

11TH ANNUAL

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# WHEELS OF WAMBOIN

SATURDAY  
**17**<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
9AM - 1PM



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## Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For May I am writing about the Buff-rumped Thornbill, one of our small birds that is often seen among mixed flocks in the local woodlands.

### Buff-rumped Thornbill (*Acanthiza reguloides*)

Size: 11cm

Status: Common breeding resident

The Buff-rumped Thornbill is a tiny plain bird that is buffy-yellow below and olive-grey above, with fine scalloping on the head and breast, and a dark tail, tipped white. The forehead is also tinged rusty and they have a pale eye, dark bill and legs. Male and female look the same, though immature birds are plainer and duller, with a brownish eye at first. Buff-rumped Thornbills have a bold buff rump that cuts through the otherwise darker upperparts and is especially noticeable in flight. This may lead to confusion with the Yellow-rumped Thornbill which has a brighter yellow rump and a black crown with white speckling. The Weebill can

also look quite similar but lacks the pale rump, has a tiny stubby bill, and has a different habit of foraging in the canopy, unlike Buff-rumped Thornbills which typically forage on the ground or among low vegetation and are rarely seen high in the tree canopy. The rusty tinge to the forehead is also unique to Buff-rumped Thornbills. They are usually present in pairs to small parties within mixed species flocks of other small birds. They forage by hopping on the ground or in low vegetation and eating insects. They can often be heard giving their rolling high-pitched tinkling, “pitta-pitta-pit” calls, and also sometimes give harsher chirping or bolder “pip” alarm calls. Buff-rumped Thornbills favour drier open woodland and forest with grassy understory and leaf litter to forage in. They tend to avoid very open or dense forest areas. They are quite common and widespread so if you visit any patches of woodland you will hopefully come across some.

(Photo from Google Images)



## 50 years of weather records

By Paul Downey

Recently there have been a series of articles in the Whisper documenting / commemorating 50 years of life in Wamboin. This article documents 50 years of weather records from Wamboin.

**Recording the weather data.** On the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1976, David Roberston started recording daily rainfall data in a green ledger book from his property in Cooper Road. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of January of the following year (1977) he expanded the weather data he recorded in the ledger book to include daily minimum and maximum temperature records. He continued to record the daily weather information each year in the ledger book for 25+ years, after which, his then wife Robyn took over, who carried on recording the weather records in the ledger book until March 2017, resulting in 42 years of continuous data. In April 2017, Christine Rieber took over the recording of the weather data, with the recording location moving a few hundred metres along Cooper Road. Christine has continued to collect the data in the green ledger book. In addition, soon after ‘inheriting’ the green ledger book, the herculean task of entering all 42 years worth of data in the ledger into an electronic spreadsheet started, which took many late nights over multiple months. Now all 50 years of data is in an electronic format.

**Publishing weather reports in the Whisper.** A search of the Whisper archive on-line revealed that the 1<sup>st</sup> weather report was produced by David and published in the September 1987 edition of Wamboin Whisper; noting that the 1986 and 1985 archives are incomplete, so the 1<sup>st</sup> report could have been earlier. There is no weather report in the 1984 editions. The 1987 report is based on 11 years of data. The weather report has been a regular feature article of the Whisper ever since. In the early 2000s the weather report was written by the “Robertsons”, with assistance from Ned Noel in the later years, and from 2017 by Christine Rieber.

**50th year of data.** 2025 marks 50 years of rainfall data collection from Cooper Road, and 2026 will be 50 years of temperature records. Comparisons of the weather records from Wamboin with those from the Bureau of Meteorology records from the Canberra Airport weather station, illustrate how variable the weather can be between these locations despite being less than 10kms apart (direct line). Wamboin is often warmer at night and some days Wamboin has no rainfall, whilst the airport has several millilitres.

### WAMBOIN WEATHER – rainfall and temperature records

(50 years from Cooper Road) by Christine Rieber

<b>April Rainfall Stats</b>	Average April rainfall..... 48.2mm
April rainfall to the 23 <sup>rd</sup> ..... 10.75mm	2024 April rainfall..... 92.25mm
2025 total rainfall to 23/4 ..... 181.5mm	2024 total rainfall to 23/4..... 332.75mm
	49yr Av. to end of April..... 228.6mm
<b>May Rainfall Stats</b>	Average May rainfall..... 46.9mm
2024 May rainfall..... 55.0mm	Average no. rain days in May..... 8.5
Wettest May..... 171.0mm in 1995	Highest no. rain days..... 20 in 1989
Wettest day..... 52mm on 3/5/95	Lowest no. rain days..... 1 in 1982
Driest May..... 1mm in 1982	
<b>May Temperature Stats</b>	2024 May minimum..... -1.1°C
2024 May maximum..... 20.2°C	May 2024. Av. max 15.9°C & min 4.6°C
Hottest <u>May day</u> ..... 24°C (2 times) on	<u>Coldest May day</u> ..... 3°C on 29/5/00
2/5/95 & 1/5/21	<u>Coldest May night</u> ..... -6°C on 31/5/01
Hottest May night..... 14°C (5 times) on	Average night (min.) temperature.... 5.1°C
2/5/88, & 1&2/5/95 & 3/5/19 & 15/5/22	<u>Coldest May</u> ..... 2012
Average day (max.) temperature.... 13.6°C	(Av. min day temp. 10.1°C & night 0.8°C)
Warmest May..... 1980	Av. May temp.... 9.4°C ( <u>day+night comb.</u> )
(Av. max day temp. 14.2°C & night 7.5°C)	
(highest 17.1°C in 2021 & 8.1°C in 1989)	

During May the daylight length will decrease by 42 minutes from 10.5 to 9.8 hours. To the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April, not one daytime maximum temperature was below the 48-year average of 18.0°C, with the 2025 April average being 23.4°C which is on track to be one of the hottest Aprils on record.



May 2025

Circulation 1,364

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[u](#)[Bywong Community](#) [www.bywongcommunity.org.au](http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au)Fire Brigade <http://wamboin.rfsa.org.au>**Bywong and Wamboin Facilities and Contacts**

<b>Bywong Community</b>	Justin Jarvis - President	0404 460 568	president@bywongcommunity.org.au
<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	wamboincaptain@gmail.com
<b>Geary's Gap Pony Club</b>	Cameron Smith	0419 449 747	
<b>Golf</b>	Ken Gordon	0455 839 840	ken.gordon1962@gmail.com
<b>Injured Wildlife</b>	Wildcare – Helpline	6299 1966	
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Andrew Stainlay – JP	0408 469 880	stains@bigpond.net.au
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Leanne (Lee) Ward – JP	0411 207 317	<a href="mailto:leanneford@gmail.com">leanneford@gmail.com</a>
<b>KYB Bible Study Group</b>	Robyn Doran	6238 3469	rdoran4@bigpond.com
<b>Landcare</b>	Kathy Handel - Treasurer	6238 3596	khandel@bigpond.net.au
<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	Playgroup.sutton@gmail.com
<b>Table Tennis</b>	Mike Muston	0406 606 238	Mike muston@gmail.com
<b>Wamboin Community Assoc.</b>	Jenny Richards - President	0490 020 165	president@wamboincommunity.asn.au
<b>Wamboin-Bung. Book Group</b>	Sally Saunders	0419 303 229	sally.saunders1@bigpond.com
<b>Wamboin Hall Bookings</b>	Joan Mason	6238 3258	wamboinhall@gmail.com
<b>Wamboin Markets</b>	Meriel Schultz	6238 3309	lmsconsulting@bigpond.com
<b>Wamboin Play Group</b>	Denise Lang – Co-ordinator		wamboin.playgroup@gmail.com
<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	whirlwind1@argonite.com.au
<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 June 2025 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, May 25, 2025.** 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.

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## Wamboin Community Association President's Notes



Hello everyone. Well ANZAC Day is past and our heaters and fires will slowly start to come on. But colder weather doesn't mean any fewer events on our calendars.

1. was held on 15<sup>th</sup> April last month. This is a joint venture with the Wamboin Community Association and the Bywong Community Association and jointly chaired by both Presidents. It was pleasing that of the 8 candidates for the House of Representatives for our electorate 7 came to this event to show the local people of Wamboin and Bywong what they stood for and for people to question them closely. 63 people attended this event and I believe a good, informative night was achieved. I need to thank David McDonald and Diana Boswell for the initial organizing; Pete Harrison for volunteering to be time-keeper on the night; Justin Jarvis my opposite number in Bywong for helping co-host; Ned Noel for helping me organize the Hall and Anita Richards, Denise Lang and Denise Hayles for helping with the catering afterwards. Well done everyone.
2. **Wheels of Wamboin.** Yes its on – the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Wheels of Wamboin this coming May. May the 17<sup>th</sup> to be accurate coinciding with the May Market. All automotive types are welcome at this event and it usually attracts a large number of interested on-lookers. Pete Evans the organizer will undoubtedly have a much more expansive write up in this edition of the Whisper but I urge you to come along and enjoy this great event.
3. **Annual General Meeting.** As mentioned in last month's edition of the Whisper, the Wamboin Community Association decided to postpone its AGM until the following month **20<sup>th</sup> May**. This allowed us to hold the successful Meet the Candidates Night in April but now this month its on. Please come to this event which starts at **7:30 pm Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May** at the Hall. Well that's it for now. I hope as many of you as possible will come to our events they are open to everyone in the community to attend. - *Jenny Richards – President.*



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Hi neighbours!

It's looking like Autumn is getting closer... Ha.

Following the washup after the Car boot Sale we are now getting ready for winter. We have the **Mid-winter trivia night** to think about but much more importantly (some might say) we have the Federal election on the weekend.

By the time some of you read this the election will be run and won. However, in association with the Wamboin Community Association we held a "meet the candidates" evening. This is a well-loved, long term and well attended event that has been put on for Council elections, State elections and Federal elections. It is a fantastic opportunity to meet those people that will be running for offices around our place and whilst it was good to meet those people, it was also quite informative with candidates from the major parties, minor parties and independent. I urge everybody to ensure that they think about what they're doing with their vote.

The Bywong Community Association is getting ready to start planning for the trivia night which would be most likely in June so watch this space. Tickets will be \$15pp (bring cash on the night). Book your table now!

Email: [president@bywongcommunity.org.au](mailto:president@bywongcommunity.org.au)

-Justin Jarvis

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**Understand how your neighbours and other land management agencies are managing fire**

**Receive a large aerial photo of your property to develop your own Fire Management Plan**

**Participate in field-based exercises and observe a demonstration burn**

---

**When:** Workshop 1 – 8:30 am to 4:15 pm, Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Workshop 2 – 8:30 am to 4:15 pm, Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**PROPOSED DATES (Need to confirm Hall booking)**

**Where:** Meet at Wamboin Community Association Hall

112 Bingley Way, Wamboin

Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea provided.

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**Register Here by -** <https://events.humanitix.com/wamboin-hotspots-fire-project-workshop-series-2025>



When you register, answer a simple set of questions to assist the Hotspots team tailor the workshops to your needs.

If you are unable to register online, or for any other queries contact:

Jason McWhirter - RFS Hotspots Officer on 0419 173 211 or email [jason.mcwhirter@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jason.mcwhirter@rfs.nsw.gov.au)

Neale Watson - NCC Hotspot Ecologist on 0418 661 630 or email [nwatson@nature.org.au](mailto:nwatson@nature.org.au)



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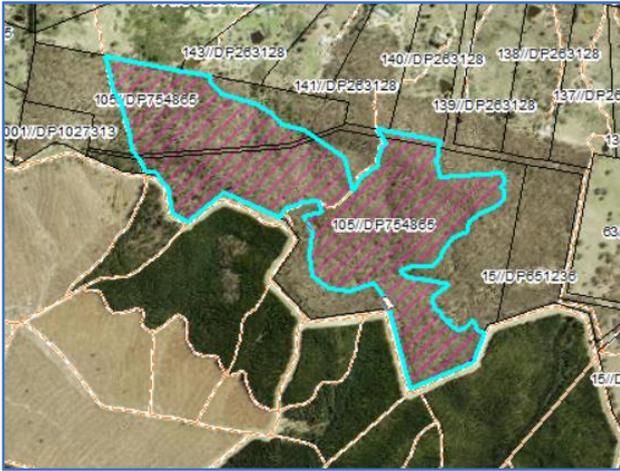
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## Crown Land Reserve behind 242 Bingley Way, Wamboin



**What is happening?** The NSW Rural Service, in partnership with NSW Crown Lands, are preparing to conduct a low-intensity hazard reduction burn on Crown Land lot 105//DP754865 which sits adjacent to the ACT Border behind Bingley Way. See the map below.

**Why is this happening?** The area to be burnt has been identified by the Lake George Bush Fire Management Committee as a priority area for treatment. While parts of this reserve have been burnt in recent years, crews have recently undertaken fuel load assessments in the remaining areas which show fuel loads are over 20 tonnes/ hectare. This is a very high fuel load: fires that occur on days of High or above fire danger will not be controllable. A low intensity burn (average flame height under 50cm) is being prepared to manage this risk through reducing the fuel load.

**How will this affect you?** On the day/s of the burn firefighters will be operating in the area and we ask that residents stay away from the planned burn area for your own safety. We undertake letter box drops to

give you at least 24-hour's notice of undertaking the burn. Smoke will be produced that may impact neighbouring properties.

- Keep doors and windows closed to prevent smoke entering homes
- Retract pool covers to prevent ember damage
- Remove washing from clotheslines
- Ensure pets have a protected area
- If you have asthma or a lung condition, reduce outdoor activities if smoke levels are high and if shortness of breath or coughing develops, take your reliever medicine or seek medical advice

**How do we know this will be safe?** Hazard reductions through prescribed burning are a well-established and end effective technique to reduce bush fire risk. While risks from burning can never be eliminated, all prescribed burns go through a rigorous planning process to ensure public safety and minimise environmental impacts. The impact of a well-planned burn is always less than that of an uncontrolled wildfire. Environmental assessments, which consider issues such as threatened species and endangered habitats within and around the burn area, the vegetation type, and time since the last fire, have been conducted to ensure both the burn and preparatory works do not adversely affect flora and fauna.

A prescribed burn includes a "prescription" which specifies the weather conditions, fuel conditions, fire behaviour, and resources required to ensure that the burn both remains under control and accomplishes the fuel management aim. Appropriately trained fire fighters and suitable equipment will be on site for the duration of the burn.

A successful prescribed burn will have areas that have not burnt, large areas that have burnt "just right", and, unfortunately, some areas that burn too hot. This mirrors traditional fire behaviour in what is a fire adapted landscape. Ultimately, the reserve will fully recover, although the time may vary based on climatic conditions. Some sections that burnt three years ago are already hard to distinguish visually from areas that have not burnt in decades.

**When is this happening?** Undertaking a hazard reduction burn is highly dependent upon weather and environmental conditions. While we are aiming to burn at some point within Autumn 2025, we have not yet set a date and are monitoring the conditions to identify a suitable time. Neighbours and affected land users will be given at least 24 hours' notice of the burn starting. The burn will not be undertaken until suitable conditions exist for safe execution of the burn. If you have any questions regarding the planned hazard reduction, please contact Lake George team on 02 6128 0600 or [email queanbeyan.fcc@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:queanbeyan.fcc@rfs.nsw.gov.au)



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## Rural Residential & Small Farm Dams

By Leanne Brown, Secretary, Gearys Gap/Wamboin Landcare

Dams can add aesthetic, amenity and land value to your block. Dams provide habitat for wildlife as well as a water source for farm activities. Managing dams can be complex, so this article simply touches on a few core ideas, concluding with suggested further reading.

**Engineering.** Each dam is connected to neighbours across the water catchment. Catchments flow into each other and then into rivers or groundwater. Excess nutrients and invasive water plants can spread when rain washes through the catchment. Consider the whole catchment, both upstream and downstream. To prevent erosion, ensure the dam spillway (run off space) is clear of trees and shrubs and restrict livestock and vehicle access.

On the dam wall, plant grasses to help maintain structural integrity and prevent leaks or collapses. Trees and deep-rooted shrubs can disrupt the soil of the wall and lead to seepage, whereas grasses with more shallow, fibrous root systems provide a stable ground cover.

**Safety:** Prevent nutrients washing off paddocks and out of homes into dams and local waterways wherever possible, to prevent algal blooms. Algal blooms may vary in colour, however blue-green algal blooms can cause the water to smell and taste unpleasant. They can produce a variety of toxins which may persist for weeks, some of which pose a health risk if they are swallowed or contact the skin. Control plants that spread to form thick mats across the water surface and maintain fencing around your dam, to ensure water safety for children.

**Plant identification:** Water plants can be difficult to identify, and some native water plants are easily confused with noxious weeds that can clog our waterways and kill fish. Consult references thoroughly before purchasing water plants and be certain of their taxonomy by purchasing plants from reputable suppliers. Importantly, identify plants already in your dam to ensure weeds can be removed effectively and valuable native plants are conserved.

**Water and soil quality:** Signs of poor-quality water are murkiness, odour, salinity and excessive algae growth. Fence stock out of dams and creeks to improve water quality. Consider pumping drinking water for stock to troughs in less fragile areas where stock will do less damage. Limit use of fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides around water bodies. Revegetate dams and wetlands with reeds, sedges and rushes at water edges, grasses and shrubs on the banks. Up from the banks, Casuarinas and Allocasuarinas are hardy, riparian species, the latter of which provides a food source for glossy black-cockatoos. Plantings such as these improve water quality by reducing run-off erosion and filtering the water.

Find these and other hardy, locally grown natives at our plant sale at the 17 May Wheels of Wamboin 9am-12pm at the Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way. References and further reading:

[Enhance farm dams – ANU Sustainable Farms](#) [Managing dams | Water | Farm management | Agriculture Victoria](#)

[How to manage and maintain farm dams - Local Land Services](#)

[LookAfterYourNaturalAssets\\_3rdEdition.pdf](#)



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## How the Whisper Gets Into Your Mailbox Each Month

Thank you David Featherstone, who for around a decade has been distributing Whispers to deliverers around Bungendore Road north of Macs Reef. Thank you, Chris Fowler, for taking on this task. And thanks to both of you, for also continuing deliver to mailboxes every month. Without the month by month donation of time by the 50+ 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 this place 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, each article, invitation and notice you read in each Whisper is only there because you or others in the community took the time to write it. - Ned Noel, volunteer editor

174: CO-ORDINATED BY CHRISTINE RIEBER: phone 6238 3518					
Fay Kelly	Norton West Area from Cmpbl Pl	20	Christine Rieber	Cooper Rd	27
Dave Power	Fernloff Rd	34	Vicki Still	Canning Cl	15
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Sue Ward	Norton Rd (Bingley to Weeroona)	32	Anne Gardner	Weeroona Dr (Norton to Majors)	32
Kathy Handel	Norton(Weero2Hilltop+Wimdra)	25	Phil Leeson&C Fogarty	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	27
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Cassie Fisher	Clare Ln	12	Lyle Montesin	The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks	65
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	Barbera.Wilkins	MacsReef 670,622,618,568,566	5
Sandra Favre	Newington Rd	23	Darrin Lincoln	MacsReef 538,565,587,623,625,649	6
Chrystal Earle	Snowgum Road	26	Carol&Clive Boughton	Macs Reef (BankersTo FedHwy)	34
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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
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Janey & Paul Pedersen	BirchmansFrmDenleyUp2SaraRf	16	Helen Longdon	SarahReef&BrichmansFrmSarah2End	11
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## Classifying Wamboin & Bywong's roads, Part 1: Bywong's Aboriginal-sounding road names

By David McDonald david [at] dnmcdonald.id.au

In 2020 and 2021 I documented, in *The Whisper*, information about the roads of Wamboin, focussing on their name origins. These articles are reproduced, with additional information, at the local history pages of the Wamboin Community Association's website, <https://wamboincommunity.asn.au/localhistory/index.php?op=roads>.

In this article, and in its subsequent parts to be published in future *Whisper* issues, I attend to the roads of both Wamboin and Bywong. For convenience, I use the term 'roads' to cover all types of thoroughfares including those named Close, Crescent, Drive, Grove, Highway, Lane, Place, Road, and Way. My aim is to classify them according to the core features of their names, and see what insights flow from doing so. Here we deal with the roads that I judge to have Aboriginal-sounding names.

In everyday speech, we may categorise some toponyms (i.e. placenames, including road names) as 'Aboriginal' or 'Indigenous'. But this is an ambiguous taxon, conflating several different categories. The Australian National Placenames Survey has addressed this matter head on and presented its findings in an article titled "'Indigenous' or 'Introduced'" (Tent 2023). To save space here, I will not reproduce the whole taxonomy. Tent (2023, p. 8) summarises it as follows:

*Under this schema, toponyms may be classified as 'Indigenous', 'Indigenous-derived' or 'Introduced'. Unfortunately, in most parts of the country the Indigenous placename networks have been obliterated. However, in some places they endure and have yet to be fully documented, even though in many such regions elements of them convey sacred (secret) knowledge, and are therefore required to remain undisclosed. Some toponyms recorded in the Introduced system were derived from the Indigenous network, and usually in a corrupted form, whilst others in the Introduced system derive from non-toponymic Indigenous words, such as Kangaroo Valley, Mount Bogong, Gang Gang Creek, Gympie and Woomeera.*

Bywong has 36 roads. Three of the road names sound Aboriginal (plus Emu Flat Road and Emu Flat Lane, which I treat as non-Aboriginal since 'emu' is now a fully naturalised Australian English term). Wamboin has 32 roads, 6 of which sound Aboriginal. In sum, across the two localities we have 68 roads, and 9 of them, 13 per cent, sound Aboriginal. In contrast, Tent (*op. cit.*) found that 28 per cent of the 375,000 named places in the 2012 edition of the gazetteer of Australia had 'an Aboriginal element'.

Returning to the taxonomy quoted above, our task is to categorise the eight roads as 1) Aboriginal toponyms, 2) Aboriginal-derived toponyms, or 3) Introduced toponyms. Aboriginal toponyms are those that use Aboriginal names. Sadly, with the Aboriginal depopulation of our area caused by the 1820s influenza epidemic, followed by the dispossession of their land of the few remaining Aboriginal people here, no documentary evidence exists confirming the exact Aboriginal placenames in our two localities. This means that none of the nine road names fall into the category of Aboriginal toponyms.

**Birriwa Road, Bywong.** Bywong's three Aboriginal-sounding road names are Birriwa Road, Bungendore Road, and Bywong Town Road. The Bywong Community Association's website <https://www.bywongcommunity.org.au/bywong/> provides the meanings of some of the locality's road names, but Birriwa is not among them. Subject to advice from readers more familiar with Bywong's local history than I am, it seems that the origin of the road name is lost.

Old maps that I have consulted do not show a pre-subdivision property in Gearys Gap/Bywong named 'Birriwa', but that may be what the road was named after.

'Birriwa' is a rural locality near Dunedoo in central NSW, in Wiradjuri country, and in the Wiradjuri language 'barrawinya' (probably the same word) means hunters camp, hunt, camp (Grant & Grant; History Committee 1989). 'Birriwa' was the word for 'breasts' or 'chest' in the Dhudhuroa language of northeastern Victoria (Blake & Reid 2002, p. 198). A wooden steamer of that name was built, in 1918, for the Australian Commonwealth Line of Steamers (Ships List). In addition, a notoriously unreliable list of names purporting to be Aboriginal, compiled through the first half of the 1900s, states that 'biriwa' means 'spear' and 'birriwa' means 'Murray Box trees' (Endacott 1955). Murray Box was a colonial era name for the Black Box (*Eucalyptus largiflorens*) which is a dominant tree in the Murray–Darling Basin floodplain. The toponym occurs in many contexts across eastern Australia.

Given all that, we can safely conclude that the Bywong toponym 'Birriwa Road' should be classified as *Aboriginal – Introduced* as the word is of Aboriginal origin and has been introduced to our area from elsewhere.

**Bungendore Road.** Bungendore Road (formerly Gundaroo Road) is named after the town of Bungendore, and the town is named, in turn, after the property on the road, Captain Richard Brooks' (1765-1833) 'Bungendow/Bungandow' (Cunningham cited in McDonald J 2023, p. 404), subsequently renamed as 'Turalla'. Given that, without further ado we can classify it as *Aboriginal – Derived*: 'Bungendore' is derived from the local (Ngarigo?) Aboriginal word 'Bungendow'.

**Bywong Town Road, Bywong.** This short (400 m) road running north from Millynn Road leads to the site of the former Village of Bywong. Its history is discussed in McDonald D 2025, and elsewhere. 'Bywong Town' was a toponym used in the gold mining era of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, although the official name was Village of Bywong. The village was surveyed and named in 1895 by JF Camden Goodridge; its name was officially discontinued in 1979. The parish of Bywong was created and named in the 1860s, taking its name from William & Richard Guise's property 'Bywong', immediately north of today's Sutton, that they took up in the mid-to-late 1820s. It is said, perhaps fancifully, that 'Bywong' was the local Aboriginal toponym for what we call Bywong Hill, which was part of the Guise brothers' run. McCarthy's highly unreliable word list gives Bywong meaning 'Big Hill'.

For current purposes, it is significant that 'Bywong' is not generally used as a toponym in other parts of eastern Australia, nor has it been widely adopted elsewhere as a euphonious name for businesses, etc., hence not 'introduced' for the purposes of our taxonomy. Given that, I suggest that we classify Bywong as an *Aboriginal-derived* toponym: probably derived from a local Aboriginal word of unknown meaning.

In Part 2 of this series, I will address the Aboriginal-sounding road names found today in Wamboin.

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The Ships List, Commonwealth Government Line of Steamers, <https://www.benjidog.co.uk/TheShipsList/Commonwealth.php>.

**2025 Wheels of Wamboin – 17 May 2025**

Well, Wheels of Wamboin month is here. We are looking forward to a day of automotive marvels, dreams, envy and memories. As you all know the Wheels o Wamboin is about everything automotive. Shiny and new, old and used, great and small. Bring down your marvel for others to enjoy, you just don't know what memories it will invoke for someone or what dreams it may inspire. So the running sheet for the day.

Drivers/Pilots - Be there from 7.30am, if you leave it to 9am you may not get a spot on the oval for display and it would be a pity not to see your machine. It is much easier for us to control the queue if it is steady rather than everyone showing up at the last minute. Although you can come and go on the day we would really prefer you stay until 12 so we can better manage pedestrians. No stupid behaviour please we are all beyond that. Entry is by gold coin or whatever you can spare. The event is at 112 Bingley Way Wamboin which is off Norton Road. Just type best place to live in the world in your GPS or phone to find Wamboin.

Spectators and dreamers from 9am. On the day there will be a couple of trade stalls, the Wamboin RFS will run the BBQ and the Home Produce Markets will be in the hall with lots of goodies. Lou will have her coffee machine humming. There is only one trophy on the day the Peoples Choice voted by attendees on the day. This will be presented at 12 noon. If you are not there it will be reassigned to the next most popular. We have a couple of much appreciated sponsors on board this year and without these the event could not have happened.

This year unfortunately the Shannon's Super Rig is off the road for a refurb which is a real disappointment as they have been a strong supporter for many years. Hopefully back on the road soon. **Shannon's** remain as one of our foundation sponsors. **Ollie's Garage at Fyshwick**. Ian Oliver is a certified car nut and has an outstanding classic and vintage car display which rotates regularly. It is also a showroom for the Sir Henry Royce Foundation with some fabulous items on display. Go to <https://olliesgarage.com.au/> for a peek.

**The Douros Group**. Locals helping locals. Jim and Kerrie Douros are locals contributing to the local community and events with their construction and transport group. People like Jim and Kerrie are what makes Wamboin special. 100% of our proceeds on the day go the **Wamboin RFS**. Without them this event simply does not happen, **Camp Quality** which helps brave kids fight cancer. Our other charity is our own Possumwood. **Possumwood Wildlife** is a self-funded facility up in Joe Rocks Road, that helps with the recovery of severely injured and traumatised native animals and undertakes engagement and research to learn more about the behaviour of these unique animals.

Bring one and bring all to a fabulous day out at the Wheels of Wamboin on May 17<sup>th</sup>. See you there. Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/wheelsofwamboin/> for any updates. - **Pete Evans**



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## What the Heck Chapter 34.

Well it is, once again, the “Merry Month of May”. What does that mean? Well apart from the name of a poem, it generally refers to the month of May, associated with the celebration of springtime and the joy of renewal. The phrase is used to describe the month's cheerful atmosphere and the festivities that mark the transition from winter to warmer weather.

Well that is what those Northern Hemisphere know-alls claim. However we Southerners know that it means the coming of short days, long nights, cold weather, and, particularly in Sutton.....St Peter’s Bonfire Night. There is a mountain of material that has been delivered to the site and with a bit of pushing and shoving with Ron’s tractor blade, it will transform into an ideal fire to warm our heart and soul (and our body), while we socialise and feast on soups, curries, sausages and whatever else is available.

You will also be entertained by musicians who will roam around amongst you (sorry, couldn’t get The Travelling Willberries but have got the next best), the fabulous Chinese Dragon Dancers, and you can send the kids off to the supervised free marshmallow roasting pit to give yourself a break.

But back to May. What is the churches connection to May? Some Anglican churches celebrate Mary (the mother of Jesus) on May 31st, the Feast of the Visitation. This is a commemoration of Mary’s visit to her cousin Elizabeth (the mother of John) and the subsequent encounter between Jesus and John the Baptist whilst still in the womb. However for us at our lay-back SRMD churches it is really just another month.

Most religious events and celebrations originate from Northern Hemisphere decision makers and so often do not relate properly to our seasonal situation. But for most occasions in the church we put up with the stupidity, such as Christmas cards with snow scenes and the above mentioned arrival of spring in the month of May. Maybe one day someone will prove that those Northerners got it wrong when they assumed that north is ‘up’, so they are on the bottom, and really we are on the upper side of the planet. So if you have a globe in the house, take it off the shelf and stick it to the ceiling, then your world will be correct. Scholars say that the Australia is drifting towards Asia, so my son tells me this proves we are on top because everyone knows that things slide down, not up. – **Alan Rope**

## A Possumwood Tail – Arrow Has Earned His Retirement

By Professor Steve Garlick

Arrow, an elderly male swamp wallaby, thought he had a good deal in Sutton Park Estate. At least it seemed that way for a while until the last September school holidays came around. The property owners enjoyed the wallaby's visits. He would munch on some of the native browse and the owners often gave him vegetable treats.

This all changed in September last year when the property owners were aghast to see their friendly visitor with a long target arrow piercing his back twice near his tail. Inquiries by the property owners unsurprisingly discovered no apparent perpetrators of this deed. Unfortunately, wildlife cruelty has become too common an occurrence in the district in recent years. Possumwood was called and the wallaby was taken to our wildlife vet hospital for treatment. The wounds were attended to, and he was placed in one of our warm indoor enclosures to recover and where he got lots of treats.

It was agreed with the property owners that the wallaby's safety could not be guaranteed at his previous home, so he was taken to the wildlife release site at Two Thumbs Koala sanctuary where he is now doing brilliantly. He gets lots of food, has become quite chubby, and has the freedom to enjoy his retirement.



At Rescue



At Release

### Wamboin Pony Club - Zone 16 Camp 2025

The most exciting week of the year for Zone 16 riders is of course the zone 16 camp and it did not disappoint! A jam-packed schedule with 3 mounted + 1 unmounted session daily—featuring everything from showjumping to polocrosse, obstacle courses to archery, and so much more. Massive thanks to our amazing planners, instructors, parents, and especially Sarah & Beth for keeping us well-fed with 3 meals + snacks daily! We finished the week dressed in blue for Dolly's Dream, showing big spirit for such a beautiful and important cause. Already counting down to 2026! Entries open for the Wamboin Mounted Games competition held on the 25th of May! - Zara Warren WPC



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**QPRC Mobile Library:** The QPRC Mobile Library bus will be at the Wamboin Hall from 10.30-11.30am on Thursday 1, 15 and 29 May 2025, and then fortnightly. It really is worth visiting the Mobile Library. It provides a wonderful opportunity to borrow books, CDs, audio books etc and the staff are very helpful if you need any additional items. Please support this great service. After you have visited the library drop into the Social Group and have a cuppa.

**Wamboin Thursday Social Group:** The Social Group will be holding A Biggest Morning Tea on Thursday 29 May 2025 from 10am. If you have some free time, please come along, share some morning tea and support the Cancer Council. Donations can be made on the day (see flyer attached). 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

**Whisper Price Increases as of July, 2025:** Whisper advertising prices, after remaining unchanged since July 2019, will go up beginning with the July 2025 issue. Elect Printing has very competently printed the 24 page black and white Whisper onto about 1,365 copies for \$1,167 for several years now with no change to prices. 28 pages costs proportionately more. Printing the outermost double sided A3 sheet in colour costs an extra \$200. Now a price rise from Elect pushes the \$1,167 up to \$1,313. The Wamboin Community Association needs to cover printing costs and also hopefully an extra \$200 or \$300 each issue to use for community projects. The new prices, starting with the July issue, will be 1/8 A4 page \$26, 1/6 A4 page \$32, 1/4 A4 page \$40, 1/3 A4 page \$55, 1/2 A4 page \$80, 2/3 A4 page \$110, Full A4 \$160. Thank you to each and every advertiser who has paid for an ad in the 30 or so years of the Whisper's existence. Your money has paid for each issue to exist and to go into every Bywong and Wamboin mailbox, thanks to 50+ residents who donate that time and effort. – Ned Noel, volunteer editor

**Can you write something for the June 2025 Whisper?**

Deadline is the 7 pm the last Sunday of May, so May 25. Some guidelines for content that seem to me to help:

- written and signed by a Bywong or Wamboin Resident so readers trust what they see
- not printed elsewhere
- at least related to living in Bywong and/or Wamboin
- or 'that tells your story (memory?) of our area, with fictional stories about living here also welcomed
- paid for as an ad if likely to increase your income
- respectful of the many life styles and life choices and opinions out here
- a bit of humour never hurts
- invitations to local events to join local organisations that offer opportunity to residents

Send what you create to [whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au](mailto:whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au) or [nednoel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au) or mailbox at 17 Reedy Creek Place or mobile 0409 997 082. – Ned Noel, editor



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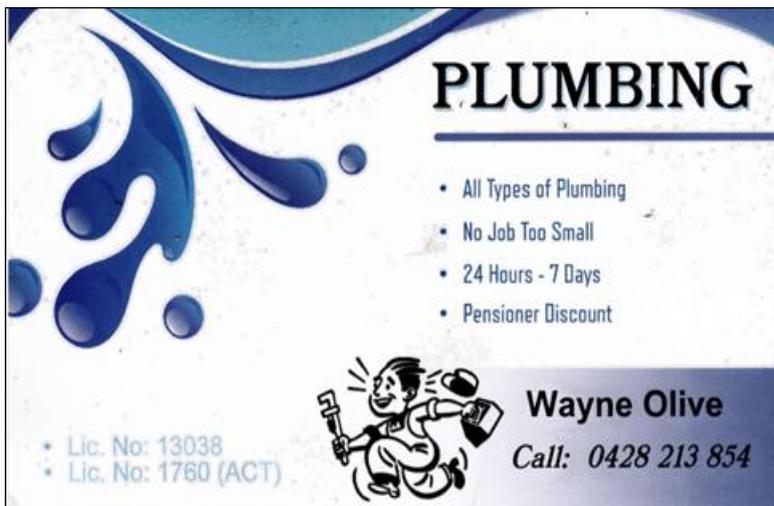
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## Revisiting the Poppet Hill mine

By Peter Komidar

Serendipity is a funny thing. I was talking with Ron McKeahnie about *Reedy Creek Station's* history when he mentioned local lore about a copper and zinc mine situated near Molonglo Gorge. I began, therefore, to research that mine. My efforts to date have been unsuccessful, but in so doing I stumbled upon some pretty definitive evidence in support of a mine on Poppet Hill. It is therefore necessary for us to revisit Poppet Hill one more time. So, dear reader, in furtherance of that, let me take you back 153 years to 1872.

One winter's day in early July local resident, George Forrester, who lived on the Gundaroo Rd (today's Sutton Rd), was wandering around Poppet Hill searching for gold when he stumbled upon an outcrop of copper ore. We can be confident that it was in the vicinity of Poppet Hill because an article in the

*Queanbeyan Age* gave the location as "near the source of the Yass River, about eight miles from Queanbeyan, and one mile east of Cooper's selection on the Gundaroo Road". Poppet Hill is part of the Kowen Range, the northern side of which forms the headwaters of the Yass River catchment. Poppet Hill is also 8.3 miles from Queanbeyan (using the main road through Kowen at the time). We also know that James Cooper's property extended eastwards beyond Cooper Rd. The end of Cooper Rd is 1.2 miles from Poppet Hill. (So far all the ducks are in a line).

George took some samples of the ore he discovered with him which he exhibited to others. Within days a syndicate was formed consisting of George, James Bamford Thompson (grazier and NSW MP), James Kinsela (Queanbeyan's pound-keeper and assistant postmaster) and another unspecified person. The syndicate quickly took possession of three 20 acre (8 ha). leases.

A second syndicate was also formed which staked out a similar amount of land in the vicinity of the discovery. This syndicate comprised John James Wright (the first postmaster of Queanbeyan, the first Mayor of Queanbeyan, Justice of the Peace, future NSW MP and Kowen landholder) and Mr John Cartwright (local grazier, *Woodbury*, and Justice of the Peace). As well as both being Justices of the Peace<sup>1</sup>, Wright and Cartwright had earlier been members of a Mac's Reef gold mining syndicate in nearby Bywong.

Each syndicate would have dug its own shaft and Poppet Hill has evidence of two shafts (another duck lined up). After a time, the two syndicates agreed to merge to become a single company for the purposes of working the mine named, rather confusingly, the *Gundaroo Mine* (presumably because of its location in the general vicinity of the then Gundaroo Rd).

A *Queanbeyan Age* correspondent reported that the lode was traceable on the surface for two chains (40 metres) but that it widened rapidly as the shaft descends. At the time of reporting (25 July 1872) just weeks after the initial discovery, the shaft was already five feet deep (1.5 metres) "and yields unmistakable evidence of being very rich". Samples produced from the mine contained blue and green carbonates, pyrites and black oxides with the appearance of pure copper metal. This is likely to be the shaft within the Wamboin Crown Reserve as the shaft on private property adjacent to the Wamboin Crown Reserve is situated on the floor of a quarry - the easy to reach surface ore presumably excavated first prior to the sinking of that particular shaft.

A later report (*Queanbeyan Age*, 5 September 1872) was similarly upbeat about the mine's prospects with 2 lbs of ore (0.9 kg) yielding 15 ounces (0.43 kg) of copper - ie 48 percent purity. By then the shaft was some 20 feet (6 m) deep. Unfortunately, sufficient interest from potential funders could not have been secured as the mining operation was soon abandoned.

However, on 8 May 1873 it was reported that the operations were being renewed and an experienced mine manager, Mr Stinson, had been engaged. However in February of the following year, the mine was again reported as inoperative and John Cartwright was still promoting the mine without effect. Here the trail goes cold. There are no more newspaper reports of the mine. But equally, the mine could still have resumed operation - only without being reported on.

When the mine did finally close, the shaft within the Wamboin Crown Reserve was filled in and the buildings were dismantled with as much salvageable material as possible removed for use elsewhere. Material found unsuitable for reuse was likely dumped in the shaft as fill. As well as the slumped shaft itself, the mine site contains scattered miscellaneous tin and cast iron objects as well as the remnants of a wood and corrugated iron roofed building. The cast iron object (recently relocated from the building site to a position closer to the access trail) may have been part of a 'stamp battery' - a steam powered machine that crushed the precious ore in a pounding action. Alongside the ruin are some neatly stacked corrugated iron sheets.

By contrast, the remains of the other mining operation have left a far more enduring monument in the landscape. First and foremost is the quarry itself, 20 m in diameter and flooded with water from an underground aquifer. When the water table is suitably reduced (by drought and extensive bore water use) the water level drops to reveal a rectangular arrangement of rocks marking the edge of the shaft itself. To the west of the quarry is an excavated flat area dug into the hillside (although this could possibly have been the result of abandoned preparations for a building envelope back in the late 20th century). On the northeast

<sup>1</sup> Historically, JPs had far more power than they wield today. Under the *Offenders Punishment and Justices Summary Jurisdiction Act 1832*, two or more JPs sitting together could convict people on charges of theft, drunkenness, disobedience of orders, neglect of or running away from work, abusive language to his or her master or other disorderly or dishonest conduct. Under the Act, other duties formerly performed by magistrates were performed by JPs in the Court of Petty Sessions.

side of the quarry are the remnants of an old road leading away from the mine. Judging from the earthworks alone, the *Gundaroo Mine* must have been a serious venture or a very expensive white elephant.

Another line of evidence that the mine was situated on Poppet Hill is the mountain's name itself. A 'poppet head' is the framework above a mine shaft that supports a winch. The poppet head gave vertical access from the surface to an underground mine, allowing miners to enter the mine from above and for the precious ore to be hauled out. We know that the mine was in operation at least until 1874 and Poppet Hill was named on 13 September 1876 when the trig station was established. (By convention, surveyors determined the place names of sites that remained unnamed at the time of their arrival). We also know that the shaft within the quarry was never filled in (presumably because the shaft and quarry were quickly flooded once the pump was removed). So it is reasonable to assume that if the mine was no longer operating, the wooden poppet head structure could have been left intact when the mine was abandoned. There may be other reasons to name a mountain Poppet - but given the presence of the mine, the existence of a Poppet Head must surely be the most parsimonious.

So at the end of the day, do we have 'smoking gun' evidence that the *Gundaroo Copper Mine* was situated on Poppet Hill? The answer to that, in the absence of an archeological dig, has to be no. But the circumstantial evidence is very strong. People have been convicted and sentenced to life in gaol on far less rigorous evidence!

For directions and more information on Poppet Hill in general, and slumped shafts in particular, refer to the December 2024 edition of the *Whisper* available through the Wamboin Community Association web page. \_\_\_\_\_

-To give an indication of scale, the two upright sticks in the centre of the slumped shaft in the pic above are my running poles, about a metre long.

-George Forrester, the two consortia and early results: Local and District News - Discover of a rich copper lode, Queanbeyan Age, 25 July 1872. <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/30583143>

-George Forrester's address: Local Intelligence - Police Court, Queanbeyan Age, 13 February 1874.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/30595355>

-Poppet Hill location: To the Editor - Mining, Queanbeyan Age, 8 May 1873.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/30594217>

-James Cooper's property: The Roads Of Wamboin, Part 9: Cooper Road, Denley Drive, Gallagher Crescent & Mcenally Place. [https://wamboincommunity.asn.au/thewhisper/content/support/archives/2020/2012 Whisper.pdf](https://wamboincommunity.asn.au/thewhisper/content/support/archives/2020/2012%20Whisper.pdf)

-Wright and Cartwright's involvement in Macs Reef mining: James McDonald, Canberra III Pastoral Plutocracy (1862-1906), Sorley Boy, Melbourne, 2025.

-Wright and Cartwright as JPs: Queanbeyan Police, Queanbeyan Age, 2 October 1878.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/30674245>

-Second report on progress of the mine: Mining in the Queanbeyan District, Queanbeyan Age, 5 September 1872.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/30583281>

-Mine restarted with professional mine manager engaged: Queanbeyan, The Manaro Mercury and Cooma and Bombala Advertiser, 10 May 1873. <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/114391909>

-Mine still inoperative in 1874: Mining Matters, Queanbeyan Age, 6 February 1874.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/30595308>

-Poppet Hill Trig and Name: Poppet Trig: Museums of History NSW, NRS-13859-1051-4-BS\_50\_3069 | PLAN shewing Connections from Poppet Trigonometrical Station to the North Eastern corner of Portion 9 of 50 acres, Parish of Amungula, and to the South Western corner of Portion of 640 acres, Parish of Wamboin COUNTY OF MURRAY. 13 September 1876.

-Poppet Head: Definition of 'poppet head', Collins Dictionary, <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/poppet-head>

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## European Wasps -- Discovering Nests and Eradication

Our property in Bywong, like many others in the district is home to the introduced European wasp. They tend to appear mainly in autumn and although not generally aggressive they can be quite annoying when trying to enjoy outdoor dining and recreation. After discovering a ground nest recently and with no provocation, my wife was bitten on the finger by a single wasp. She found the bite very painful and the pain recurred for over an hour. Her whole knuckle became swollen and it took a week for it to settle down. So don't be complacent around these guys, as a bite on the face or neck could be extremely dangerous.

As we walk around our 40 acre property we are constantly on the lookout for nests. With careful observation they can often be discovered in the early morning and late afternoon light. We have also found a pair of binoculars to be especially useful for spotting wasps entering and exiting their nest. Nests are primarily in the ground but can also be found in tree hollows and decaying logs or wherever they can find a suitable cavity in which to construct their nests and lay their eggs.



Treating a nest can be expensive if done by a professional pest controller however we have found a simple and relatively safe method of eradicating these introduced pests. We have found "Richgro" Ant and Wasp killer dust, readily available at Bunnings, to be very effective and kills on contact. The dust also appears to kill any returning wasps that weren't present at the time of the initial treatment. By following the directions on the squeeze bottle a minimal amount of dust needs to be puffed into any nest entrance holes, taking the following precautions;

- Treat nests at night when most insects will be in residence and sluggish
- wear protective clothing to cover all exposed skin
- retreat promptly after dusting is complete

A few other handy hints are;

Snip the end of the nozzle off to enlarge the opening on the squeeze bottle to enable the dust to flow out more easily.

For large nest holes I sometimes decant the dust into a small tin and then upend the tin over the entrance hole and leave it in place until the next day when I check that the dust has done its job.

An extra precaution we did use initially was to cover the torch in red cellophane but we have now found this unnecessary.

This article is a guide only and if in doubt about treating wasps please contact a professional pest exterminator. - **By Murray Goodridge , Bywong**



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## Wamboin Golf – April 2025

Sunday 6 April 2025. Seventeen golfers remembered to adjust their watches/clocks for the end of daylight savings and eagerly registered to participate in the annual Mini-Masters event sponsored by the Wamboin Community Association. We thank them for the refreshments and prizes. The course was the complete opposite of the saturated 2024 course given the hotter, drier beginning to the year. Plenty of bounce of the ground as well as the usual bounce off trees, rocks and animal droppings. The competition was played using the two holes at the Hall and four of the holes at the Mason's. After receiving some basic instructions from the starter, all players headed out for their first six holes and returned to submit scores. A rest break, possibly with refreshments took place before players returned to the course for the next six holes.

To complete the days competition, a series of novelty shots were attempted from the tee in Firefighters Grove. Players were given three shots from each of three different 'tees' with the aim of getting nearest to the pin. The first of these tees was from a sloping plank angled down from a 300mm log to create an uneven stance. The second was a tyre on which players had to stand (although some whose balance was 'shot' did need to stand in the tyre) and take their shots and the third a wooden box filled with sand to create an above ground bunker to hit out of.

A number of shots did little to create work for the official measurer, as they either dribbled off the tee, went towards the fire shed or across the carpark. Thankfully no damage to adjacent people or property but plenty of dust sprayed onto those resting on the bench seat.

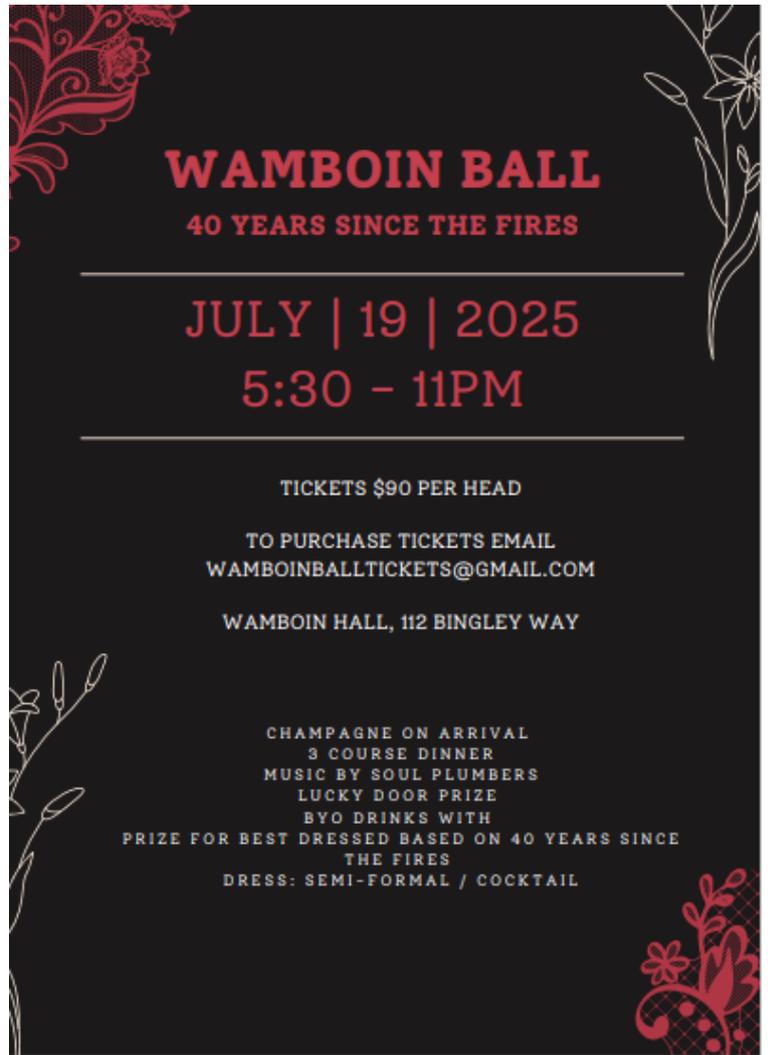
After all of the calculations were done the prizes were awarded. We welcomed John Kennedy for his first game and hope to see him become a regular. Each of the ten players making the cut were awarded a golf ball or bar credit (Ken G, Gerard R, Tim B, Rob G, Paul G, Pete H, Stephen M, Col U, Vicki S and Matt). The winner of the 2025 Mini-Masters was Ken Gordon with a score of 48 from Gerard Ryan (49).

A secondary competition was held using handicaps. This was taken out by Pete Harrison with a score of 36 (8 shots under par for the day, and not to be missed by the handicapper), from Paul Griffin (41 ocb) The novelty nearest the pin competitions were taken out by: Ramp – Ken Gordon (1.8m), Tyre – Stephen Miners (1.3m), Bunker – Ken Gordon (0.9m), Overall – Ken Gordon (10.2m). The highest score was shared by four golfers who failed to get a shot from any of the tees within 10m of the hole. (Thanks to the measurers and ball retrievers).

Next month, the competition will be held on Sunday 4 May. It is the GST trophy celebrating the approaching EOFY and is sponsored by Judith, Keith and Kathy. The competition rules will be explained at the registration desk. We already have confirmation of the increase to the 10% GST of a potential extra 10% tariff.

We hope you can join us at the community hall at 12.15pm for a 12.30pm start.

**-Ken Gordon**



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