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**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	<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>	Matt Jackson - 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:Mike_muston@gmail.com">Mike_muston@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>	Kayla May – 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>	Merle Ketley		<a href="mailto:Wonderfulwomenofwamboin@gmail.com">Wonderfulwomenofwamboin@gmail.com</a>
<b>ARF (Rescue Dogs)</b>	Lisa Whitney	0408 260 796	<a href="mailto:lisawhitney059@gmail.com">lisawhitney059@gmail.com</a>

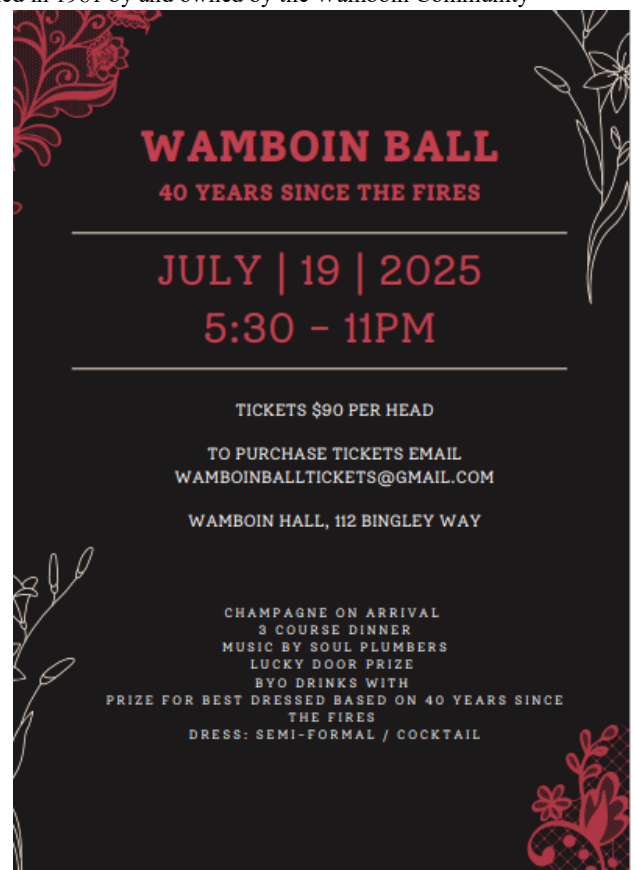
**The Wamboin Whisper:** The Whisper is a monthly community newsletter established in 1981 by and owned by the Wamboin Community Association. The Whisper is printed at Elect Printing in Fyshwick at the start of each month, excluding January. It is distributed to every letterbox in Wamboin, Bywong and 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 August 2025 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, July 27, 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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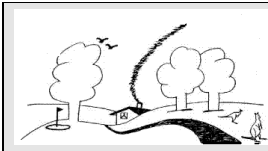
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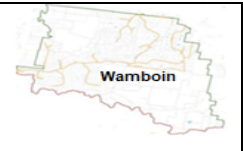
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## Wamboin Community Association President's Notes



Wow its freezing. Hope everyone is managing this cold onset to winter. Still a few items of upcoming interest.

**1. Annual Bonfire & Fireworks Night.** Yes its on again and coming soon – the annual Wamboin Bonfire & Fireworks Night. Date for the Bonfire is **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August at the oval**. Firework display provided by Fireworks Australia. Entry cost is **\$10 per family** and the food provided by the different service groups in and around Wamboin. There will be a large range of food available: soups, steak sandwiches, egg and bacon rolls, pulled pork rolls, nachos, hot dogs, baked potatoes, schnitzel chips. For those of a sweet tooth there will be cakes, slices, apple pies, hot steamed puddings, lollies and for the thirsty coffee, tea, hot chocolate, poppers, bar drinks, and gluhwein. Food and drinks available from **5:30 pm**. The Bonfire will be lit at **6:36 pm** and the fireworks commence at **7:06 pm**. **THIS IS A CASH ONLY EVENT!** There MAY be an ATM machine but any electronic funds transfer will be VERY LIMITED as the Hall just doesn't have the capacity for large volumes of electronic funds transfer. The smart thing is to bring cash from the start. It will save you time and make your evening more enjoyable. There will be ads and articles on the Bonfire/Fireworks Night further on in this edition of the Whisper.

**2. Bonfire Fuel.** We are now calling for any residents to bring fuel to build the bonfire. Suitable materials are any branches, pruning s and **small** logs. (No big logs please as they can continue burning for many days). Also no pallets or general builders waste. An article explaining what is acceptable and more importantly what is **not** is further on in this edition of the Whisper.

**3. Wamboin Markets.** It should be noted that our monthly markets have now entered their 2 month recess for the year. Markets will re-commence 20<sup>th</sup> September.

Well that's it for now. A final reminder about the Bonfire. Please be aware that while the Wamboin Community Association, Fire Brigade and Hall Management Committee are all working hard to bring this most enjoyable event about, **very occasionally** circumstances mean we have to cancel at very short notice (mostly difficult weather conditions). I hope this doesn't happen but as always safety is our first concern and our Community needs to be aware that this has always been and will always be a possibility although an unlikely one. -

-- *Jenny Richards – President.*

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Hi all,

Can anyone tell me how many bones are approximately in the human body or the due date for submissions to the Whisper?

The BCA Trivia Night last weekend was possibly the biggest one in years, with impressively high scores. By the end of the night, only 15 points separated the entire field, making it extremely competitive. The winning team, cheekily named "Bring It Back to 90," edged out the competition by just half a point. Notably, we had a "local round" and a "Wamboin Whisper" round, with Whisper Royalty team gracing us with their presence. Teams were tasked with naming streets in the area, and the "Youth Round" certainly made a difference in the scores, levelling the field. The night was filled with stiff competition and friendly banter among locals, seasoned participants, and a high performing table that claimed the Youth award. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces, including some we haven't seen for quite a while.

A massive thanks to the BCA committee for organizing the event. Special mention goes to Liz for her tremendous work on the questions and slides, Tony and Carol for their meticulous scorekeeping, and Thelma for arranging the captivating Famous Faces round. Such community events require a significant effort from the group, and their dedication is truly appreciated.

We also extend a huge shout-out to Manuka Serviced Apartments for their generous major prize of accommodation, Bendigo Bank, and The Gathering Cafe Bungendore for providing excellent competition prizes. These prizes were donated by local businesses and individuals, showing wonderful support for our events. We hope to reciprocate their generosity in the future.

Over the next few months, we are planning another community day in collaboration with the Greenways and Hall Committees. These days are perfect opportunities for locals to catch up while engaging in activities like walks or working bees. Keep an eye on Facebook and the website for updates.

Remember, community events like these play a vital role in fostering connections and building a strong, local community.

A REMINDER: The Bywong Community Association Annual General Meeting will be held on 21 August at the Bywong Community Hall on Birriwa Road. The purpose of the BCA is to support a vibrant and connected local community and environment. If you'd like to join the committee, have a say about who represents the community or have a view on what our priorities should be for the next year, please come along! **Cheers! -Justin, BCA President**

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## Classifying Wamboin's & Bywong's roads, Part 2: Wamboin's Aboriginal-sounding road names

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

In the May 2025 issue of *The Whisper*, I introduced this series on classifying Wamboin's and Bywong's roads, commencing with the roads of Bywong that have Aboriginal-sounding names. I pointed out that the commonly used dichotomy Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal (or Indigenous/non-Indigenous) warrants disaggregation. The Australian National Place Names Survey use three categories: Aboriginal, Aboriginal-derived, and Introduced (Tent 2023a,b):

*Most of the so-called 'Aboriginal' placenames in Australia have been rendered in the Latin script under English orthographical conventions, thus obfuscating their original pronunciations. Moreover, Indigenous names and words were often applied by the English to features that were not related to their original Indigenous names. Hence, we cannot label such toponyms as 'Indigenous'; rather, they should be referred to as 'Indigenous-derived' or 'Indigenous-based' toponyms* (Tent 2003b, p. 8).

This is useful as, in parts of Australia such as Wamboin and Bywong where, tragically, almost nothing is known about the languages and cultures of the traditional custodians, very few Aboriginal toponyms (placenames) still exist. The May 2025 *Whisper* article dealt with the Bywong's Aboriginal-sounding road names; this article deals with those of Wamboin.

Wamboin has 32 named roads. Six of them may be classified as Aboriginal-sounding. They are Amungula Place, Orana Drive, Warramunga Close, Weeroona Drive, Wirreanda Road, and Yuranga Drive. The origins of these names were discussed in *The Whisper* during 2020 & 2021, and other information is available at the Local History pages of the Wamboin Community Association's website <https://wamboincommunity.asn.au/localhistory/index.php?op=roads>.

My suggestion is that all six of Wamboin's Aboriginal-sounding road names can be classified as Aboriginal-derived, rather than as Aboriginal, reflecting the fact that no evidence is available to sustain an argument that, prior to European settlement of the area, Aboriginal people in what is now Wamboin used those words as local place names. That said, the toponym *Amungula Place* is different from the others in that it is likely that it, alone among the six, is derived from a *local* Aboriginal word. Although located in the parish and locality of Wamboin, the road name reflects the nearby parish of Amungula, the creek of that name, the former Amungula school, and the 'Amungula' property on the nearby Sutton Road. Its meaning is unknown, although some fanciful suggestions have been published, all without any sources being provided (McDonald 2020).

I discussed the etymology of *amungula* elsewhere (*loc. cit.*), pointing out that Aboriginal words from this part of Australia commenced with consonant sounds, almost certainly, in this case, the 'ng' sound as in the English language word 'sing'. One hopes that the current spelling is at least a rough approximation to the way the word was pronounced in our area prior to its occupation by Europeans.

*Orana Drive* is also of interest. The proper noun 'Orana' is used widely in eastern Australia and is considered by many, including some government agencies, to be an Aboriginal word from central New South Wales. However, this view is almost certainly incorrect. As Nash (2016) explains, it is a Polynesian word for 'welcome' (and its cognates) that was introduced into NSW by the early 1900s. Was it derived from Gaugin's famous 1891 painting *Ia Orana Maria* ('Hail Mary,' 'Ave Maria'), Nash wonders?

The four other Aboriginal-sounding, Aboriginal-derived, Wamboin road names have more straightforward etymologies:

- *Warramunga Close*: 'Warramunga' is an Aboriginal word widely used without reference to its source, the Warumungu people of Central Australia <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warumungu>. 'Warramunga' was the name of a property between Norton Road and the vicinity of Woolshed Lane, formerly owned by Diana and Keith Gascoine. Diana Gascoine's father served on HMAS *Warramunga (I)* and named his property after the ship; Diana and Keith followed suit. Warramunga Close, and the Warramunga Greenway, were created as part of the sub-division of their property in c. 2011.
- *Weeroona Drive*: 'Weeroona' is a word in the language of the Dja Dja Wurrung people of central Victoria, particularly the Bendigo region, probably meaning 'tranquility' or 'we rest'. This word has been widely used to name properties, businesses, etc., across the nation, since the colonial era. The road was probably named after 'Weeroona Park', a grazing property owned by John and Jessie Clark that was subdivided, and placed on the market in 1985.
- *Wirreanda Road*: an Aboriginal-derived word from South Australia (note the Hundred of Wirreanda near Hawker, SA), widely used by non-Aboriginal people for the names of businesses, homesteads, etc., presumably because of its euphonious nature.
- *Yuranga Drive*: an Aboriginal-derived word, probably from the Mildura, Vic. area, widely used by non-Aboriginal people because they like the sound of it, or like what it is alleged to mean ('extensive view'), without any connections to country nor etymology.

The next article in this series will present a classification of the remaining 26 roads of Wamboin, all 'Introduced' road names according to the Australian National Placenames Survey approach.

**References:** Note: please see *The Whisper* articles published in 2020 & 2021 for the documentary sources underpinning the information provided above: <https://wamboincommunity.asn.au/thewhisper/index.php?op=archive>.

McDonald, D 2020, 'The roads of Wamboin, part 2: Amungula Place', *The Whisper*, May 2020, p. 19, <https://www.wamboincommunity.asn.au/thewhisper/content/support/archives/2020/05%20Whisper.pdf>.

Nash, D 2016, 'Orana: an Australian welcome for a Polynesian word?', *Placenames Australia - Newsletter of the Australian National Placenames Survey*, June 2016, pp. 1, 5–8, [http://www.anps.org.au/documents/June\\_2016.pdf](http://www.anps.org.au/documents/June_2016.pdf). Tent, J 2023a, 'Indigenous or introduced?

Part I]', *Placenames Australia - Newsletter of the Australian National Placenames Survey*, September 2023, pp. 8–10, [https://placenames.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Sept\\_2023.pdf](https://placenames.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Sept_2023.pdf). Tent, J 2023b, December 2023, pp. 8–10 open access [https://placenames.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Dec\\_3.pdf](https://placenames.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Dec_3.pdf).



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## A Notice from the Forest Management unit of ACT Parks and Conservation Service

There will be upcoming Harvesting and Roadworks in operation in Kowen Forest, in the **Amungula Block**, followed by Clearfall Harvesting starting from July/August 2025. This project is anticipated to continue for a period of up to 12-months. Please organise any event or recreational activities that you are planning during the aforementioned period in other parts of the forest. **-Denise Lang**

## The Great Wamboin Curry Night ...

...will be at the Wamboin Hall on 16 August 2025. 7:00 for 7:30. All welcome. Gold coin donation requested to pay for event expenses. Make a curry and bring it. Provide a description on paper to tell others a little about your curry. Bring your own drinks, plates, cutlery, and drinking glass. All curries will go on a serving table for each person to sample. Booking essential. Bookings and all other enquiries to Dave Hubbard at [dave.hubbard@bigpond.co](mailto:dave.hubbard@bigpond.co)

## WAMBOIN PONY CLUB - MOUNTED GAMES

BY Zara Warren

WPC hosted their annual mounted games competition at Bungendore Showgrounds and what a day it was! The day was action packed with endless fun to be had throughout all the races! We were super lucky to have had the rain hold off for us as well!

MASIVE THANKS TO

- spectacular riders showing us how it's done
- Hardworking volunteers
- Everyone who make such generous donations to our raffle.

we are so grateful for all your hard work and we look forward to seeing all back again at the Zone comp held in July! 

## QPRC Mobile Library

The QPRC Mobile Library bus will be at the Wamboin Hall from 10.30-11.30am on Thursday 10 and 24 July 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. – **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. I would like to thank everyone who attended our Biggest Morning Tea on Thursday 29 May 2025. We had an amazing group of people attend and we raised \$6,725 which was donated to the Cancer Council. – **Narelle Pumphrey**

## WAMBOIN WEATHER – rainfall and temperature records

(50 years from Cooper Road) by Christine Rieber

### June Rainfall Stats

June rainfall to the 29<sup>th</sup> ..... 33.5mm  
2025 total rainfall to 29/6 ..... 285.75mm

### July Rainfall Stats

2024 July rainfall..... 25.75mm  
Wettest July..... 142mm in 1993  
Wettest July day..... 50.5mm on 10/7/91  
Driest July..... 4.5mm in 1982

### July Temperature Stats

2024 July maximum..... 15.1°C  
Hottest July day..... 18.3°C on 10/7/20  
Hottest July night..... 9°C (5 times)  
1988 (3 times), 24/7/90 & 8/7/93  
Average day (max.) temp..... 9.3°C  
Warmest July..... 1993  
Av. day temp. 10.8°C & night 5.1°C  
(highest day 14.1°C in 2023)

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

Average June rainfall..... 54.9mm  
2024 June rainfall..... 60.5mm  
2024 total rainfall to 29/6..... 448.5mm  
49yr Av. to end of June..... 330.5mm

Average July rainfall..... 50.9mm  
Average no. rain days in July..... 10.6  
Highest no. rain days..... 17 in 1980  
Lowest no. rain days. 4 in 1982 & 1994

2024 July minimum..... -3.3°C  
July 2024. Av. max 10.9°C & min 1.2°C  
Av. July temp. 5.5°C (day+night comb.)  
Coldest July day..... 1°C on 14/7/16  
Coldest July night..... -5°C (7 times)  
10/96, 12/11, 3 & 5/15, 22/17, 16 & 22/18  
Average night (min.) temp..... 1.6°C  
Coldest July..... 2015  
Av. day temp. 5.5°C & night -1.5°C



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## Unsung Heroes

It's been a long time since I wrote about our local heroes but there are still at least a couple I haven't written about yet; Lofty and Joan Mason who many in the community will know well. Lofty and Joan are 2 of the original Wamboin residents and have lived here over 40 years.

Lofty helped build the original fire station off Cooper Road and then the new fire station along with the community hall in Bingley Way. As Wamboin's population grew, he planned and helped build the meeting room, the extension to the Wamboin hall and re-roofed the toilet block. He designed the first 'Meet and Greet' package which was to welcome people to the area and hopefully introduce them to their neighbours. He was a councillor for Palerang and the President of the Wamboin Community Association for 2 terms. Not satisfied with that, Lofty planned the extension of the community grounds and graded the oval as well as organising the Wamboin stone entry sign. Obviously being bored, he then became the Wamboin RFS training officer, was the Captain for 1 year and subsequently was made a life member of the fire brigade. Lofty was one of 3 planners of the original Wamboin Golf Course and he organised and still manages the 19<sup>th</sup> hole. He has kept the oval and surrounds mown and he and Joan have provided a number of holes on their property for the Wamboin Golf Club for many years. This involves mowing the fairways, raking the 'greens' and putting out the pins every month.












Lofty upgraded The Whisper to a monthly edition and designed the masthead. There seems to be no end to the man's talents! He edited and distributed this local paper from June 1984 until June 1989. Both Lofty and Joan have served on the Wamboin Hall Management Committee for many years and have organised or helped in almost every community event held in Wamboin since they arrived including the Winter Solstice celebration, Balls at the hall and golf days. Joan is currently the Treasurer on the committee, cleans the hall and toilets weekly with another Unsung Hero – Deb Gordon, takes bookings for the hall, has helped with every clean-up day of the hall surrounds and sells sausage rolls and bacon and egg rolls at the Wamboin markets. Both have helped many people get established in Wamboin and feel part of the community. I can personally vouch for that as I was made to feel very welcome when I came here about 10 years ago.

Joan and Lofty say they have, "received more out of their activities than they have put into them" - I believe we are very lucky to have them. They are lovely, generous and caring people. Wamboin has been shaped by them and we are privileged to have them living in our community. – Vicki Still



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## An Opinion on Shooting Regulations.

As residents of a property zoned as C4 - Environmental Living, we are concerned about the impacts of kangaroo shooting that has been happening repeatedly in our area recently. It prompted me to see what I could find out about firearms regulation and licenses to harm kangaroos, as it seems reasonable that these activities are not compatible with residential areas where nature is valued.

Regarding Firearms regulation, the answers to some critical questions are answered here ->

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lc/papers/Pages/qanda-tracking-details.aspx?pk=57835>. These questions were asked in parliament in 2013, and the answers were based on the Firearms Act of 1996. From what I can find, this is still the basis of firearms regulation in NSW.

In summary, there are no minimum distances for discharging firearms on any land, rural or otherwise. We rely on shooters obtaining safety training before getting a firearms license and then conducting their shooting activities accordingly. There is no mention of neighbour's concerns, even in rural residential areas with small block sizes, who's house may be close to the shared boundary, who don't know how safe they are if they are outside when the shooting starts, and may have to deal with kangaroos which have come onto their property suffering from a non-lethal shot. Not to mention the noise.

Regarding licenses to harm kangaroos, you can obtain 3-month licenses to kill up to a certain number, determined mainly by property size. The system relies on shooters giving a valid reason to kill, keeping good records of how many they've killed, and ensuring that all kills are done humanely, which requires a high level of shooting skill. Extended suffering, caused by a non-lethal shot, for example, is an offence under animal cruelty, but relies on obtaining sufficient evidence. Regulation encourages the use of alternate non-lethal means if you need to reduce the impact of kangaroos, eg, competition for pasture, but I would be surprised if people applying for licenses had to demonstrate why other means would not be suitable. We feel there should be stronger enforcement of the existing regulations.

Another case of NIMBYism I hear you say? Maybe, and it's true that this opinion piece was prompted by recent local experience. But I believe the same arguments for change would apply to rural residential areas anywhere in NSW. Obviously, reducing unnecessary or in-humane kangaroo deaths in our area alone will not solve animal cruelty across NSW. But we, and an increasing number of others throughout NSW, choose to live in rural residential areas because we enjoy living in a safe, peaceful environment and we value nature.

There are valid reasons why a landowner may not want kangaroos on their property, especially on properties large enough to run a viable grazing business, but the impacts of shooting on small acreages surrounded by small residential blocks are likely to affect those and other nearby residents as well. We believe that firearms regulation needs to be revised to limit the impacts of shooting on residents of the growing number of small-block rural residential areas across NSW. At the very least, to introduce sensible minimum block sizes, and minimum distances from residential infrastructure, for firearm use under normal circumstances - allowed only if there is an exceptional need, such as to euthanase a suffering animal.

- David Johnson - Bywong



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## Bonfire And Fireworks Night – Bonfire Fuel Wanted

The 2025 Wamboin Bonfire and Fireworks Night is planned for Saturday the 30th of August. So why not reduce the fire hazards on your property by clearing unwanted branches, prunings and brush. Delivering suitable material to the Bonfire site at the Community Centre, Bingley Way will help make the night a memorable occasion. Please do not mix in: building waste, treated timber, old carpets, soil, metal fittings, or large green logs. It may be hard to believe but other non-burnable materials such as wire, bricks and old sheets of corrugated iron have been illegally dumped in past years. Pallets are not wanted because after they burn they leave a bed of nails, which can puncture the tyres of the clean-up tractors. Very large logs and stumps are also a problem as they smolder and smoke for many days. All of these unsuitable items have to be separated and taken away. So what should you bring? The ideal is to have a large fire that burns quickly. This calls for prunings, branches and brush compacted and stacked high. We need to stop delivery of material by about the August 24th to allow for compacting and stacking. Bonfire Night is the major, and sometimes the only, fund raising activity for our Community groups who run all the food, drink and novelty stalls. – Tim Barter 0410492750.

## What the Heck Chapter 37

Well the evening of 14 June was cold, but that didn't stop lots and lots of Sutton and district residents (plus others) joining us as finally we lit the 2025 bonfire. If you want to know how many attended then pick a number between one and one million, because that is where the figure lies, and your guess is as good as mine.

I spent the evening standing in front of a BBQ cooking sausages, steaks and onion, so did not have the opportunity to

walk around counting heads. Neither was I tempted to get down on the ground to count legs, and then divide by two. Besides, using whichever method I chose it would have had the same result as when I try to count a mob of sheep. They refuse to stand still while I am counting no matter how much I plead with them.

We sincerely thank those that helped make the evening a success, including; The Sutton Chatter Editorial Team for assistance with advertising, the RFS for fire control, the SES for lighting and power, Incline Print (High St Qbn) for signs and their free and immediate help with the date change signage, Grubbie for the hay bale seating, O'Sullivan's for rubbish removal, and members of the SRMD friends and family who gave time and effort in the set-up, pull-down and clean-up.

The incredible entertainment by the Chinese Dragon Dancers and Lion Dancers, plus the ukulele playing, and the singing, from The Shadies. Prabh and his family for the Curries, Christine and David for serving on the BBQ stall, and Ben for helping at the marshmallow pit.

Plus a massive thankyou to you, if you helped, and if I have forgotten to include you in the above script. And most importantly those of you who came and partied with us, and donated to our church hall fund, not just this year, but also previous years. This year is the icing on the cake for the hall as it is now only days away from completion. Not weeks, months or years, as has been the case for so long. So that is it for the 2025 Bonfire. Soon we will have a de-briefing then decide on what to do next year. So no information on that yet, but "*watch this space*". – Alan Rope



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## Kowen Kapers - Kowen Charcoal Kilns

By Peter Komidar

In last month's edition of the *Whisper*, we ventured down the Charcoal Kiln Rd to the entrance of the Glenburn Heritage Precinct. The road was named to commemorate the construction, during World War II, of ten charcoal kilns. The kilns themselves were located 50 m beyond the Precinct's western entrance gate.

To provide ready access to the kilns, a road was built stretching from *Kowen* Homestead diagonally down to the kiln site at Glenburn thence down to the Kings Hwy. With subsequent plantation expansion, most of the northern section of the original Charcoal Kiln Rd has been lost to pines but from the Fearnside Way intersection south, the route remains unchanged.

Charcoal kilns were established across Australia during the war years when petrol supplies were restricted. Within Kowen, each kiln had a circular concrete base about 4.5 m in diameter with brick side walls. Locally harvested yellow and red box gum wood was loaded into the kilns and kilns were sealed to constrict the supply of oxygen. The kilns were then heated activating the release of volatile compounds and leaving behind pure carbon in the form of charcoal.

The charcoal produced from the kilns was supplied as feed for charcoal burning units fitted to the rear of motor vehicles. These units generated a gas (a mix of hydrogen and carbon monoxide) that powered the engine. It is estimated that in Australia, over 50,000 motor vehicles were powered by charcoal gas during this period - including cars, trucks, buses and even farm machinery.

By 1950, petrol rationing had ended and the demand for charcoal waned. The kiln structures were subsequently dismantled with the metal kilns sold and the bricks used elsewhere. Only portions of the concrete bases and brick rubble remain, scattered around the site in mute testament to a once small but vital local industry. The road, by contrast, has become a major component of Kowen's transport infrastructure.

Directions: Directions to the western entrance of the Glenburn Precinct can be found in last month's *Whisper*, at the Wamboin Community Association's web page. From the gate follow Charcoal Kiln Rd for 50 metres to the interpretive sign on your left. Look down to observe the concrete and brick rubble where these kiln structures once stood. Picture: Charcoal Kilns at Death Valley, USA, Photo Stock



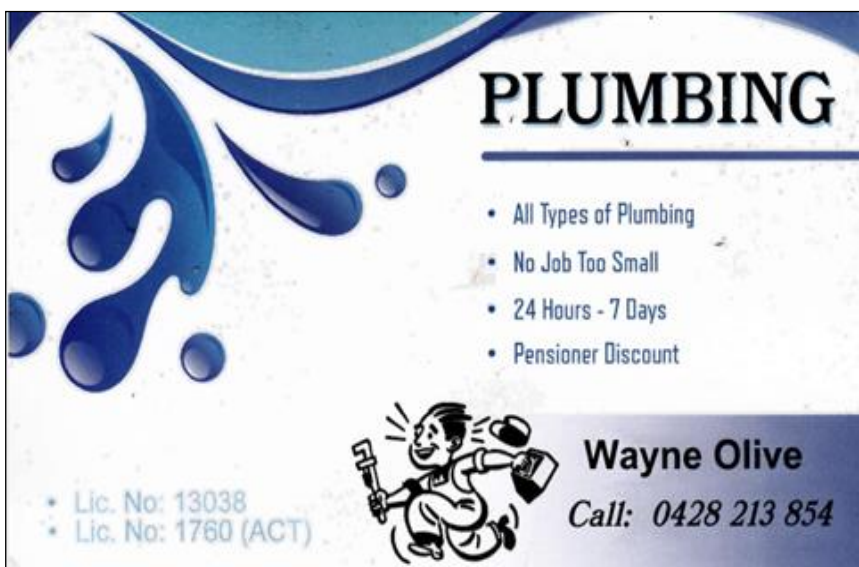
### Can You Contribute Some Words to the August Whisper for Residents of Bywong and Wamboin to Read?

Thank you to each of you who distributed batches of this *Whisper* to deliverers or delivered copies into residents' mailboxes. Without your generous donation of time, we would not have a Wamboin Whisper. Deadline for the July issue is the last Sunday of June, so that will be 7 pm on Sunday evening, July 27, with a day's grace if you need it. Contributions from you, if you are a resident of Wamboin or Bywong, are very welcome, and they are the main purpose the *Whisper*. Some guidelines that seem to me to help are:

- Written by a Bywong or Wamboin resident, with your name added as the writer, so as to let readers trust that a real person and a resident stands behind what you write
- Not printed elsewhere, so as to increase your words' specialness
- Paid for as an ad, if one effect might be an increase in your own income
- About living out here, or at least related to living out here
- Respectful of the many viewpoints and lifestyles among us

Thanks for anything you can provide.

- Ned Noel, volunteer editor on behalf of the Wamboin Community Association  
email [nednoel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au) or [whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au](mailto:whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au) or text or phone to 0409 997 082




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## July at Wamboin Playgroup

It's chilly out there, no doubt about it, but we're still having loads of fun at Wamboin Playgroup each week! The kids have been loving the crisp winter mornings, getting rugged up in their beanies and boots and making the most of the sunshine when it peeks through. With the colder weather, don't forget to bring warm clothes, a hat, a drink bottle and something to share for morning tea if you can. Playgroup runs from 10-12 every Tuesday of the NSW School Holidays. It's at the fully fenced Wamboin Playground at the Wamboin Hall on Bingley Way. All welcome.

We're also very excited to let you know that Playgroup will be running our delicious pulled pork and cake stall at the upcoming Wamboin Bonfire and Fireworks Night next month on Saturday August 30. It's a fantastic community event and a great way to support our group to raise funds and continue to keep running the playgroup free of charge for the community for another year. If you'd like to bake something or help out on the stall, please send us an email at [wamboin.playgroup@gmail.com](mailto:wamboin.playgroup@gmail.com) we'd love to have your help. Stay warm and see you soon! - **Clair Camilleri, Wamboin Playgroup Committee**



## Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For July I chose the Little Wattlebird, a vagrant bird to the region which has been recorded in Canberra for the first time in over 15 years recently: **Little Wattlebird** (*Anthochaera chrysoptera*)

Size: 26-31cm

Status: Vagrant

The Little Wattlebird is a large honeyeater and at first glance appears quite similar to the locally common and familiar Red Wattlebird. It has similar dark grey-brown plumage, with fine silvery-white streaking throughout. They have a relatively large and slightly decurved black bill and dark legs and pale tips to the wings and tail. Little Wattlebirds differ from Red Wattlebirds by being smaller (though still large for a honeyeater), having a blue (not red) eye and lacking any face wattles (a wattle-less Wattlebird!). They also have a smaller pale vent compared to the more extensive yellow-toned belly patch of Red Wattlebird, and a different call, consisting of various squeaky, raucous and grating, yet

musical notes such as "cookay-cok", "fetch the gun", or "yekkop, yekkop". Their alarm call is a harsher "chwock", or nasal "shnairt". Another unique feature of the Little Wattlebird is the rufous panels on wings, typically only seen in flight. Both sexes look the same, though immatures are duller with a brown eye. Little Wattlebirds favour patches of flowering natives, particularly Banksia, Grevillea and similar, on which they feed. They will aggressively defend their patch against other honeyeaters which they chase away. These plant species tend to grow more commonly along the coast where the Little Wattlebird typically ranges, and it is quite a rare straggler this far inland to the ACT region, with only a handful of previous records, the last in 2009. It was nice to see one that has been hanging out in the Banksia Gardens at the National Botanic Gardens in Canberra for the last few weeks. This site seems to host many of the previous local records of the species, with its large gardens full of flowering natives. The Little Wattlebird is a good species to look out for locally, though you will probably have a better chance to see it on the coast east of here where they are usually quite common.

(photo from Google Images)



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## Wamboin Golf – June

Sunday 1 June 2025. A group of 11 golfers ventured out to play in the Wamboin Golf competition sponsored this month by the Urquharts and Crafters. We thank them for the refreshments and prizes. Despite only five players in the 18 hole competition and two being sponsors and neither eligible for a prize the placings came down to one shot and a count back to finalise the results.

Paul G (85/68) took out the 18-hole event from Tim B (78/69) in second and Vicki S (89/69) in third. Six players contested the 9-hole competition with Cameron H (43/29) taking out first place and creating more work for the handicapper. Rob G (42/32) was runner up with Ken G (37/33) in third. A googly ball was awarded to Tim B for his hardly believable recollection of a ball hitting a rock (a rarity in Wamboin). The dummy initially went to Tim B for encountering yet another rock, then passed to Rob G for defacing a long drive marker before being handed to Vicki S for safe keeping. Longest drive and nearest the pin winners were: Col x3, Ken x2, Cam H, Tim B x2 and Vicki S. Ted's Jokes contained inferences to a religious figure and colourful language.



We hope you can join us at the community hall at 12.15pm on Sunday 6 July for a 12.30pm start for the competition sponsored by Vicki, Tim, Paul and Diana. Given the current weather we have been having, maybe get the snow gear out so you can stay warm and dry!! - by Ken Gordon

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## How the Whisper Gets Into Your Mailbox Each Month

Thank you, Jeanette Kraa for delivering Whispers to Brooks Road for some years now. Thank you Cheryl Le Mesurier for taking a turn at this volunteer job. 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

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Kathy Handel	Norton(Weero2Hilltop+Wimdra)	25	Phil Leeson&C Fogarty	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	27

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Lesley Page	Valley View Ln	4	Deb Gordon	Yalana East	45
Colleen Foster	BdoreRd BtwnJoRocks&NortnRd	25	Dominica Lorimer	Norton Rd – North End	44
Cassie Fisher	Clare Ln	12	Lyle Montesin	The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks	65
Jules Clancey	Norton Rd #1033-#1240	37			

204: CO-ORDINATED BY GARETH JONES Ph: 6238 1988 [givrjones@bigpond.com](mailto:givrjones@bigpond.com)

Sophie Davis	Weeroona (254 – 400)	18	Susie & Brad Edwards	Weeroona (417-512)	17
James Houlcroft	Macs Reef Rd (DenleyToGumFlt)	7	Maria Taylor	Birriwa Rd & Gum Flat Lane	19
Nora Stewart	Rovere Ln	7	Justin Jarvis 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
Merle Ketley	Snowgum Road	26	Carol&Clive Boughton	Macs Reef (BankersTo FedHwy)	34

170: CO-ORDINATED BY IAN COILLET ph 0402 027 452 [lodestar@ozemail.com.au](mailto:lodestar@ozemail.com.au)

Simon Lewis	Federal HwSvcRd	24	Louise Baldwin	Wattle Flat Rd	11
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

149: CO-ORDINATED BY Chris Fowler ph 0438 591 098 [chrisf1@pcug.org.au](mailto:chrisf1@pcug.org.au)

Chris Fowler	Millynn Rd	21	David Featherston	B'doreRd SmHill to&nclgdCrkBRd	31
Cheryl Le Mesurier	Brooks Rd	24	David & Connie Jansen	Wyoming Road	20
Kerrie Gougeon	B'dore Rd (CreekB to Fed Hwy)	33	Peter Sharp	Doust Road	20

250 CO-ORDINATED BY NED NOEL ph 0409-997-082 email [nednoel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au)

Robyn Elsom	Denley Dr (Sth End to 429)	15	JonesFmly+JulieJohnsn	Denley 191 to 414	26
Tony Bond	HoganDr/OranaDr/Yuranga Dr	52	Mary & Paulo Beneforti	Dnly Dr frm MacsReef to Birchmans	12
Janey & Paul Pedersen	BirchmansFrmDenleyUp2SaraRf	16	Helen Longdon	SarahReef&BrichmansFrnSarah2End	11
Murray Goodridge	B'dore Rd (McsRf to&nclSmrhl)	40	Diana Griffin	Majors Close	19
Diana Boswell	Donnelly Rd 29 & Grove Rd 8	36	Advertisers & Misc	Out of area advertiser mailouts & msc	23

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## Report from Our Representative in the Federal Parliament

Welcome to winter! The past few weeks have seen winter arrive in full force, with towns across the Snowy Monaro blanketed with heavy snow.

I am pleased to see work has commenced on upgrading the Macs Reef Road and Bungendore Road intersection. Thanks to \$1.9 million from the Australian Government's Black Spot Program, and delivered by the Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council, this funding will ensure safer roads in our region.

Energy prices are on everyone's minds and that's why we're providing immediate help for people doing it tough with energy bill relief and building a fairer, more affordable energy grid and market.

We're making batteries cheaper for households, small businesses and community facilities through the Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme. This Scheme will see a 30 per cent discount on the cost of a typical battery – a saving of around \$4,000. The battery will be installed at home and store power from solar panels for the household to use when needed.

The discount will be delivered through the existing Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme, and you can find more information here:

<https://cer.gov.au/schemes/renewable-energy-target/small-scale-renewable-energy-scheme>

Here are some other initiatives that have also kicked in:

- Minimum wages go up by 3.5%.
- \$10,000 apprentice incentive payments begin.
- Prac payments will make it easier to study teaching, nursing, midwifery, and social work.
- More energy bill relief is on its way.
- New parents get two extra weeks of paid parental leave.
- Superannuation will increase to a minimum of 12% for workers.

The Albanese Government has hit the ground running and Parliament will resume on 22 July 2025. I will continue to work hard to ensure the delivery of Labor's election commitments, including those committed in Eden-Monaro.

School holidays commence next week – stay warm and drive safe. If I can assist you with a federal issue, please get in touch. - **The Hon Kristy McBain**, Member for Eden-Monaro, [Kristy.McBain.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Kristy.McBain.MP@aph.gov.au)



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## Wildcare for the Queanbeyan Area

**Wildcare has released its first publicly available online training!** The first online course is loaded and ready to take off - Wombat Mange Treatment. Recently we've discussed what wombat mange is caused by and how we treat it, this course dives deeper into the symptom's wombats present, how to identify different body sores for affected wombats, and the method of treatment to recovery.

With the cooler weather, mange season is well and truly here, and the availability of the online training is timely to help in the fight against mange. Mange is a very nasty condition, caused by a tiny mite not visible to the human eye. If not treated, the wombat will die a slow painful death; this can take up to a year depending on the size and age of the wombat. The mite burrows under the wombat's skin, laying eggs, which causes great discomfort to the wombat. The wombat scratches

continuously causing open wounds, along with hair loss and thick scabs. Often the wombat appears to be deaf and blind, with scabs around the eyes and ears. The good news is mange can be treated but only if it's reported, so please report all sighting of mange affected wombats to **24/7 Wildcare Helpline on (02) 6299 1966**. Picture above left: **Wombat Mange Coordinator, Elena Guarracino, demonstrating the 'pole-and-scoop' method of treatment.**

The course was funded through the second round of the NSW Government's Curb Wombat Mange funding, and is available free of charge to the community, landholders, and the broader wildlife sector, in addition to Wildcare members.

In order to provide critical care to sick, injured and orphaned native animals across our 22,000km<sup>2</sup> service area, Wildcare relies on the generous donations from the community. These donations are crucial to continue this service.

**If you are able to support our mission, please consider donating to our public trust. Go to [wildcare.com.au](http://wildcare.com.au) for full details. Upcoming Events**

- July 12 – Basic Bird Care Course July 13 – Sutton

Markets

Picture at right above: Wildcare Queanbeyan volunteers in the Wombat Mange Treatment team out in the field installing mange treatment flaps at wombat burrows.



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## Landcare - Safer Rodent Control

With rat and mouse season upon us, it is a good time to let the community know about the serious potential consequences of using second generation anticoagulant rodenticides. Anticoagulants are used in Australia as lethal pest control methods for introduced rats and mice. They are classified as first generation or second-generation products; first-generation poisons are less toxic and require several feeding events over several days to kill an animal, whereas second generation anticoagulant poisons are much more toxic and may kill an animal after only one feeding event. These remain active in the carcass of dead animals, extending the potential for exposure to non-target species.

Dozens of Australian studies mirror international studies and evidence, which demonstrate that second generation anticoagulants within the bodies of poisoned rodents can poison native wildlife and pets. In Australia these include raptors, many reptile species, other native species that may feed on carrion, and domestic pets.

The Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority is considering regulating second generation anticoagulant rodenticides, as has already been done in the USA, EU, and Canada. It is noteworthy that while these poisons are approved for domestic and commercial use, they are not approved for use in crops in Australia. As a safe bet avoid all products with the ingredients: brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difethialone, difenacoum or flocoumafen. Alternative control options include live traps, lures, and rodent-proofing measures. Use rodent proofing materials like wire mesh on chook pens and pet feeding areas. Keep your yard free of food waste to avoid attracting rodents. Classic snap-trap mousetraps, live traps or other mechanical mouse traps remain one of the best ways to control pest rodents, and are widely available. Use these away from where they can be accessed by wildlife (e.g. indoors).

As a last resort, use rodenticides that contain non-anticoagulant active ingredients, such as those that target rodent gut anatomy. BirdLife Australia provides more details on control options that are less likely to impact non target species: [What to buy and avoid: managing pest rodents at home without SGARs — Act for Birds](#) If you do use rodenticides, ensure carcasses are promptly removed and deeply buried, to avoid impacts to non-target species. – **Leanne Brown**



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## The Wonderful Women of Wamboin (WWOW)

The Wonderful Women of Wamboin meet between 10:00 am to 12:00 noon on Mondays at the Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way, Wamboin. We are a social group for women in Wamboin and the surrounding rural areas of Bywong, Sutton, Bungendore and Gundaroo. Women in Queanbeyan and ACT are also welcome to come along. We meet up for two hours for a chat, coffee/tea and if you craft bring that along as well, if you don't that's ok too. Sometimes someone brings a baked cake or biscuits, which is always an unexpected treat. We share interesting stories, discuss news and anything really. The group is wide ranging with multi-age attendees and different life experiences. It is a very relaxed and informal catch up, plus a great way to make new connections in our rural community. We have a facebook page where we post updates on achievements of our members and community happenings our group participates in or organises. <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559480500285> You are welcome to join us regularly or occasionally whatever is convenient. Bring \$2 to cover hall hire. **Contact: Merle on 0404 0833 225 (please leave a message)**

## 40 Years Since The Fires

By Trent Abel

This year is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the last significant fire that came through Wamboin on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 1985. At the time of the 85 fire, I was a member of the ACT Urban Fire Brigade and the local Wamboin volunteer brigade, which had been in existence for a bit over 3 years.

I awoke on the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March after having celebrated the birth of my twins the day before, and I remember thinking this wouldn't be a good day for a bush fire, hot and dry nor westerly wind blowing, strong but NOT EXTREME. The fire started in the vicinity of Mount Majura and was being driven in a south easterly direction. A serial arsonist was operating at the time, and it is thought he may have been the cause.

We at Wamboin were duly notified, this being due to the fact it was to our west. Pre-fire preparation began (clearing vegetation, litter, filling roof gutters, containers and buckets with water). Some of us had our own fire fighting equipment, mine being an XY Falcon Ute with a 100-gallon (450 litres) steel home heating oil tank and a Davey fire fighter pump accompanied by a mate riding shotgun in the back.

After we had completed our pre-fire preparation, some of us decided we would go the top of Wamboin hill on Norton Road to monitor the progress of the fire. As we watched, to our combined dismay, the nor west wind which had been driving the fire in a southerly direction away from us, turned to a south westerly, pushing the fire straight back towards Wamboin. While still watching we could hear the explosions, triggered by the fires heat detonating unexploded ordinance in the Majura Firing range to the west of Sutton Road.

The local brigade captain and deputies at the time would have preferred to have done a back burn from Sutton Road, but unfortunately some members of the Sutton brigade were in that area, so it was decided to relocate this back burn to Fernloff Road. The fire coming up the escarpment threw embers up to 1km, but fortunately we managed to contain these. The back burn was successful for a time, but ultimately it did break through at some unknown location. Some containment was achieved by putting in a fire break with a dozer, between Canning Close and Fernloff Road. I drove the break numerous times in the ensuing days, constantly putting out re-ignition in the mulch and undergrowth. The fire was finally stopped with a 3 dozer blade wide fire break, 800 metres to the west of Weeroona Drive. Fortunately, Norton Road acted as a natural fire break, this combined with the one between Canning Close and Fernloff Road. The fire didn't impact anywhere south of Norton Road.

The containment of the fire was all achieved due to the efforts of many combatants, the Volunteer brigades, along with the ACT Urban Firies, the Airport Firies with their plane firefighting capability, civilian operators of the dozers and an interesting one where concrete trucks supplied water in their agitators, plus numerous locals.

These days from my elevated location on Poppet Road, I look back to the west where the fire came from, and I see the occasional house nestled in the highly flammable eucalyptus canopy and know there are many more houses hidden in the dense bushland. Having lived through the devastating fire of '85 and with over 40 years of firefighting experience, I find this a deeply concerning and potentially catastrophic scenario—especially if the 'right' conditions align.

The fire I've described was significant at the time, but we've now had four decades of regrowth. Thankfully, the wind and heat during that event weren't as severe as what Canberra faced in the 2003 fires. As a former volunteer and retired professional firefighter, I hope this reflection not only sheds some light on Wamboin's fire history but also highlights just how vulnerable our area remains to bushfires. I encourage you to prepare, maintain your property, and above all, ensure you have a solid fire plan in place in case history repeats itself.

The first Wamboin Ball was held in the midst of Winter in the year of 85. This year not only marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first ball but the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 85 Wamboin Fires. The proceeds of the revived Mid-Winter Wamboin Ball three years ago went to the Salvation Army as recognition of their contribution to our community during the 85 fires. To commemorate these significant events in our history this year's Wamboin Mid-Winter Ball is bushfire themed '40 Years Since the Fires'. The hall will be decorated in colours of fire, RED, YELLOW and BLACK.

Quite a number of sponsors have been bought on board to raise money for Charity, with all proceeds going to 'The Royal Flying Doctor Service' and if the last two balls are any indication, a good time should be had by all.

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## A Ballad of Wheels and Fog By Rosalie Ryan

Originally published in the “Wheels” Newsletter of the Southern Tablelands Historic Automobile Restorers Club Inc. (STHARC). She is a member of the club. Her poem is reprinted here with her permission and with the permission of Bruce Legge, the club’s president.

There was movement down in Wamboin,  
for the word had passed around  
That the wheels from every paddock soon would ride;  
And the folk from all the valleys and the hills beyond the town  
Would gather with their shining cars with pride.  
It was Saturday, the seventeenth, and the mist hung thick and grey,



As the many from the car clubs made their claim—  
Through the fog, the faithful gathered at the breaking of the day,  
For the Wheels of Wamboin called them all by name.  
They came with motors humming and with chrome that caught the light,  
From Kombi vans and Minis to the Ford from thirty-seven.

The STHARC were up early, in the half-forgotten night,  
For a prime spot on the field was what they’d given.  
There were Mustangs and a Daimler, and a Celica, proud and sleek,  
With an MGB that glittered in the dew;  
A Beetle from old Wolfsburg, and a Trabant, rare and meek,  
And more besides, with every shade and hue.  
The field it filled with engines, four hundred strong and true,  
Till the stewards had to turn the latecomers away.

But the market buzzed with laughter, and the coffee’s steam it flew,  
Through the stalls of plants and bikkies, bright array.  
For the fog that graced the morning soon surrendered to the sun,  
And the banners of the Wamboin crowd unfurled,  
As the stories of the drivers and the vehicles were spun,  
In the friendliest of corners in the world.

The children ran delighted, weaving round the wheels and wings,  
While the old folks paused, recalling days gone by.  
The chatter rose like magpies, and the pride that motoring brings  
Was reflected in each smiling passerby.  
For it’s not the cost nor rarity that sets a car apart,  
But the care bestowed, the history and the love.  
Each engine holds a memory, each polish shows the heart,  
And every driver fits the glove.  
So the Wheels of Wamboin ended, but the legend’s living still,  
And the Many from the Wamboin field will say:  
“We came with fog and friendship, with the morning crisp and chill,  
And we’ll come again another autumn day.”  
For it’s more than just the metal and the petrol left behind—  
It’s a tale of community and pride;  
And the many from Wamboin River, with their spirit intertwined,  
Will return again, together, for the ride.

\*Inspired by Banjo Paterson’s *The Man from Snowy River*

Thank you to everyone who came to Wheels of Wamboin 2025. The People’s choice winner was a 205 Ford Mustang.







**Wamboin Community  
Association Annual  
Bonfire and Fireworks  
Display  
By Fireworks Australia  
Wamboin Community  
Centre 112 Bingley Way  
Wamboin  
Saturday 30 August 2025  
Food stalls from 5.30,  
Bonfire lit at 6.36,  
Fireworks 7.06  
Family \$10**

Support local community groups including: Wamboin Community Association, Golf, Pony Club, Play Group, Church, Sutton School and Bungendore Scouts with a range of traditional stalls offering:

Gluhwein, Apple pies, Steak Sangers, Bacon & Egg Sangers, Baked Spuds, Glo Sticks Great coffee Softdrinks and other food and beverages. **PLEASE BRING CASH FOR ADMISSION AND FOOD PURCHASES, AS EFT COVERAGE MAY BE PROBLEMATIC.** Please note: No drones and by law the only fireworks allowed will be the display by FIREWORKS AUSTRALIA

### **Looking After the Wamboin Hall Grounds for All of Us**

Many thanks to the amazing people who turned up this morning when it was -7 degrees to do some work in the hall grounds. We pruned plants around and in the playground area, picked up rubbish (again!), removed broken fencing wires and pruned or removed many plants to give better sight lines into and out of the hall area. We also removed and stacked dead branches and trees which the RFS will burn in a day or so. Special thanks to our local arborist, Darren and Kayla Hurley of Hurleybird Tree Services and Kayla's mother Fiona who also came to help and who were going back this afternoon to mulch everything. If you have some trees that need removing or reducing I can highly recommend Darren.

Be assured that the very bare, open look will change over the next year as Landcare does some follow-up planting. Some natives were planted a few weeks ago and more will be done in spring. – Vicki Still

### ***Wamboin Home Produce and Craft Market***

**June Market 2025 Contact: Meriel Schultz 042 261 4304**

**Email: [lmsconsulting@bigpond.com](mailto:lmsconsulting@bigpond.com)**

The June market was our last for the season and we will have a break until we start up again on 20 September. The market was held on a super-cold morning but we squeezed everyone into the hall and had a good time! A few of us also completed a major 'stock take' of the clothing for the second hand clothing stall, keeping a range of interesting items and passing on some to Phil's Emporium at Bungendore.

Don't forget to write a story or two about your special Wamboin person or group. See attached article for more information.

Stay warm this winter and see you at the spring market!

### ***Calling All Budding Writers - by Meriel Schultz***

***Keep the stories flowing! Let's celebrate our Wamboin 'living treasures'.***

The new Wamboin Booklet is a no-name book. Some locals have suggested that a way of honouring some of our Wamboin people *by name* would also be good. **Here is your chance!** *We have Australians nominated as national living treasures so why not acknowledge our local living treasures?* Tell us a story (max 1x A4 page) about the person you wish to nominate as your *Wamboin living treasure*. **Aim for a word portrait** that is original, complimentary, funny, true! **Highlight the significant contribution** that person has made to our Wamboin community. **Add a drawing or photograph** if you wish **Open to all ages.** **If more than one story about the same person is received,** stories will be edited and combined to make up ONE composite story. **Final stories will be subject to approval** by the person selected as your '*Wamboin living treasure*'. All authors will be acknowledged. **All approved stories will be published in the Wamboin Whisper.** Expressions of interest to Meriel Schultz at [lmsconsulting@bigpond.com](mailto:lmsconsulting@bigpond.com) *Story criteria and permission to publish forms will then be provided.*

**Closing date for entries : 31 August 2025. Presentation of stories at the September Wamboin market.**