla Shire, in which Wamboin was located, had a population of 2,409: 2.03 persons per square mile, 526 occupied dwellings, 0.444 occupied dwellings per square mile, and 4.58 persons per occupied dwelling.
1912, Jun/Jul	Percy Sheaffe and party surveyed of the southern part of Wamboin to fix the NSW/ACT border. Some of their survey markers can still be found there.
1912, 19 Jul	A newspaper report of a bill submitted to the NSW Parliament to abolish the Yarrowlumla Shire Council, as a result of 'some 560,000 acres' having been transferred to the Commonwealth under the <i>Seat of Government Acceptance Act 1909</i> (Cth). The bill was not passed, and the Council continued operating until 2004.
1912, 1 Sep	The Amungula Receiving Office on 'Woodfield', Sutton Road, converted to a full Post Office. G. A. McInnes still the Postmaster.
1914-1915	The 1914 to 1915 drought.
c. 1915	The Leahy family built the 'Clare' homestead, located on Clare Lane (Bungendore locality) at its intersection with Valley View Lane. 'Pat Reardon purchased Clare from the Leahys around 1930 ... Pat Reardon had four sons, Bede, Paul, Frank, and Les, and three daughters, Therese (Girlye), Patricia, and Jean. The land purchased by Pat was divided up for the children. Les Reardon had the southwest portion including Clare Lane and Clare Valley ... Les moved into the Clare house around 1938 and was joined by his wife Moira in 1942 after their marriage. The house still stands today, [on Clare Lane] just south of Bernie Reardon's home, "Carinya Park".'
1915, 1 Feb	Bywong Receiving Office reopened at Emu Flat on the Bungendore/Gundaroo Road, Mary Harriott was the receiving office-keeper.
1915, 15 Mar	Telephone service commenced at the Amungula Post Office ('Woodfield', Sutton Road) and Sutton.
1916	Fourth edition of the Parish of Wamboin map published.
1919, 27 Jan	The first wave of the pneumonic influenza pandemic (the 'Spanish flu') in NSW occurred from late January to late February 1919.
1919, 21 Feb	With respect to the pneumonic influenza pandemic, the <i>Queanbeyan Age and Queanbeyan Observer</i> (p. 2) reported that 'On Wednesday, Dr. Blackall inoculated 76 persons. Nurse Darmody, Miss Annie Murphy, and Cr. G. A. McInnes rendered valuable assistance in preparing the patients and at Amungla [sic] the same gentleman, assisted by his wife, helped the doctor, when upwards of 16 were treated.' Dr Patrick Blackall was a Government medical officer. Yarrowlumla Shire Councillor Gilbert (Gil) McInnes lived on the Bingley's Sutton Road/ Amungula property 'Woodfield'. By this stage, pneumonic influenza had swept throughout the region, with many deaths. Antibiotics had not yet been invented.
1919, 19 Mar	The second wave of the influenza pandemic in NSW: 19 March to 27 May 1919.
1919, 28 May	The third wave of the influenza pandemic in NSW: 28 May to 5 August 1919. By far the highest peak in the incidence of deaths across the NSW pandemic period (January to December 1919) occurred in July.

Final Market before the Winter Break And Inaugural Art, Photography and Sculpture Competition

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

The June market was quiet. Several stallholders pulled out due to COVID-19 or the flu. Wamboin certainly seems to have its fair share of both at the moment. We had to resort to instant coffee but Lina kindly took over the egg and bacon rolls so we were well fed. We will be back in September!

We displayed the entries for the Inaugural **Art, Photography and Sculpture Competition - 'The Good Life, Wamboin'**

Although the number of entries was small, the quality was excellent! As our judges - local artists - Paul Churcher and JP Favre commented - "now that people know we will be running a competition each year, it will grow". Both Paul and JP displayed some of their (or in Paul's case, his father's) art. A big thank you to Contentious Character Vineyard, Inland Trading Company and LMS Consulting for donating the prizes.

Interested in the entries? Come and sip a glass of wine or enjoy a meal at Contentious Character! The art and photography will be on display in the restaurant until at least 4 July 2022.

Winning entries were: *12 and under Photography* - William Crossley (Not so innocent - Boris the destructor)

12 and under Art - Noah Corra (Noah and Poppy digging potatoes on the farm) *Adult Photography* - Angela Owen (Hay-ppiness)

Adult Art - Megan Beit (Mowing the Grass)

Highly Commended prizes went to: Charli McAlnulty King, Luca Smith, Imogen Burgess, Leila Greet, Marianne Mengelkamp and Imogen Warren.

13-17 year olds – please note NO ONE entered!!! So it's your big chance next year. Sculpture was also a non-event but I have contacts with a group who are interested for the next competition..... Well done everyone and thanks for kick-starting our first Wamboin Art and Photography competition!

See you at the Market - In September!



(12 and under)



NOAH COSMA
Age: 7 years
"Poppy's tractor in the potato patch"

1st PRIZE



NOAH BULLOCK
Age: 12 years
"Long the Heng"

Highly Commended



LUKE SMITH
Age: 10 years
"The Fish"



Wamboin Community Association
Annual Bonfire and Fireworks Display Saturday 27 August 2022
Food stalls from 5.30, Bonfire lit at 6.36, Fireworks 7.06
Wamboin Community Centre 112 Bingley Way Wamboin





Fireworks Night Raffle Prizes

The annual Wamboin Community Fireworks will be held on Saturday night, 27 August 2022. If you own a local business, please consider donating a prize for the traditional Fireworks Night Raffle to be drawn on the night. Recognition of each donor will be given in the Wamboin Whisper and on the Wamboin Community Association Website. We try to have a number of prizes so as to attract buyers of the raffle tickets. Proceeds go to the Wamboin Community Association. If you can help, please contact diana.boswell@wamboincommunity.asn.au - Diana Boswell, Wamboin Community Association vice-president

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BUILDING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



DO YOU KNOW THAT IN AN EMERGENCY for safe access and egress to properties, Rural Fire Service Fire tankers need:

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- drains, culverts and bridges that are able to support approximately 13.7 tonnes, and
- access to a 17.5m turning circle.

Firefighters will not access a property unless they know that they can also safely EXIT!

COMMUNITY FIREWISE GROUPS (established in 2012) are a community resilience activity in the Bywong and Wamboin region for local people who want to access:

- community fire emergency resources
- fast exchange of local fire emergency information
- support and help with their preparations for fire emergencies
- greater understanding of personal emergency awareness and safety, and
- improved chances of preserving their property and other assets against fire.

COMMUNITY FIREWISE GROUP COVENORS play an important role bringing together small, localised groups of residents to improve resilience to fire in their local area. Conveners don't need firefighting qualifications or experience only a willingness to focus local fire prevention and preparedness activities and foster community connection. If you would like to learn more about becoming a Community Firewise Group Convener please contact wamboinsec@gmail.com or visit the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade table at the Wamboin markets.

The **BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROGRAM** are also inviting people who are interested in volunteering opportunities to participate in the free STEP UP AND STEP OUT program. We want to help you and our community to build capacity and resilience through facilitated small group discussions and mentoring to build confidence and develop practical strategies for working in, communicating with and managing a group. You can register your interest at www.resilientbywongwamboin.net/join.

QPRC Council Meeting Summary - 22 June 2022



- Council heard from six members of the public who made presentations about a matter on the agenda
- Council rejected draft Plan of Management for an Asset Protection Zone over Council land at 10G Phillip Avenue and refused Development application for a four lot Torrens title subdivision and erection of three two-storey dwellings at 2G Phillip Avenue, Queanbeyan East
- Modification application for alterations and additions at Braidwood Memorial Pool was approved with additional conditions of consent
- Council adopted in principle names for new roads within Stage 1 and Stage 2 at the Poplars business and innovation precinct and will place the names on public exhibition (see: <https://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Council/Council-Business/Public-Notices#section-3>)
- Council will provide remaining funds from Phase 3 of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program to the Bungendore Sports Hub and Foxlow Parklet in Captains Flat. Funding for Foxlow Parklet will assist with lead contamination remediation and an upgrade of the equipment
- Council declined to accept any of the tenders and postponed the project for the Queanbeyan Aquatic Centre Upgrade to Change Rooms pending the sourcing of additional grant (or other) funding
- Subject to resolution of contractual matters by the CEO, Council awarded contracts for Municipal Waste Services to Veolia Environmental Services and Recycling and Organics Processing Services to Regroup Pty Ltd
- Council approved membership of the Southern Tablelands Arts from 1 July 2022 until 30 December 2024
- Council endorsed changes in Committees including dissolution of Economic Advisory Panel, The Q Advisory Board, Tourism Advisory Board and Queanbeyan Trust Committee, and combining of Braidwood Heritage Advisory Committee with QPRC Heritage Advisory Committee. Council nominated councillor delegates for remaining organisation, statutory, advisory and regional committees. Council's website will be updated accordingly in the near future
- An amended Library Collections Policy will remove fines for overdue items and refer to recycling as a last option for disposing of books. It will be placed on public exhibition for 28 days at <https://yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au> and will be adopted if no objections received
- Council extended the term for the current Panel of Code of Conduct Reviewers by 12 months
- Council adopted the Revenue Policy 2022-23 with no amendments, making the rates and annual charges for the 2022-23 financial year
- Council received investment report for May 2022, noting return of -\$52,928
- Council adopted the Operational Plan 2022-23 and Delivery Program 2022-26 with amendments following public exhibition. Council approved and voted funds to meet expenditure in adopted Operational Plan 2022-23 and adopted the Fees and Charges 2022-23
- Council noted report on grant from NSW Government to improve development assessment processes, program specifically aimed to improve integration of NSW Planning Portal with Council's IT system
- Council noted councillor workshops from 2 to 15 June which included a DA matter, Queanbeyan Memorial Park and future cemetery needs, Monaro Street Upgrade, info session on Bungendore High School, Affordable Housing Strategy and Operational Plan 2022-23
- Council noted minutes and adopted recommendations of Local Traffic Committee Meeting of 7 June 2022

If you'd like more background on the decisions, you can find the business papers on our website. An archive of the live stream is available at: <https://webcast.qprc.nsw.gov.au/archive/video22-0622.php>

Queanbeyan Palerang Council – Councillors

Councillor	Email address	Contact number
Katrina Willis	Cr.Katrina.Willis@qprc.nsw.gov.au	0407 728 832
Kenrick Winchester (Mayor)	Cr.Kenrick.Winchester@qprc.nsw.gov.au	02 6285 6299
Louise Burton	Cr.Louise.Burton@qprc.nsw.gov.au	0407 753 620
Brvce Wilson	Cr.Brvice.Wilson@qprc.nsw.gov.au	0407 789 167
Esma Livermore (Deputy Mayor)	Cr.Esma.Livermore@qprc.nsw.gov.au	0407 737 195
Jacqueline Ternouth	Cr.Jacqueline.Ternouth@qprc.nsw.gov.au	0408 788 268
Mareeta Grundy	Cr.Mareeta.Grundy@qprc.nsw.gov.au	0407 754 832
Steve Taskovski	Cr.Steve.Taskovski@qprc.nsw.gov.au	0407 799 574
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John Preston	Cr.John.Preston@qprc.nsw.gov.au	0407 741 402

Editor's Note: The information on this page was copied from the QPRC website. Meetings are held every two weeks. The previous meeting was on 8 June 2022. The mayor and deputy mayor attended the May Wamboin Community Association Meeting. That meeting suggested residents might appreciate seeing some selected QPRC published content from its website in the Whisper.

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What the Heck (Part 3) --- Next in the SRMD story we look at Wamboin

When the first houses began to appear in the new subdivision of what was rather pretentiously called the Canberra Country Estate in the early seventies, there were few kilometres of road, no community hall, no fire shed, no shop, nor church. The nearest church was in Sutton, so those that wanted to worship became part of the congregation of St Peters, meeting twice a month in Sutton.

In the early eighties, it was moved that there should be a third service each month at St Peters. David Robertson, who attended St Peters (and owned the third home built in Wamboin), suggested that instead of the service being held at Sutton, it should be in the newly completed Wamboin Community Hall. On 20 January 1985, sixty-seven people, seated on a motley collection of chairs and stools, attended the first service in the bare hall in Bingley Way. Hymn books and other church trappings were brought from Sutton.

Council pledged to “bend over backwards” to facilitate the subdivision of land if anyone was prepared to sell or donate half an acre of land. At the next service in the hall, David and Robyn Robertson made a plea for land, and from a congregation of 16 there were three offers. Lance and Meriel Schulz’s offer was accepted and so began the two year long process of transferring the title.

At one stage the Robertson’s thought they had secured an old Methodist church at Nubba, near Harden, which they could purchase and relocate to the site in Poppet Road. However, the local parish had a change of heart and the deal was off, so it was decided to build a new church using local tradesmen as much as possible. Ken Kelly was the builder, Trent Abell the electrician, and Rex Paton did the roadworks. Building started in 1997 and on 8 March 1998, the building was consecrated. Unlike many new churches, St Andrews, as it was now known, was debt free thanks to the enormous generosity of David and Robyn Robertson.

Since then, a lych gate (in memory of David), and a community memorial stone wall (built by local stonemason Dave Argent), have been erected in the gardens. The grassed area around the memorial wall is a peaceful place for contemplation, and the lych gate offers a place of rest. The church is a place for worship, but also a place of community use.

Significant occasions have been celebrated in this little church and the congregation has endeavoured to play a real part in the community, and beyond. It is a building that is used and enjoyed. – Alan Rope

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You want to join Wildcare, but don't want to care for animals. What can you do?

The first thought that comes to most people's minds when they think of wildlife rehabilitation is bottle feeding an adorable baby, whether it is a wombat, possum, wallaby, or bird. But what if you don't have the time available to make this level of commitment, or it just doesn't appeal to you?

There are many other ways you can help, and here are a few ideas.

If you are an organised person, with good communication skills, you may like to help on our 24/7 Helpline. These volunteers are the point of contact for members of the public and provide advice as well as organising rescuers to attend to an animal in need of assistance. They are rostered on to a 6-hour shift that meets their time constraints on a monthly, or more frequent basis.

If you have suitable skills, you may like to nominate to be on the Wildcare Management Committee. Suitable skills include minute taking, bookkeeping, information technology, as well as some more generalised roles. The management committee usually meets monthly, on the weekend, and communicates frequently by email in between meetings.

The Fundraising team attends markets and fairs selling a variety of hand made items such as toy animals and door stops. They are always on the look out for highly competent sewers and knitters to help create beautiful custom creations for sale.

Woodworking and construction skills are also highly desirable. Wildcare uses many possum boxes every year and is always looking for help with their construction and placement. Other construction tasks include aviaries, wombat and macropod enclosures.

If you would like a more hands on role with animals there are two essential roles for mention. Firstly, becoming a rescuer. Rescuers receive calls from the Helpline regarding animals in need of assistance. This may be as simple as collecting an animal from the vet and taking it to a carer, or as complex as removing a large kangaroo from a fence and organising medical care for it. You will not be expected to undertake complex rescues until you have the necessary experience and confidence. You are not expected to care long term for an animal simply because you rescued it. Animals are allocated to carers by the relevant species coordinators.

The second role with direct contact with animals involves the difficult task of humane euthanasia of animals that have been assessed by an experienced rescuer or the species coordinator, one of whom determines that unfortunately the best outcome for a particular animal is to end its suffering. For this role, you need to have an appropriate firearms licence and attend firearms training with Wildcare.

Wildcare has been operating in the area (and its surrounding 22000 square kilometres) for 30 years. It is run solely by volunteers who are passionate about our native wildlife. If you think that you would like to become a volunteer with Wildcare, please contact our 24/7 Helpline on 6299 1966 or download a membership form from www.wildcare.com.au. You are also welcome to come and ask questions at our stall at the Christmas in July Markets, Queanbeyan Showground on Saturday 9th July. – **Bec Quinn, Wildcare**



Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For July I chose the Shining Bronze-Cuckoo, a species normally found locally only in the summer months, however one lost individual was around our place recently.

Shining Bronze-Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx lucidus*)

Size: 16-18cm

Status: Common breeding summer migrant

The Shining Bronze-Cuckoo is a small and distinctive bird. The upperparts are shiny green-bronze, becoming golden on the head, especially when seen in good light. The underparts are white with dark chestnut horizontal barring. In younger birds, underside barring is duller or less distinct, and the bird is more grey-brown overall, with a less shiny back. Like most cuckoos, it has a very loud call and is heard more often than seen. The distinctive repeated "fwee-fwee-fwee-fwee-" call, which descends in tone but rises strongly in pitch, was what initially alerted me to the presence of one in our garden recently. The Australian subspecies normally migrates to southern Australia over the summer months, where its call is prevalent in spring, and over summer, once they find a partner, they lay their eggs in the nests of Fairywrens, Thornbills, Gerygones and Robins, being brood parasitic. Therefore, it was rather unusual and unexpected to see one in the middle of winter, when they would normally be enjoying the warmer climates of northern Queensland and New Guinea. Many of the smaller birds such as Robins, Thornbills and Fairywrens, were also aggravated by its presence, which is typical, since these small birds know the danger of Cuckoos in regards to protecting their nests. Whilst you are probably unlikely to encounter another one in winter, keep an eye out and an ear for their call, this spring and summer.

(Photo from Google images)

The 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Wamboin rural-residential community

The Committee of Management of the Wamboin Community Association (WCA) notes that late 2022 will be the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Wamboin rural-residential community. This reflects the fact that the first advertisement (of which the Committee is aware) for the sale of land in what became known as Wamboin, was published in the *Canberra Times* on 2 December 1972. The subdivision was called, by the developer, 'Canberra Country Estate'.

Would you like our community to undertake one or more events, late this year or early in 2023, to commemorate this anniversary? If so, what form might the commemoration take? One suggestion already proffered is that we resurrect the former practice of conducting a Wamboin Ball at the Community Hall. Another is that whatever events we have be family friendly, something that will be of interest to all ages.

The Committee very much welcomes suggestions for how we might mark the anniversary. Please pass them on to the WCA Secretary, David McDonald, at secretary@wamboincommunity.asn.au, or phone David on 0416 231 890.

All suggestions welcome!

WAMBOIN WEATHER – rainfall and temperature records

(47 years from Cooper Road) by Christine Rieber

June Rainfall Stats

June rainfall to the 26th 19.5mm
 2022 total rainfall to 26th..... 376.5mm

Average June rainfall..... 55.8mm
 2021 June rainfall..... 122.25mm
 2021 total rainfall to 26/6..... 480.25mm
 46yr Av. to end of June..... 324.7mm

July Rainfall Stats

2021 July rainfall..... 78.0mm
 Wettest July..... 142mm in 1993
 Wettest July day..... 50.5mm on 10/7/91
 Driest July..... 4.5mm in 1982

Average July rainfall..... 51.9mm
 Average no. rain days in July.... 10.8
 Highest no. rain days..... 17 in 1980
 Lowest no. rain days. 4 in 1982 & 1994

July Temperature Stats

2021 July maximum.....15.9°C
 Hottest July day..... 18.3°C on 10/7/20
 Hottest July night..... 9°C (5 times)
 1988 (3 times), 24/7/90 & 8/7/93
 Average day temp. 9.1°C
 Warmest July..... 1993
 Av. day temp. 10.8°C & nights 5.1°C
 (highest day 13.8°C in 2020)

2021 July minimum.....-3.2°C
 July 2021. Av. max 11.2°C & min 1.7°C
 Av. June temp. 5.4°C (day+night comb.)
 Coldest July day..... 1°C on 14/7/16
 Coldest July night..... -5°C (7 times)
 10/96, 12/11, 3 & 5/15, 22/17, 16 & 22/18
 Average night temp. 1.7°C
 Coldest July..... 2015
 Av. day temp. 5.5°C & nights -1.5°C

Daylight hours in July increase by 30 minutes from 9.7 to 10.2 hours.

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Without the month by month donation of time by the residents listed below, it would not be possible for Wamboin and Bywong to have the Whisper Please remember these two persons and all the others listed below, as they do what they do in order to make Bywong and Wamboin a little bit friendlier and more sociable. And 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.

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June Wamboin 2022

With a supposed maximum temperature of 12, but apparent temperature barely getting above zero, a cold westerly wind and rain squalls that felt more like ice showers, what else would you do on such a day than gather up your golf clubs and wander around the scenic hills of Wamboin. That is exactly what 9 brave (others used much harsher words) players did on Sunday 5 June for the monthly Wamboin Golf competition.

The sponsors for the month were Sam, Colin and Glenn who provided eats and prizes. The sponsors determined that the competition for this month was to be stroke. The googly ball was awarded before a shot could be played this month after it was reported that Colin was seeking a handicap adjustment, with the only issue being the adjustment was the one he had accidentally made to himself with the chainsaw (very lucky to have only lost the bout on points rather than a TKO. We wish him all the best for a speedy recovery).

Rob Gorhan joined the regular trio of Joan, Deb and Ken for 9 holes on the Eastern course, and Glenn, Vicki, Tim, Pete and Paul enjoyed (should that be endured) the 18-hole competition.

Despite the challenges of the weather, extra greenery (on the greens), moisture on the course, cold winds and the temptation to drive straight back to the warmth of the clubhouse (Hall) after the first hole, all players persevered to complete either the 9 hole or 18 holes, with some surprisingly good scores being recorded (maybe it was the stand and deliver approach on the day that worked!).

After successfully completing either 9 or 18 holes the fifteen golfers gathered at the 19th hole for the obligatory celebrations and to share stories on what may have been and were joined by a good number of family and friends to enjoy the festivities and raise a glass to celebrate a special 'zero' birthday of one of the regular golfers.

The spit the dummy this month was awarded to Larry King for some utterances to the chair (Honourable or otherwise RJ Gorham).

As previously mentioned, the googly ball went to Colin Urquhart for his way to obvious attempt to have his handicap adjusted. Larry King bestowed upon us the Ted Evans joke which had something to do with a relationship question raised by a husband to his wife

of over 50 years.

The 18-hole competition was taken out by Paul Griffin with a more than credible 4 under par score of 63 (80 off the stick). The handicapper will no doubt have a closer look at this result. The runner-up was Vicki Still (67/91), with Tim Barter in third (71/80).

The 9-hole competition was taken out by Ken Gordon (30/34) from Joan Mason (33/45) and Rob Gorham (34/43).

Encouragement awards were presented to: Deb Gordon, Pete Harrison and Glenn Crafter. Mostly in recognition of braving the conditions and completing the course.

We look forward to seeing everyone and more back on Sunday 3 July for the Ted Evans Memorial GST Handicap competition sponsored by Judith Evans and Keith and Kathy France. If you care to join us, we meet at the Wamboin Community Hall at 12:15 for a 12:30 start. – **Ken Gordon**



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Can You Add Interest to the August Whisper?

Thank you to everyone who delivered, wrote something for, or ran an ad in this July issue. Without you ... it would not exist. The Whisper is one of the many ways we residents can invite, inform, amuse, or challenge each other. Deadline for the August issue is the last Sunday of July, 7 pm, so that's Sunday July 31. It should be at least linked to living out here. It should respect the variety of views that our 1,300 homes contain. If it would increase your income, run it, but think about paying for it as an ad. We only live once, so, if you could come up with some words that might add something to some residents' cold winter day, please do. You live out here. Your life is as real as anyone else's. Tell us something you know about living out here. – Ned Noel, volunteer editor

Something To Consider

About seven years ago my partner and I decided to stop doing pile burns and instead mulch all prunings in an attempt to develop some soil in one of our paddocks. I'm pleased to say that it is working and we now have a couple of centimetres of lovely soil under the mulch. We are lucky to have a tractor and slasher to mow it down into relatively small pieces but you could do similar with a lawnmower for small pieces and leaves, or a mulcher if you have one and have the time. Another option which a friend does is to place small piles of prunings around his paddocks. These break down over time – a longer process but still works. Please consider fire risk if you decide to do this and preferably remove any larger pieces first. Please note the following points:

1. Do not attempt to do this with weeds such as serrated tussock, St John's Wort, sifton bush and African Love grass, particularly if they are seeding.
2. Be aware that anything with viable seed will grow as you are providing a great seed bed of warm, well-aerated mulch. To avoid this prune weeds and shrubs before the flowers have gone to seed – easy to say but not always achievable. I managed to get a lovely crop of agapanthus, gaura and lemon balm in the paddock which I've had to hand dig out and remove!
3. Brown off plants such as vinca and ivy which grow from the nodes to ensure they are dead before putting them in the paddock. I put prunings like these in a trailer and leave them to dry out before placing them in the paddock.
4. Look regularly at the mulch pile and ensure you pull/dig out any weeds you see growing immediately. Please don't come back to me in a couple of years' time and say that some plants/weeds have gone wild in your paddocks.
5. If you decide to do this, it does take more time and consideration but the results are pleasing if you are careful with the plants you mulch or slash. – by Vicki Still



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The Kowen Winter Run 2022 -- A Volunteer's Perspective

Staring down a Kowen forestry trail we search for our first runner. The sun is shining through the pine trees but there is no warmth in the shade. It's 9.00am on a Sunday morning, my volunteer partner Tony and I are deep inside Kowen Forest waiting to provide drinks, snacks and support to the marathon runners. We did a quick calculation, the race started at 7.00am, we are about 35 kms from the start, so we should see runners from about 9.30am.

At 9.37 there is movement down the 'Roller Coaster', it's our first runner!

We congratulate this first runner to our drink station but he exclaims, 'no, there is a guy in front of me'. No, we reassure him you are number one and are leading. No, no he declares, there is a runner ahead of me. Tony and I look at each other, did we miss someone, how could that happen? Doubt and more doubt.

Number One fills his water bottles and he is off.

We are left with a quick analysis of what we have been doing in the past half hour and could we have missed a runner. We quickly concluded we haven't missed anyone and there is a runner who has gone off course.

In the next few minutes runners two, three and four arrive. The first female runner arrives, smiling and relaxed. How do you do that after 35 kms and some big hills, including Mount Doom. Those that have run the course before know that very soon they will face Mt Amungula, my least favourite section of the entire course. This is no time to be smiling.

I am always amazed how these lead runners, the gazelles, arrive at our station with no hint of exhaustion, distress, or even perspiration. They run in, say a few words, fill their water bottles and they're off with a running style that suggests they could run forever.

We have installed Blue Tooth speakers on the approach to our drink station, at the table and on the way out. The music is the theme to the Last of the Mohicans. Many runners comment they love the music. It all makes the forest and being out there on your own a little less daunting.

At this stage here are no groups of runners, they are all on their own, spread out along the course with kilometres between them. There's not much opportunity to follow the next runner which means all those arrows, tapes, crosses and flags will be so appreciated. We keep asking ourselves, how could you go off course.

I had decided not to run this year after running many Kowen races over the past 6 years. I thought volunteering and helping Pam with this event would give me a better appreciation of what happens behind the scenes and wow what an eye opener. Now I should make it clear my contribution was only a half day on the Friday before the race and from 6.00am to 2.00pm on race day. Pam has a core of helpers that put in many days of effort grooming the trails and getting all the logistics right.

On Friday morning I drove our section of the course with Deb, one of Pam's core volunteers. Our job was to check on markers from the big tree. Now if you haven't been in Kowen let me assure you there are a lot of big trees in there. We drove the course from the big tree and put down a few more markers. At the entrance to the Roller Coaster we erected a rope fence, star pickets and flags. We then whipper snipped the grass to make it obvious where the runners were to go. After that I asked, where too now? The response was, down there. This meant driving the length of the Roller Coaster section so that we could mark that section of the course with particular attention on intersecting tracks that the runners were to avoid. I must say driving the course in 4WD is so much easier than running it.

We drove to the top of Amungula to check on the track markers and then headed home. We had been on the course for about 5 hours and there were crews in other parts of the course doing the same thing.

Back to Sunday morning and more runners are coming through the Roller Coaster. There are about 100 runners registered for the marathon and we are ticking off their bib numbers as they come through. I keep staring at the line of sunshine hoping that soon the sun will rise over the trees and we will be warm. That's doesn't happen and we are in shade all day!

A few groups of runners are coming through. Now we are seeing runners a little more distressed, they will make it to the end and it will be apparent they have run a marathon. They fill their bottles, grab some snakes and a small bag of chips and they wander off.

Its 1.00pm and we have been here for about 6.5 hours. How much longer should we stay? The gap between runners is growing. Suddenly we hear more noise, it's the last group. A running group who has come all the way from Narrandera. The sweep is right behind them, encouraging these last runners to keep going so they beat the cut off at 2.00pm. They have 1 hour to cover about 7 kms and that hill.

These last runners leave our drink station and we start packing up. The music is turned off and everything is loaded into the ute. Our job now is to remove all the markers back to the big tree. Again, this is no small job. We pull up the star pickets we installed on Friday and roll up the flags. We stop every 100 metres to remove arrows, crosses and stripped tape. Its takes about an hour to get back to Sutton Road.

Back at the shed and we arrive about 5 minutes before the runners from Narrandera cross the line. They beat the cut off by about 5 minutes, a great effort. Unfortunately, the presentations were about 3 hours ago but that's ok, they completed a marathon! Pam confirmed our missing runner had in fact taken a wrong turn and that he was mightily disappointed that after all that training and what might have been a podium finish amounted to a disqualification.

I now have a much better appreciation of what goes on behind the scenes to organise these Kowen trail runs. The work at the community hall by Pam's crew and the fire brigade is one side of the coin, what is somewhat unseen is all that effort that goes into planning, managing and marking a marathon, half marathon and 12 km trail courses in the forest.

- The results of the podium finishers:

by Kevin Rowe, The Three Score Plus Trail Runner

Marathon men	Marathon women	Joshua Johnson 1:28:40	Michaela Franz 1:53:19
Travis Haslam 3:27:03	Fan Xiang 4:07:31	Justin Cementon 1:32:27	Kym Kennedy 1:57:26
Aaron Smith 3:33:27	Ursula Adams 4:09:17	12km men	12km women
Tyler Burrowes 3:44:16	Ellen Bradley 4:15:50	Matthew Crane 54:05	Jess Ronan 54:05
Half marathon men	Half marathon	David Osmond 56:14	Helena Michael 56:31
Mike Carroll 1:22:27	Alice Arch 1:48:19	James Souter-Robertson	Stephanie Kelly 1:03:12

