

### Bywong and Wamboin Facilities and Contacts

**Ambulance - Dial Triple Zero (000) All Hours**

**Bungendore Police: 6118 1240    Ambulance Bookings: 131233**

**Wamboin Community Assn <https://wamboincommunity.org.au>**

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

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

<b>Bywong Community</b>	Justin Jarvis - President	0404 460 568	<a href="mailto:president@bywongcommunity.org.au">president@bywongcommunity.org.au</a>
<b>Bywong Hall Bookings</b>	Bookings Officer		<a href="mailto:lrrhallbywong@gmail.com">lrrhallbywong@gmail.com</a>
<b>Church - Anglican</b>	Gai Donald - Warden	0438 400 364	<a href="mailto:peterandandrew2012@gmail.com">peterandandrew2012@gmail.com</a>
<b>Community Nurse</b>	Heather Morrison - Bungendore	6238 1333	
<b>Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade</b>	Neville Schroder - Captain	0409 991 340	<a href="mailto:wamboincaptain@gmail.com">wamboincaptain@gmail.com</a>
<b>Geary's Gap Pony Club</b>	Cameron Smith	0419 449 747	
<b>Golf</b>	Ken Gordon	0455 839 840	<a href="mailto:ken.gordon1962@gmail.com">ken.gordon1962@gmail.com</a>
<b>Injured Wildlife</b>	Wildcare – Helpline	6299 1966	
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Andrew Stainlay – JP	0408 469 880	<a href="mailto:stains@bigpond.net.au">stains@bigpond.net.au</a>
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Leanne (Lee) Ward – JP	0411 207 317	<a href="mailto:leannefward@gmail.com">leannefward@gmail.com</a>
<b>KYB Bible Study Group</b>	Robyn Doran	6238 3469	<a href="mailto:rdoran4@bigpond.com">rdoran4@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Landcare</b>	Kathy Handel - Treasurer	6238 3596	<a href="mailto:khandel@bigpond.net.au">khandel@bigpond.net.au</a>
<b>NSW SES (assist – storm/flood)</b>	NSW Call Centre	132 500	
<b>NSW SES Bungend. (non-urgent)</b>	After Hours Duty Officer	6238 0222	
<b>Sutton School Playgroup</b>	Felicity – Contact Person	0413 174 204	<a href="mailto:Playgroup.sutton@gmail.com">Playgroup.sutton@gmail.com</a>
<b>Table Tennis</b>	Mike Muston	0406 606 238	<a href="mailto:mikemuston@gmail.com">mikemuston@gmail.com</a>
<b>Wamboin Community Assoc.</b>	Jenny Richards - President	0490 020 165	<a href="mailto:president@wamboincommunity.asn.au">president@wamboincommunity.asn.au</a>
<b>Wamboin-Bung. Book Group</b>	Sally Saunders	0419 303 229	<a href="mailto:sally.saunders1@bigpond.com">sally.saunders1@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Wamboin Hall Bookings</b>	Joan Mason	6238 3258	<a href="mailto:wamboinhall@gmail.com">wamboinhall@gmail.com</a>
<b>Wamboin Markets</b>	Meriel Schultz	6238 3309	<a href="mailto:lmsconsulting@bigpond.com">lmsconsulting@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Wamboin Play Group</b>	Denise Lang – Co-ordinator		<a href="mailto:wamboin.playgroup@gmail.com">wamboin.playgroup@gmail.com</a>
<b>Gearys Gap Pony Club</b>	Kate O'Connor, President	0413 008 824	<a href="mailto:gearysgap.ponyclub@gmail.com">gearysgap.ponyclub@gmail.com</a>
<b>Wamboin Pony Club</b>	Stacey Burgess -Contact Person	0414 672 979	<a href="mailto:wamboinpcsecretary@gmail.com">wamboinpcsecretary@gmail.com</a>
<b>Wamboin Thurs Social Grp</b>	Narelle Pumphrey	0438 917 206	<a href="mailto:pumpbnjc@westnet.com.au">pumpbnjc@westnet.com.au</a>
<b>Greenways Mgmt Commtee</b>	Chris Schweizer - Chair	0404 823 022	<a href="mailto:beltrim1108@gmail.com">beltrim1108@gmail.com</a>
<b>Wonderful Women of Wamboin</b>	Gail Ritchie Knight	0416 097 500	<a href="mailto:whirlwind1@argonite.com.au">whirlwind1@argonite.com.au</a>
<b>ARF (Rescue Dogs)</b>	Lisa Whitney	0408 260 796	<a href="mailto:lisawhitney059@gmail.com">lisawhitney059@gmail.com</a>

**The Wamboin Whisper:** The Whisper is a monthly community newsletter established in 1981 by and owned by the Wamboin Community Association. The Whisper is printed at Elect Printing in Fyshwick at the start of each month, excluding January. It is distributed to every letterbox in Wamboin, Bywong and Queanbeyan-Palerang Council residents just southeast of the Federal Highway. Each issue goes to volunteer deliverers by the first Sunday of the month and is also then available at [www.wamboincommunity.asn.au](http://www.wamboincommunity.asn.au). Any proceeds from advertisements in The Whisper after printing costs go to the Wamboin Community Association.

**Contributions to the Whisper:** Contributions from all residents are encouraged, valued and the main content of the newsletter. The current editor is Ned Noel, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 0409 997 082. Paul Downey of Cooper Road also shares the editing. Please email contributions to [nednoel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au) or mail them or drop them off. On contentious matters the Wamboin Community Association will strive to maintain a balanced view, by seeking advice from the editorial team and by seeking alternative views to be published in the same edition. The deadline for each issue is the last Sunday night of the month before. There is, by tradition, no January Whisper, mainly to give all its volunteer workers a rest. The **deadline for the October 2024 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, September 29, 2024.** Advertising prices, per issue, based on rough fraction of the inside the margins A4 area: 1/8 \$24 1/6 29 ¼ \$35 1/3 \$44 ½ \$70 2/3 \$97 Full Page \$140. email or phone the editor as above.

**Young Entrepreneurs:** Rebecca Purdie – pet/horse sitting 6238 3343

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

Kathleen Dunkerly - baby sitting - 0435 794 070 [kathleen.dunkerly07@gmail.com](mailto:kathleen.dunkerly07@gmail.com) Elly and Rex Collins - house cleaning 0418 979 474.

**2024 Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council Election**  
**Wamboin and Bywong Communities'**  
**Meet the Candidates Night**  
**Tuesday 3 September at 7:30 pm**  
**Wamboin Community Hall 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin**  
**All welcome!**



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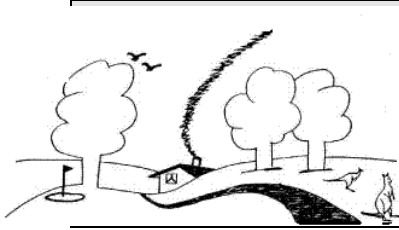
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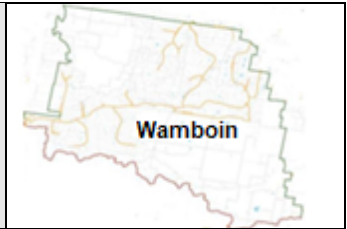
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## President's Notes



The days are definitely warming up. Spring is tantalizingly close but that just means we get busier.

1. **Bonfire and Fireworks Night.** By the time this Whisper gets to you it may be over but I'll advertise it anyway. The Wamboin Community Association's annual bonfire and fireworks night is on this coming **Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August** at the Hall and oval. Entry is **\$10 per family** and range of foods provided. Everything from BBQ to hot dogs, to sweet pies and sausage rolls, to nachos, to pulled pork rolls, to spuds to soup. Drinks include tea/coffee/hot chocolate, to Gluhwein, to a bar and soft drinks. So come and join us for this great traditional night. Begins **5:30 pm**. Bonfire lit **6:36 pm** and fireworks **7:06 pm**. Remember to bring cash because of very limited electronic funds transfer available at Hall. Hope to see you all there.
2. **Meet the Candidates Night.** Local government elections are looming (on **14<sup>th</sup> September**) and so the Wamboin Community Association in partnership with the Bywong Association will be hosting a **Meet the Candidates Night** on **3<sup>rd</sup> September at 7:30 pm at the Hall** so the candidates can meet and speak with the local community and present their viewpoints. The Bywong President **Justin Jarvis** will be co-chairing this event with me. So come along on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September to the Hall and meet the candidates. Tea, coffee and snacks will be provided. The candidates will speak to the audience and then we will have a short question and answer period before finishing up for informal meeting with candidates over refreshments.
3. **Home Produce Markets return.** Just a quick reminder that our Home Produce Markets will return to the Hall in September. The Markets are held on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month** and begin at **9:00 am until 12:00 pm**. Well that's it for now. Definitely a short President's Notes for this month but I fully expect next months to be larger. Next meeting for the Wamboin Community Association is on **17<sup>th</sup> September at the Community Hall at 7:30 pm**. All welcome to attend. - *Jenny Richards – President.*



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Hi all,

It is that time of year when the Annual General Meeting is to be held for the Bywong Community association committee.

This Committee is a small group of people who are doing the good works to arrange activities and functions that are designed to bring the Community together.

For example over the past year we have held a bunch of activities.

The ever popular Car Boot Sale, that brings people and their things, out to the Les Reardon reserve to Mingle and Catch up and even pick up a Bargain.

The Trivia Night usually held in the middle of Winter is also a great way for tables of friends and acquaintances for a fun night of Trivia.

Towards the end of the year we have the Christmas get together, another chance for everyone to meet up in a festive way.

The AGM is the time to elect the committee members for the next year.

The AGM will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of September and the Bywong Community hall.

Know that you would be welcome.

Cheers,

Justin Jarvis



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Author Catherine Bird

# Key herbs for laminitis support



Nutritional support for a horse who suffers laminitis is vital. For the horse that is prone to laminitis, clivers is a useful daily supplement to improve the integrity of the hoof as it is one of the most nutritional herbs available and especially high in Silica.

With the older horse whose circulation may be sluggish, hawthorn berry is a further support and full of bioflavonoids that improve the elasticity of the supportive connective tissue that can become strained when the feet are sore while improving the health of the blood vessels that supply the feet.

For the horse that has low grade inflammation in his feet, turmeric powder will help lower the levels of discomfort. Often when there is systemic inflammation, there may also be arthritis in joints or irritated tendons and ligaments, with these horses adding ginger powder to the mix will increase the efficacy of the turmeric in a similar way black pepper is sometimes used.

For pain relief, where there is ongoing pain yarrow combines well with turmeric as a general management and recovery approach. Devils claw powder can be very effective with acute stages, however if the horse is already on Bute, do not combine these two as you could increase the toxic effects of the drug or irritate the horse's gut. For the horse with a sensitive gut, white willow bark is a gentler option and hawthorn berry will increase the potency of this herb if needed.

Once a horse is through the acute stage, using liver herbs to address the two phases of detoxification will help cleanse the effect of the stress on the body. Dandelion root or St Mary's thistle powder will address phase one, while turmeric powder will address phase two so that any residual drug therapy is not recycled back into the body and the recovery period can then follow on with clivers, restoring integrity to the hoof.

For the horse where stress has been a trigger to the laminitic episode, chamomile flowers will support the nervous and hepatic systems, and help the muscles that have become tense while the feet have been sore.

Choose your herbs carefully when dealing with laminitis, keeping the selection simple also helps not to overload the horse further with too many herbs. Combining a nutritional herb with an anti-inflammatory herb and liver support herb is often enough to start restoring health, and a maintenance program can follow on with nutritional and circulatory support once the hoof is sound again.

Disclaimer: The information provided in this article is for educational purpose only. Some herbs are unsuitable with certain conditions, pregnancy, medications, and competition. As this article does not replace medical treatment, seek advice from your veterinary practitioner before using herbs. Consult your governing sporting body when using herbal products to ensure you do not contravene regulations. Copyright: Catherine Bird has been an equine natural therapist for 35 years working closely with Country Park Herbs for over 23 years offering advice to their clients.



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# The Wamboin Firefighter

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## Callouts and what we have been up to.

It's been a busy month for Wamboin Brigade in the last month with 10 callouts. 4 x MVA's, 1 x smoke sighting, 2 x backyard fires, 1 x ambulance assist, 1 x bushfire & 1 x structural fire.

## GET READY WEEKEND 21-22 September 2024



The Bush Fire Danger Period will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024, unless an earlier start is declared. (once it commences, ALL FIRES WILL REQUIRE A PERMIT!)

One of the main risks of living in the area is the threat of bush fire. With the bush fire season approaching, it is crucial residents and landowners be aware of their risk and take steps to protect themselves, homes and properties. Your safety and survival may depend on the preparations and decisions you make during the year and well before there is a fire. We encourage all residents in the brigade's area (i.e. Wamboin and those parts of Bywong and Sutton in the QPRC LGA) to prepare and practise their family bush fire survival plan.

**Need advice or guidance?** Members of the brigade's Community

Engagement Team are available throughout the year to assist residents and property owners with advice and guidance on bush fire preparations. Contact points are on the brigade website along with links to the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) website to help you plan and prepare for bushfire. The brigade's Facebook page is another useful source for hints and tips and relevant fire-related news. Refer 'Useful links' below.

## **Get Ready Weekend event in Wamboin – Saturday 21 September**

As the bush fire season approaches, the RFS also hosts Get Ready Weekend events every September, providing valuable information and resources to help prepare you for the upcoming fire season. As part of this statewide initiative, the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade Get Ready Weekend event will coincide with the resumption of the Wamboin Home Produce and Craft Market on Saturday 21 September. The Brigade event will be an extended hours (9am – 3pm) information shopfront at the Wamboin Fire Station. Our Community Engagement Team of experienced firefighters will be on hand to talk with individuals on a one-on-one basis, answer questions and provide general advice on personal and property preparations against the threat of bush fire. We can't tell you what to do but we can run through various scenarios for you to consider. We also offer free visits under our Resident Requested Property Visit Program. **Come and talk to us.**

<b>WHEN</b>	<b>'Get Ready' Saturday 21 September</b>
<b>WHAT TIME</b>	<b>9am – 3pm (pop by any time) *</b>
<b>WHERE</b>	<b>Wamboin Fire Station, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin</b>

The brigade's fleet of fire fighting tankers will be on display, including the recently arrived new light tanker. There'll be helmets and other materials for the kids. Examples of personal protective clothing and fire fighting equipment will also be on display. We'll also be running helpful Get Ready hints and tips and other information on the brigade's Facebook page and Website through September.

**Be sure to check them out.**

*\* A bonus for visitors may be an opportunity to watch the brigade in action at its monthly Saturday afternoon training from 1.30pm.*

Till next time, stay safe! - Don Evans

### **Membership enquiries**

Wamboinmembership@gmail.com

**Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade**

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

**NSW Rural Fire Service**

[www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)

**Wamboin Facebook page**

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## **Wamboin Produce Market - New Season Starts - Saturday 21 September 2024 (9-12md)**

**Contact: FOR THIS MARKET ONLY** Joan Mason through [wamboinhall@gmail.com](mailto:wamboinhall@gmail.com)

The home produce and craft market will be back on 21 September 2024 at the Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way. We welcome our regulars back and would love to hear from others in the community who might like to try a stall. Meriel Schultz is away until October so Joan Mason and Lou Griffith are kindly covering for her.

The market is auspiced by the Wamboin Community Association. We accept any produce you have grown or made, but no selling-on of commercial products. Students of all ages who bring along produce or craft are very welcome. We encourage 'young entrepreneurs'. The cost of a trestle table or spot for your own table/trailer/ute etc remains at \$5.00. These proceeds are returned to the Wamboin Community Association and the Hall Management Committee. They contribute towards hire of the hall and insurance etc. Email Joan (see above) if you are interested or would like further information.

*Being part of the market is key to being part of the Wamboin/Bywong community - do come and join us!*

## **QPRC Mobile Library**

The QPRC Mobile Library bus will be at the Wamboin Hall from 10.30-11.30am on Thursday 5 and 19 September 2024, and then fortnightly. The Mobile Library provides a wonderful opportunity to borrow books, CDs, audio books etc. Please support this great service. After you have visited the library drop into the Social Group and have a cuppa. – Narelle Pumphrey

## **Wamboin Thursday Social Group**

The group operates every Thursday morning from 10 – 12 noon at the Wamboin Hall, Bingley Way and if you have a Thursday morning free, we would love to have you pop in for a tea/coffee, chat or a game or scrabble, rummykub or cards. The group is very welcoming to new comers and provides a wonderful chance to meet up with some local residents. We look forward to seeing you. - Narelle Pumphrey



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Authorised by A. Croft for The Greens NSW, 19/1 Hordern Place, Camperdown, NSW 2050.

 [greensoncouncil.org.au/queanbeyan-palerang/](http://greensoncouncil.org.au/queanbeyan-palerang/)



## What the Heck Chapter 26

July 2024 has been quite a month for the SRMD. Two of our members were out of action with Covid (including our illustrious leader), another had an illness which for quite a while baffled the doctors, and when that was finally over, became the third Covid case. Two others each had a fall which left them bruised and sore; another got carried away with Yoga exercises which caused one knee to remind her that she is not as young as she used to be. But the rest of us soldiered on and kept the home fires burning.

Meanwhile, things started to happen at the Sutton Church Hall building. Passers-by would have noticed tradesman's vehicles and heavy equipment as the electricity upgrade connections began and the air-conditioning system was installed. The power upgrade is necessary because of the new kitchen facilities and the ducted air-conditioning system which will make the hall suitable for year round use, both by the SRMD and other community groups. Next will be the interior ceiling and wall linings which will finally make it start to look like a functioning building. After that I guess it is painting and floor coverings, lighting and power, and the million and one other little things that appear when one thinks that the finish line is finally in sight.

But it will be finished for the church centenary celebrations, which will be next year, 2025. So if your group or organisation is thinking that it would be of benefit to consider moving to this new building for regular activities or meetings from next year, now is the time to contact us and record an expression of interest. We want the building to be used, not sit empty.

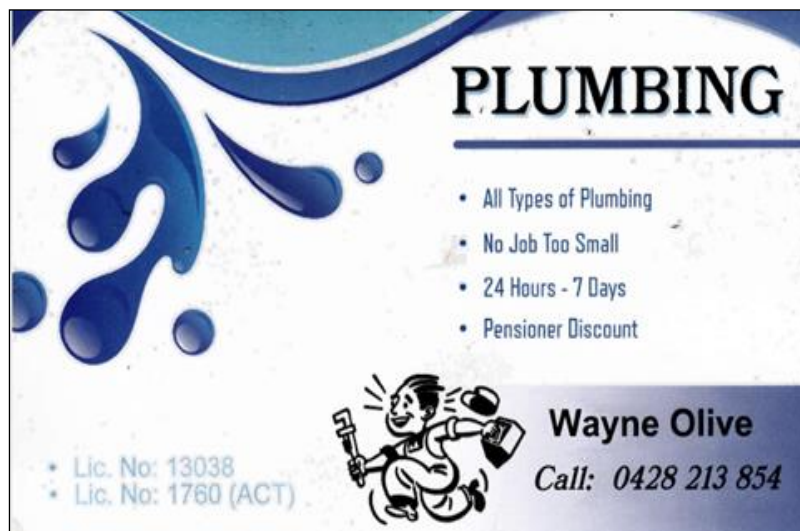
And a reminder that at the Wamboin Fireworks on Saturday 31 August, the SRMD will be selling hot Sausage Rolls, Meat pies and Apple pies, and Gluhwein. We will be operating from the kitchen, so come into the hall, purchase your food from us, and say G'day.

– Alan Rope



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## Nature Notes – August 2024

Jo Walker

A few more days and it will be officially Spring, but it is beginning to feel like it already. We've had a few white frosts during August – but also some above-average daytime temperatures. And a little intermittent rain has been enough to keep the countryside green and flourishing.

There have already been health warnings for hay-fever sufferers and people with asthma to be aware of heavy pollen loads later, but our grasses are not yet flowering. There is pollen around though. The pine forest is already shedding some, and there are patches of bright lemon-yellow powder floating on my dam.

The Wattles are flowering prolifically and brightening up the local landscape with gold – mostly Silver Wattles (*Acacia dealbata*) and Red-stemmed Wattles (*A. rubida*) in this area, with a few cream-flowered Early Wattles (*A. genistifolia*) still blooming.

Pea plants are developing lots of buds, but not many are flowering yet. There are a few yellow and red flowers on the small Broom Bitter-peas (*Daviesia genistifolia*) and the Creeping Hovea (*Hovea heterophylla*) is beginning to display its mauve flowers..

A recent interesting find was a small population of Small-leaved Daisy-bushes (*Olearia microphylla*) in an area of dry forest at a friend's place in Wamboin, a species I hadn't seen here before. It grows to about one metre tall, has tiny leaves crowded along the stems and carries heads of dainty white flowers. It's described as 'widespread, north from the Queanbeyan district' in "Flora of New South Wales". (ed. Gwen Harden).


There are still signs of Wombat activity here although I rarely actually see one. But, there are still fresh soil deposits outside the original burrow and a new one has recently been constructed on a steep slope above the dam.

Echidnas are already active. One was digging recently in an area near the house – to the amazement and concern of my cat as she'd never seen one before.

Living amongst the wildlife here is a great privilege, but it occasionally brings sadness. One of the older female Kangaroos died here a few days ago. She didn't have a pouch joey or a joey at foot as the females don't produce joeys for the last few years of their lives – and lose weight in the last year until they are just skin and bone. This one was feeding until the last day of her life but finding it more and more difficult to move, and finally lay down and died overnight. A young Kangaroo – I assume it was the last joey she reared – followed her and stayed close for the last few days of her life, something very touching to watch.

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## August Golf

Sunday 4 August 2024. A group of 19 golfers ventured out to play in the Wamboin Golf competition sponsored this month by the local Tradies whom we thank them for refreshments and prizes. We also welcomed some new youngsters (Ryan and Luke) and their mum, Roslyn who came out to enjoy the wonderful weather that was put on for us. Another youngster, Emma, also went around with the group. Hopefully we see them all again. A big thanks to the regulars, Matt, Ewan, John, Robert, Chris, Cameron who supported the first timers.

Five players contested the 18-hole competition with Tim (72/63) taking out first place from David (92/65) and Col (94/68). The 9-hole event was taken out by Pete (47/29) from Cameron (46/32) with Ken (38/34 ocb) in third. The junior competition this month went to Ewan (58/30) from Robert (51/40).

A googly ball was awarded to Larry as he shared the advice reportedly provided by Steve to avoid white caps! The dummy was initially handed to Vicki even before the presentation began but was quickly moved to David for choosing to use a 5-wood as an axe. It then returned to Vicki for some not so quiet advice/abuse directed at Tim, before moving to Steve for suggesting that a number of pine trees needed to be removed from the course (despite not being on the fairway), and finally went to Larry after he believed he was robbed, not once, but twice, in the longest drive competition. Longest drive and nearest the pin winners were: Col 2, Ken 3, David 2 and Keith 2. The encouragement award went to Emma.

Robert's joke involved the Spice Girls and fuel. Ted's Jokes contained inferences to playing golf at night. We hope you can join us at the community hall at 12.15pm on Sunday 1 September for a 12.30pm start for the 2024 Spring Trophy competition. - **Ken Gordon**



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## She-Oaks – Excellent Trees for a Variety of Situations In Wamboin

In Winter we appreciate the subtleties in our landscape so much more. One group of plants that come into their own with beautiful form and foliage in Winter are the she-oaks (or sheoaks) - *Casuarina* and *Allocasuarina*. They have the appearance of a conifer with needle like foliage and cone shaped fruits. However, these are not conifers, but flowering plants native to most Australian states, occurring in riparian, rocky, arid and coastal forests. One species in this group also occur naturally in neighbouring Pacific Islands and South-East Asia.

In addition to their fine foliage, the reddish tinge of new growth and pollen creates another point of interest in our gardens. Wind blowing through casuarinas creates a distinctive relaxing whispering - like the ocean inside a seashell. These are useful plants as well as ornamental. They fix nitrogen, a nutrient essential for plant growth. Their common name 'she-oak' comes from the similarity of their timber to the European oak. Casuarinas have even been used for fodder and are useful for stabilising riverbanks and preventing erosion. Their pollen is a useful food source for bees and the cones for bird species.

Some of the locally hardy species available for sale at our Landcare plant sales are outlined here.

The black she-oak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*) grows from 5-15 metres and occurs both inland and along the eastern coast of New South Wales. Occurring locally near Nerriga, the cones of this species are an important food source for the endangered glossy black-cockatoo. This is a hardy species, tolerating the heavy clay and rocky soils of our region very well.

A smaller plant, the shrubby she-oak or *Allocasuarina distyla* with more rounded cones than *A. littoralis*, occurring in a more limited natural range, including tall heath near Cooma. Adaptable to quite dry situations, this is another species which also provides great ecosystem services, stabilising soils and preventing erosion. Shrubby she-oaks respond well to some care at planting but are also very hardy once established.

*Casuarina cunninghamii*, the river she-oak, is a much larger species from 15 to 35 metres tall. Slower growing, this species is also an important food source for both yellow-tailed and glossy black-cockatoos. It does best in more moist situations, but also adapts to drier sites.

The drooping she-oak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*) grows to around 10 metres, forming a large, drooping canopy. This is another lovely example of structure this group of plants can create in the garden. *A. verticillata* is also a great food source for glossy black-cockatoos and is even more hardy in our region than the black she-oak.

Next time you visit our Landcare plant sale this Spring, look for she-oaks to create interest, form and function on your property. - Leanne Hodge - Gearys Gap/Wamboin Landcare Group member

### References:

Bureau of Rural Sciences (2008). Australian Forest Profiles Casuarina

[https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/abares/forestsaustralia/publishingimages/forest%20profiles%202008/casuarina\\_2008.pdf](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/abares/forestsaustralia/publishingimages/forest%20profiles%202008/casuarina_2008.pdf) (accessed 20 August 2024)

NatureMapr (n.d.) *Allocasuarina distyla* (Shrubby sheoak) <https://canberra.naturemapr.org/species/512> (accessed 20 August 2024)

Botanic Gardens of South Australia (n.d.) Plant Selector *Casuarina cunninghamiana*

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Agriculture Victoria (2020) Victorian Resources Online Drooping She-oak

[https://vro.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/sip\\_salt\\_drooping\\_sheoak](https://vro.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/sip_salt_drooping_sheoak) (accessed 20 August 2024)

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## Mid Winter Ball

Our Mid Winter Ball was a success in several ways. On a financial side we were able to donate \$3515 to 'Canteen' and from an entertaining side it was a great night.

The financial success was due to: Florian and his band 'Soul Plumbers' who donated their services, and also our sponsors who donated prizes for the raffle. These business sponsors were: Bungendore Rural, Inland Trading, Contentious Character, Bunnings Canberra Airport, Norton Road Wines, Bungendore Country Butchery, The George Bar & Dining, Project Lighting Queanbeyan, Little Sutton Bakery.

Others who contributed were Maria, who decorated the tables and chairs, the caterers Coast to Coast for a great meal, the Ball Committee who put it all together and the attendees without whom it wouldn't have happened. Finally it was a success as functions like this bring our community together.

We already have plans for a **Ball next year. 1985** was a big year for Wamboin. Our new Hall was completed to lockup stage, it was the year that the big fires came through Wamboin and we had our first 'Fireman's Ball' in the Hall to celebrate the end of the fires. While some of us remember '85 I am sure the Abell twins don't, as (would you believe) they were born that year! So a 40 year anniversary function 'The Flaming Ball' is planned for Saturday, 19 July 2025 and of course the colour theme will be ruby red and black (fire and coals). Save the date, we already have some bookings! - **Lofty Mason**



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## WAMBOIN WEATHER – rainfall and temperature records

(49 years from Cooper Road) by Christine Rieber

### August Rainfall Stats

August rainfall to the 25<sup>th</sup> ..... 15.5mm  
2024 total rainfall to 25/8 ..... 492.5mm

### September Rainfall Stats

2023 September rainfall..... 17.75mm  
Wettest September..... 154.75mm in 2016  
Wettest September day. 64mm on 17/9/13  
Driest September..... 6mm in 1994

### September Temperature Stats

2023 Sept. maximum.....28.0°C  
Sept. 2023. Av. max 21.0°C & min 4.5°C  
Hottest Sept. day..... 29.5°C on 23/9/17  
Hottest Sept. night..... 15.1°C on 13/9/17  
Average day temperature..... 14.6°C  
Warmest September..... 2023  
Av. day temp. 21.0°C & nights 4.5°C  
(highest 6.3°C in 2001)

Average August rainfall..... 56.2mm  
2023 August rainfall..... 32.75mm  
2023 total rainfall to 25/8..... 451.25mm  
48yr Av. to end of August..... 434.8mm

Average September rainfall..... 63.0mm  
Average no. rain days in Sept. .... 9.7  
Highest no. rain days..... 19 in 1984  
Lowest no. rain days..... 2 in 2018

2023 Sept. minimum.....-3.3°C  
Av. Sept. temp... 9.5°C (day+night comb.)  
Coldest September day.... 5°C (2 times)  
on 4/9/1982 & 28/9/2009  
Coldest September night... -4°C on 1/9/12  
Average night temperature..... 4.6°C  
Coldest September..... 2015  
Av. day temp. 12°C & nights 1.8°C  
(lowest 11°C in 2016 & 1.6°C in 2012)

21<sup>st</sup> September is the spring equinox where day & night are equal length (12 hours).



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## Kowen Kapers - QBN to BGD Rd - Northern Section

Peter Komidar

Last month we explored the southern entrance into Kowen of the old Queanbeyan to Bungendore Rd. From the Kowen Rd entrance the old road climbed the escarpment turning north at the start of today's Old Kowen Rd. It followed Old Kowen Rd to its end and down to the future site of the Kowen Forestry Settlement before heading northwest, up the Welch's Rd pass to Wamboin Break. From there, the road continued north until almost level with Bingley Way before turning east through rolling hills where it joined Mill Post Lane and down the pass to Bungendore. As noted last month, the opening of the Bungendore to Queanbeyan leg of the railway coupled with the pre-existing alternative (Kings Hwy) route pretty much ensured that use of the road through Kowen was confined solely to local residents. Over time, the road fell into disuse and by 1915 was described as a track. However, the Kowen section of the road was subsequently revived by the establishment of the Kowen Forest plantation.

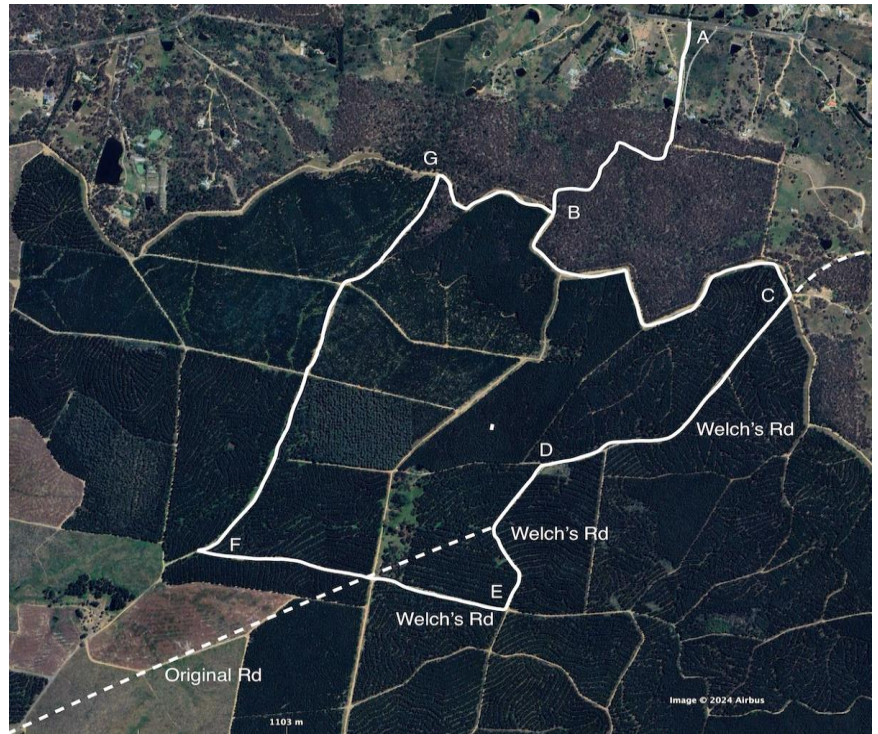
Within Kowen, the northern-most leg of the road is today called Welch's Rd. If you look on a map you'll find that Welch's Rd incorporates portions of three different roads, making an 'S' shape on the map. The original road ran through the middle of the 'S' but once the plantation was established, with its grid of intersecting roads, they kept the naming to reflect, as best they could, the original nature of the road. This section of the road was named after Jack Welch who with his wife Nita and their six children lived nearby in Wamboin from 1951–1976. As this was before the construction of Norton Rd, access to their home was through Kowen Forest and hence it came to be known as Welch's Rd. Up until recently, attached to the gate in the border fence where the road entered NSW was a sign complete with typo for 'Welches Rd'. But alas the paint has recently been stripped from the sign - only the bare metal plate remains.

But our story does not end here. In 1949, the Commonwealth's ACT Advisory Council considered a proposal for a highway linking Canberra to the Princes Highway at Tomerong (Jervis Bay). The proposed road ran from Canberra along the northern boundary of the airport due east to Sutton Rd and from there up into Kowen to join onto the old Queanbeyan to Bungendore Rd. The route would have shortened the distance to Bungendore (and therefore the coast) by 13 km.

Then in 1969, the National Capital Development Commission considered a plan, proposed by Yarrawlumla Council, for a road following the 1949 route, from Canberra to Bungendore. In tandem with this proposal, Council approved the establishment of a residential subdivision which became, you guessed it, Wamboin. However, the cost of construction,

along with opposition from Queanbeyan Council on behalf of businesses on Yass Rd (concerned at the loss of passing trade) ensured the proposal's demise. The road ceased to be but in its place Wamboin was born with the first blocks of the initial subdivision offered for sale on 2 December 1972 and serviced by the newly created Norton Rd rather than the proposed Canberra to Bungendore Rd.

**Directions:** From Bingley Way (A) proceed to the Kowen horse entrance (B). Turn left here travelling 1.5 km along Wamboin Break until you reach Welch's Rd (C). (Look for the gate with the bare metal plate). Turn right and proceed down Welch's Pass. At the 3rd intersection on your left (D), turn left and follow the 2nd of Welch's 3 roads south. Take the first turn right (E) and follow Welch's Rd down as far as the second intersection (F). Turn right here and follow the road north to its end at Wamboin Break (G). Turn right and in 600 m you'll arrive back at the horse entrance (B). Retrace your steps to Bingley Way. Your total journey is 9.5 km.



Date	Kowen Events – September & October
TBC	Logging operations in Sparrow Hill. No access
TBC	Road maintenance - throughout Kowen
31 Aug - 1 Sept	Night/Day Rogaine <a href="https://act.rogaine.asn.au/">https://act.rogaine.asn.au/</a>
15 September	Canberra Ornithologists Group - Molonglo Gorge Field Trip <a href="https://canberrabirds.org.au">https://canberrabirds.org.au</a>
20 October	<a href="https://act.orienteering.asn.au/">https://act.orienteering.asn.au/</a>
25-27 October	<a href="https://www.dsmra.asn.au/kowen">https://www.dsmra.asn.au/kowen</a>

## QPRC NEWS

By Councillor Ross Macdonald

It's that time again. As I've been driving around the area, I've seen signs going up and posts on social media increasing. There's a bit of a buzz in the air and people are talking about it... the election? No! I'm talking about the famous Wamboin bonfire and fireworks night! By the time most are reading this edition of the Whisper, the bonfire will be reduced to a blackened mound with talks about how great it was and those who have worked hard to deliver such a great night for our community will be no doubt planning the next one in 2025.

As we get nearer to the election it seems there's a lot more people focussing on local issues which is great. I'm hearing about what the community wants from Council in one-on-one chats, by social media or in small groups. I've made the point before that I've never met a person who didn't have at least one good idea about how to make our area even better so please keep them coming. It's been really busy recently but I wanted to mention two quick things that have really made being your Councillor great lately. At a recent Council meeting I put forward a motion to keep our libraries open longer for students studying their HSC and I'm thrilled that it passed unanimously. That means young people will have more access to great learning and studying environments ahead of their Year 12 exams.

We also recently welcomed 86 people from 24 different countries as Australian citizens at a ceremony in Queanbeyan. Citizenship ceremonies are very special days and I'd encourage you to come along to see people take the step of joining the Australian family if you ever get the chance.

I hope you can all get along to the meet the candidates night at the Wamboin Community Hall on the 3rd of September. It'll be a great chance to hear from candidates and listen to their plans for our community.

As always, please get in touch if I can help with anyone. Cheers, -Ross

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## How the Whisper Gets Into Your Mailbox Each Month

Without the month by month donation of time by the residents listed below, it would be impossible for Wamboin, Bywong and other residents in the newsletter's catchment area to have The Whisper. Please remember all residents listed below, as they do what they do in order to make the communities a little bit friendlier and more sociable. Without the businesses that pay to advertise in The Whisper we could not pay for printed copies. Finally, the articles, invitations and notices you read in each Whisper are only there because you or others in the community took the time to write it.

174: CO-ORDINATED BY ALICE SCOTT: ph 0407 005 506 email [alice.scott178@gmail.com](mailto:alice.scott178@gmail.com)

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Dave Power	Fernloff Rd	34	Vicki Still	Canning Cl	15
Andrea Sadow	Poppet Rd	32	Alan Rope	Sutton Rd	47

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Sue Ward	Norton Rd (Bingley to Weeroona)	32	Anne Gardner	Weeroona Dr (Norton to Majors)	32
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Jules Clancey	Norton Rd #1033-#1240	37			

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Nora Stewart	Rovere Ln	7	Justin Jarvis Smith	Macs Reef Birriwa to Harriott	14
Megan Wallace	Harriott Rd	28	Belinda Morris	Macs Reef Rd (Nwington2 Bankers)	11
Sandra Favre	Newington Rd	23	Carol & Clive Boughton	Macs Reef (Bankers to Fed Hwy)	34
Chrystal Earle	Snowgum Road	26			

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Lyn Parkinson	Bidges/Hickey/OldGoldMines	53	Fire Brigade	Headquarters on Bingley Way	1
Chris & Kate M	Sutton Park Estate	55	Russell Ball	Macs Reef – Denley Dr to B'doreRd	26

147: CO-ORDINATED BY DAVID FEATHERSTONE ph 6236 9722 [bushranger\\_au@hotmail.com](mailto:bushranger_au@hotmail.com)

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Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	24	David & Connie Jansen	Wyoming Road	20
Kerrie Gougeon	B'dore Rd (CreekB to Fed Hwy)	33	Peter Sharp	Doust Road	20

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## Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

I chose the Bassian Thrush for September, a forest-inhabiting species that was rather unusually present at my place for the first time recently.

### Bassian Thrush (*Zoothera lunulata*)

Size: 26-29cm

Status: Rare

The Bassian Thrush is a medium-large thrush, mostly a dull olive-brown above and white below, with dense, thick black scaling all over. The breast and wing margins are toned buff, and it has fine white tips to the tail feathers. Bassian Thrushes have a large dark eye and rather solid dark bill, with a pale eye-ring and lores, and pinkish legs. Younger birds are more mottled and buffy. Whilst Bassian Thrushes may not be the prettiest bird, they make up by having a sweet whistling song,

typically a three-note, slurred “tlee-oo-whee”, forming into a more sustained song with more notes. The contact call is a thin, high-pitched “seep”. These calls can be somewhat similar to the introduced Common Blackbird but are more subdued. If seen however, it is quite distinct even from the brown female Blackbird, with its scaly appearance. The “seep” call is also somewhat reminiscent of Spotted Quail-thrush seeping calls but is only a single note given briefly, not repeated. The song was what first alerted me to the presence of a Bassian Thrush at my property, which was a species I had not recorded previously here before. It was calling very early around dawn (Bassian Thrush typically are most vocal around dawn and dusk) and heard on a few subsequent mornings. It is a rather unusual record as the species typically inhabits wetter, denser forests, frequenting areas with good understory cover and leaf litter. Locally it is usually seen in the western Brindabella Ranges or further east in Tallaganda in wetter forests, however there is some local winter dispersal into drier areas, and the species often visits the Botanic Gardens in Canberra, occasionally turning up in gardens or other drier woodland areas in the winter months. The species can be hard to detect if not calling, as it is quite unobtrusive and usually forages for insects quietly among the leaf litter, running and stopping to forage in short bursts. It occasionally perches in trees. Its flight is strong and low, exposing the dark bar on its pale underwing and the fine white tail tips. Whilst you may not have much luck finding a Bassian Thrush in Wamboin, keep an eye out in other wet forest areas, as they occur widely along the east coast from Adelaide to Cairns and also in Tasmania. (Photo from Google Images)

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## The Macs Reef Road crossing of the Yass River, 1994

By David McDonald

This month, September 2024, is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of work to construct the current Macs Reef Road (MRR) crossing of the Yass River. Long-term users of Macs Reef Road will recall what the crossing was like before that event. It was a low-level crossing with a culvert that was far too small to manage the flood waters that would sometimes come down the river. Yarrowlumla Shire Council had a huge job on its hands to maintain the many river and creek crossings across the LGA. The *Canberra Times* reported, on 25 Feb 1969, that Council

*... has closed the Bungendore-Gundaroo Road between Bungendore and the Federal Highway and the Mac's (sic) Reef Road to traffic weighing over two tons ... Main reason for closing the two roads referred to is due to the collapse of bridges and culverts under the weight of trucks carting sand and other material to Canberra and others travelling in the opposite direction with road construction metal and gravel ... The Engineer (Mr J. M. Firth) said that ... the Gundaroo Road (now Bungendore Road) had been closed to enable repairs to be effected to the abutments of Emu Creek bridge to prevent a final collapse. As a result of this restriction trucks had been directed onto the Mac's Reef Road and this had caused some collapse of culverts on this route.*

Nowadays the road has a weight limit of 10 tonnes.

Every few years MRR would be closed owing to the flooding of the Yass River near the road's junction with the Federal Highway. This occurred during periods of heavy rainfall in September 1985, May 1988, March 1989, April 1989, and July 1991, to name a few.

The occasional flooding of the Yass River crossing along MRR, hence the road's temporary closures, was not simply an inconvenience. On 2 April 1899 it was reported (in the *Canberra Times*) that 'Queanbeyan police reported last night that a car was washed off the crossing at Macs Reef Road, and the vehicle could not be seen from the crossing. The driver was not injured. Another car had stalled on the crossing, in about half a metre of water. The following roads were reported closed in the district last night: Macs Reef Road at the low-level crossing near the Federal Highway ...'

**Upgrading the Yass River crossing:** 30 years ago came the great news that the crossing was to be upgraded. It was a big job, and it did not run smoothly:

*An improved route from north Canberra to the coast has been delayed by an accident yesterday near the construction site of a bridge over the Yass River on Macs Reef Road. One of the precast bridge arches, weighing 26 tonnes, was damaged beyond repair when a semi-trailer carrying it overturned at the intersection of the Sutton Road and the Federal Highway, a Yarrowlumla Shire official said. The \$710,000 project, scheduled to be completed by Christmas, may be delayed by up to two weeks while a new arch is cast. Macs Reef Road will be closed again today but will open tomorrow. Two heavy lift cranes, brought from Sydney, will have to return to the site later to raise the replacement arch span. The bridge, one of the largest concrete arch structures in the region, spans 21m and rises 7m above the river. The new bridge is expected to significantly improve traffic arrangements at the crossing where vehicles have been washed off the causeway in the past.*

*About 2000 cars a day use the road, which is even busier during holidays when motorists use it to travel to the coast. (Canberra Times, 21 Sep 1994).*

Visit <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article118139088> for photographs of the mishap, captioned 'Above, the damaged bridge arch after the accident, and, inset, the construction site on Macs Reef Road'. Unsurprisingly, it took far more than two weeks to cast, transport, and install the new concrete arch that formed the core of the new bridge. (Technically, it is a BEBO® precast arch bridge.) The *Canberra Times* was able to report, on 27 Dec 1994, that:

*A bridge over the Yass River on Macs Reef Road was officially opened in time to provide the many holiday-makers travelling to the coast with an alternative route. The new high-level crossing and associated roadworks replaced a dangerous single-lane causeway that often became impassable during flooding, inconveniencing travellers who were forced to make detours.*

*Over the years it has been the site of many accidents with vehicles being washed off the causeway. The \$750,000 project has been constructed by Yarrowlumla Shire Council with funding provided by the NSW Government through the Roads and Traffic Authority.*

Visit <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article127262769> for a photograph of the newly-completed bridge.

Perhaps this fine piece of civil engineering, along with the Sutton Road/Federal Highway grade separation, and Palerang Council's upgrades to the hills on Macs Reef Road and Norton Road where they traverse the Queanbeyan fault, are the most significant civil engineering works in our region? **Pictured: Macs Reef Road Yass River bridge today**

