

**Wamboin Community Association
Annual Bonfire and Fireworks Display
Wamboin Community Centre 112 Bingley Way Wamboin
Saturday 29 August 2026
Cash Admission Fee is \$20 per Family or Carload or Individual
Food stalls from 5.30 (bring Cash) , Bonfire lit at 6.36, Fireworks 7.06**



Please bring Cash for \$20 per family or per carload or per Individual for Entry Fee and for Food and Drinks: Because at the hall the internet connection is not reliable, the Fire Brigade at the Gate and the many food stalls cannot rely on ability to accept payment in any way but Cash.

Please don't bring any more fuel, as we already have more than enough.

Monster Raffle with Great Prizes Donated by Local Businesses

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.

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

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.

COUNTRY PARK

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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Bungendore Police: 6118 1240 Ambulance Bookings: 131233
Wamboin Community Assn <https://wamboincommunity.org.au>
Bywong Community www.bywongcommunity.org.au
Fire Brigade Captain-Wamboin-Palerang-vol@rfs.nsw.gov.au
Bywong and Wamboin Facilities and Contacts

Circulation 1,371

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Bywong Hall Bookings	Bookings Officer		lrrhallbywong@gmail.com
Church - Anglican	Gai Donald - Warden	0438 400 364	peterandandrew2012@gmail.com
Community Nurse	Heather Morrison - Bungendore	6238 1333	
Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade	Matt Jackson - Captain	0409 991 340	wamboincaptain@gmail.com
Geary's Gap Pony Club	Cameron Smith	0419 449 747	
Golf	Ken Gordon	0455 839 840	ken.gordon1962@gmail.com
Injured Wildlife	Wildcare – Helpline	6299 1966	
Justice of the Peace	Andrew Stainlay – JP	0408 469 880	stains@bigpond.net.au
Justice of the Peace	Leanne (Lee) Ward – JP	0411 207 317	leannefward@gmail.com
Bee Swarm Support	Adrian Meijer	0427 101 550	adrian.meijer@gmail.com
Landcare	Kathy Handel - Treasurer	0447 289 638	khandel@bigpond.net.au
NSW SES (assist – storm/flood)	NSW Call Centre	132 500	
NSW SES Bungend. non-urgent)	After Hours Duty Officer	6238 0222	
Sutton School Playgroup	playgroup.sutton@gmail.com / Sutton Playgroup Facebook page.		
Table Tennis	Mike Muston	0406 606 238	mike_muston@gmail.com
Wamboin Community Assoc.	Jenny Richards - President	0490 020 165	president@wamboincommunity.asn.au
Wamboin-Bung. Book Group	Sally Saunders	0419 303 229	sally.saunders1@bigpond.com
Wamboin Hall Bookings	Joan Mason	6238 3258	wamboinhall@gmail.com
Wamboin Markets	Meriel Schultz	6238 3309	lmsconsulting@bigpond.com
Wamboin Play Group	Kayla May – Co-ordinator		wamboin.playgroup@gmail.com
Gearys Gap Pony Club	Kate O'Connor, President	0413 008 824	gearysgap.ponyclub@gmail.com
Wamboin Pony Club	Stacey Burgess -Contact Person	0414 672 979	wamboinpcsecretary@gmail.com
Wamboin Thurs Social Grp	Narelle Pumphrey	0438 917 206	pumpbnjc@westnet.com.au
Greenways Mgmt Commtee	Chris Schweizer - Chair	0404 823 022	beltrim1108@gmail.com
Wonderful Women of Wamboin	Merle Ketley		Wonderfulwomenofwamboin@gmail.com
Wamboin Crown Reserve	Friends of WCR	0407 760 083	friendswcr@gmail.com

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. 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 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 2026 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, August 30, 2026.** Advertising prices, per issue, based on rough fraction of the inside the margins A4 area: 1/8 \$26 1/6 32 ¼ \$40 1/3 \$54 ½ \$80 2/3 \$108 Full Page \$160. email or phone the editor as above.

Young Entrepreneurs: Rebecca Purdie – pet/horse sitting 6238 3343 Kale Blundell, Fernloff Road, babysitting, 0493 556 689

The Great Wamboin Curry Night ...

...will be at the Wamboin Hall on 15 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

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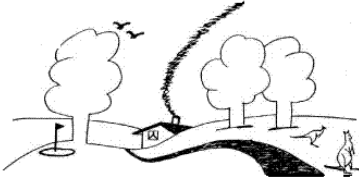
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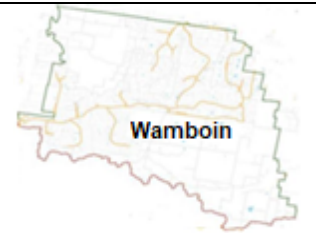
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Wamboin Community Association President's Paragraphs



It's cold 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 as you will see from the eye catching ad on the front page of the Whisper. This event will be held at the Community Hall (Bingley Way) on the **29th August** and will get underway by **5 pm**. Entry cost is **\$20** per family, carload, or individual. Costs have been steadily rising over the past 10 years and we now find we must increase our admission fee. Food stalls will be selling from **5:30 pm onwards**; the Bonfire will be lit at **6:36pm** and the fireworks are scheduled to go off at **7:06 pm**. There will be plenty of food stalls selling hot food, drink, sweet things, lucky dips and glo sticks. (See ad on front page for a more comprehensive list of what food is available). 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 may be available (we are unsure at the time this went to print) 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 and will add to the experience of a truly traditional Bonfire Night. Hope to see many of you there.

2. Building the Bonfire. By now hopefully many of you will have taken advantage of building our Bonfire with your excess branches from around your properties. Signs have now gone up requesting no more fuel. Once the signs go up please understand that the people in charge of the Bonfire (the WCA working closely with our local fire brigade captain) have made the call that it has reached an optimum size and can take no more fuel safely. Apart from providing an excellent BBQ stall on the night the fire brigade are responsible for fire safety and parking on the night and we couldn't hold the event without their active co operation.

Finally a reminder: this night is, as always, **WEATHER DEPENDENT**. I hope for an excellent night, but please remember that the weather is beyond our control. Elements of it can (unfortunately) mean that sometimes either Bonfire or Fireworks must be canceled for the safety of all concerned.

3. Committee Meeting. Last month the WCA held its first Committee Meeting meeting for the year after the AGM. Items discussed were naturally the Bonfire night (everything on track) and 2 types of grants; one type for smaller community groups in Wamboin and the other, larger, for the improvement of facilities in Wamboin. We are very grateful for Council's support in these areas and particularly grateful to our local councilor Ross McDonald for all his efforts in making sure these larger grants got past.

Well that's it for now but its all go for the Bonfire/Fireworks Night. Next meeting for the Wamboin Community Association is on **18th August at the Community Hall at 7:30 pm**. All welcome to attend. - **Jenny Richards – President**.



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Hi all,

This month, I wanted to update everyone on what the Bywong Community Association has been doing, and to start a conversation about the activities and events that matter most to our community.

As always, we have been organising our regular events, including the Trivia Night, Christmas Drinks, and the world-famous Car Boot Sale.

We have also been working closely with the Greenways Committee and other local groups through working bees and community projects. We also collaborate with the Wamboin Community Association, the RFS, and help out at local events such as the Kowen Trail Run. These partnerships help build momentum and strengthen connections across our region. This year, we are planning an additional event:

The Bywong Community Association Equinox Drinks gathering: This will be on the on 19 September at 5.00 pm and will be a great opportunity to catch up with friends, meet people you may not have seen for a while, and get to know members of the Association committee. The BCA will put on a sausage sizzle and some light refreshments. Bring a drink and join us. The evenings will be a little lighter and likely warmer by then.

Following that, our Annual General Meeting will be held on **24 September**. This is an excellent opportunity to join the committee, share your ideas, and help shape future community activities.

It doesn't take a lot of effort to be involved with the committee we have a meeting once a month and a little bit of organising before some of our regular events. We are always looking for more people to join in the fun of organising events and helping ensure our community remains active, connected, and well supported.

We would also love to hear your thoughts on what other events or activities you would like the Association to organise. In addition to the Trivia Night, Car Boot Sale, Christmas Drinks, and working bees, what else would you like to see happening in our community?

Please feel free to get in touch with your suggestions.

- Would you like to join the BCA? Email me!
- Would you like a new activity or a way to meet other locals? Email me!
- Got any good suggestions? Email me!
- Got a great joke you just need to share? Email me!!!

I look forward to seeing you at the Equinox Drinks. -Justin Jarvis, president@bywongcommunity.org.au



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The Wamboin Firefighter

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Callouts, and what we have been up to

The brigade has been busy with callouts – 1 x vehicle fire, 2 x MVA's, 1 x tree down & 1 x “unknown fire”

September 19, 2026, is Wamboin's Get Ready Weekend event

Residents of Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton Park are advised to attend this shopfront session at the Wamboin Markets, Bingley Way Wamboin, September 19, between 9am and midday. With a “Super El Nino” predicted to impact Australia from late spring, increased temperatures and lower rainfall could see bushfire risk at a higher level that we haven't seen for a number of years. Preparing your property in the six cooler months (April 1 until September 30), is the recommended period to complete removing vegetation that poses an increased risk of threat during bush fires. The GRW is an opportunity for those that aren't quite sure how to prepare their property or have a fire plan explained by one of our Community Engagement Team. Our area is one of the most “high risk areas” in the Lake George District.



Property identification & Vehicle Access. Could we find your property, or get to you if you rang 000?

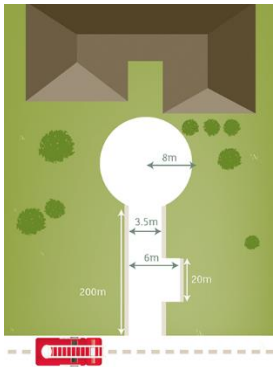
It is something that we keep reminding residents about, but only because it's a real problem in rural areas. Next time you drive on a local road, have a look at how many properties have a number you can easily see as you approach them. Then do it at night.

There aren't a lot. Ensuring a property can be identified and located easily from an approaching emergency vehicle, in either direction, day or night is a priority. The RFS or any emergency vehicle may not be familiar with your area. Every minute wasted searching for “that number” could make the difference in saving a life, or a house on fire or under threat. A motor vehicle accident



on a road, or fire on a property, is often reported via 000 from a passing motorist, who can only use the nearest address visible to them when calling in an incident. We are often faced with an address given to us with limited information, only to end up driving up and down the road searching, even getting out of the vehicle with a torch to find a number. If we must turn around, it could take us up to 5 to 15 minutes to turn our 14 tonne, 8 metre truck safely. If you don't have an easily read property number, consider getting one made by a local sign maker, and on a backing material, so you can fix it more easily to a surface. Consider a reflective number/background, (like street signs), ideally more than 75mm high numbers and even think of attaching one each side of your letterbox so approaching vehicles can see if they approach from either direction of the road. Then there is access.

We need 4 metres wide, and 4 metres high to safely get our trucks on site. Overhanging branches can damage our communication/tracking/satellite dish and radio equipment, as well as pumps and fittings on the sides of the truck. Remember, our driver can refuse to enter a property if there is a risk of damaging a vehicle or risk the rest of the crew. A vehicle with damage is of no use to us, you, or the community, and will be taken out of service if its not fully functional. An “all weather” large radius turning area in front of a house can make a big difference in being able to manage an emergency on a property, so consider that too!



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

Membership enquiries

wamboin-rfs-membership@rfs.nsw.gov.au

Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade

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

NSW Rural Fire Service

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

Wamboin Facebook page

[Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade](#)

Queanbeyan Fire Control

6128 0600 (business hours only)



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I am the owner | operator of a small independent service provider company (LET ME HELP GROUP). I am a qualified (Certificate IV in Disability) support worker with over 8 years practical experience supporting people living with disabilities, and other health issues.

I am passionate about providing high quality person centred care to individuals who are experiencing mobility, neurodevelopment, neurodivergent, and other health challenges.

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Message from our local Federal MP

July has been a busy month across Eden-Monaro, with significant progress on local projects that will benefit our growing communities for years to come.

A major milestone was reached with the official sod-turning for the new Googong Sports and Recreation Hub. This important regional facility is being delivered through a partnership between all levels of government and the local community, with \$2.5 million from the Australian Government, \$650,000 from the NSW Government and \$200,000 from the Queanbeyan Whites Rugby Union Club.

Another exciting milestone was celebrated recently when the new Bungendore High School reached its topping-out stage. It was wonderful to see Member for Monaro, Steve Whan and Bungendore High School Principal, Melissa Gibbons mark the occasion. The new school is taking shape quickly, and I look forward to seeing students from Bungendore and surrounding communities enjoying their new facilities from term one next year.

Free Tax Help Available in Queanbeyan. With tax time underway, residents earning \$70,000 or less a year with simple tax affairs can access free assistance through the Australian Taxation Office's Tax Help Program, which is being hosted through my Queanbeyan office until the end of October. ATO-trained volunteers can assist with lodging tax returns, claiming eligible refunds, amending returns and setting up myGov accounts linked to the ATO. Appointments can be made by calling (02) 6284 2442.

Every Answer Matters in the 2026 Census. Australia's next Census will be held on 11 August 2026. Conducted every five years, the Census provides valuable information that helps governments, businesses and community organisations plan services and infrastructure for local communities.

Households will begin receiving Census information from late July. Most people will complete the Census online, with paper forms and support options also available. Importantly, all personal information is protected by law and kept strictly confidential. For more information visit <https://info.census.abs.gov.au>

As always, if I can assist with a federal government matter, please contact my office on 6284 2442 or by email at Kristy.McBain.MP@aph.gov.au.



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Art and Photography Exhibition - At the Wamboin Markets

By Meriel Sxhultz

We will hold an exhibition of local art and photography at the market on **17 October**. This is part of the QPRC Arts Trail. See flyer below. All ages are welcome to display their talent.

Kids - you may like to draw, paint, photograph - or perhaps make up a collage - that shows 'Growing up in Wamboin'?

Adults - pick your theme and medium!

How many can I display? Max of three items per person.

Does it cost? No this is a community event

How will they be displayed? We will display items around the walls and on dividers provided to us by Bendigo Bank. If you would like to sell your work it would be good if you could be there on the day. If that's not possible we can put your name and phone contact on the items and interested parties can follow up with you directly.

Delivery and Pick up

All items for display must be delivered to the Wamboin Community Hall by 3pm Friday 16th. All items must be removed from the hall at the end of the market (ie 12-1pm Saturday 17th)



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Council located outside

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Daffodils are \$15 a bunch. I will
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official page is live and you can find me
at Cancer Council ACT, Bungendore

Daffodil Day. On behalf of ACT Cancer Council I thank you from the bottom of my heart in advance for your support.

Cheers, , **Pauline Segeri**

WAMBOIN WEATHER – rainfall and temperature records (51 years from Cooper Road) by Christine Rieber

July Rainfall Stats		Average July rainfall 51.1mm
July rainfall to the 26 th 42.5mm		2025 July rainfall..... 74.0mm
2026 total rainfall to 26/7..... 391.0mm		2025 total rainfall to 26/7..... 358.5mm
		50yr Av. to end of July..... 380.8mm
August Rainfall Stats		
2025 August rainfall..... 42.25mm		Average August rainfall..... 55.2mm
Wettest August..... 170.5mm in 1985		Average no. rain days in August..... 10.2
Wettest August day..... 77.5mm on 4/8/22		Highest no. rain days 17 in 1981 & 2022
Driest August..... 5.5mm in 1994		Lowest no. rain days. 3 in 1994 & 1995
August Temperature Stats		
2025 August minimum..... -3.3°C		2025 August minimum..... -3.3°C
2025 August maximum..... 20.4°C		Aug. 2025. Av. max 14.2°C & min 2.7°C
Hottest August day..... 20.5°C (twice) on 22/8/21 and 25/8/25		Av. Aug. temp. 6.7°C (day+night comb.)
Hottest August night..... 13°C on 26/8/95		Coldest August day..... 3°C on 5/8/15
Average day (max.) temperature... 11.1°C		Coldest August night..... -5°C (6 times) 18/8/10, 2014 (4 times), 4/8/15
Warmest August..... 2024		Average night (min.) temperature.. 2.4°C
Av. day temp. 15.7°C & night 3.8°C (highest 4.5°C in 1995)		Coldest August..... 2012
		Av. day temp. 8.0°C & night -1.0°C

In July 2026, we had the equal hottest July night with 9°C, and the hottest July day
with 19.5°C which was more than 1°C above the previous hottest day.

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 2nd August



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Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For August, I chose the Nankeen Kestrel, one of our most common raptors.

Nankeen Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*)

Size: 30-35cm (wingspan 80cm)

Status: Common resident

The Nankeen Kestrel is a small member of the Falcon family, and the only Kestrel found in Australia. They are our smallest diurnal raptor, mostly eating insects, supplemented by some small mammals, reptiles and birds. They are pale rufous on the upperparts, with black speckling and black flight feathers, and whitish underparts with darker streaking. The face has a dark "teardrop" through the eye, and a yellow eye-ring and cere. The legs are yellow, and the tail has a bold black subterminal band which is obvious in flight. The head and tail are grey in the male, and rufous in the female. Younger birds resemble females, with more dark mottling. Their name Nankeen is an infrequently used word, that originates from the colour of a traditional Chinese fabric that was a similar mustard-brown colour. Kestrels usually occur by themselves or in pairs, flying low over open areas where they feed. They often drift in the wind, flapping regularly, and stopping to hover motionless when hunting, sometimes with their tail fanned, then dropping into the grass onto their prey. They rarely fly high up or soar, unlike many other raptors. In flight the dark tail band and flight feathers, and pale underparts and underwings are distinctive. The Brown Falcon can look similar in some morphs, but is substantially larger and heavier, is always a browner shade than rufous, lacks the yellow cere, eye-ring and legs, and the dark tail band, and flies sloppily on upswapt wings, occasionally hovering clumsily. The only other raptor that hovers in the same motionless manner as the Kestrel is the Black-shouldered Kite, which is pale grey-white overall with extensive black wingtips. Kestrels have a shrill, rapid "kree-kree-kree" call, which is often given when they are around each other. They are usually found in open areas such as grassland, farmland and plains, avoiding densely vegetated and forested areas. Whilst always around and usually common, their numbers are prone to some fluctuations based on food availability both locally and elsewhere. Make sure to keep an eye out for this charismatic bird in your local open spaces. (Photo from Google Images)

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How the Whisper Gets Into Your Mailbox Each Month

Without the month by month donation of time by these 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 respect the residents listed below, as they do what they do in order to make this place a little bit friendlier and more sociable. Note also that 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 someone else in Bywong or Wamboin took the time to create it. – Ned Noel, volunteer editor.

174 CO-ORDINATED BY CHRISTINE REIBER: ph 400 976 596

Fay Kelly	Norton West Area from Cmpbl Pl	20	Christine Rieber	Cooper Rd	27
Dave Power	Fernloff Rd	34	Vicki Still	Canning Cl	15
Andrea Sadow	Poppet Rd	32	Alan Rope	Sutton Rd	47

184: CO-ORDINATED BY KATHY HANDEL: ph 0447 289 638 khandel@bigpond.net.au

Joan Mason	Bingley Way	44	Maryanne Mengelkamp	Merino Vale Dr	19
Sue Ward	Norton Rd (Bingley to Weeroona)	32	Anne Gardner	Weeroona Dr (Norton to Majors)	32
Kathy Handel	Norton(Weero2Hilltop+wWrmdra)	21	Phil Leeson&C Fogarty	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	27
Alison Evans	East Wirreanda	9			

124: CO-ORDINATED BY RICHARD KREGE: r_krege@iimetro.com.au

Deb Gordon	871 – 1023 Norton	40	Lesley Page	Valley View Ln	5
Jules Clancey	1115 – 1240 Norton Rd	35	Dominica Lorimer	1241 to North End of Norton Rd	44

103 CO-ORDINATED BY BRYAN CLARK: bryantclark@bigponmd.com

Bryan Clark	Clare Ln	13	Colleen Foster	BdoreRd BtwnJoRocks&NortnRd	25
Lyle Montesin	The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks	67			

211: CO-ORDINATED BY GARETH JONES Ph: 6238 1988 givrjones@bigpond.com

Sophie Davis	Weeroona (254 – 400)	18	Rachel Palmer	Weeroona (417-512)	19
James Houlcroft	Macs Reef Rd (DenleyToGumFlt)	7	Maria Taylor	Birriwa Rd & Gum Flat Lane	19
Chelsea Moore	Rovere Ln	8	Justin Jarvis Smith	Macs Reef Birriwa to Harriott	14
Megan Wallace	Harriott Rd	28	Barbera Wilkins	MacsReef 670,622,618,568,566	5
Georgina Goonan	Newington Rd	28	Darrin Lincoln	MacsReef 538,565,587,623,625,649	6
Merle Ketley	Snowgum Road	25	Carol&Clive Boughton	Macs Reef (BankersTo FedHwy)	34

172: CO-ORDINATED BY IAN COILLET ph 0402 027 452 lodestar@ozemail.com.au

Simon Lewis	Federal HwSvRd	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	57	Russell Ball	Macs Reef – Denley Dr to B'doreRd	26

150: CO-ORDINATED BY Chris Fowler ph 0438 591 098 chrstfl@pcug.org.au

Chris Fowler	Millynn Rd	21	David Featherston	B'doreRd SmHill to&nclldgCrkBRd	31
Cheryl Le Mesurier	Brooks Rd	25	David & Connie Jansen	Wyoming Road	20
Kerrie Gougeon	B'dore Rd (CreekB to Fed Hwy)	33	Peter Sharp	Doust Road	20

253 CO-ORDINATED BY NED NOEL ph 0409-997-082 email nednoel@optusnet.com.au

Robyn Elsom	Denley Dr (Sth End to 429)	17	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	12
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
Nina Kolleth	Kestral Place	8			

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Wamboin Hall Management Committee

Hi everyone. Three intrepid volunteers worked at the Wamboin hall on a cold day in July to remove dead trees and branches left after the working bee we had in June. We didn't get everything done so we are sprucing up the Wamboin Hall surrounds on Sunday the 9th of August from 9.00 am to about 11.00 am. This will involve planting, chain sawing and pruning with some whipper-snipping around the edge of the oval and under the trees. Please bring what you can of the following: a trailer, chain saw, pruning implements and whipper-snipper and the appropriate safety gear. The plan is to do some planting, remove a few dead trees that we didn't get to in June, remove some lower branches of the Chinese elms, clean up the rubbish

around the bins (again!) and add our prunings to the bonfire pile. If we get some mulch in time we will also move that to around the plants. Morning tea will be provided to finish the session. Thanks very much and see you there!

-Vicki Still 0404

013 898 or
vickistillnow@gmail.com
 (On behalf of the Wamboin Hall Management Committee)

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Wamboin Thursday Social Drop In Group

The Thursday Social Drop In Group has now been operating for 10 years. In 2015 an application for funding was developed and in 2016 was approved by Queanbeyan City Council (now Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council). The aim of setting up the group was to provide a meeting place for the community to get together during the day. The group has continued to operate for these years, with a brief interruption caused by COVID. A celebration of the event will occur in October 2026 – more information to come. The Thursday Social Group meets every Thursday morning from 10 – 12 noon at the Wamboin Hall. The Social Group provides a wonderful opportunity for people to come along for a chat, a cup of coffee/tea and a game of rummykub, scrabble, Mexican trains or mahjong. If you don't want to play a game, just come for a chat. We would love to see you there. If you want to have a chat about the group, please give me a call on 0438 917206 or email pumpbnjc@westnet.com.au

- Narelle Pumphrey, Convenor

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council Mobile Library Service

This wonderful service visits Wamboin Hall every second Thursday. The mobile library contains a wide selection of materials for all age groups. You are able to reserve items from Bungendore, Braidwood and Queanbeyan libraries and collect these from the mobile library when it visits. Printing and photocopying facilities are also available on the bus. This is a great community resource and I would encourage all residents to support the service. The next visits for the Library at Wamboin are scheduled for Thursdays 13 and 27 August 2026 (10.30-11.30am)

- Regards, Narelle Pumphrey



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Wamboin Golf - July

Sunday 5 July 2026. Twelve Wamboin golfers ventured on course to compete in the Ted Evans Memorial GST competition. The sponsors for the month were Kathy and Keith (with some assistance in the kitchen from Andy – maybe feeling like he needed to practice whilst his own kitchen is out of action). We thank Rob G for taking on the role of captain whilst Ken and Deb were staying warm in QLD. Typically this competition involves pairs of golfers participating in an



American Twosomes. To assist players understand the complexities of the competition rules were explained and a rule sheet was provided for ongoing support, with interpretations open to each team! To add further intrigue to the scoring system, an additional tariff may have been applied to team handicaps, with the implementation of the tariff to be

determined by the handicapper! Apparently the computer trying to sort out the results even got confused.

Phil Snare joined us for a game this month and the weather gods were kind with dry skies, although the ground underfoot was damp in places. The googly ball was presented to Vicki for another of her maybe not so coincidental rock rebounding episodes (must surely be practicing at home!). The spit the dummy was awarded initially to Lisa W who initially complained about her handicap. It didn't travel far when passed to John W who request a VAR for the scoring (as if even a VAR could understand the system). Apparently a miscalculation of the GST could have been the culprit. Good thing we aren't in Canada or we would also have to add the VAT. The meat tray was won by Col P, but apparently was still in Marylou's fridge in case it headed home for Sunday dinner. The nine-hole competition was taken out by Pete, Steve and Phil (30.43) from Lisa and John (35.03) The eighteen-hole competition was taken out by Tim, Vicki and David (60.23) from Paul and Scott (63.0) and Glenn and Col (67.03).

We hope you can join us at the community hall at 12.15pm on Sunday, 2 August for a 12.30pm start.

– Ken Gordon



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Twilight Walk Report - Friends of Wamboin Crown Reserve

On a chilly Saturday evening on 27 June, a group of intrepid explorers gathered at the Wamboin Community Hall, then carpooled to the Wamboin Crown Reserve. Once there, we set off on the Saddle trail and then followed the winding Copper Mine track, carefully navigating its exposed rocks and roots while the sun was still shining. We paused briefly at one of the two shaft sites of the old Gundaroo Copper Mine before climbing Poppet Hill from the north. From the top of Poppet Hill, we headed west for a few hundred metres to the landing where we could watch the sun set over the Brindabellas. We enjoyed hot chocolate, tea and biscuits as the day turned to dusk and the Canberra lights began to twinkle. We even witnessed a military flyover as three Black Hawk helicopters flew low over Kowen, with the third one actually lower than we were! As night fell, we made our way back along the Fenceline and Saddle trails and back to our cars. But not before we spot-lighted a lovely scene of two young possums snuggling together high in a tree branch. Once we were safely back at our cars, Jenny asked if anyone would like to go back to Poppet to see the fireworks over Canberra. The response was a unanimous yes! So we've chalked that one up on the Friends of Wamboin Crown Reserve whiteboard. Stay tuned. – **Peter Komidar**



Wildcare

Wombats right across the Wildcare region are susceptible to a highly contagious condition that can cause a slow and painful death to affected wombats if left untreated - mange. The condition is caused by a mite which burrows into the skin, causing intense itching and skin irritation, resulting in open wounds, infection, dehydration, loss of body condition, fly strike in summer and hypothermia and pneumonia in winter.

Mange can spread rapidly through wombat populations. Unfortunately, due to their nocturnal and solitary nature, early signs of mange often go unnoticed. However, wombats with mange are often seen during the daylight hours in winter, and this is when they are noticed and reported to Wildcare Queanbeyan.

The good news is that mange doesn't have to be a death sentence for our local wombats. The Wildcare Wombat Mange Treatment team can treat mange-affected wombats safely and successfully in their natural environment, with simple and effective treatment methods, using a direct treatment if a wombat can be approached within two metres and indirect method via a burrow treatment device over the wombat burrow.



Wildcare Queanbeyan is keen to raise awareness about mange in the local community to encourage reporting and involve community members with treatment. If you would like Wildcare to conduct a mange presentation in your local area, community centre or school, or would like to get involved with mange treatment, contact Wildcare's Wombat Mange coordinator, Elena on 0427 853 533 or email mange@wildcare.com.au.

If you see a wombat with mange, please contact the 24/7 Wildcare Helpline on 6299 1966.

Wildcare Queanbeyan is run entirely by volunteers and funded by generous donations from the community. Vet bills, supplies, medication and petrol are all funded by our volunteers and these donations. We rescue, raise, rehabilitate and release sick, injured and orphaned native animals throughout the Wildcare service area of over 22,000km² in

south-eastern NSW. If you are able to support our mission, please consider donating to our public trust. Go to wildcare.com.au for full details.

Picture: Wombat with mange before treatment. – **Krystal Hemsworth**



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What the Heck Chapter 48

Part of the challenge of being a pastor, or church Warden, or a member of the congregation, is the need to maintain both the building and grounds to an acceptable standard for ourselves and for the neighbourhood. We are lucky at Wamboin because Meriel cannot see the grounds from her house next door, so she does not complain (well not out loud at least), though we regularly say that we need to have a yard tidy-up. But saying it seems to be all that happens.

However there is the popular saying "good things come to those who wait" which is not actually a direct quote in the Bible, but it closely matches verses like Lamentations 3:25, Psalm 27:14, and Isaiah 40:31 which talk about waiting for the Lord. Maybe the Lord will be a gardener when he arrives, even though he was a carpenter last time. But I won't hold my breath waiting to find out. Time will tell. Maybe in the Spring some of us may get the inclination to do something.

At Sutton it is a little different. There are a few houses that offer the residents a direct view of the grounds, and I apologise to them if we have not provided a country-style view. We are now actively pushing to have the long proposed remembrance garden designed and installed, which will give those long suffering residents of Middle Street something pleasant to look at from their front windows, providing the Council mow the grass on the verges.

The idea is for a memorial garden which would have a paved area, a small stone wall which would allow for plaques, a few roses, and a seat for reflection. The location is just to the east of the small gate entrance at the corner of Middle and Camp Streets. Initially it will be small, just a few plaques and seating, but could be enlarged at a later date, should the need arise. There is a nice little hollow with a few established shade trees and far enough away from the main road to allow blanking out the traffic noise, a bit.

The only problem with these plans is that this will create the same situation as we have at Wamboin. More gardening work! But we can; "Cross that bridge when we come to it".

If you are part of a long-term Sutton resident family, particularly one with connections to the church over the last 100 years, and would be interested in having a plaque in the wall, please drop us a line at 'peterandandrew2012@gmail.com' and we will keep you informed of progress. If any would be prepared to contribute financially to the construction we probably would not say 'no thank you'. – **Alan Rope**



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Kowen Kapers - Dirty Swamp Mine/Jadrick's Mine

Peter Komidar - Wamboin

From *Collier's* Homestead, follow the mown pathway east until it joins a forestry road (Keeffe's Rd), turn left and follow the road for a further 250 metres. Just off the road, you'll see a copse of Eucalypts off to the left. This is the site of yet another copper mine.

In his 2007 report on Kowen's Glenburn Heritage Precinct, Colin McAlister (pp 24-25) states, "A couple of round depressions (slumped shafts?) about 2 m across and small grey stone tailings that cover an area about 15 m by 10 m and run down to the creek are all that remain of the Kowen copper mine. Very little is known about the mine. The only information that I have been able to find (Bulbeck and Boot, 1990, p 38) is that it operated in the late 1880s". Thanks to the magic of Trove, it is now possible to fill in some of the gaps relating to this mine.

Rewind a year to 1872, and wealthy landholder, George Campbell, offers a reward for the discovery of copper ore found on his property: £25 on confirming the lode and 300 shares if a company is formed, or £300 if no company is formed. The reward was claimed by James Kinsela, Queanbeyan's pound-keeper. The copper ore lode was found in the vicinity of the earlier *Right Mine* in the adjacent *Dirty Swamp* property. While James claimed the reward, he didn't make the actual discovery. That honour goes to Luke Colverwell Jnr, who found the ore while working as a stockman for Kinsela rounding up stray cattle. It was reported in the *Queanbeyan Age* that James undertook to pay Luke a portion of the lucrative reward.

This mine was named *Dirty Swamp Mine* due to its location on Campbell's *Dirty Swamp Station*. We can be confident that *Dirty Swamp Mine* and the slumped shafts mentioned by McAlister are one and the same, as no other shafts have been found notwithstanding considerable on-ground investigations by Bulbeck and Boot in their 1990 cultural survey of Kowen and later assessments undertaken in relation to the gazettal of the Glenburn Heritage Precinct in 2015 and 2017.

According to a *Queanbeyan Age* correspondent at the time, George employed a number of men to work the mine, sinking the shaft 60 feet and reaching ore whose quality exceeded expectations, with blue and green carbonates giving way to pure metal. However, at that depth, the correspondent reports, "the miners have been compelled, through the presence of foul air, to suspend operations in the shaft, and are now engaged in sinking an air shaft for the purpose of securing ventilation, and when this is done, they will further develop the lode." (This explains the presence of two shafts mentioned by McAlister). Two years later, copper was still being extracted from the mine. Clearly, George had struck a rich vein. But eventually, the vein was exhausted, and operations ceased.

In 1899, 33 years after the *Right Mine* (see last month's edition) and 27 years after George Campbell paid out his reward, five tons of mullock (mine refuse) lying about the *Dirty Swamp* mine site were gathered up by prospector James Jadrick and sent, by rail, to the Illawarra Smelting Works at Dapto. The assay results of 40 percent copper were promising. A syndicate with Queanbeyan resident Martin Pola was formed, and a mining lease was issued, but subsequently cancelled for noncompliance with the government's labour laws. James formed another partnership, this time with Mr Daniel from Cooma. A mining lease was issued in 1901, and the mine reopened with government funding to assist in sinking the shaft. By then, the shaft was fully 100 feet below the surface. The mine was reportedly producing ore assayed at 33 percent copper and seven pennyweights of gold per ton (roughly 0.4 ounces per ton or 10 grams per tonne). The lode was 4 feet wide, encased by slate.

James worked the mine for four years, before selling the mining lease in 1904 to Joseph Collins of Exeter in the Southern Highlands. Joseph was a mining speculator and owner of the *Exeter Coal Mine*. In 1905, the mine at Burbong was reported as producing 10 tons of ore per week from a 2 ft wide lode. Clearly, the tonnage and lode volume were decreasing. And sometime after 1905, the mine was closed down. This time for good.

Today, all that remains of a mining enterprise, intermittently spanning 33 years, are two depressions in the ground surrounded by a spray of blue/grey mullock. These depressions are the 'slumped shafts' referred to by McAlister. Slumped shafts occur when a mine shaft, no longer in use, is filled with waste rocks and soil—a condition of the mining lease. Over time, the fill consolidates, causing subsidence, which leaves a dish-shaped depression at ground level. Neither of the slumped shafts shows evidence of recent movement, such as tension cracks around the edges or patches of bare soil where the ground has been stretched. Nonetheless, it is wise to keep a safe distance from the depressions when viewing. There are no remnants of buildings or building materials. Presumably, all salvageable materials were removed, and that which was considered useless was thrown into the shafts during the filling process.



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Wamboin

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Google Review - John & Lisa

Saxxon has just completed a renovation to our deck including a major enhancement to the entrance stairs. With his workmanship being first class, fine attention to detail and an easy going personality, he is highly recommended.

Wamboin Playgroup

Hello friends, Winter may be in full swing, but August brings one of the highlights of our local calendar, the annual Wamboin Fireworks Night. For the Wamboin Playgroup, it is also our biggest fundraiser of the year, and we would love your support. Once again, we will be serving up our much loved pulled pork rolls. Think tender, slow cooked pork piled onto crusty bread, topped with fresh, delicious coleslaw and a range of sauces to choose from. They will be \$10 each, and if last year is anything to go by, you will want to get in early. We sold out before the fireworks even began!

Alongside the rolls, we will have a tempting selection of homemade cakes and muffins, plus lolly bags and lucky dips for the kids, with prices from \$1. We will also have take home packaging available if you would like to grab a few treats for later. For convenience, we will have tap and go available, as well as cash sales.

This will be my fourth year helping with the playgroup fundraising stall, and it is always such a fun and rewarding night. There is something really special about the atmosphere, from the buzz of the crowd to the moment the huge bonfire is lit. It is an incredible sight and a wonderful tradition for our community.

One of the best parts is meeting so many locals while volunteering alongside all the mums, dads and grandparents who help deliver playgroup week to week. We spend the evening dishing up rolls, picking out cakes, having chats, sharing laughs and soaking up the community spirit.

Every dollar raised goes directly back into the playgroup. It helps us provide craft supplies, toys, games and special activities like our Easter and Christmas celebrations. It also allows us to keep playgroup accessible, offering a welcoming space for families at no cost.

We are so grateful for the ongoing support from our community, and for the many volunteers who put in countless hours to make Fireworks Night such a success each year. We hope to see you there. - **Clare Camilleri**



WAMBOIN PLAYGROUP

FIND US INSIDE THE HALL AT THE WAMBOIN BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS NIGHT

SATURDAY 29 AUGUST 2026

PULLED PORK ROLLS WITH SLAW \$10

ALSO SELLING A RANGE OF CUPCAKES, SLICES, TREATS, LOLLY BAGS & LUCKY DIPS

Wamboin Playgroup is a fun, unstructured group for children aged 0-6, it is coordinated by local volunteers. We meet every Tuesday during the NSW school term from 10am to 12noon at Wamboin Hall, 112 Bingley Way. All are welcome.



A new effective and humane option is now available in the region to help you tackle the rabbit problem.

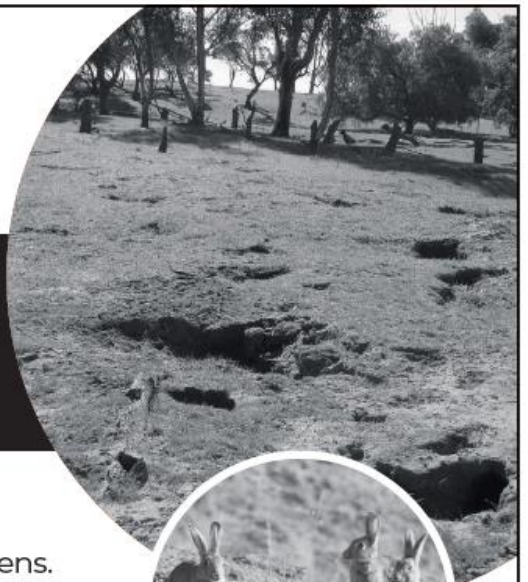
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William McGregor's Bywong grave, finally marked

David McDonald david [at] dnmcdonald.id.au

In his fine history of our area, *Gundaroo* (Roebuck Society, Canberra, 1972), Errol Lea-Scarlett recounted memories of local deaths and burials. He explained that 'If there was no-one to care, [some people] were buried where they died, sharing the fate of an old Bywong employee, William McGregor, who was cared for at Brooks Creek in the nineties by Mrs Kershaw and then interred by local residents who constructed a rough coffin and buried him in a paddock beside the road. An apparently meaningless curve in the Federal Highway is there today because surveyors marking out the road were told of the burial place by Arthur Shepherd and decided to leave old McGregor's grave undisturbed' (pp. 100-1). The 'Mrs Kershaw' mentioned was probably Mary Ann/Maryanne Kershaw b. Sydney 1840, d. Auburn 1932 (Robinson 2026), and the highway mentioned is what we now call Old Federal Highway.

McGregor's burial place was one of the many unmarked graves across the nation. (For example, 45% of the graves in the Bungendore Cemetery in 2004 were unmarked (Stephenson 2017).) On 11 July 2026, however, an informal ceremony was held to establish a permanent grave marker at the site where he is believed to lie buried.

Unfortunately, little is known of William McGregor's origins, and of his life trajectory in the Colony of NSW. His death certificate and other sources provide the following information. Some of the dates are inferred from the death certificate but cannot, at present, be confirmed. The informant for the death certificate was his wife, Sarah McGregor.

William was born in Argyllshire, Scotland, c. 1825. His parents were Donald McGregor, a fisherman, and Mary. He married Sarah Hawkins in London and arrived in the Colony of NSW around 1860, presumably with Sarah.

In 1877 he took up two selections (portions 13 & 14, Parish of Bywong) which were close to Gum Flat Creek, Bywong. In 1882 he took up four more selections in the same vicinity (portions 212, 213, 214 and 232).

Newspapers reports show that, in 1893, his wife Sarah was assaulted by a local resident in the area where they lived. The court report states that Sarah deposed that she was then 52 years of age, giving her a birth date of c. 1841, 16 years younger than William, although the reported age may be erroneous. At that stage the couple were living at 'Creekborough', Bywong.

On 11 February 1900 he died at Gum Tree Flat, Bywong, aged 75 years, and was buried there the following day. The cause of death was given as 'General debility & dysentery', and his occupation as 'labourer'. At that time, Gum Tree Flat was the name for the area near the junction of Hadlow Drive and Shingle Hill Way, Bywong. It was one of the key locations on the twice-weekly Bungendore–Creekborough–Gum Tree Flat–Gundaroo mail run. Families living near the site recall being told about the grave, including that it was fenced in the early days.

As noted above, on 11 July this year a brief ceremony was held at the site to install an aluminium grave marker. Present were local residents whose families have lived in the area since the mid-1800s: Kerran Dalmaso (the landowner), Deidre Robinson (née Kershaw), Mark Robinson, Rhonda Harriott (née Lees) and Vince Harriott, together with members of the Canberra Region Heritage Researchers network: David McDonald, Margie Quodling, Rob Quodling and Tony Maple. Also present were Madeleine Maple and Noela McDonald. Rob is one of the key members of the Outback Graves Markers Inc. (OGM) organisation. He designed the marker and arranged for its manufacture. Further information is available at the OGM website <https://outbackgraves.org/burial-records/person/7072>.

Notes: The author initiated and led this project, having long been intrigued by Lea-Scarlett's mention of the grave in the book *Gundaroo*. Much of this article is based upon the sources cited. However, as is often the case, oral histories provided by people whose families have lived in the area for generations differ, in some important respects, from the documentary evidence presented here. At this stage it is not possible to reconcile the two.

I am particularly grateful to Kerran Dalmaso for his generosity in having the grave marker installed in one of his paddocks. The marker is on private property and can be visited only with the permission of the landowner.

References

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Installation of the Outback Graves Marker, 11 July 2026. L to R: Kerran Dalmaso (landowner), Rhonda Harriott, Vince Harriott, Mark Robinson, & Deidre Robinson, all neighbours. Photos courtesy of Tony Maple.

