

**Wamboin Community Association  
Annual Bonfire and Fireworks Display  
Wamboin Community Centre 112 Bingley Way Wamboin  
Saturday 30 August 2025**

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

Support local community groups including: Wamboin Community Association, Golf, Pony Club, Play Group, Church, Sutton School and Bungendore Scouts with a range of traditional stalls offering: Gluhwein, Apple pies, Steak Sangers, Bacon & Egg Sangers, Baked Spuds, Glo Sticks Great coffee, soft drinks and other food and beverages and Monster Raffle.

Family \$10 and ...Please Bring Cash for admission and for Food and Drinks

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



### **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, pruning 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 smoulder 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 pruning, 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.



# The Wamboin Firefighter

FOR ALL EMERGENCY CALLS



**PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.**

## Callouts and what we have been up to.

Since the last whisper, the brigade has been busy with a medical assist, 1 x grass fire, 1 x bushfire & 1 x vehicle fire.

## Winter advice

While we are all trying to keep warm, we sometimes forget about the risks in doing so. Electric heaters can use large amounts of electricity. With that, the leads, cables and switching devices must deal with high power currents, so they can get very hot too and sometimes melt cables and plugs. Avoid overloading power boards and using extension cables.

Keep any items at least one metre from heaters. This includes furniture and curtains. Try to avoid having unattended heaters being operated in your home.

## Wood heaters, flues and chimneys.

We usually get several calls each winter associated with a chimney or flue fire. Many homeowners don't think about their fireplaces over the winter months. If you haven't had your chimney or flue cleaned recently, there may be a hidden danger lurking in the flue or even part of the heater: creosote. What is creosote? It's a dangerous byproduct that comes from burning wood and



stays in your chimney until it's removed. When you burn wood, your goal is to burn as completely as possible. However, if the airflow to your fire isn't adequate, it essentially starves the fire – leading to incomplete combustion. When the oils in the wood aren't completely burned, they off-gas as volatiles and travel up through the smoke. The smoke cools as it rises and ultimately condenses with water and other chemicals on the interior of your chimney and flue. This residue is called creosote. You might notice that there is more buildup of creosote on chimney and flue components above the roofline. Creosote accumulates more heavily at the top of a chimney, particularly near the roofline, due to a combination of factors including cooler temperatures and the condensation of water vapor. As hot flue gases exit the chimney, they cool, and the water vapor

they carry can condense on cooler surfaces, like the chimney cap and the upper sections of the flue. This condensation provides a medium for creosote particles to stick and build up. Creosote in your chimney has three different stages:


**Stage 1** – Creosote begins as a loose, flaky deposit that can be easily brushed away.

**Stage 2** – Then it turns into a tar-like deposit which can be difficult to remove, often requiring specialized brushes or scrapers.

**Stage 3** – The creosote becomes hardened and is much more difficult to remove. At this stage, it will also begin to drip like candlewax when it reaches a high enough temperature. To safely burn a fire in your home, you use a fireplace or a wood heater. These, in turn, use the flue and chimney to evacuate the heat and smoke safely out of your home. While these appliances are designed specifically for fires, they do have one side-effect: they constrain airflow. Because a fireplace or chimney can prevent adequate airflow, creosote is created and begins building up. However, this is a compounding problem. The creosote that condenses and remains on your flue slowly begins to restrict the airflow even more. As time goes on, creosote deposits cause more significant issues with incomplete combustion, leading to faster buildup of creosote. These deposits can grow to cover the inside of your chimney more quickly than you think. Even small amounts of incomplete combustion can begin this process, which means almost any home will have creosote in the chimney. If you haven't had your chimney inspected recently, you probably have some visible deposits right now! It's recommended that you clean your heater and flue at least once a year.



Till next time, stay safe! - Don Evans (Deputy Captain)

|                                   |   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Membership enquiries</b>       | Wamboinmembership@gmail.com   | <b>Great Wamboin Curry Night</b><br><b>Saturday</b><br><b>August 16</b><br><b>Wamboin Hall</b><br><b>Details Page 16</b><br> |
| <b>Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade</b> | <a href="https://wamboin.rfsa.org.au">https://wamboin.rfsa.org.au</a>                     |   |
| <b>NSW Rural Fire Service</b>     | <a href="http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au">www.rfs.nsw.gov.au</a>                                |   |
| <b>GWamboin Facebook page</b>     | <a href="https://www.facebook.com/WamboinRuralFireBrigade">Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade</a> |   |
| <b>Queanbeyan Fire Control</b>    | 6128 0600 (business hours only)   |   |



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**Wamboin Community Assn <https://wamboincommunity.org.au>**  
**Bywong Community [www.bywongcommunity.org.au](http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au)**  
**Fire Brigade <http://wamboin.rfsa.org.au>**

### 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:lrhallbywong@gmail.com">lrhallbywong@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:lisaawhitney059@gmail.com">lisaawhitney059@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 September 2025 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, August 31, 2025.** Advertising prices, per issue, based on rough fraction of the inside the margins A4 area: 1/8 \$24 1/6 29 1/4 \$35 1/3 \$44 1/2 \$70 2/3 \$97 Full Page \$140. email or phone the editor as above.

#### Young Entrepreneurs:

Rebecca Purdie – pet/horse sitting 6238 3343  
 Elly and Rex Collins house cleaning 0418 979 474  
 Kale Blundell, Fernloff Road, babysitting, 0493 556 689

**Can you write something for the September**  
**Wamboin Whisper? A story? Thoughts about**  
**something in Bywong or Wamboin? An**  
**invitation? A poem? Or draw something**  
**you've seen in our area?**

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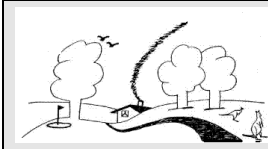
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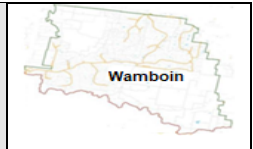
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## Wamboin Community Association

### President's Notes



Well its definitely still cold and very wet. But we hope that our annual Bonfire/Fireworks Night will brighten things up.

**1. Bonfire and Fireworks Night.** Yes its on. The Wamboin Association's annual Bonfire/Fireworks Night. Held at the Community Hall (Bingley Way) on the **30<sup>th</sup> August** this event will get underway by **5 pm**. Entry cost is **\$10 per** family a bargain at any price. There will be plenty of food stalls selling hot food, drink, sweet things, lucky dips and glo sticks. The WCA runs a Monster Raffle with many prizes. First Aid and Lost Property will be located in the smaller Meeting Room at the back of the Hall and mothers wishing to change babies can do so there also. So come and support this fabulous event but remember this is largely **A CASH ONLY EVENT!!** An ATM machine will be available but the simple fact is that the Hall simply cannot cope with the large volume of electronic transfers on the night. If you want speed, ease and enjoyment bring cash. Its simpler all round. Hope to see many of you there.

**2. Building the Bonfire.** By now hopefully many of you will have begun to take advantage of building our Bonfire with your excess branches from around your properties. At some point in August signs will go up requesting no more fuel. Please get in quick with your burnable branches so you can be part of this event. Also once the signs do go up please understand that the people in charge of the Bonfire have made the call that it has reached an optimum size and can take no more fuel safely.

**3. Committee Meeting.** Early last month the WCA held its first Committee Meeting meeting for the year after the AGM. Items discussed were grants to smaller community groups in Wamboin and of course organization of the Bonfire Night.

**Well that's it for now** but its all go for the Bonfire/Fireworks Night. Next meeting for the Wamboin Community Association is on **19<sup>th</sup> August at the Community Hall at 7:30 pm**. All welcome to attend. - *Jenny Richards – President.*



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## *Winter Herbs*

For horses that become a bit stiff in their movements when the weather turns chilly, there are several supportive approaches you can consider. Traditionally, herbs rich in essential minerals and vitamins important for joint repair and known for their gentle diuretic properties to help clear excess metabolic waste are often used. These include nettle, dandelion, celery seed, and parsley.

Alternatively, you might consider a general circulatory tonic to enhance blood flow to the tissues surrounding arthritic joints, which can help improve muscle flexibility. Herbs such as yarrow, hawthorn, rosemary, and ginkgo are commonly used for this purpose.

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### Bywong Community Association Banter

**Annual General Meeting.** After a fun trivia night and some very wet weeks, we're now gearing up for the Bywong Community Association's Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 21 August. This is your chance to get involved / help shape next year's committee, jump in to support local projects, or just see what's happening. The committee is a small, friendly bunch and we're always happy to welcome more people. Whether you want to take on a little or a lot, we'd love your help. I was about to start advertising on the black board signs... but knew that the rain was coming.

After the AGM, we'll stick around for our usual monthly meeting. We're likely to talk about another community day in October, do some work on the greenways, plan a bit of gardening, and figure out what else we want to get up to for the rest of the year. We are planning some repairs to the entry way between the Greenway and the Les Reardon Reserve. For those who know the Gate entry has become a bit of a water washout so we need some solutions and perhaps we will move the gate a little further down the hill to reduce the risk of washout again.

**Want to Join the Committee?** If you're local and want to help out, why not join the BCA committee? We meet once a month, usually on a Thursday night at the Bywong Community Hall, and plan things like the trivia night, Christmas drinks, and Car Boot Sale. This year we've also done tree planting, some improvements at the hall, and put in some work on the greenways. We've teamed up with the Greenways and Hall committees, too, building up the resources our community needs. Interested? Just reach out! You can find us on Facebook, through our website, or send us an old-school email. Got Ideas?

**If joining the committee isn't really your thing**, we'd still love to hear any ideas for things you'd like to see in Bywong. In the past, we've run skills sessions, working bees, and even given out awards to locals doing good stuff. If you have suggestions, please let us know!

**We have been applying for Grants for the Community** and are thinking of what the you the community might want. Is it a new BBQ area? Maybe a Basket ball court near the hall? Maybe you have a better idea of what might help bring the community together get your thinking hats on and send us some ideas.

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

Website: <http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BywongCommunityPlayground/>

Hope we see some of you around the traps. - **Justin Jarvis**, President of the BCA.

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### **Big Boost to Possumwood's Wildlife Learning Centre Project from the Bungendore Community Bank**

There is now a very good chance that the Possumwood Wildlife Learning Centre project could be completed before the end of the year, with a generous grant of \$88,730 from Bungendore's Community Bank.

Speaking about the project, Possumwood Director Professor Steve Garlick reminded us that one of the major lessons from the catastrophic Black Summer fires, in which an estimated three billion wild animals lost their lives, was the lack of knowledge of how to effectively respond to future environmental catastrophes. Animal welfare professionals, NGOs, emergency service personnel, wildlife agencies, volunteers, local communities, and others, needed more training and information about how to more effectively rescue, treat, and rehabilitate serious injury cases resulting from natural disasters.

Professor Garlick said "The Possumwood Wildlife charity played a significant role in rescuing, treating, and rehabilitating injured fire victims during and after Black Summer. That experience convinced us that a lot more needed to be done to help our wildlife when the next disaster occurs. We turned one of our buildings into a veterinary hospital and gained our licence from the NSW Veterinary Surgeons Board in December 2020. Today, we are helping a thousand wild animals a year in the hospital and rehabilitation centre".

To date, the learning centre project has benefited from funding support from Animals Australia and Humane World for Animals, as well as our much appreciated many small donors and contributors. The grant from the Bungendore Community Bank enables the date for completion of the learning centre to be brought substantially forward and demonstrates how the corporate world and a charity can work in ethical partnership for the benefit of our unique wildlife at a community level.

One of the first exciting initiatives for the learning centre will be holding a Future Vets Kids Camp for children aspiring to be veterinarians, who want to know more about helping wildlife, particularly in non-metropolitan areas of the country. International interest in the learning project is also being stimulated, with upcoming visits by animal professionals from overseas.





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## Gearys Gap Wamboin Landcare - Encouraging Native Grasses

Extremely resistant to drought and low temperatures, native grasses are a valuable resource which many people use for erosion control or grazing. They are generally tolerant of the acidic, low nutrient, shallow soils characteristic of our region. It is often easier to encourage existing native grasses, than to reestablish them. This article provides references to help identify local grasses and understand how to encourage them.


**Identification.** Locally our native pastures are dominated by Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda australis*), Spear grass (*Austrostipa* spp.), Wallaby Grass (*Austrodanthonia* spp.) and Snow Grass (*Poa* spp). Wallaby Grass (*Austrodanthonia* spp.) and the two common species of *Poa* spp. (*P. labillardieri* and *P. sieberiana*) can be difficult to distinguish from invasive weeds such as serrated tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*). The best preventative control is maintaining healthy, thick native pasture to avoid bare patches and out-compete weeds such as serrated tussock.

**NatureMapr** (<https://naturemapr.org/>) is an excellent database providing images and local information about plant species verified by experts, which can be helpful with difficult to identify native grass species. Consult the images and details on the website to identify species yourself or submit photos and details on the site for expert identification. When registering images that use the online identification function, be sure to follow the instructions on the website and take clear images of seeds and flowers where possible.


**Management.** Pasture growth response to grazing and fertiliser is dependent on timing and species present, so identification is important. Heavy grazing through the year combined with fertiliser generally degrades native pastures to dominance by introduced cool-season annuals. Reduced grazing pressure can move a pasture dominated by shorter-growing tufted species that are green throughout the year, towards pasture dominated by taller, more erect dry tussock species. Increasing the grazing pressure in winter and not fertilising will tend towards a warm-season perennial dominated pasture. Generally, desirable plants should not be grazed when in flower or seed. If you are unsure reach out and seek advice from experts such as our knowledgeable local Landcare members, to learn about these valuable species on your block.

**References and further reading.** Identification: <https://serratedtussock.com/identification/common-look-a-likes>  
South East Local Land Services (LLS) visit <https://tinyurl.com/3trpxtzj>. The LLS Braidwood office is the closest to Wamboin/Bywong, so it services us. NatureMapr <https://canberra.naturemapr.org/species/13178>  
Look after your natural assets <https://tinyurl.com/3v743b2z> NSW DPIRD - Native Pastures <https://tinyurl.com/ms27tfl6>  
Grasses of the NSW tablelands <https://tinyurl.com/39etxb7j> NSW DPIRD - Poas <https://tinyurl.com/bd64dwjw>  
NSW DPIRD - Kangaroo Grass <https://tinyurl.com/3suf3h54>

■ by Leanne Brown, Secretary, Gearys Gap/Wamboin Landcare



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## What the Heck Chapter 38

A long time ago during the twentieth century (well actually not that long ago for some of us old fogeys, but an eternity for younger readers), within the area now known in the Anglican Church community as the SRMD, and to others as Sutton Wamboin Bywong, two major events caused great praise and blessing, along with a sigh of relief, from many locals at the time.

First there was the construction of the replacement church building in Sutton necessitated by the previous 1907 wooden building being taken over by termites. To the best of my knowledge I have never attended worship in a termite infected building, and I am not sure that I would want to. So how keen were the 1920's parishioners to turn up knowing that at any moment during the preacher's sermon of fire and brimstone, the building could collapse on top of them. So with great fanfare and many "halleluiahs", in 1924 plans were approved for the construction of a termite proof rendered brick building. Then with even more "halleluiahs" construction occurred during 1925 and it was consecrated in March 1926.

Second there was the construction of a new church building in Wamboin due to the fact that Wamboin parishioners were fed up with having to travel to Sutton to attend church services. There was no termite problem, just the lack of public transport problem, which could not be rectified by the residents. They tried to get around this by holding a service in the WCA hall, but the large room was difficult to heat in the cold climate making worship a little challenging, so, like the earlier parishioners in Sutton, they received permission to erect a new local building. Once again, with great fanfare and "halleluiahs", construction of a new church building commenced, this time in Poppet Road. The year was 1997 and the building was consecrated in 1998.

This year being 2025, means that the Wamboin building was started 28 years ago. So what? I hear you ask. Well, true, that is of no particular interest. Though still no public transport. But look at the previous passage regarding the Sutton building. It is

100 years since it was constructed. And it is still standing, with no termite attacks, no constructional defects and having survived a bushfire. The present parishioners intend to celebrate this 100 year achievement, along with a celebration for the completion of the adjacent hall. Planning is underway for both, so keep your eyes and ears open to stay in the loop. And most importantly, read WTH39, in next month's edition. – Alan Rope



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## 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)

### QPRC Mobile Library:

The QPRC Mobile Library bus will be at the Wamboin Hall from 10.30-11.30am on Thursday 7 and 21 August 2025, and then fortnightly. I would encourage Wamboin residents to visit this wonderful resource. The staff who man the mobile mobile library are extremely helpful and can help with all enquiries. After you have visited the library drop into the Social Group and have a cuppa.

### Wamboin Thursday Social Group

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

--Narelle Pumphrey

### Updated Chronology of Wamboin and District

The eighth edition of a historical timeline of our local area, titled *A Chronology of Wamboin and District, NSW*, dated 3 July 2025, is now available at the website of the Wamboin Community Association. Visit

<https://www.wamboincommunity.asn.au/localhistory/> and navigate through the left-hand-side menus Wamboin Locality | Chronology. It commences with a synopsis for readers seeking a brief overview of the history of the area, and contains 583 chronological entries, plus appendices and suggestions for further reading. – David McDonald

### The Wonderful Women of Wamboin (WWOW)

The Wonderful Women of Wamboin meet between 10:00 am to 12:00 noon on most 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 QPRC and our fringe localities 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.

One of our WWOW members recently completed some hand knitted blankets for charities, using wool donated by a local man (from his wife's deceased estate). One of these blankets is being donated to the charity Roundabout. The charity blankets are shown in the pictures, being held by our WWOW member who knitted them and her granddaughter. If you want to learn more about what Roundabout Canberra does to support families in need in our region, here is their website <https://roundaboutcanberra.org/>. WWOW also 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: Jane on 0479 169 874



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## Kowen Kapers - Kowen Public School

Peter Komidar

Last month we visited the site of the Kowen Charcoal Kilns. Across the road, looking south you will see a lone dead pine tree. This is the last remaining tangible evidence of the school's existence. Back in the day, the school was ringed by pine trees providing protection from summer sun and winter wind. There is signage to mark the spot.

The late 1870s and 1880s were the glory days of Kowen's resident European population and as the local population increased it became obvious that a school was needed. In fact, over the years Kowen witnessed the establishment of five schools. Two in East Kowen and one each in *Murryong*, Burbong and Glenburn. We will visit these in future editions of the *Whisper*.

On 3 May 1881 Frederick Campbell then of *Yarralumla* and *Duntroon* stations, lodged an application for the establishment of a school at Kowen. The application was successful. A wooden slab building was erected and in July 1882 Kowen Provisional School was opened with 18 pupils. Under arrangements in place at the time, the locals provided the building and furniture while the NSW Government supplied the books and teacher. In August 1882 the two acre school yard was established and reserved from sale. The school was subsequently raised from Provisional to Public status in December of the same year. The school serviced the children of the local community including the Gallagher, Colverwell, Harman, Cooper and McInnes families.

The school's first teacher, Isabella O'Neil was appointed on 28 July 1882. Isabella taught at Kowen for four years before being transferred. There followed a succession of teachers as Isabella was replaced by Alice McClurg in February 1886, Fannie Smith in 1888, Nellie McManus in 1890, Jim Synott in 1897. The school closed temporarily with the departure of Synott. Then in July 1900 Caroline Quinn was transferred from Tarandale school to Kowen. She was followed by Edna Bowd who was in turn replaced in 1904 by Mr S McAlister. McAlister taught at Kowen for two years before being transferred to Captain's Flat in January 1907. In October 1906, McAlister reported that the average attendance for the September quarter was just 6.5 on an enrolment of 10. The school was formally closed later that month.

The schoolhouse, itself, was expanded in 1891 with a skillion (extension) with pit toilets added and a water tank installed in 1898. However, the utility of the slab building declined with age and in February 1901 local resident John McInnes wrote to the Minister for Works requesting the erection of a new building stating that the children had to put their overcoats on inside the school to keep dry when it rained. John's plea for a new building was unsuccessful although it did result in some further maintenance being undertaken.

Desperate to keep the school both functional and functioning, local residents held fundraising events. In 1902 a fundraising ball was held at *Glenburn* homestead in aid of the Kowen School library. The event attracted 54 participants from as far afield as Tharwa and Gundaroo. A similar event was held in July 1904 with the venue being the McInnes' *Kowen* homestead.

In the final analysis, however, the fate of the school came down to demographics, reflecting the growth and subsequent decline of the local population. As economic conditions declined at the turn of the twentieth century, the local population decreased and school attendances dropped to a point where there was less than ten pupils at which point the school was formally closed. Some classes continued to be taught in 1908, 1912 and 1913 under arrangements where the government paid a subsidy per child but the parents were responsible for providing the teacher's salary. But by 1914, with the outbreak of war and with the population continuing to decline, the school was closed forever. The schoolhouse was abandoned and over time any usable material was scavenged for use elsewhere in Glenburn.

**Directions:** Directions to the west gate of the Glenburn Heritage Precinct can be found in the June edition of the *Whisper* via the Wamboin Community Association web page. From the gate follow Charcoal Kiln Rd east for about 100 m. Here you will see the lone dead pine tree and an interpretive sign.

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## Bywong And Wamboin Greenways – An Update For Users

Do you use the local Greenways Network? Does your property abut a Greenway? Are you interested in helping to look after the Greenways? The Greenways Committee (a s.355 committee under the QPRC) will be holding its AGM at 2pm on 28 September 2025 at the Bywong Community Hall. Office bearers are appointed for two year terms and the Committee's terms of reference are set out in the *2024 Greenways Master Plan*, which can be found on the Council website (under the Environment tab at <https://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Policies-Strategies-and-Plans>) and on both the Bywong and Wamboin Community Associations' websites (<https://bywongcommunity.org.au/greenways/management-of-greenways>) (<https://wamboincommunity.asn.au/facilities/index.php?op=greenways>). A reminder about the AGM date will be posted on Wamboin and Bywong Facebook pages in early September.



The *Master Plan* includes a work program (revisited annually) with delivery relying on Council funding allocations, grants from other sources, stewardship by neighbouring landowners and voluntary work by the Greenway Committee members and other community member users. The AGM will look at the planned work program for the next 12 months, which will build on the successful completion of repairs to the badly eroded section of Greenway 6 (north of 244 Weeroona Drive) in the first



half of this year. The Greenway 6 works were co-funded by the Council and a grant from the NSW Government's *2023 Community Building Partnership*. The major earthworks were completed in March, and as there was some vegetation clearance to allow access by heavy machinery, replanting of native species was done by the Council along the Greenway from the access point at the Weeroona Drive end to the restored creek crossing. Users are encouraged to take extra care around the re-vegetated areas while the plants establish over the next few years. The support of the NSW Government and the Council in delivering these works is greatly appreciated.

Before and after photographs at Greenway 6 show the scale of the problem that needed to be fixed

- By Chris Schweizer, s.355 Greenways Committee

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Living around the bush capital, it's a frequent occurrence to come across native wildlife in our travels. Road safety around kangaroos is a serious concern, so it's important for motorists to understand the risks and take steps to reduce them.

Kangaroos are most active during dawn and dusk, their unpredictable behaviour and speed mean they can suddenly leap across roads, giving drivers little time to react. In rural areas, especially where vegetation is close to the roadside, kangaroos may be hidden until the last moment. If you travel, particularly along rural roads, there are some precautions you can take to avoid having a collision.

- Drive with caution at dawn and dusk. Avoid driving during these times and if you must drive reduce your speed and stay alert.
- Take note of wildlife signs, they are placed where wildlife crossings are common. If you see a sign, slow down and increase your awareness especially around corners and along verges.
- Stay alert, kangaroos often travel in mobs (groups), so if you spot one there is likely to be more.
- Don't swerve if a kangaroo jumps out in front of you, at high speeds you risk loss of control or rolling your vehicle. Instead, brake steadily and firmly in a straight line.

Each year, we respond to hundreds of accidents involving native animals, with kangaroos making up a vast majority of these. Accidents happen, but it's important to know what to do after the .

- Pull over safely and turn on your hazard lights.
- Check for injuries - to yourself, passengers, and from a safe distance, the animal.
- Do not approach an injured kangaroo directly. They can be dangerous when scared or hurt.
- If the kangaroo is alive and injured, or is deceased and a female, contact the **24/7 Wildcare Helpline on (02) 6299 1966** for assistance assessing the kangaroo or advice with checking the pouch.

Sharing the road with wildlife is a reality of life in Australia, and it comes with responsibility. By driving with extra caution, especially during high-risk times, you can greatly reduce the chance of a collision and keeping our kangaroos thriving. Stay alert, know what to do, and always put safety first - for yourself and the wildlife that makes Australia so unique.

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.

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**Image:** Orphaned joeys, Echo and Ned, who are being raised by one of our carers. - Alicia. for Wildcare.

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## Councillor's Report

Hi whisperers, I hope you're enjoying the final stretch of winter and staying warm and dry. In my downtime I've been trying to prepare garden beds for spring planting and a tidy up around the property which will include a drop off of wood for the bonfire!

Council has had a busy agenda lately and I've had a lot of work on representing you and our community. Council recently resolved the budget for 25/26. The budget is the result of a lot of input from community groups and members who have raised important issues they want to see council focus on. There are far too many initiatives to mention in this report though they range from investments in community the arts and recreation, roads and infrastructure, the environment and improving the way council does its business. I'm grateful to everybody who contributed either through the budget process of council or by getting in touch with me directly. I was really pleased to see a number of items that I had been advocating for included for funding in the coming year.

Over the course of the previous federal election some residents got in touch with me expressing concern about the placement and proliferation of election signage. Council currently lacks a policy which clearly articulates the rules and regulations around this issue. Based on community feedback I brought forward a notice of motion to develop a policy which could be used as a guide for community members, political candidates and parties to ensure that people are aware of their requirements and also so that we can best represent the community's expectations. I'm pleased the notice of motion was supported and that this policy will be developed.

The disability access committee, small business advisory committee and seniors advisory committee which I chair have met recently and have begun working on issues that effect many in our community. I'll be giving full updates on the work of these committees in my monthly online newsletter and on Facebook so if you're interested I'd encourage you to follow me to keep up to date with our work and the dedication of locals who contribute to our efforts.

Speaking of volunteers, I recently had the great pleasure of addressing the awards ceremony for our region's Rural Fire Service volunteers. I noted the many hats that many volunteers in our community wear and expressed deep gratitude for the work they do in keeping our communities safe. If you volunteer in our community in any capacity please know that our community values your work in making Wamboin and our surrounding region the best place to live.

That leads me to my final point, and a chance to thank Pam Muston and all those who dedicated their time to showcasing Wamboin through the Kowen Trail Run. I joined with several hundred runners up through the forest (though I ran the comparatively short track) and then enjoyed an RFS cooked BBQ breakfast back at the hall. Running that circuit gave me a chance to pause and reflect on how fortunate I am to be trusted to represent you and our part of the world.

Thanks for reading and as always, if I can be of any help, please get in touch. Cheers, **Ross Macdonald**



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| 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&BrichmansFrmSarah2End       | 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 |
| <b>TOTAL 1,364</b>   |                                 |    |                        |                                       |    |

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## Report From Our Local Federal MP

The 48th Parliament resumed last week with a diverse and renewed Labor team. It's an honour to be sworn in again as the Member for Eden-Monaro as part of a Labor Government. I look forward to continuing to work for our community as part of a government that better reflects the people it serves.

The current caucus is made up of 56% women, more young Australians, people living with disability, and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. And while some faces may have changed, our focus remains the same: easing cost of living pressures and delivering better outcomes for everyday Australians.

From July 1st a range of new support measures kicked in. From an additional round of energy bill relief to a new 30% discount on home batteries, the Albanese Government remains committed to delivering practical reforms that help with the hip pocket.

The first week of Parliament saw the introduction of new and critical legislation. We've taken an important step to strengthen child safety in early education, introducing new laws to ensure that every childcare centre across Australia meets the standards families expect and deserve.

Under these reforms, the Government will have the power to cut off federal funding to centres that repeatedly fail to meet minimum safety and care standards. This is about making sure taxpayer money is only going to providers who are doing the right thing — and putting the wellbeing of children first.

We also legislated a 20% cut to HECS-HELP debt. This is a game-changer for young people and working families right across Eden-Monaro. This reform means around 3 million Australians will see their HECS balance reduced by 20% automatically. The average graduate will see their debt slashed by more than \$5,000 — and they don't need to lift a finger. We've also raised the repayment threshold to \$67,000, easing pressure on lower- and middle-income earners and allowing people to focus on saving, starting a family, or buying a home — rather than watching their debt spiral.

I am looking forward to continuing to bring important discussions to our community and I've got one of my colleagues you can't miss coming to Queanbeyan and Goulburn on the 7th and 8th August to visit and chat about something that doesn't get enough attention — men's health.

Dan Repacholi is the Member for Hunter, five-time Olympian, Commonwealth Games gold medallist, and all-round top bloke. He is a two-metre tall, bushy bearded, fitter-and-turner with a questionable obsession with hamburgers (just check his annual calendar!).

Dan has recently been appointed Special Envoy for Men's Health, and he's on a mission to put the spotlight on the unique health challenges facing Aussie men and boys - from mental health and suicide prevention to chronic illness and getting care when needed, no matter where you live.

We will be visiting several community groups, including Karabar High School and the Queanbeyan Veterans and Families Hub. Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council is hosting a breakfast with Dan on Friday morning — if you would like to join us let me know and we will send you the details to sign up.

If I can assist you with a federal issue, please get in touch - [Kristy.mcbain.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:Kristy.mcbain.mp@aph.gov.au).



### WAMBOIN WEATHER – rainfall and temperature records

(50 years from Cooper Road) by Christine Rieber

#### July Rainfall Stats

July rainfall to the 27<sup>th</sup>..... 71.75mm  
2025 total rainfall to 27/7..... 358.5mm

#### August Rainfall Stats

2024 August rainfall..... 21.25mm  
Wettest August..... 170.5mm in 1985  
Wettest August day..... 77.5mm on 4/8/22  
Driest August..... 5.5mm in 1994

#### August Temperature Stats

2024 August maximum..... 19.7°C  
Hottest August day..... 20.5°C on 22/8/21  
Hottest August night..... 13°C on 26/8/95  
Average day (max.) temperature... 11.0°C  
Warmest August..... 2024

Av. day temp. 15.7°C & night 3.8°C  
(highest 4.5°C in 1995)

Average July rainfall..... 50.6mm  
2024 July rainfall..... 25.75mm  
2024 total rainfall to 27/7..... 477.0mm  
49yr Av. to end of July..... 381.2mm

Average August rainfall..... 55.5mm  
Average no. rain days in August.... 10.2  
Highest no. rain days 17 in 1981 & 2022  
Lowest no. rain days. 3 in 1994 & 1995

2024 August minimum..... -2.6°C  
Aug. 2024. Av. max 15.7°C & min 3.8°C  
Av. Aug. temp. 6.7°C (day+night comb.)  
Coldest August day..... 3°C on 5/8/15  
Coldest August night..... -5°C (6 times)  
18/8/10, 2014 (4 times), 4/8/15

Average night (min.) temperature.. 2.4°C  
Coldest August..... 2012  
Av. day temp. 8.0°C & night -1.0°C

We gain 1 extra hour of daylight during August (from 10.2 to 11.2 hours).

[The six coldest weeks following the winter solstice end on 2<sup>nd</sup> August



## Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For August I chose the Welcome Swallow, a common aerial bird that you may often see flying overhead.

### Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*)

Size: 15cm

Status: Common breeding resident

The Welcome Swallow is a smallish swallow, with a long forked tail. Its plumage is dark glossy blue above, with black on the wings and tail and a distinctive rusty rufous face, extending from the forehead to the upper breast, and merging into a greyish belly. Adult sexes look alike, however immature birds are duller, with a paler face and shorter tail. They are an aerial forager and as such mostly seen in their acrobatic flight, where they hawk insects, often near the ground or over water. The forked tail with a row of white spots, and dark underwing are of note when in flight. Outside of flying, they often roost on powerlines or bare branches. Welcome Swallows are often social and usually seen in pairs or flocks. They often mix with other swallows such as the Tree and Fairy Martin (in the summer months). Welcome Swallows differ from these two species by their forked tail (Martins

have a square tail) and dark rump (Martins have a white rump visible from above in flight). Their call is also quite different, a complex twittering and trilling song with harsher chirrups, with a thin single "tship" and high pitched "tswee" alarm notes also given. Due to their aerial habits, Welcome Swallows typically favour open habitats, including open woodlands, grasslands, farmland and parks, often around water. They tend to avoid densely treed areas. In summer, they build a simple mud and grass cup on a building, cliff or other overhang. Hopefully you might see some Welcome Swallows in your patch!

(Photos from Google Images)



## Monday Evening Movement in Wamboin

Balance and Play | 5:30-6:15 pm

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## Classifying Wamboin's & Bywong's roads, Part 3: their etymologies

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

In the May & July 2025 issues of *The Whisper*, I introduced a classification of Wamboin's and Bywong's roads, commencing with those that have Aboriginal-sounding names. Here I address the other roads found in Wamboin. (The Aboriginal-sounding names are repeated here, for completeness.)

Wamboin's 32 roads can be grouped into eight categories: Aboriginal: local (none); Aboriginal derived: local (1); Aboriginal derived: from elsewhere (4); Early (pre-subdivision) settlers (10); Locations/local features/properties (10); Rural-residential developers (3); Community leaders since rural-residential sub-division (2); and a residual category Other (2).

The following listing provides details. For further information, including the the documentary sources underpinning the information below, see *The Whisper* articles published in 2020 & 2021

<https://wamboincommunity.asn.au/thewhisper/index.php?op=archive>, and the local history pages at the Wamboin Community Association's website <https://wamboincommunity.asn.au/localhistory/index.php?op=roads>.

**Aboriginal: Local (0)** Sadly, none of Wamboin's roads have local Aboriginal names. This reflects the dispossession of the local Aboriginal people of their lands, not least through European-introduced communicable diseases, in the first half of the 19th century.

### **Aboriginal Derived: Local (1)**

**Amungula Place:** The road name reflects the general area in which it is located. Probably derived from a local Aboriginal word the meaning of which is lost. Various meanings are found in the literature, all of improbable historical accuracy.

### **Aboriginal Derived – From Elsewhere (4)**

**Warramunga Close:** Named after a property between Norton Road and Woolshed Lane, itself named after HMAS Warramunga I, which was named for the Warumungu people of Central Australia.

**Weeroona Drive:** From 'Weeroona Park', a grazing property owned by John and Jessie Clark. 'Weeroona' is a Dja Dja Wurrung word from central Victoria.

**Wirreanda Road:** 'Wirreanda' comes from South Australia (note the Hundred of Wirreanda near Hawker, SA), widely used by non-Aboriginal people for the names of businesses, homesteads, etc.

**Yuranga Drive:** Likely from the Mildura region of Victoria; used in business and property names by non-Aboriginal people.

### **Early (Pre-subdivision) Settlers (10)**

**Bingley Way:** Named after the Bingley family, early settlers who arrived in the 1840s.

**Birchmans Grove:** Named after Birchams Creek, derived from Stephen Burcher.

**Campbell Place:** Refers to the Campbell family of 'Duntroon' who took up land in the 1880s.

**Canning Close:** Named for James Canning, a landowner between 1916–1927.

**Cooper Road:** After James Cooper, a Queanbeyan policeman and early settler.

**Denley Drive:** John Denley and family held land near Sutton Road and Federal Highway.

**Gallagher Crescent:** Refers to Thomas Gallagher and descendants, selectors in the area.

**Hogan Drive:** W.S. Hogan bought the land in 1919–1927 from John Leahy.

**Majors Close:** The Majors family acquired land in the 1960s.

**McEnally Place:** William John McEnally discovered gold in 1865; Mac's Reef goldfield was named after him.

### **Locations/Local Features/Properties (10)**

**Clare Valley Place:** Named after the historic 'Clare' property consolidated by the Leahy family.

**Fernloff Road:** Refers to the Denley family's 'Fernloff' property, established in 1927.

**Lumley Road:** From 'Lumley' property in the Macs Reef/Donnelly Creek area.

**Merino Vale Drive:** Named after the 'Merino Vale' farm block, formerly part of 'Murryong' Station.

**Poppet Road:** Named for Poppet Hill and Poppet Trig Station.

**Reedy Creek Place:** Refers to Reedy Creek flowing near the road.

**Sarah Reef Road:** Named after a gold reef near Mac's Reef.

**Top Flat Lane:** Refers to 'Top Flat', a name used since 1865.

**Valley View Lane:** Named for its scenic views into Brooks Creek valley.

**Woolshed Lane:** Named for the historic 'Clare' woolshed near Macs Reef Road.

### **Rural-residential Developers (3)**

**Norton Road:** Refers to Norton Towers Estate Pty Ltd, developer of Canberra Country Estate in the 1970s.

**Proud Place:** Named after Proud Projects Pty Ltd, managing agents for the subdivision.

**Ryans Road:** The Ryan family created the Yalana subdivision in the 1980s.

### **Community Leaders Since Rural-Residential Era (2)**

**Finn Place:** John Finn was the first Captain of the Wamboin Bushfire Brigade (1984–1989).

**Robertson Road:** Named after David Robertson OBE, a prominent early resident and supporter of local institutions.

### **Other (2)**

**Kestral Place:** Named after the Nankeen Kestrel, but misspelled.

**Orana Drive:** A Polynesian word meaning 'be well' or 'hello', often mistakenly attributed to Aboriginal origins.

The fourth, and final, article in this series will explore Wamboin's road names, as classified above, through the lens of cultural geography, seeking to uncover insights that the naming patterns reveal about the locality's identity, history, and community values.



## Wamboin Golf – July 2025

By Ken Gordon

Sunday 6 July 2025. A group of 12 golfers ventured out to play in the Wamboin Golf competition sponsored this month by Paul and Diana. We thank them for the refreshments and prizes. Play started on what appeared to be a typical winter's day before the arrival of a storm with heavy rain and hail later in the afternoon to add to the excitement/challenge of the game.

We welcomed Matt W for his first game, Scott M on his return from North Queensland and Alex G returning after a break away (probably last played as a junior). Two players contested the 18-hole competition, played on a modified course given the tree pruning occurring at the Masons, with Glenn (76/66) taking out first place from Col (89/68). The 9-hole event was taken out by Alex (45/27) from Stephen (57/29) and Paul (41/32). No one presented a good googly ball story but given the weather everyone probably should have been awarded it for persevering despite the storm.



The dummy spit started with Deb G after complaining about her son's handicap (which given the result was probably justifiable!), before moving to Col who complained about the increased friction coefficient caused by the precipitation that built up on the oval at the hall (obviously was having a bad day!!). Rob G's comment that we didn't have to eat GF food was deemed to be a dummy spit as well. Longest drive and nearest the pin winners were: Ken (2), Alex (3), Glenn and Col. Ted's Jokes involved a deaf golfer and the use of sign language. We were also updated on the exploits of young Robert who continues to impress in the competitions he plays in.

We hope you can join us at the community hall at 12.15pm on Sunday 3 August for a 12.30pm start for the 2025 version of the Tradies competition. - **Ken Gordon**



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## Generations At Play: A Grandparents Return To Wamboin Playgroup

How did it happen?  
Suddenly, I'm in my seventies and back at Wamboin Playgroup. Thirty-five years ago, I was taking my son and daughter to playgroup. Now, my husband and I take our grandsons to the very same one. It's a beautiful full-circle moment.

We're keen to build up our numbers again. As many grandparents today play an important role in caring for their grandchildren, I thought it was important to let our community know that playgroup is very grandparent-friendly, relaxed, welcoming, and inclusive. We meet each Tuesday during the NSW school term from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. We bring some fruit for the children to share at

morning tea, while the grown-ups enjoy a cup of coffee or tea. It's wonderful to watch our little ones playing together, developing social skills and building a sense of community. We're well equipped with a wide range of toys and play equipment that encourage play at all levels and ages.

So whether you're a new mum, dad, or grandparent, come and be part of our playgroup community. This month join us at the Wamboin Fireworks and Bonfire night, we will be selling pulled pork rolls with slaw for \$10 and a selection of cakes. This is our major fundraiser and helps to keep playgroup free for everyone. – **Maryanne Ackland**

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