

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.

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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	leanneforward@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
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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	lisa whitney059@gmail.com

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 December 2023 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, November 26, 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

OPTICOMM IS COMING – TUESDAY, Nov 21, 7:30 – 9:00 pm Wamboin Hall

In this final WCA Spring Talks Series, senior staff of Opticomm, the company that will install the Fibre to the Premises network in Bywong and Wamboin in coming months, will brief us on the project, including timetables, network layout, how the cable will get from the roadside to our homes, what changes the network will bring to our communities, how we will use the facility, etc. The Wamboin Communications Action Group members will also participate in the discussion. This is your opportunity to receive authoritative answers to your questions about improved communications in our communities, with the need for this highlighted by the current extended Telstra telephone and ADSL outage affecting much of central Wamboin. Don't miss it!

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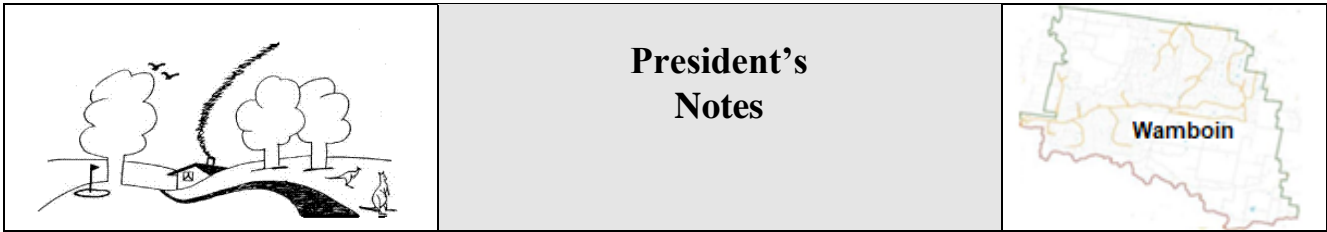
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**President's
Notes**

Family duties have unfortunately kept me away and occupied for most of the month of September and some of October but I'm largely back now and trying desperately to catch up. In my absence Diana, David and Ned kept the Association ticking over with excellent results and my heartfelt thanks. Time is now rushing on towards the end of the year – and I do mean rushing!







1. **Spring Talks.** Although I was absent for the September Spring Talk I understand it was a great success. An engaged group of locals participated in a night on recycling led by QPRC's Vanessa Palmer. Last month we hosted QPRC's General Manger Rebecca Ryan and Director for Development and Environment Ruth Ormella who came to address a large gathering on a Planning Proposal for Complying Development in C4 Environmental Living Zone. It was an interesting night and very informative and is designed to lead up to Council's workshop on the same on 1st November. Anyone living in Wamboin and Bywong who is interested in Complying Development should try to attend the November 1st workshop (information available from Council).
2. **Spring Talks cont.** For our final Spring Talk this month of November we are having representatives from **Opticomm** come out. Opticomm are the company tasked with running the network cable through Wamboin for faster download speeds and better internet coverage. If you are interested in this please come to the talk on **21st November at 7:30 pm at the Community Hall.** It should be an interesting and informative evening.
3. **Christmas Carols.** As I said the time is fast approaching to be thinking about the annual **Carols Night** at Wamboin on the **Friday 1st December.** Put on by the Community Association this is non-denominational event especially for the younger children of Wamboin, but for the adults as well to celebrate the end of the Year. As you will see by the ad in this month's Whisper this is a charity event and admission is by a gift under the giving tree for someone less fortunate. Food and drink will be available for a gold coin donation (also given the the Salvo's) and Santa comes on the Fire Truck to dispense gifts to the younger children. The night begins at **7:00 pm sharp** at the **Community Hall.** Put the date on your calender. Sutton School choir will be singing as well as music supplied by Poetry In Motion.
4. **Christmas Play.** This is becoming something of a feature of the Carols Night as the children of Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton perform the Christmas play during the Carols. If you would like your child to be part of this **PLEASE** contact me Jenny Richards on **0490020165** to secure parts. At this moment ALL parts are open. The children *always* bring their own unique interpretation to the play and its always entertaining. Hope to hear from you soon. - **Jenny Richards – President.**

WAMBOIN COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Friday, December 1st 2023 @ 7:00pm

At Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way

Everyone is invited to come along and:

-  Join in the singing of Christmas Carols (both traditional and modern), ably led by our local musicians
-  Experience the Christmas Story, as presented by the children of Wamboin
-  Give generously to the Giving Tree (gifts and non-perishable food, preferably unwrapped or in a Christmas bag) for distribution by the Salvos
-  Say Hi to Santa when he arrives on his special transport, a Fire Truck
-  Enjoy the traditional free sausage sizzle (There will be a donation box with all proceeds to be given to the Salvos)
-  Soothe your tired vocal chords with a cold drink



Opticomm attending Wamboin Community Association November General Meeting

Dan Lloyd, General Counsel and Chief of Corporate Affairs, will be joined by key members of the Opticomm project team, to provide information about the Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) network deployment being rolled out in Wamboin, Bywong & Sutton.

Details of the November General Meeting
When: 7:30pm – 8:30pm, 21 November 2023
Where: Wamboin Community Hall
112 Bingley Way, Wamboin

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BYWONG COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS PARTY!!!

This year the BCA committee decided to change up the Christmas Gathering and make it a Christmas PARTY. This will be a fairly casual family affair down at the Bywong Community Hall. The BCA will hold sausage sizzle and there will be games for the kids down on the oval. AND... there will be a competition for the **Best Dressed Doggo**. This can be something fun, matching outfits or whatever your imagination comes up with. This is an opportunity to catch up with locals who you might not have seen in a while, it is also a way to meet new neighbours in the area. We will put on a sausage Sizzle, and run a few games. BYO drinks picnic chairs and other things. Bring your family, Bring the kids and bring your Best Friend.

BCA Christmas Party

Bywong Community hall 67 Birriwa Rd
2nd December 4 till 8 pm

Best Dressed Dog competition Judging at 5 pm.

In BCA Committee news we have a listing of all the meeting dates for the next year.

The meetings will generally be held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

- 16 Nov
- Dec: There will be no meeting
- 18 Jan
- 15 Feb
- 21 Mar
- 18 Apr
- 16 May
- 20 Jun
-

- Justin Jarvis, President

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Callouts and what we have been up to.

A busy start to the fire danger period. We have had two escaped pile burns in Wamboin already, both of which had the capacity to turn into major fires in the area, due to the very strong winds at the time. Both fires were jumped upon by a significant number of appliances and volunteers from our brigade and surrounding brigades. The fire on Sutton Road involved over 15 appliances and around 70 personnel over 4 days before it could finally be considered out. Both of these fires occurred after the owners thought the original pile burns were extinguished, showing how much care must be taken during and well after you think it might be extinguished. We also conducted a hazard reduction burn on a property on Macs Reef Road, with the assistance of the Bungendore and Queanbeyan brigades. A very successful burn, planned by the FCC and supervised by Dave Hubbard. We have also provided a number of Strike Team contributions to fires in nearby areas. In the last two months we have responded to: 15 grass fires, 1 ambulance assist, 4 MVAs, 1 refuse fire, 1 planned hazard reduction, 3 strike team requests

The outlook for summer

With well below rainfall since the end of July, it is now evident that an El Nino has returned. This will result in drier conditions, with very low moisture levels in vegetation, meaning more flammable. Rainfall is expected to continue to be well below average. Grasses are now curing at a rapid rate, and this is showing up with large numbers of fires in the state. With many dams at low levels, water will be less available for firefighting and make operations more complicated if trucks need to travel any distance to replenish water supplies. Even with cooler days, any forecast of strong winds is likely to give a high FDR.

Heightened alert

With 3 wet summers since the last El Nino, the return to dry conditions has resulted in very early higher than average fire danger ratings (FDR's). In fact, the first day of the fire season had a HIGH FDR and a total fire ban issued. We have had a few Extreme FDR's already and for that to happen in spring is of concern. As the majority of fires are started by people, we all need to THINK about all our outdoor activities, to lessen the possibility of accidentally starting a fire. Wind is by far the most influencing factor in elevating FDR's. If a fire starts on a windy day, controlling it is extremely difficult if not impossible. For the RFS to respond, it will take time, possibly 30 minutes. By this time, a fire can grow at an alarming rate. If the land is sloping, for every 10 degrees of slope, the fire spread speed will double, for 20 degrees, it is 4 times faster than flat ground. The majority of fires started by people include, grass cutting equipment (hand mowers, ride on mowers or tractors), power tools that create sparks (welders, grinders or other machinery that creates heat, has belts and pulleys). The increase in pile burns escaping has escalated to an alarming rate with over 300 occurring just over a month before much of the fire season had even started in NSW.

So, what can you do to lower the risk with your outdoor activities?

1. Defer those activities until winds are calm. Use weather apps like Willyweather for your phone, which have wind forecasts for 1 or more days and will show a graph of predicted winds which is very useful.
 2. Do those activities early in the morning when humidity is higher, and temperatures are cooler.
 3. Have fire extinguishing equipment available (fire extinguishers, firefighting knapsacks, hoses, pumps, water carts etc.) and a "Spotter" – someone to oversee what is being done and ready to jump on the earliest indication of smoke/flames.
 4. Grinding and welding- if possible, perform these activities in a shed or well cleared areas where flammable materials are not stored. Sparks can travel up to 10 metres. A concrete floor with metal walls won't burn easily. If you do have to do this outdoor, do it on a calm day and wet down thoroughly the area prior and have water available as well as a spotter.
- If you do start a fire which escapes your property, you will face the full extent of the law and might be liable for property losses of others affected, be faced with very large fines or even a jail sentence.

Your fire plan

If you don't have a plan, do one this week, it's surprising that what you might not have thought about if faced with a bushfire. Remember power, mobile phone coverage and electricity can be lost when a bushfire damages important infrastructure. Make a plan that if you are separated, can't get home because of road closures, you all arrange to leave a message with the same friend who lives in Canberra and is unlikely to lose phone service, who can put you all in touch.

Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade

<https://wamboin.rfsa.org.au>

NSW Rural Fire Service

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

Wamboin Facebook page

[Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade](#)

Queanbeyan Fire Control

6128 0600 (business hours only)

W Wellness Centre

Opening Hours

Monday	8:00am - 9:00pm
Tuesday	8:00am - 8:00pm
Wednesday	8:00am - 9:00pm
Thursday	8:00am - 8:00pm
Friday	8:00am - 8:00pm
Saturday	8:00am - 5:00pm
Sunday	10:00am - 3:00pm



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Jade - Remedial Massage Therapist



Pearl - Remedial Massage Therapist



Ian - Remedial Massage Therapist



Theodore - Acupuncturist



Jo - Holistic Physiotherapist

New Treatments!!

Body Contouring - Ultrasonic Fat Cavitation (body contouring) involves the use of a specialised handpiece which is placed on the skins surface and transmits low-level ultrasonic waves which consist of compression - expansion impulses that travel in high-speed cycles. During this process, micro-cavities collide and collapse, they convert the fat into a liquid state, a phenomenon known as 'cavitation'. The fat is then safely eliminated through the lymphatic and urinary systems. This procedure includes the use of radio frequency (RF). RF promotes the reduction of cellulite, tightens skin, and strengthens the skins elasticity providing long term effects. What sets Ultrasonic Fat Cavitation apart is its non-surgical and gentle nature, minimising the risks and discomfort associated with traditional surgical methods. It's a perfect choice for addressing persistent fat deposits that resist conventional weight loss methods.

Intra Oral Boost - Facial Massage - This treatment consists of a deep dermal massage which is the key to unlocking the ageing process. This next-generation fascia massage has been developed to help release that fascia, promote circulation for lymphatic and blood flow and treat damage caused by repetitive facial movements, surgery, scars and other facial procedures. The intra-oral massage is designed to stimulate the cells in the skin which, in turn, stimulates collagen and increases elasticity.

Metamorphosis Skin Ritual - Introducing Australia's first Menopausal Treatment Line - The metamorphosis skincare range has been specifically designed for peri-menopausal, menopausal and post-menopausal skin. This treatment delivers active ingredients such as phytoestrogen, peptides, amino acids, hyaluronic acid and clinical grade lactic acid to the integral dermal tissues, to help smooth, hydrate and plump the skin.

Fire&Frost Skin Ritual - A dynamic skin resurfacing treatment using potent ingredients and extreme polar temperatures to achieve immediate and lasting results. Supports skin elasticity, evens skin tones, reducing the appearance of scars. Targeting aging, pigmentation, stressed and fatigued skin.

CONTACT

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The Wonderful Women of Wamboin

The Wonderful Women of Wamboin (WWOW) meet on Mondays from 10am to noon at the Wamboin Community Hall. We are a disparate group of women from different walks of life with varied interests. But that's what makes us interesting. So if you would like to join us, pop in on Mondays. Contact: Gail Ritchie Knight (0416 097 500, whirlwind1@argonite.com.au).

Lap the Map Words

Bungendore Lions Lap the Map challenge, Mick Sherd Oval, Bungendore 10 am to 1:30 pm, Sunday 12 November 2023. Come, join us, walk/run around the oval for diabetes awareness, raise money for Lions Diabetes Foundation. Prizes for group and individual with most laps and other events. Lots of family friendly activities, free medical and dietary advice, delicious healthy food. <https://www.facebook.com/LionsClubOfBungendoreandDistricts/> email Bungendore.nsw@lions.org.au – Sonja Simmons

Wamboin 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.

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. New people are very welcome to attend.

QPRC Mobile Library

The QPRC Mobile Library bus will be at the Wamboin Hall from 10.30-11.30am on Thursday 5 and 19 October 2023. This is a great opportunity to borrow books, CDs, audio books, and the staff are always willing to help. Please support this great service. After you have visited the library drop into the Social Group and have a cuppa.



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Wamboin Home Produce and Craft Market Saturday 18 November 9-12 md

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

Come and join us to sell or buy (or both) at the November market. As the year progresses, more and more produce and plants will arrive! The October market attracted a good number of stalls - although we greatly missed Pauline and Stefan and their produce! The day was quite hot and sunny and the firers were busy providing information to property owners about preparation for and management of bush fires. The November market is a good opportunity to stock up on Christmas gifts from our variety of craft stalls - remember we have jewelry, photos, gadgets of all sorts (from the Mens Shed), Bonsai, plants, woodwork, jams and preserves and more. See you at the November Market!

What the Heck - Chapter 18

SIGNS. Lots of places have them, often very confusing and distracting, particularly when we are travelling through unknown places. We used to have massive great advertising signs along all the major roads. They were called 'billboards'. But they became considered a danger, as drivers read them instead of watching the road, so politicians decided they should go. Though for weeks before voting time small political versions seem to sprout up everywhere.

Many churches have noticeboards to promote service times and contact details. Our two local churches both have noticeboards - which need to be updated. (Keep watching. It won't happen overnight, but it will happen.)

Then there are the (usually city) churches that have signboards, sometimes electronic, that are changed often and display supposedly humorous messages, to encourage you to attend the church. I guess it depends on your sense of humour whether you find them amusing! We don't have these sorts of signs at the Wamboin and Sutton churches. However if you consider yourself a comedian and want to join the church community and suggest a few funny sayings, we will welcome you, just as we will also welcome non-comedians.

The question is; should our two churches have more obvious and informative signs? There are signs in Sutton village directing us to the Bakehouse, Post Office, Gallery, Pharmacy and Childcare. Why not one directing us to the church? Likewise in Wamboin? Do you know how to get to St Andrews church? Our local churches are used for weddings, funerals, baptisms and various community functions, and often these events attract people who are not local and do not know where the church is located. Should these people trust their GPS system or would they prefer to see a sign? I doubt the authorities would allow a large electronic over-road sign at either church, even if we could afford it, but maybe we should consider a more obvious roadside sign at each building.

As well as an information sign, the Sutton church has a signboard that records the history of the church. It was installed six years ago, in 2017, to mark the 150 year celebration of the village of Sutton. It details the where, why, when, what, who, and how the church became established in the area. The information was researched over many months by local lass Jodie Hadlow, then a student at University of Canberra, to whom the congregation are extremely grateful. If you have never read it, or had forgotten about it, please drop by one day and have a read. It will improve your knowledge of the Sutton area religious development and how the early pioneer families contributed to the erection of a building for worship.

And if the signs have you totally confused as to when and where, go to Wamboin 1st and 3rd Sundays, and Sutton 2nd and 4th Sundays, all at 0930. And check for the correct phone numbers before you call, they are in this edition. – Alan Rope

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 **LJ Hooker**
Country

Kowen Kapers - Poppet Hill

By Peter Corrinder

Standing at 921 metres above sea level, Poppet Hill is the highest mountain in Kowen. It is also the closest, being only 2.3 km from the Bingley Way entrance.

The name Poppet Hill possibly refers to a 'poppet head' - a framework above a mine shaft that supports a winch. Given its proximity to the Bywong and Captain's Flat gold fields; the existence of what looks like the remnants of a tailings dam (or more likely, the slumped shaft itself) on nearby private property and scattered building material throughout the forest on the NSW side, it is possible that Poppet Hill was the site of a 19th century gold mining operation. If so, it can't have been very profitable as I couldn't find any references to it in local newspapers of the day - which is not surprising as there were so many mines in the region at the time.

Poppet Hill also has the only remaining intact wooden trigonometrical (trig) station in Kowen. Trig stations were fixed survey structures placed at the top of mountains forming a network of triangulations with other trigs across the landscape. Before GPS, trigs were essential for accurate map-making. Today, trigs serve another purpose known as trig bagging where people seek to hike to each trig in a particular region. There are six trigs to discover in Kowen. I hope to cover all six mountains over the course of this series.

Next to the historic trig station is a modern communications tower providing mobile phone coverage and transmission for Canberra community radio stations. But perhaps Poppet Hill's greatest asset is the view. With a panorama extending from Tallaganda Forest in the east to Canberra in the west, the views from Poppet Hill are a delight, day or night.

Nearest Entrance - Bingley Way. At the horse entrance (A) turn right (west) and follow the fence line for 1 km to the top of Poppet Hill (B). The return journey is a total of 4.6 km.



Kowen Events November - December


Date	Event	More Info
18-19 November	National Capital Rally - Kowen Depot (AKA Rally Village)	www.rally.com.au/natcap



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The Adventures of Chestnut, the Tiny Antechinus – a short story by Cherry Intermediate Division, 1st Place, Short Story competition

I was out for a morning walk when out of nowhere I saw a thing I will never forget, a small Antechinus fixing his Tiger Moth air plane. I walked over slowly. I didn't want to scare him as he plodded away fixing his plane. As I got closer he looked up at me.

'Hi,' I said.

'Hello,' he said back, 'my name is Chestnut. Can I help you?'

'No thanks. I'm fine, I just saw you fixing your plane and as I got closer I couldn't help but notice the disgusting smell of rancidulus discoideum cheese. I am a cheese expert and it is so rare. May I ask where you got it?'

'I can tell you the story, but please take a seat. It is quite a long story.'

'Thanks.'

"One day, I decided to go on an adventure. Wearing a tan leather jacket and metallic goggles, I was flying my old Tiger Moth aeroplane to the snowy meadow beside Lake Weereewa.

Safely landing my plane, I took out a picnic blanket and a basket filled with Jarlsberg cheese. Setting the picnic blanket on the snowy ground, I settled down to enjoy an enormous chunk of cheese, and found a large piece of bread my mum put inside. The bread was as sweet as a pineapple and I ate it in seconds and then finished the cheese in the basket. After finishing the cheese, I put the basket in the plane and got some water from the gently flowing crystal clear Halfway Creek. Spying a small treehouse on the other side of the creek, I tried to find a way across. Exploring down the bank I discovered a giant tree that had fallen across the river. "Scampering across this natural bridge I clambered up the rocky bank to the treehouse and climbed up the old wooden ladder. Inside, I found a big old wooden chest with metal hinges. Opening the chest carefully, I found a piece of map inside, which showed me the location of another treehouse deep inside the Snowgum forest, home to the Powerful Owl, the largest owl on the continent... dare I go into the forest?"

"Little did I know how dangerous it would be. The owls are apex predators and I am but a tiny little antechinus, who they would love to eat for dinner. I looked at the map and made a plan. I needed to get to the treehouse deep in the woods but I needed to avoid the Powerful Owls. I decided to take the fastest route but it would take me directly into the path of the two owls marked on the map that were guarding the treehouse. Keeping to the shadows, I crept as quietly as I could, so as not to wake the owls. Unfortunately, I smelt a delicious cricket on the way and got distracted. I tripped on a rock and thudded heavily to the ground. THUD!! Then I heard the loud screech of a powerful owl ... jumping to my feet I ran as fast as I could to the cover of a hollow log. Just as I threw myself into the hollow I felt strongly beating wings against my fur.

"All of a sudden the log I had hidden in got lifted into the air by the powerful owl. The owl couldn't hold me in the air for long, and I knew it could drop me any second. Then I felt as if I was no longer moving forward but falling. All of a sudden I felt a big bang as the log hit the ground. I stayed inside for a while as I didn't want to be eaten. Carefully, I climbed out of the log, and looked above for the owl. If it got me again I would surely be eaten and my quest for the treasure would be over. I had to remain vigilant. Unbelievably, as I looked around I saw the owl had managed to drop me over one hundred metres closer to the treehouse. There was still a long way to go and it was about now that I wished I had returned to my Tiger Moth and flown to the treehouse instead.

"However, I was so close, I couldn't give in and decided to persevere.

Staying undercover it took me over an hour to navigate my way to the treehouse. It felt like a lifetime. When I arrived, there was yet another challenge to be overcome. The tree trunk had been booby trapped with the slime from the slimy cap mushroom. I couldn't climb it, so I had to find another way in. I noticed a mistletoe vine hanging from a dead Snowgum nearby. I decided to use this to swing across and into the tree house. How hard could it be?

"As I swung towards the treehouse I accidentally flew too high and landed on the roof. Luckily the roof was not booby trapped so I didn't get stuck on it. As I hurried to get inside, I remembered if I misjudged the landing onto the window sill I was sure to be done for. As I clung on for dear life, my claws could not hold me on for long. As I lost my grip my paws hit the window sill, I was saved! But the window sill was booby trapped with slimy cap mushrooms! How would I escape? Then I remembered my tail was free. I wrapped it around one of my legs and pulled hard. When my leg was pulled out of the goo, I did the same to the other. With my back legs free I could flip into the treehouse.

"As I flipped into the treehouse, my head hit a hidden trunk inside. Feeling dazed I got off the ground and looked around. All of a sudden, I smelled cheese but not any normal cheese rancidulus discoideum, the rarest of all cheeses in the world. As I opened the lid of the trunk the smell got stronger and stronger. I peeped in and saw that the whole trunk was full of rancidulus discoideum! I closed my eyes and took a bite, it tasted like all the cheeses in the world: sweet, salty, spicy, soft, not too sour, creamy, delicious. I loved it so much I took the cheese. And here it is!"

"Thank you, Chestnut, for telling me that most amazing tale. I don't think I have ever seen so much rancidulus discoideum cheese in one place ever before. Would it be possible for me to take a sample to Fromage, the world's most famous cheese museum?"

Amazingly, Chestnut agreed to give me some cheese and I walked away thinking this was the oddest and most awesome day of my life.



(21 points) took out the competition from Ken Gordon (18 points) and Larry King (12 points). The junior competition was taken out by Robert Thompson with 19 points. Robert is to be congratulated on his amazing performance in recent tournaments. The 18-hole competition was taken out by Paul Griffin (37 points) from Tim Barter (35 points) and Vicki Still (29 points).

Ball winners for longest drives and nearest the pins went to: Vicki Still (2), Ken Gordon (2), Jack Whitney (2), Rob Gorham, Robert Thompson, Georgia Baker and Jacqui Arrigo. The googly ball was shared between Vicki Still (colouring the course) and Larry King (issue with the trees). The dummy spit was shared between Rob Gorham (questioning his handicap) and Kathy Handel (only 3 golfers got to use the manicured course this month). Robert Thompson provided us with his regular joke before Ken Gordon recited the Ted Evans Joke which involved a scratch golfer explaining his handicap.

Next month, the November event will be the Wamboin Open, sponsored by the golf club. We hope you can join us at the community hall at 12.15pm on Sunday, 5 November for the usual 12.30pm start. – Ken Gordon

October Golf

Sunday 1 October saw 14 players front the starter for the October Wamboin Golf competition. The sponsors this month were Pete and Barb Harrison. We thank them both for the prizes and refreshments. Pete declared the event would be 'Stableford' and the captain had the trusty computer ready to do the calculations. We welcomed five visitors from Wollongong who joined local Jack Whitney for the 9 hole competition. The nine-hole competition was played using the Western course this month, and as usual the holes were in great condition. Rob Gorham

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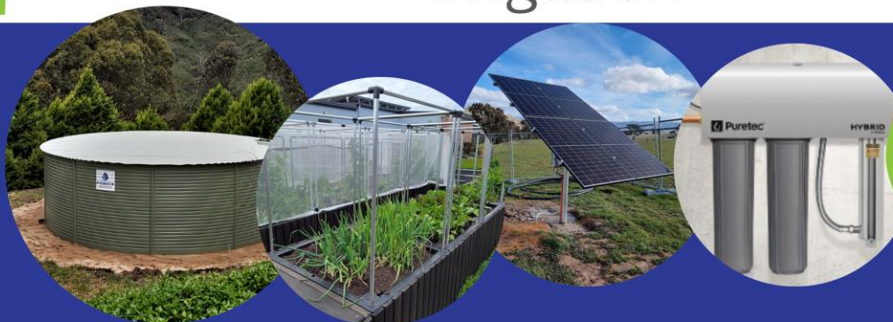


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Wamboin Weather – Rainfall And Temperature Records

(48 years from Cooper Road) by Christine Rieber

October Rainfall Stats

October rainfall to the 29th 35.5mm
 2023 total rainfall to 29/10 507.25mm

November Rainfall Stats

2022 November rainfall..... 57.75mm
 Wettest November..... 200.0mm in 2021
 Wettest day..... 77mm on 19/11/86
 Driest November..... 0mm in 1982

November Temperature Stats

2022 November maximum..... 27.4°C
 Hottest November day... 39°C (2 times) on
 27/11/97 & 21/11/19
 Hottest November night.... 22°C 26/11/02
 Average day temperature..... 22.2°C
 Warmest November 1982 and 2009
 82 (Av. day temp. 26.8°C & night 12.5°C)
 09 (Av. day temp. 26.2°C & night 12.7°C)

Average October rainfall..... 62.3mm
 2022 October rainfall..... 197.5mm
 2022 total rainfall to 29/10..... 795.75mm
 47yr Av. to end of October 560.6mm

Average November rainfall..... 78.4mm
 Average no. rain days in November... 9.6
 Highest no. rain days..... 19 in 1992
 Lowest no. rain days..... 0 in 1982

2022 November minimum..... 2.1°C
 Nov. 2022. Av. max 20.4°C & min 7.3°C
 Av. Nov temp... 16.1°C (day+night comb.)
 Coldest November day..... 9°C (2 times)
 on 11 & 12/11/13
 Coldest Nov. night..... -1°C on 1/11/16
 Average night temperature..... 10.0°C
 Coldest November 1992
 Av. day temp. 18.8°C & nights 8.5°C
 (lowest 6.5°C in 13)

The total rainfall over the past 4 months has been 101mm, which is less than half of the 47-year average of 230mm. July was the hottest July on record with an average daytime maximum temperature of 14.1°C, which was 0.3°C above the 47-year July average. August was 0.2°C below the hottest average daytime maximum temperature on record. September was the hottest September on record, with an average daytime maximum temperature of 21°C, which is 2.4°C above the previous hottest September and 6.5°C about the 47-year average. To the 29th of October the average daytime maximum temperature is 21.6°C, which is 3°C above the 47-year average.



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Hidden Lake Ramblings ... A Story Of Local Wildlife

As I lay on the daybed on our deck with my left leg encased in a moonboot, I'm reflecting on how special this place we call home is. My wife and I reside on a 16 hectare piece of paradise called Hidden Lake in Bywong.

Recuperating after damaging my Achilles tendon in an unfortunate slow speed motorcycle incident in our driveway, I have been spending an inordinate amount of time sitting and observing our local wildlife as they go about their daily activities of flying, hopping, slithering, swimming, diving, washing, preening, nesting, foraging and feeding. There is never a dull moment.

Overlooking our very full lake (after 3 years of record rainfall) our deck gives a wonderful vantage point from which to observe all manner of waterbirds and other aquatic animals. Just last week, after a spell of unusually warm spring temperatures, I observed the awakening of the first of our Eastern long necked turtles from their winter slumber. Numerous little heads appear on the surface of the water and then a procession of turtles begin to clamber awkwardly up onto decaying logs and branches (that form important habitat in the lake) for their first sunbake of the season.

At the same time an unusual movement alerts me to the presence of one of many rakalis (native water rat) that swim and dive looking to capture their favourite meal of local yabby. These Aussie otters, as they are sometimes called, were hunted almost to extinction for their stunning golden pelts but fortunately due to intervention in the trade these guys are now quite numerous in our local waterways.

A honking sound alerted me to an uncommon visitor to our lake, a magnificent pair of Australian Shelducks or Mountain ducks. These are a very large, brightly coloured gooselike duck that are known, in favourable times, to frequent Lake George which is a favourite moulting ground for them.

Apart from the many seasonal visitors to our lake, there are numerous Eurasian coots, Purple swamphens and Dusky moorhens that call our place home. These guys tend to frequent the shallows where they constantly dive down and return to the surface to consume a billfull of slimy aquatic weeds. At other times they can be seen chasing each other in a scampering, low flight churning up the lakes surface in a game of "walk on water".

Spring has sprung early this year and our nesting birds are busy collecting material, courting, laying eggs, and defending their broods from all manner of predators. Our magpies can be seen frequently dive bombing and chasing ravens that are always lurking closeby looking for an unattended nest. Just last week I investigated a cacophony of distressed bird calls coming from the wrens, thornbills and spillbills that frequent our photinia hedge. On parting the foliage I was grieved to see a tiger snake deftly slithering amongst the tangle of branches about 2m off the ground in search of an easy meal. I guess this is nature "doing its thing" but not an observation I care to repeat. Lucky for me the snake was on the opposite side of the hedge.

A much more welcome sight around our garden are the other reptiles that are emerging from their winter brumation. The common and blotched blue tongue and our favourite, the shingleback or sleepy lizard are a regular sight basking in the early season sun. These guys all love a treat of grapes, watermelon or banana which are a nice change from their regular diet of slugs, snails and beetles.

As the day draws to a close and the sun sinks low in the west, the golden afternoon light illuminates the rich yellow combs of the raucous white cockatoos as they perform crazy, acrobatic manoeuvres before alighting on the low branches to take in their final drink of the day. Welcome swallows create ripples on the surface as they deftly swoop on hapless insects stranded in the water, their last meal before settling in for the night. The first of hundreds of wood and black ducks begin to descend on to the lakes surface, seeking a safe refuge for the night ahead. They begin, what becomes a cacophony of sound as a multitude of frogs and other birds join in the raucous evening chatter before they all settle in for yet another night under the milky way.

With over 120 species of birds and iconic Australian animals that call our small patch of Oz home, I feel very privileged to live where I do. - **Murray Goodridge Bywong**



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Tendrils of Mist – a short story by Imogen Hales

Senior Division, 1st Place, Short Story Competition

I was out for a morning walk, when out of nowhere the mist that had been slowly snaking between the trees atop the mighty rise of Balcombe Hill closed in and rendered me sightless. My horse, a bay Thoroughbred mare named Heidi, nervously began to jog beneath me.

“Steady on now, it’s nothing but a tendril of mist.” My comforting words were lost in the suffocating air. I could no longer see the delicate frost-coated leaves of the gum trees, or my trembling hands as they clutched the reins. If I could only get to the open field at the peak of the hill, where the morning sun would have burned away the suffocating fog (for it was no longer a gentle probing mist) I would be able to see.

My legs closed on Heidi’s sides, urging her to pace a little faster. Through the press of my legs, I felt the beads of sweat shivering on her coat. The poor creature had sweated up with nerves.

“Heidi, it’s all right. We’ll be home soon. It’s nothing but a bit of fog.” I spoke louder, half-hoping my daring words would make the fog back away. And it did. For a split moment, as I looked to my left, I saw a hulking shadow that slunk and followed us. The fog swelled back and made me blind. I forced my heart back down out of my mouth. If I let Heidi feel my concern, she would be off bolting through the dense bush, and would likely knock herself out. I had imagined it. It was surely a log, perhaps even one I had jumped over on one of my horses. Heidi’s hooves steadily crunched through the leaf litter, a steady one-two-three-four beat. But then, my ears detected another sound. Slither, thud. Slither, thud. It was behind me and a little to my left. I pushed Heidi on, almost hoping she would bolt away from the horrible sound. My heart pounded. No one at home knew I had gone.

My half-frozen hands could no longer hold Heidi back. She sprang forward into a trot, her hooves smushing the leaves at a one-two-one-two pace. I leaned forward and tried to detect any sounds. Perhaps now we were moving quicker we would leave whatever was making the sound behind us. I breathed a sigh of relief. The slither-thud noise was gone. I regained control of my hands and gave Heidi a soft tug on the reins as I sat back down in the saddle. The fog was becoming less dense. I could see Heidi’s ears flicking and the shapes of the Gum trees. I frowned and slowed Heidi more. A tree a short way ahead seemed to have something dangling from it. Something blood red. We advanced towards it cautiously. I gathered my reins into one hand and lifted my other up, fingers outstretched to probe the object.

I was about to make contact when there was a booming crash, a long slither, then a loud thud, followed by a series of slither-thuds as whatever it was dragged itself forward towards us. I screamed, a long, guttural sound, which seemed to half come from me and half come from the surrounding mist. Heidi bunched all her already-taunt muscles up even tighter and leapt forward, leaving me trying to grab my reins and get back into position. Her pace was not the steady canter, nor the exhilarating gallop, but the breathless, churning, whipping sensation of an uncontrollable bolt.

My eyes had been open during our escape, but it was only when we were standing in the morning sunlight at the peak of the hill that I felt I was able to see again. I swung Heidi around to face the trees from which we had just burst from. There was nothing there, apart from the sound of the morning birds. I breathed a long sigh of relief. I had surely just let my imagination get the better of me. I frowned and leaned forward, sure I had just seen... a humanoid shape trampled out of the trees and dragged itself towards me. I gasped, and blinked furiously. I closed my legs on Heidi but she refused to move, resting a hind leg and pricking her ears, even uttering a nicker to the shape. The mist which had enveloped it pulled back into the trees, and my neighbour, Mr Belesfa emerged. I gasped again.

He furrowed his brow and said hesitantly: “Good morning, Alice!”

“Good morning!” I said with obvious relief.

“Um, I don’t suppose you heard that scream, did you?”

“Oh, yes I did, actually, I think that might have been me.”

“Ah. I see.”

“Yeah, I thought something was following me, dragging itself along...” I almost whispered the last part. In the sunshine it was hard to remember exactly what happened.

Mr Belesfa looked at me, then laughed. “That was me. You see, I’m setting up a walking track up through here for people to admire the beautiful scenery. I have these signposts to mark the track, and they’re pretty heavy, so I was dragging them along.”

“Oh,” I exclaimed. Then I paused. “But what about...”

“I also tied some red rags onto branches that were in danger of falling and needed to be removed.”

Then it was my turn to laugh. Mr Belesfa looked at me then laughed too. “There was a really thick fog this morning, I don’t blame you for getting creeped out.”

“I could barely see my hands!” I exclaimed. “I had better get home, Mum and Dad will be wondering where I am. I’d love to come on your walking track sometime. Let me know when it is done.”

“Will do. See you, Alice!” And with that, he returned, dragging his signs with a slither, thud, into the mist.

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Bird of the Month

By Luke Downey

For November I chose the White-winged Triller, a rare and declining summer migrant, which has shown up in good numbers locally this year in the drier conditions.

White-winged Triller (*Lalage tricolor*)

Size: 16-18.5cm

Status: Rare breeding summer migrant

The White-winged Triller is a medium sized bird, that is actually in the Cuckooshrike family. The breeding male (as seen during our summer) is quite distinct, black above from the crown to the tail, broken by a motley white wingbar, and white below, with a silvery rump and white tail tips. Females are fairly plain, brown above, with a dark eye-stripe and pale eyebrow; the wings and tail are blacker with patchy buff-white, the rump and underparts are also buffy-white with faint barring. Non-breeding males are like females though greyer and retain more black and white on the wings and tail, and their silvery rump. Immatures are also like females, though mottled, mostly buffy or black. Common features across all individuals are a black eye, legs and small bill. White-winged Trillers occur usually solitary to small parties or occasionally larger migrating flocks. They have a graceful undulating flight (a common feature of Cuckooshrikes). The species is widespread across the Australian mainland, as well as parts of New Guinea and Indonesia. It is typically a bird of drier woodland habitats and is found well inland into arid regions. They are scarce along the coast, and uncommon to rare in the Canberra region, though in drier years such as this year, there is an increased presence in coastal and semi-coastal areas (including locally) - this is a common pattern also shown by a variety of other birds which prefer drier semi-arid to arid inland habitats. I (and others) have noted a lot more White-winged Trillers around including in some more unusual locations such as in suburbia (for example I saw a small flock of 5 passing through Dickson recently). Despite some of their movements, also being influenced by rainfall, White-winged Trillers do follow a similar regular migratory pattern to many local species, spending the cooler winter months in northern Australia or New Guinea and Indonesia. Their return arrival in mid-spring is often signified by the male's distinctive loud song – a pleasant descending trill, “chif-chif-chif-joej-joej-joej-joej” (often with more notes) repeated. This is often given in short display flights with spread wings and tail. A “prip” contact call is also sometimes given. They feed on insects, hawking in the foliage or sometimes near or on the ground. The male is quite distinct, though when comparing other similar black-and-white birds, note the dark eye and crown down to the eye, smallish size, and silvery rump. The call is also diagnostic. Females or non-breeding birds are similar to the Rufous Songlark, but note the different habit and stance (songlark tends to forage more on the ground with a more upright stance and longer tail). Trillers also have a buffy rump (not rich rufous), are plainer above, mottled buffy on wings only and duller below. Songlarks also have a very different scratchy call. Unfortunately, like many local



species with a preference for the drier open woodland habitats (they avoid denser forests), White-winged Trillers have seen a noticeable decline and are considered threatened locally, though thankfully they are widespread elsewhere in Australia where more suitable habitat remains. Make sure to keep an eye out in drier open woodland and farmland patches, they are also possible elsewhere passing through.



Male Female
(Photos from Google Images)



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Wamboin Community Carols Night

It might not feel it yet but the end of year is approaching faster than we might believe and so too is the annual Wamboin Community Carols Night!

Put on by the Wamboin Community Association this is a wonderful way to celebrate the end of the year with a community get together. This is a non-denominational event and the emphasis is on the community enjoying themselves particularly the younger residents. Admission to the event is a gift under the Christmas tree for the Salvation Army people to take to someone less fortunate.

The night features carol singing ably supported by local music group Poetry in Motion; the telling of the Christmas story (in its rather unique style); a performance by Sutton School Choir; a BBQ (gold coin donation which also goes to the Salvo's); and of course the arrival of Santa to distribute gift bags to the children. The date for this extravaganza is 1st December 2023 at 7:00 pm sharp at the Community Hall in Bingley Way. So please come along and enjoy yourselves.

Parents of children wishing to perform in the Christmas Play are invited (PLEASE) to ring Jenny Richards on **0490020165** as soon as possible to organize parts. At the moment all parts are open. – **Jenny Richards**

Thank you if you are one of the 100+ residents who delivered, wrote something for or ran an ad or notice in this November Wamboin Whisper. Together we made it way to add, for Bywong and Wamboin residents, one more way we can listen to and talk to each other. Deadline for the December issue is 7 pm Sunday night, November 26. Thanks for anything you can add to make it better for the people who will find it in their mailbox.. Features that seem to make Whisper items meaningful:

- Written by a Bywong or Wamboin resident
- About or at least related to living out here
- Not already printed elsewhere
- Respectful of the many lifestyles and views among us
- Attributed to you, as this assures readers that a resident stands behind the words
- Informs, entertains, invites or provokes thought
- Includes humour

Ned Noel, Volunteer editor on behalf of the Wamboin Community Association

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Wamboin's hills: Adding Murrays Hill to the List

David McDonald (david (at) dnmcdonald.id.au)

Were the Wamboin Community Association (WCA) to emulate the Bywong Community Association and have a trivia night, a question asked might be 'How many hills are there in Wamboin? Name them'.

People who like to cheat might go to the WCA's *Whisper* newsletters of April to October 2018 for information on the hills, or to the local history pages of the WCA's website for fuller information:

<https://wamboincommunity.asn.au/localhistory/index.php?op=locality>.

There one finds information about Wamboin's two hills: Millpost Hill and Poppet Hill (and also about Bywong's impressive five hills). Note that Amungula Hill, Mount Cohen, and Turalla Hill lie outside, but very close to, the locality of Wamboin boundary.

Five years on from that documentation, it is time to add one more hill to the list: **Murrays Hill**. Does anybody know where it is, and how it got its name?

The parish of Wamboin map was first published in 1881 and went through six editions, with the final one being published in 1967. None of them shows Murrays Hill. In addition, there have been numerous topographic and other maps published from colonial times to the present. Fascinatingly, just one of them (so far as I can identify) shows Murrays Hill. It is the Royal Australian (Army) Survey Corp's 1:50,000 Lake George topographical map, edition 1-AAS, 1960: 'Compiled in 1960 from 1959 aerial photography' <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-2632206327/view>. Unlike Millpost and Poppet hills, Murrays Hill is not listed in the Geographical Names Board of NSW's register of Geographical Names.

Murrays Hill is shown, on the 1960 map, as close to the high point on Weeroona Drive, some 900 m north-west of the former turning circle. The actual point marked on the map lies a little east of the road on a ridge line that leads down towards the Reedy Creek site of Wamboin's former Wyanga Public School. It has an altitude of 838 m.

The Geographical Names Board of NSW defines a 'hill' as 'A small portion of the earth's surface elevated above its surroundings, of lower altitude than a mountain. Generally, its altitude is less than 300 metres above the surrounding country but this can change in areas of low relief.' I will leave it to the reader to decide if Murrays Hill is sufficiently 'elevated above its surroundings' to warrant this designation!

Who was the Murray after whom this map, alone, names this feature? The parish maps do not identify any conditional purchases (selections) of land in the area having been taken up by someone named Murray, nor any other form of land grant there. The historical sources to which I have access provide no illumination. However, the hill and ridge was probably part of the pre-subdivision-era 'Weeroona Park' grazing property after which Weeroona Drive seems to have been named. Perhaps some readers know the history of that property, and can provide light on the etymology of the Murrays Hill toponym? If so, please contact me or the *Whisper's* editor.



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Il Gato – a short story by Maureen Good

1st Place – Adult Division – Short Story Competition

I was out for a morning walk when out of nowhere he sprang. I recognised him immediately. I had seen him many times when on my walks. He was always with that foreign fellow, the one that used to wave to me. I would just ignore him because you can't trust those foreigners. However, that day he was alone, very thin and a little worse for wear, so I sat on the fence and gave him a pat. As a rule, I never had much time for cats. The ex-wife had three – lazy, silly things they were.

This one wasn't silly though, as I found out the day that ranger came, and I approached him to ask if he had caught the cat, "No", he bellowed "You silly old fools I have been here for three hours and there's been no sign of a cat." Then he sped off in a cloud of dust.

I sat on the fence with his words ringing in my ears, 'silly, old fool', when again, seemingly from nowhere, came the cat to sit beside me. "Well cat", I said "that fellow couldn't find his backside if it was on fire".

Thus began my daily trips to the IGA for a tin of tuna and a carton of milk, followed by my chats with the cat. Turns out he was a good listener.

Today I was telling the cat "at least we have a good brick fence to sit on, not like those spikey ones favoured by the newcomers, that look like they were designed to keep people out. I don't know what Bungendore is coming to -- all my friends have either moved into Canberra or passed on. Now it's full of young ones with their heads in their phones. They will knock you off your feet if you can't get out of their way, either them or the foreigners. You ought to know cat, you used to belong to one and look how that worked out. He left you high and dry to fend for yourself".

Just then up pulls the only taxi in town and out comes the foreigner covered in bruises and with a leg in plaster. He scoops up the cat and, with tears in his eyes, says, "Gatto, you ok? I so worry for you, but you ok!" The next thing, he has me in a tight hug saying, "you are a good man. You look after my Gatto, I think you are a cranky old man, but you are a good, good man".

I don't know who felt the most awkward, me or the cat. "You come in, I make you the best coffee", he said. I don't know if I was caught off guard, or I wasn't ready to say goodbye to the cat just yet, but I found myself saying, "Ok, I don't mind a nice cup of coffee".

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