

The Whisper

Wamboin and Bywong Facilities and Contacts

Bungendore Police: 6118 1240 Ambulance Bookings: 131233

Wamboin Community Assn www.wamboincommunity.org.au

Bywong Community www.bywongcommunity.org.au

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

Bywong Community	Steve Walker - 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	
Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade	Neville Schroder - Captain	0409 991 340	wamboincaptain@gmail.com
Geary's Gap Pony Club	Cameron Smith	0419 449 747	
Golf	Ken Gordon	0455 839 840	ken.gordon1962@gmail.com
Injured Wildlife	Wildcare - Helpline	6299 1966	
Justice of the Peace	Andrew Stainlay - JP	0408 469 880	stains@bigpond.net.au
Justice of the Peace	Leanne (Lee) Ward - JP	0411 207 317	leannefward@gmail.com
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	Denise Lang - Co-ordinator		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

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 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 2023 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, July 30, 2023.** 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 \$97 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 Rebecca Purdie - pet/horse sitting 6238 3343
Grace Taylor 0490 758 476 baby sitting and tutoring for primary school students gracetaylor145@gmail.com

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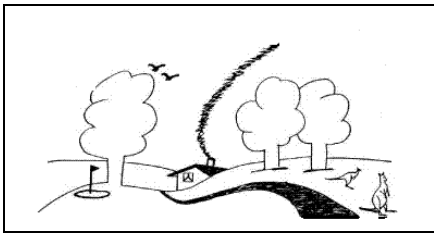
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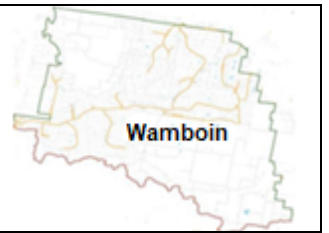
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President's Paragraphs



Well it's getting even colder. Winter is definitely here.

1. Bonfire And Fireworks Night: It's coming around fast. The Wamboin Community Association's Bonfire and Fireworks Night on the 26th August. See ads further in this edition of the Whisper for information about this great community event. Soon we will be opening the oval for fuel for the Bonfire but right now we need to know about all the store holders who will provide food on the night. We already have many local groups eager to contribute and make this a great success, but if you haven't replied yet please contact me Jenny Richards at jennyanneri@gmail.com to let me know of your plans as I'm co-ordinating the food this year.

One last thing: the Bonfire is a CASH ONLY event. We do not have access to an ATM and the Hall's capacity for wireless money transfer is EXTREMELY LIMITED. The bandwidth just isn't able to cope with the crowds that we routinely get on this very popular night. So take a warning and tell others who may be coming - CASH ONLY. At the end of the day it will save you time and hassles.

2. Markets: The monthly Community Association Markets are now in recess until September. We will see you back on the 3rd Saturday in September when they re-open.

3. Monthly Meetings: It is pleasing that a number of new residents are taking the time to come to some of our monthly meetings. No one likes coming out on a cold winter's night but this way you can make contact with the WCA and air any ideas or concerns that you may have. Remember the monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Hall at 7:30 pm.

Well that's all from me for now. Remember to put that date for the Bonfire in your diary because it's a great family event. - **Jenny Richards - President Wamboin Community Association.**

Last chance to get your tickets
to the Wamboin Ball

Saturday 15 July 2023 5:30pm

To purchase tickets email Ken Gordon: wamboin.ball@gmail.com

Tickets \$85 per head

Champagne for the ladies on arrival
Lucky door prize
3 course dinner
Music by Soul Plumbers
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Dress: Semi-Formal / Formal

Don't forget to bring cash on the night to purchase raffle tickets for some amazing prizes kindly donated by:

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The Great Wamboin Curry Night will be at the Wamboin Hall on 19 August 2023. 7:00 for 7:30. All welcome. Gold coin donation requested to pay for event expenses. Make a curry and bring it. Provide a description on paper to tell others a little about your curry. Bring your own drinks, plates, cutlery, and drinking glass. All curries will go on a serving table for each person to sample. Booking essential. Bookings and all other enquiries to Dave Hubbard at dave.hubbard@bigpond.com

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Event:

Bywong Community Association AGM

Where: Bywong Hall

When: 17 August @ 7:30pm

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The Wamboin Firefighter



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Have you heard about the AIDER programme?

The AIDER (Assist Infirm, Disabled and Elderly Residents) program is a free, one-off service which supports some of our most at-risk community members. Some residents in the Wamboin/Bywong area have taken advantage of this service already.

The program helps people live more safely and confidently in their home in areas where bush fires may start.

The AIDER program is designed for people who have limited domestic support available from family, relatives, friends or other services. This could include older people, people living

with a disability, and people who are already receiving community assistance and services. Their property must also be on bush fire prone land (land that can support a bush fire or be subject to bush fire attack). Now is the perfect time to take advantage of this service while we aren't in the fire season but the service is available right throughout the year.

AIDER services can include:

1. clearing gutters
2. thinning vegetation around the home
3. removing leaf and tree debris
4. trimming branches from close to the home
5. mowing or slashing long grass.

If you would like to know more about the free, one-off AIDER service, call 02 8741 4955 or email aider@rfs.nsw.gov.au or download our fact sheet.

Useful links

<http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au>

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

[Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade](#)

6128 0600 (business hours only)

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NSW Rural Fire Service

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Wamboin Home Produce and Craft Market -- Winter closure until September!

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

The June market was surprisingly well attended. Maybe, because the sun shone. Lots of people out with dogs and new puppies! Not a lot of produce at this time of year but lots of craft and some excellent second hand clothing! The market will resume on 16 September and the 2nd hand clothing will be a 'Horse Gear Sale' for that month. So start sorting your unwanted riding gear and your horses unwanted rugs, bridles etc. Come along and sell or swap your gear. *More on that in the next Whisper.*

ALERT! Our *Wamboin Winter Story Competition* is up and running! See flyer in this Whisper. We already have quite a few entries registered. What better way to spend some of those cold winter days than dreaming up a wonderful story to tell us. We are very lucky to have the generous help of author Jackie French. Many of you will be familiar with her wide variety of books for all ages and her love of the local region. No wonder she signs herself as **Jackie French AM: author, historian, ecologist and honorary wombat!** Let's do her proud and show off our local talent. **Prizes will be handed out at the September market.**

See you there!

CALLING ALL BUDDING WRITERS/ILLUSTRATORS! The Wamboin Winter Story Competition

Supported by:

Wamboin Community Association Wamboin Home Produce and Craft Markets
with generous help from **Jackie French AM: author, historian, ecologist and honorary wombat**

- Tell us a story (max 2 x A4 pages)
- Aim for original, imaginative, funny, sinister, exciting, intriguing!
- Do it your way: hand written, typed, drawn or presented as a comic strip
- **Must** include reference to our local area

Start with the words: "I was out for a morning walk, when out of nowhere....."

Age Groups (prizes for each category):

Junior	Intermediate	Senior	Open
Up to 8yrs	9-12yrs	13-18yrs	Over 18 yrs

Expressions of interest to Meriel Schultz at lmsconsulting@bigpond.com

Entry form will then be provided. Closing date for entries : 31 August 2023.

Winners announced at the September Wamboin market. As many of the entries as possible will be printed in the Whisper from September onwards, if the author agrees. Signed book prizes kindly donated by Jackie French AM

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Wamboin Golf

Sunday 4 June 2023. A group of 15 golfers ventured out to play in the Wamboin Golf competition sponsored this month by the Urquharts and Crafters. We thank them for the refreshments and prizes.

One visitor, Chris O'Loughlin, who was passing through Wamboin and catching up with friends on the way back to South Australian. Two first timers with Karyn and Travis joining us for the challenge. Karyn is getting in practice as she has been nominated by her son Robert as the family member to participate in a golfing challenge in 12 months time (good luck Karyn). Travis put his faith in the hands of Matt as his coach/mentor for the day, and given the score recorded by Matt was in good hands!!

Three players contested the 18-hole competition with Dave Hubbard taking out first place, winding back the years with a round of 80/55 putting him in contention for the Ned Kelly award. Paul Griffin (88/74) took out second place with Nev Schroder (89/78) in third.

Robert Thompson took out the junior competition with a round of 51/34. The 9-hole event had a relatively large field of 12 players. Matt Hawke took out the win (and was duly awarded the Ned Kelly prize) with a score of 39 nett 23 (an unbelievable 10 under his handicap, which will no doubt be in for a cut) Deb Gordon (51/31) came in second with Gerard Ryan in third (41/32). Both of our sponsors (Glenn and Col) had scores which would have taken out second and third had they been eligible.

A googly ball was awarded to Deb Gordon for being able to hit through the branches of six trees to land near the green. Another googly was given to Glen Crafter for recovering from the dam the 4 iron he lost in May. The dummy was originally awarded to Matt H for writing his name on the incorrect long drive card. On appeal it was revoked with a recommendation to the club for an improved induction process for new(ish) players.

Longest drive and nearest the pin winners were: Col Urquhart 3, Gerard Ryan 3, Matt Hawke, Ken Gordon, Dave Hubbard, Travis Makowiecki and Glen Crafter.

Ted's Jokes contained inferences to elephants and science experiments recommending ways to eradicate worms.

We hope you can join us at the community hall at 12.15pm on Sunday 2 July for a 12.30pm start for the competition sponsored by our local tradies. –

Ken Gordon

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THE WAMBOIN WINTER STORY COMPETITION

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- Tell us a story (max 2 x A4 pages)
- Aim for original, imaginative, funny, sinister, exciting, intriguing!
- Do it your way: hand written, typed, drawn or presented as a comic strip
- **Must** include reference to our local area

Start with the words:

"I was out for a morning walk, when out of nowhere..."

Age Groups

(prizes for each category)

Junior	Intermediate	Senior	Open
Up to 8yrs	9-12yrs	13-18yrs	Over 18 yrs

Expressions of interest to Merial Schultz at imsconsulting@bigpond.com

Entry form will then be provided.

Winners announced at the September Wamboin market.

Signed book prizes kindly donated by Jackie French AM.

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: 31 AUGUST 2023

Kowen Kapers

Kowen Forest is more than just a chunk of ACT real estate we have to drive around in order to get to Queanbeyan. In fact, we Wamboin residents are lucky to have an amazing and much under-utilised resource right on our doorstep. An area that, while locked to vehicles, is open to walkers, dog walkers, runners, horse riders, bike riders, bird watchers, trig hunters, geocachers and even sled dog runners. In what I hope will become a regular series of articles I plan to showcase some of the many things Kowen has to offer.

So just what does Kowen have to offer?

The District of Kowen covers an area of 77 square kilometres including 4,700 hectares of plantation pine forest. There is amazing scenery from the mountains of the Kowen Range down to Molonglo Gorge. You can literally walk all day and never see another person.

For the nature lover, there are remnant native forests, native plants and animals, and a wonderful display of wildflowers in Spring. Kowen also has a rich history including almost a century of commercial forestry, a settler history dating back 192 years and a history of Aboriginal occupation that stretches back in time for tens of thousands of years.

There are a range of facilities including a campsite with toilets and BBQs, the Blue Tiles swimming hole, a fire lookout tower, a Bureau of Meteorology weather monitoring station and a Geoscience Australia field station. Kowen is also home to the Canberra International Clay Target Club. We all know about Canberra's famous arboretum, but did you know that Kowen is the site of not one but four separate arboretum locations?

Numerous events are staged in Kowen including car and motorbike rallies, running races, rogaining and orienteering events, sled dog and Canicross races as well as mountain bike events. There's even a rave held every winter solstice. Kowen is also used for Army field training exercises.

In future editions of *The Whisper* I hope to cover all of these matters ... and more. But for now the important question is: how does one enter Kowen from Wamboin? There are two major entrances from the Wamboin side.

Opposite 241 Bingley Way: Proceed up the dirt road until the road takes a 90 degree turn to the left. Don't turn left but instead continue walking south along the trail up the hill. After about 100 metres, you'll come to a T intersection. Turn right and follow the trail to the end. This trail, which winds its way along the ridgeline, (with a sharp 90 degree turn about 4 minutes in) will take about 10 minutes to complete. At the end, turn left and in 50 metres or so you'll reach the horse entrance to Kowen.

Next to 30 Cooper Rd: Follow the trail for about 100 metres, past the foundations of the original Wamboin Fire Brigade building, and you'll find a locked gate. Climb over or through the gate or alternatively continue on for a further 30 or so metres until you reach the horse entrance.

What can you do once you've entered Kowen Forest? For that, you'll have to wait for future editions of *The Whisper*. - **Peter Komidar, Wamboin**



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How the Whisper Gets Into Your Mailbox Each Month

Thank you Simon Lewis for volunteering to deliver the 22 Whispers to mailboxes along the Federal Highway Service Road which Peter Huckstepp delivered for the past 5 years.

The Whisper tries to keep ad costs relatively low so as to offer an inexpensive way for local businesses to advertise and to maintain enough ad revenue to pay for printing, with any little bit left over going to the Community Association. The volunteer work of the persons and families listed below has been the basis for the Whisper's survival for some 43 years as one more way for us residents to communicate with each other. Without the help of the people named below, and their predecessors, driving, running, walking or cycling down each of our roads with a stapled together batch of printed pages, this issue and hundreds more would not have gone into each mailbox. Please remember all the residents 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. Please consider these advertisers when you need services or products.

Lastly, a big thank you to each person who wrote an article for or entered an invitation to an event to told a story in this issue, giving all the rest of us a few minutes of thoughts or an opportunity. And to each of you who lives out here, consider yourself qualified to write something for the next Whisper, but take a little care to respect the variety of views and personalities around you.

-Ned Noel, volunteer editor, nednoel@optusnet.com.au or ph 0409 997 082.

174: CO-ORDINATED BY ALICE SCOTT: ph 0407 005 506 email alicehscott@bigpond.com

Fay Kelly	Norton West Area from Cmpbl Pl	20	Christine Rieber	Cooper Rd	27
Dave Power	Fernloff Rd	34	Vicki Still	Canning Cl	15
Andrea Sadow	Poppet Rd	32	Alan Rope	Sutton Rd	47

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

Joan Mason	Bingley Way	44	Margaret Hekeimin	Merino Vale Dr	19
Sue Ward	Norton Rd (Bingley to Weeroona)	32	Anne Gardner	Weeroona Dr (Norton to Majors)	32
Kathy Handel	Norton(Wrona2 Hilltop+Wirndra)	21	Phil Leeson&C Fogarty	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	27

230: CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER: ph 6238 3489

Lesley Page	Valley View Ln	4	Deb Gordon	Yalana East	45
Colleen Foster	BdoreRd BtwnJoRocks&NortnRd	25	Dominica Lorima	Norton Rd – North End	42
Cassie Fisher	Clare Ln	12	Lyle Montesin	The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks	65
Jules Clancey	Norton Rd #1033-#1240	37			

201: CO-ORDINATED BY GARETH JONES: ph Ph: 6238 1988 givrjones@bigpond.com done in Aug & Sept by Dominica Lorimer

Sophie Davis	Weeroona (254 – 400)	18	Susie & Brad Edwards	Weeroona (417-512)	17
James Houlcroft	Macs Reef Rd (DenleyToGumFlt)	7	Maria Taylor	Birriwa Rd & Gum Flat Lane	19
Nora Stewart	Rovere Ln	7	Justin Jarvis /Joel Smith	Macs Reef Birriwa to Harriott	14
Megan Wallace	Harriot Rd	28	Belinda Morris	Macs Reef Rd (Nwington2 Bankers)	11
Sandra Favre	Newwington Rd	20	Carol &Clive Boughton	Macs Reef (Bankers To Fed Hwy)	34
Chrystal Earle	Snowgum Road	26			

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

Simon Lewis	Federal HwSvcRd	22	Louise Baldwin	Wattle Flat Rd	11
Lyn Parkinson	Bidges/Hickey/OldGoldMines	53	Fire Brigade	Headquarters on Bingley Way	1
Glen Dorahy	Sutton Park Estate	55	Russell Ball	Macs Reef – Denley Dr to BngndrRd	25

148: CO-ORDINATED BY DAVID FEATHERSTONE ph 6236 9722 bushranger_au@hotmail.com

Chris Fowler	Millyn Rd	22	David Featherston	B'doreRd SmHill to&nclgdCrkBRd	27
Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	24	Leigh & Derek Morris	Wyoming Road	20
Kerrie Gougeon	B'dore Rd (CreekB to Fed Hwy)	33	Peter Sharp	Doust Road	20

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

Robyn Elsom	Denley Dr (Sth End to 429)	15	JonesFmly+JulieJohnsn	Denley 191 to 414	26
Tony Bond	HoganDr/OranaDr/Yuranga Dr	52	Mary & Paulo Beneforti	Dnly Dr frm MacsReef to Birchmans	12
Janey & Paul Pedersen	BirchmansFrmDenleyUp2SaraRf	15	Helen Longdon	SarahReef&BrihcmansFrmSarah2End	11
Murray Goodridge	B'dore Rd (MR to&nclgdg Smrihl)	40	Diana Griffin	Majors Close	19
Diana Boswell	Donnelly Rd 29 & Grove Rd 8	38	Advertisers & Misc	Out of area advertiser mailouts & msc	30

TOTAL 1,349

Can You Write About or Provide a Photo of Life in Bywong or Wamboin for the August Whisper?

Thank you to each of you who delivered, ran an ad in, or provided an article for this July issue. Without you nobody would get a copy in their mailbox, or the Wamboin Community Association couldn't have paid to print 1300 copies because nobody paid for an ad, or it would have helpful ads but nothing else to read. Deadline for the August Whisper is 7 pm, last Sunday night of July, so July 30. The Whisper is just another way we have of communicating and learning. If you can provide something that would entertain, educate, or invite at least some of the rest of us, consider emailing in. You'll almost certainly make some day in August a little more alive for many hundreds of readers. Remember to respect the variety of people who live out here. – Ned Noel, volunteer editor on behalf of the Wamboin Community Association, nednoel@optusnet.com.au or mobile 0409 997 082.

Wamboin Thursday Social Group: The Thursday Social Drop In Group operates each Thursday morning from 10 – 12 noon at the Wamboin Hall, Bingley Way. If you have some time free on a Thursday morning pop in, have a cuppa and chat. We love to welcome new people to the group. The group also had a very successful Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea on Thursday 25 May 2023. Thank you to everyone who participated and donated to the Cancer Council. – Narelle Pumphery

Social Table Tennis: Table tennis offers a great way to bond with other people while you stay fit and active. There are many benefits to everyone from playing table tennis Including: Improved balance, Improved reflexes, aerobic exercise, mental sharpness, as well as having fun and making more friends. Meets each Thursday, 6-8 pm, at the Wamboin Community Hall on Bingley Way. All welcome. Everything provided. Contacts: Suzee – 0419 285 949, Michael 0406 606 238.

QPRC Mobile Library: The QPRC Mobile Library bus is back on the road and will be at the Wamboin Hall on Thursday 1, 15 and 29 June 2023. After you have visited the library drop into the Social Group and have a cuppa. - Narelle Pumphrey



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Nature Notes - June 2023

Jo Walker

Although this is still the first month of Winter we've already had several very cold nights, waking up to see the countryside carpeted in thick white frost. The -7degrees recorded in Canberra last week was the coldest night experienced for about thirty years. The kangaroos were all standing in the sunshine as soon as the sun came up, giving off little clouds of steam as the frost on their fur melted and evaporated. Fortunately, they have very thick fur that seems to keep them warm on the coldest of nights.

Rain has continued to fall fairly regularly (16 mm here over the last two days) so the countryside is still green. Not much is in flower at present – although the *Acacia genistifolia* (Early Wattle) are putting on a good display of cream flowers amongst their prickly foliage. And the grey-leaved small *Grevillea lanigera* bushes have lots of dark red buds on them – a few of them just beginning to open into dark pink and cream flowers. Most of the local pea flowers – *Daviesia*, *Bossiaea*, *Dillwynia* and *Pultenaea* spp. - are bearing heavy loads of buds, and some of the *Dillwynia sericea* and *D. sieberi* growing in the warmer spots are showing the occasional flower already. And the False Sarsparilla (*Hardenbergia violacea*) buds are beginning to show a touch of purple colouring. The trees and shrubs are also providing a palate of many shades of green along with the soft colours of new growth and buds.

Regarding the birds, Eastern Spinebills are enjoying the nectar of several planted Grevilleas that are just beginning to flower. They seem to be the only Honeyeaters around at present. A little flock of about a dozen Red-browed Finches was flying around amongst the vegetation a few days ago, but not many Thornbills (Yellow-rumped, Buff-rumped or Brown) are making an appearance. They may be around somewhere – a lot of low vegetation has regenerated over the years so they can move further afield or disappear amongst the foliage.

I found a little half-eaten Sugar Glider here a week or two ago – probably the prey of an owl as the head and top part of the body was eaten. Evidently, owls hold a captured Glider by its tail and consume it from the head end. Over the years I've found several tiny Glider tail tips, just the white tip with a bit of black tail fur.

It's a sunny day today with the sky entirely cloudless at the moment. But it's quite windy which makes it feel a bit colder than it is – as does the sight of white snow carpeting the distant hills. Still, only a few weeks and the Wattles will begin to flower, those beautiful harbingers of Spring.

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Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For July I chose the Pink Robin, a rather unusual visitor that I was lucky enough to see at my place recently for the first time in the local area.

Pink Robin (*Petroica rodinogaster*)

Size: 11.5-13cm

Status: Rare non-breeding winter migrant/vagrant

The Pink Robin is a tiny bird, and quite different from the common robins that you would expect to encounter around Canberra (e.g. Scarlet, Flame or Rose). Pink Robins nest in dense forests in southern Victoria and Tasmania during summer, and like other Robins in the genus *Petroica*, they disperse widely to more open habitats in the winter months. However, most other robin species have a much wider core range, and many are widespread and breed in the Canberra region. Pink Robins are much more unusual around our area, as their normal winter dispersal range only just makes it into the south-eastern highlands of NSW, though there are occasional records north to the Canberra region every few years, and they are prone to ending up in very unusual far-away places occasionally, even being recorded in urban parks, as far away as eastern SA and south-east QLD. The male is very distinct, a rich pale pink below, contrasting with his sooty-grey upperparts to throat, and tiny white forehead, however interestingly, almost none of the birds dispersing to our region are males; almost all are brown-plumaged females and immatures. This is believed to be due to the males retaining their territories in their breeding grounds. The female Pink Robin is also quite distinctive compared to confusingly similar females of many other *Petroica* robins. They are a very dark brown overall, though blacker on the wings and paler below, with a diagnostic rich buffy wingbar. Immatures are like females, though darker and streaked buffy. Some birds may have a pinkish tinge to the breast. One should also note the tiny, plump, squat structure of Pink Robins, compared to other local robin species which are more upright. Pink Robins prefer denser habitats than other similar robin species, and perch low in cover, often with their wings drooped, diving to the ground to take insects, or fluttering between perches. I was very surprised earlier this month, to see a dark female Robin out of my window, and when I ran outside and found it, I was astonished that my initial suspicion was correct, it was a Pink Robin. The bird kept low in dense stands of vegetation, among a mixed flock of other small birds (thornbills, fairywrens), giving an occasional harsh, grating, short "chit" contact call which is notably harsher than other local Robins. Their song, a high-pitched trill "ch-tr-tr-tr", is unlikely to be heard locally, as it is a breeding call, and Pink Robins in the



local area as non-breeding. I encourage you to keep a close eye on any Robins you find, and keep an eye out for Pink Robins, especially in denser pockets of vegetation. Otherwise, you may have to go further afield to Victoria or Tasmania, where they are common and easier to see.

Male Female
(Photos from Google Images)



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What the Heck Chapter 14

How often have you driven past St Andrews church in Wamboin and wondered, “What is the small separate building adjacent to the church?”

Well if you have wondered, or even if you haven't, it is actually the gateway to the churchyard. So why is it not on the fence-line you ask? Good question! Answer; mainly due to the fact that there is no entrance to the land from Norton Road, probably because it would be too close to the crest of the hill and turning off and on to Norton Road would be risky. And to get an entrance there we would need to drop a whopping great tree or two, and Council would not let us [tree preservation laws].

Why not at the entrance from Poppet Road, you ask? Another good question! I will ask around and try to get a good answer.

Now I hear you astute readers saying, “Why is there not a similar gate at St Peters church in Sutton”? Yet another good question! I cannot answer that either because I was not around 100+ years ago when St Peters was built and those that were around then are not around today for me to ask. However when we have completed the building of the hall at Sutton, maybe the church council could consider the suggestion. Of course if there is some generous person/s out there, with quite a few thousands burning a hole in the pocket, who would like to fund the project! All offers considered!

The building in question is called a lychgate (spelling and name can vary) and its origins are from medieval times in Europe. A lychgate is at the entry to consecrated ground. The word ‘lych’ comes from the Old English word for ‘corpse’, and the original purpose was to provide a resting place for the shroud-wrapped body or coffin until the priest was ready to begin the funeral service. In those days most people died at home so the family would carry the body to the church and leave it at the gate to the consecrated land for the priest to continue the funeral service. This may not have happened for a few days so seats were provided for the vigil watchers who would stay to prevent body-snatchers interfering with the corpse. During the service the body would be carried from the lychgate into the church or to the grave site.

These days, funeral directors use a hearse to carry the body to the church, and at our churches here in Wamboin and Sutton they drive right up to the front door and put the coffin in the church, then just hang around for the service to commence, usually only about an hour or so. And body-snatchers are few and far between these days, so they are fairly safe.

These days in Oz, churches have lychgates to maintain the links to earlier church traditions, or, like the lychgate at Wamboin, erected in memory of a parishioner, in this case David Robertson.

Also, around 100 years ago here in Oz (Melbourne specifically), for some unknown reason (probably ignorance), lychgates became popular as the front entrances of private homes, particularly those with picket fences. If you want to see lots of them you only need to go to the older established eastern suburbs of Melbourne. – Alan Rope





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WAMBOIN WEATHER – rainfall and temperature records

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June Rainfall Stats

June rainfall to the 25th 36.25mm
2023 total rainfall to 25/6 395.5mm

Average June rainfall..... 55.0mm
2022 June rainfall..... 19.5mm
2022 total rainfall to 25/6..... 376.5mm
47yr Av. to end of June..... 325.8mm

July Rainfall Stats

2022 July rainfall..... 50.25mm
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.... 10.7
Highest no. rain days..... 17 in 1980
Lowest no. rain days. 4 in 1982 & 1994

July Temperature Stats

2022 July maximum..... 17.7°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. 9.2°C
Warmest July..... 1993
Av. day temp. 10.8°C & nights 5.1°C
(highest day 13.8°C in 2020)

2022 July minimum..... -3.2°C
July 2022. Av. max 13.2°C & min 1.3°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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Portraits of Us

Drawing by John-Pierre Favre

Darryl Bourke, a former president of the Bywong Community Association, sees himself as a Sustainable living Evangelist, Electric Vehicle consultant, Photographer and Artist.

As an early adopter and technology geek, Darryl purchased his Tesla Model S back in 2016. He drove it to Alice Springs to be one of the first two EVs to drive there without any support. "Now EVs are becoming more topical, I have been quoted more in the media" said Darryl.

His artistic endeavours have included two Canberra Art-not-Apart displays, a sculpture in the Shaw Wines exhibition and twice in the QPRC art awards at The Q. Darryl said "it was quite a task delivering the 3m high sculpture to Shaw Wines".



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LOCAL WI-FI TO GET A BOOST WITH YLESS4U TOWER UPGRADES

YLess4U tell us that their wi-fi towers around Sutton, Bywong and Wamboin are getting a big upgrade this month. Jason Green, our local owner of YLess4U, assures us that the work shouldn't be too inconvenient for users and will be a big improvement for connectivity in the area. The upgrades, which will take place on the hill top towers around the region, will give their fixed wireless broadband a big boost. Jason says: 'weather, wind and wildlife all take their toll on our rural towers, so the tech upgrades will make them more robust, improve download speeds and reduce latency'.

SUPPORT TO OPTICOMM ROLLOUT

Jason also tells us that the YLess4U have now been licensed to provide home packages in support of the OPTICOMM roll out, which is great news if you have been waiting for fibre to arrive at your front door before you upgrade your wi-fi.

YLess4U are offering Bywong, Sutton and Wamboin customers a special deal for superfast fixed wireless broadband (which comes from the hilltop radio towers) from \$59 month with the option to switch to fibre when it arrives. YLess4U can provide wi-fi on both networks so there is no need to change provider.

If that all sounds a bit complicated, Jason reassures us: 'We can help you through the transition when it comes. We know the area - we are a local company with local technicians with a friendly local helpdesk, and we are here to help you'. For more details, please call 02 6230 3699 or see yless4u.com.au - Jo Shipley, YLess4U

Beware of Ratus eating your car

We have a plague of rats and not just in Wamboin. Ratus is attacking our cars and causing hundreds and thousands of dollars of damage. We have neighbor whose brake cables were gnawed, a friend whose engine had its hoses destroyed and his son who had his electrics stripped. We just found our plastic windscreen spray reservoir eaten down to water level and a hole in the brake cylinder. And when we were having these fixed there was another car in the mechanic's having its air filters replaced.

What can you do? Here are some tips some of which are obvious and others will have some more ideas. Self-evident is to regularly check your engine compartment for damage but also 'messages' they've left behind including smell! Its also a good idea to leave your bonnet open so a warm engine isn't such an attractive haven for the beasties. Then be aware of food that is around even in the car like chip packets. Chicken food and the like will be particularly favoured by Ratus on a cold winter's night. Rat poisons and traps are a precaution as are the ultrasonic repellents although no-one seems sure that they actually work. Peppermint oil seems to be a deterrent and does make your car smell a whole lot better anyway.

But remember that Ratus is pretty smart and learns routines quickly. Happy ridding! – **Richard Henley, Wamboin**

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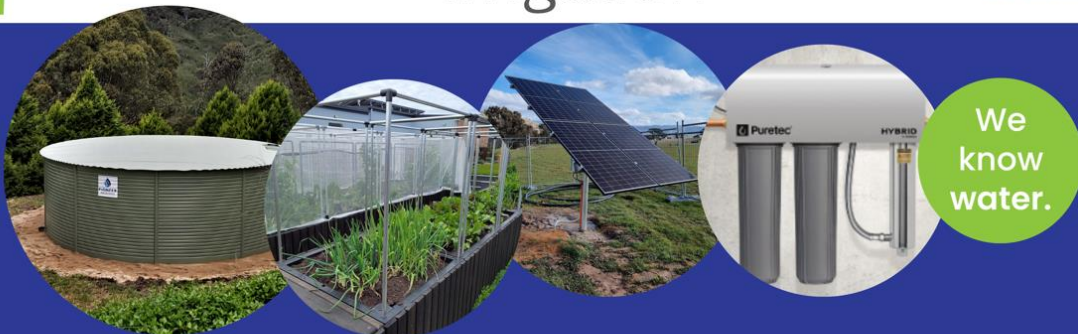
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A Chronology of Wamboin and District, Part 17: 2011 to 2014

David McDonald

The fifth 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. It commences with a synopsis for readers seeking a brief overview of the history of the area.

This is the 17th article presenting some items from the Chronology that focus specifically on Wamboin and district, rather than the broader, contextual happenings. It covers the period 2011 to 2014, and future issues will continue the series. The full version of the Chronology at the WCA 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
2011	Professor Brian P. Schmidt, ANU, from 'Maipenrai', Sutton Road, Sutton, was awarded (jointly with two other scientists) The Nobel Prize in Physics 'for the discovery of the accelerating expansion of the Universe through observations of distant supernovae'.
2011, 9 Aug	Australian Census of Population and Housing: Wamboin population 1,672, median age 44 years. Note that the boundaries of Wamboin, for census purposes, were different from the boundaries used in the 2006 census, explaining the 16% reduction in the population over the intercensal period.
2011, Sep	Telstra applied to construct a mobile phone tower on private property at the corner of Denley Drive & Birchmans Grove. It did not commence operation until 2018.
2012	Steve and Ruth Lambert closed the Lambert's Winery cellar door.
2012, Jan	John-Pierre Favre from Newington Road, Bywong, reported that an Australian Brush-turkey <i>Alectura lathami</i> had taken up residence on his property, and confirmed the species' identification by means of a photograph of the bird. He advised that it had been seen on other nearby properties as well. The brush-turkey is normally found along the Queensland and northern/mid-NSW coasts and coastal ranges with dense, wet vegetation, particularly rainforest. It is possible, but unlikely, that the bird was an aviary escapee.
2012, May	Palerang Council published a report by ANU academics that presented the findings of modelling Western Palerang's climate variability for 2030 and 2050. Detailed data for Wamboin and Bywong were included. It found that 'The implications of climate change for Palerang are similar to those for its surrounding region. Hotter and drier conditions, with greater evaporation, more wind and extreme weather events are already occurring, and the best estimate from combined climate models is for these changes to intensify in the future'.
2012, 20 Sep	Wamboin resident Cr Pete Harrison was elected, unopposed, as Mayor of Palerang Council.
2012, 1 Oct	Up to this year, St Andrew's Anglican Church Wamboin, and St Peter's Anglican Church Sutton, operated under the leadership of St John's Anglican Church, Reid, Canberra. On this date, 'St Andrew's and St Peter's joined together to become the Sutton Road Mission District, one congregation sharing two campuses'. 'The Sutton Road Mission District became an autonomous district under the patronage of the Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn.'
2013, 20 Apr	The inaugural Wheels of Wamboin event, on the oval at the Wamboin Community Hall, took place. It subsequently became an annual event, with participants bringing their vehicles from far and wide, as well as from locally. Motor vehicle enthusiast Peter Evans from Wamboin was the driving force behind the Wheels of Wamboin.
2013, 26 Sep	Cr Pete Harrison re-elected as Mayor of Palerang Council.
2013, Oct	A comprehensive list of the birds of Wamboin & Bywong, compiled by David McDonald, David Cook & Kathy Cook, was published in <i>The Whisper</i> . It included 178 species. The list has subsequently been updated at the Wamboin Community Association's website.
2014, 17 Feb	The Possumwood Wildlife Recovery & Research centre, on Joe Rocks Road, was incorporated as an association. 'Possumwood Wildlife is a self-funded facility established by Prof. Steve Garlick and Dr. Rosemary Austen, that helps with the recovery of severely injured and traumatised native animals and undertakes engagement and research to learn more about the behaviour of these unique animals.'
2014, Apr-Jun	The narrow, steep, dangerous hill on Norton Road was reconstructed from Sutton Road to Fernloff Road. Extensive road closures occurred, but most were carefully planned, including to facilitate access for the school busses. The work was designed and executed by the staff of Palerang Council. The community consensus was the Council staff did an excellent job.
2014, 18 Sep	Cr Pete Harrison re-elected as Mayor of Palerang Council.
2014, 19 Sep	Palerang Local Environmental Plan 2014 notified in the NSW Government <i>Gazette</i> . Commenced six weeks later.

Wamboin Community Association Annual Bonfire and Fireworks Display By Fireworks Australia

**Wamboin Community Centre 112 Bingley Way Wamboin
Saturday 26 August 2023**

Food stalls from 5.30, Bonfire lit at 6.36, Fireworks 7.06

Support local community groups including: Wamboin Community Association, Golf, Pony Club, Play Group, Church, Sutton School with a range of traditional stalls offering: Gluhwein, apple pies, steak sangers, bacon & egg sangers, baked spuds, Glo Sticks, great coffee, soft drinks and other food and beverages.

Please Bring Some Cash \$\$\$ to pay the \$10 Family Entrance Fee and to Purchase Tasty Food and Warm and Cool Refreshing Beverages on sale at multiple community group Stalls. Limited Internet Connectivity at the Hall mean no ATM will be available at the hall and only some stalls, if any, will have an eft “square” to accept payment.

Bonfire and Fireworks Night – Bonfire Fuel Wanted

Wamboin Bonfire and Fireworks Night is on Saturday the 26th of August. So now is a good time to reduce the fire hazards on your property by clearing branches, prunings and brush from your property and delivering them to the Bonfire site at the Community Centre in Bingley Way. **Please do not mix in: Building waste, treated timber, old carpets, soil, metal, or large green logs.** Hard to believe but we have had to separate materials such as wire, bricks, old sheets of corrugated iron, mattresses etc. in past years. **Pallets are not wanted** because when they burn they leave a bed of nails, which can puncture tyres of the cleaning up tractors. **Very large logs and stumps are also not wanted** as they smoulder and smoke for many days.

What to bring? The aim is to have a large fire that burns quickly and completely. This calls for prunings, branches, and brush, compacted and stacked high. We will need to stop delivery by Monday the 21st of August to allow for compacting and stacking.

Bonfire Night is the major, and sometimes only, fund raising activity for our community groups who run all the food, drinks and novelty stalls.



Family \$10

Please note: No drones and by law, the only fireworks allowed will be the display by FIREWORKS AUSTRALIA