

# The Whisper

June 2005 CIRCULATION: 981

All proceeds from advertisements after printing costs go to the WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, which started the Whisper in 1981 and continues to own it. This Newsletter is distributed to all RMBs in Wamboin, Bywong, Clare, and Yalana at the beginning of each month, except January. Editor is Ned Noel, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 6238-3484. Contributions which readers may wish to make will be appreciated, and should be submitted to by email to [nednoel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au) or dropped into his mailbox at 17 Reedy Creek Place. The deadline for the next issue is always the last Sunday of the month, 7 pm, so for next month the deadline is Sunday, June 26, 2005, 7:00 pm.

## LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCIES Fire/Police/Ambulance - Dial 000 All Hours

Queanbeyan Police 6298-0599 Wamboin Fire Brigade Info Centre 6238-3396 Ambulance Bookings 131233

## WAMBOIN FACILITIES AND CONTACTS

<b>Wamboin Community Assn</b>	Lofty Mason	President	6238-3258
<b>Bywong Community Assn</b>	Warwick Cathro	President	6236-9187
<b>Fire Brigade</b>	Cliff Spong	Captain	040-999-1340 bh 6236 9220 ah
<b>Wamboin Playgroup</b>	Leanne Quick	Convener	6238 3435
<b>Landcare</b>	Roger Good	President	6236-9048
<b>Community Nurse</b>	Heather Morrison	Bungendore	6238-1333
<b>Breastfeeding Assoc.</b>	Lisa Whitney	Community Educator	6238 3059
<b>Emergency Services</b>	NSW Call Centre	Staff	132-500
<b>Emergency Services Admin</b>	Colin Brown	Controller	6238-1067
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Peter Greenwood	JP	6238-3358
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Keith France	JP	6238-3596
<b>Wamboin Cubs</b>	Peter Harrison	Leader	6238-3525
<b>Wamboin Guides</b>	Rosemary Riley	Contact Person	6297-7632
<b>Wamboin Pony Club</b>	Maureen Purdie	Contact Person	6238-3343
<b>Gearys Gap Pony Club</b>	Julie Abbey	Secretary	6230-3129
<b>Play Group</b>	Leanne Quick	Convenor	6238-3435
<b>Hall Bookings</b>	Joan Mason	Bookings	6238-3258
<b>Church, Anglican</b>	Robyn Robertson	Warden	6238-3202
<b>Christian Prayer Group</b>	Steve & Imelda Taylor	Contacts	6238-3220
<b>Golf</b>	Peter Greenwood	Golfer	6238-3358
<b>Injured Wildlife</b>	Wildcare	Helpline	6299-1966

## THE YOUNG WAMBOIN ENTREPRENEURS

Deanne Brucic, babysitting & Petsitting .....	6238-1884
Fiona Skea, babysitting .....	6238-3290
Rebecca Purdie, petsitting .....	6238-3343
Damien Montesin, petsitting, odd jobs .....	6238-3208
Frank Deveson, bicycle maintenance .....	6238-3294
Elle Greet, fully experienced babysitter, loves children .....	6238 0129
Alycia and Hannah Elword, babysitting, petsitting	6236 9186
John Brennan, babysitting and petsitting	6238 3472
Macs Reef Tip Hours 7:30 am to 5:00 pm Fri-Sat-Sun-Mon (to 7 pm Sat - Sun in daylight saving time) closed Tue-Wed-Thurs	

## Bywong Community News

by Morag Cotsell

**Bywong Hill Pilgrimage** On 1 May fourteen locals climbed to the summit of Bywong Hill on a bushwalk organised by the Community and enjoyed some stunning views. Bywong Hill, about 3,5 kms north-east of Sutton village, has been a landmark for a long time. It is identified on a map of south-east New South Wales published in 1837. Residents from Wamboin and other surrounding districts are welcome to join our bushwalks. A spring bushwalk is still in the planning stages.

**Donations** The Community has approved donations to the Wamboin Fire Brigade, the Girl Guides and the Bungendore pre-school. In recent years the Community's ability to give financial assistance to local groups has been severely restricted by the crippling premiums charged to community associations for indemnity insurance - a situation the Community shares with Wamboin and other local associations. This year the Community has been obliged to allocate contingency funds of \$1500 for this unavoidable expense.

**Guest speaker** The Community plans to invite a representative from Country Energy to speak to the June General Meeting about aspects of electricity supply in the local area. Watch the local notice boards for details.

**Trivia Challenge** The annual Trivia Challenge will take place on Saturday 30 July. As in previous years, teams from surrounding communities will be invited to challenge, and all local teams will be welcome. Watch your letterbox for further details.

**Next meeting** The next general meeting will be on Monday 20 June at the Community Hall, Birriwa Road, at 7.30 pm. The Annual General Meeting will be on 15 August. For enquiries about any of the Community's activities phone Warwick on 6236 9187.

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## WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION President's Paragraphs

The **Mongrel of the Month** award was highly competitive this month.

Entry 1: Someone used an angle grinder to cut the cover off the pressure pump at the Hall. Then they unscrewed and stole the pressure tank. The damage was compounded by leaving the tank valve on, thus draining a considerable amount of precious water. An old pressure tank was left nearby.

Entry 2: The two area maps from the intersections of Norton/Bungendore Road and Denley Drive/Macs Reef Road were stolen. From the similar timing and method of removal it would make one think the same people were responsible.



I consider we do have a pretty good record so far as vandalism and robbery is concerned but the above anti community activities are hard to understand. The cost to the Wamboin Community Association to replace these items is over \$600.



The **Hall storeroom extension** has progressed. Thanks to the brickie skills of Don Evans, to Charlie Montesin and his Dingo plus the multi skilled Hank Berlee the steps and landing have taken shape. *Stop Press.* The above guys (Charlie now in brickie rig) were joined by John van der Straaten and started laying the block walls last Saturday. A special thanks to Joan who provided morning tea and lunch for the workers. Where do I fit in? I bathe in the glory of the position of Hall Extension Coordinator, and as such I am allowed to act as a Labourer and Go-for.

Planning for **The Bonfire Night** is under way. The planned date is Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> of September. You will be asked for bonfire type material to be brought to the Hall from the 13<sup>th</sup> of August. Please **do not** dump material before this date. As a solution to previous food shortages we will add a 'Gourmet Barbeque' stand and a Hot Sausage Roll outlet. To prevent the car parking problem we will plan and mark out available parking areas at the Hall. With the guidance by members of the Fire Brigade this will ensure most of the cars can be parked in the Community area.

A **Fire Brigade demonstration day** is planned in August. Since the Hall is a designated refuge centre, we are responsible to ensure it is safe in the event of local bush fires. We have instructions that an area to the west of the Hall should have the litter cleared with a low intensity burn. The plan is to do this as an open day wherein families of Brigade members and all residents of the area are invited to watch our Brigade in action. The new Brigade Operations area will be open for guided tours. Refreshments will be available. More information in later Whispers.

Do you want more information on the **Sutton Road Upgrade**? Nick Zardo from Guideline has offered to speak, and answer questions, at the next meeting of the Wamboin Community Association at 7.30 on the 21st of June. Seeing as most of us have been frustrated at times by delays caused by the road works I think this is a brave offer. All are welcome to hear and question Nick. The Hall will be warm and refreshments will be available. Lofty Mason. [ljmason@iimetro.com.au](mailto:ljmason@iimetro.com.au)

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Garden Time</i> From your local blokes Complete landscaping, gardening general home maintenance</p> <p style="text-align: center;">&amp;</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Contact</b> Ron 0402 332 543 Warren 0402 298 311</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sandy Kevill</b> Member of AMT (NSW) Ltd. – Most Health Rebates Available Qualified in Soft Tissue Muscle Therapy, Aromatherapy, Shiatsu &amp; Lymphatic Drainage</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* Reduced Movement * Back Pain &amp; Tension * Lymphatic congestion * Neck/Shoulder Stiffness * Tendonitis problems * Sports injuries</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>A WHOLE HEALTH APPROACH</b> LOCALLY BASED – FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">☎ 6230 3307 or Mob: 0413 047 470 Give a Gift of Massage Today – Vouchers Available</p>
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## **Palerang Council seeks community support for rate increase**

Palerang Council is seeking community support to apply to the Minister for Local Government for a special rate variation of 25 per cent. The increase would be on top of this year's Ministerial capped CPI rate increase of 3.5 per cent taking the average increase across the newly formed shire to 28.5 per cent.

"With a deficit of almost \$900,000 created by the budgeting errors of the Boundaries Commission in last year's amalgamation we have no choice but to seek a permanent increase in our rate base," Mayor Terry Bransdon said. "The Commission, when assessing the financial outlook of the Palerang option, neglected to deduct the \$1 million in rates transferred with 3,000 residents to Queanbeyan City, Cooma-Monaro and Yass Valley Councils. "That's caused the deficit and there is no way Palerang can cut a million dollars from its operating budget. We are locked into retaining current staffing levels by the State Government's employee protection legislation. "The 3.5 per cent capped increase allowable by the Minister doesn't even cover the costs of this year's wage increases, leaving us a further \$64,000 short. And there's another 3.5 per cent wage rise due in November. "We just have to have a bigger rate yield."

Cr Bransdon said the Council had been workshopping for weeks various models to provide as much fairness as possible in the distribution of the rate increases. "We started with a model based solely on rating at equal cents in the dollar on land valuations (ad valorem) but this is inequitable because of the wildly varying land valuations across our new shire. "Rural residential properties within reasonable commuting range of Canberra on average have a land valuation three or four times greater than those further out. This meant the straight ad valorem method did not produce fair distribution of the increases. "About a third of our ratepayers a long way from Canberra would have had their present rates cut in half while others closer in would have experienced increases of 66 per cent and more."

Cr Bransdon said the rate model on exhibition, shares the pain with most ratepayers getting a substantial rate increase. He said this was in keeping with Council's rate policy of utilising mechanisms introduced by the NSW Government for dealing with inequity problems. "These are the benefit principle and the ability-to-pay principle where sub-categories of the four rate categories Farmland, Business, Mining and Residential, can be used. We've used two sub-categories for business and four additional ones for residential. Then by varying cents-in-the-dollar on ad valorem we've been able to balance rates paid in our towns and villages. It has worked too for rural residential properties within reasonable commuting distance of Canberra and those further out. "An example is separating Bungendore from Braidwood using sub-categories where the average rate increase would have been 45 per cent in Bungendore against a rate cut of 64 per cent in Braidwood. "These towns get similar service delivery and facilities but it's not fair that a ratepayer in Bungendore should pay \$639 when the equivalent ratepayer in Braidwood would have rates cut to \$185. "An analogy is a resident in both towns hiring a tradesman to dig a trench or lay pipes in the trench or re-roof a house. In Braidwood you don't pay one-third for the same service and the same should apply to rates which cover Local Government services." "In the rural residential areas, by separating those within a reasonable commuting distance of Canberra from those more remotely located, we've been able to balance the wildly fluctuating valuations. The proximity of a hobby farmer to Canberra doesn't measure ability to pay or wealth, but instead is the result of demand for increasingly diminishing rural land close to the ACT."

Palerang's rates model will be on exhibition until June 28 and residents can view it in the Council's Braidwood and Queanbeyan offices (in Queanbeyan only until June 9 when that office closes and the Bungendore office opens on June 15). It is also available on the Council's website. Public meetings to discuss the proposed rate increases will also be held in June.

**For interview or more information contact Terry Bransdon on 6236 9239 or 0428 621 624**

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### Lake George Day VIEW Club –June Luncheon Meeting

Lake George Day VIEW Club’s next luncheon meeting will be on Tuesday 21 June 2005, commencing at 11.30am, at the Eagle Hawk Rydges Resort, Federal Highway, Sutton. The cost is \$20.00. We welcome new members and guests. Speaker will be Trudy Taylor, Editor of the Queanbeyan Age newspaper. For bookings please phone Kerry on 6238 0603 by Friday 17 June. VIEW Club is a valued part of The Smith Family. Please phone Lesley (President) on 6238 3717 for further information about Lake George Day VIEW Club. - Angela Vagg

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Thanks to the persons below, Wamboin and Bywong residents have a		free community owned newsletter.	
<b>125 CO-ORDINATED BY HELEN MONTESIN:</b>			
Dean Evans	Nrtn Area frm Campbl West	18	Ph 6238 3208
Helen Montesin	Fernloff Rd	29	Bill Owen Cooper Rd.
Hank Berlee	11 Poppet Rd (for all on road)	34	Cathy Abell Canning Close
<b>272 CO-ORDINATED BY SUE GANE:</b>			
Joan Mason	Bingley Way	50	Ph 6238 3463
Sue Ward	Norton, Bngly to Weeroona	28	Margaret Heleimin Merino Vale Drive
Sue Gane	Majors Close	20	Anne Gardner Weeroona, Norton to Majors
Ned Noel	13 YrCn 35Adv	48	David Anderson Weeroona, Majors to Denley
Cathy Handel	Yalana West	19	Penny Evans Norton, Cmpbell to Bngley
<b>227 CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER:</b>			
Colleen Foster	Joe Rocks to Norton	20	Ph 6238 3489
Deb Gordon	Yalana East	41	Rob Gorham South End - Clare Valley
Cassie Fisher	Clare Lane	11	Pauline Segeri North End - Clare Valley
Lyle Monetesin	Forrest Road area	60	Bungendore Shop Bungendore
<b>187 CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN:</b>			
Sheryl Barnes	Quinn’s Estate / Denley	15	Ph 6238 3590
Don Malcomson	Macs R -- Denley to Gum Flat	35	Whitfords Whitford Deley/Kestral area
Ann Platts	Denley MacReef to Birchman’s	26	Rhett Cox Macs Reef /Nwngtn to FdHwy
Warrick Cathro	Macs Reef -GumFlat to Harriott	18	Morag Cotsell MReef /Newington/Harriot
<b>193 CO-ORDINATED BY LAURA SNOWDON Ph 6236 9609</b>			
Trevor Kirk	Macs R - Denley to Bung Rd	20	Esther/Ian Rudd MReef/Bankers/FedHwy
Len Parrish	Summerhill Rd Area	32	Snowdon Family Hogan Drive
Sue Gorham	Schofields/Brooks	55	Diana+Keith Gascoine Snow Gum Road
Sue Aunella	Doust/Wyoming/Brooks	25	Thelma Martin Shinglehouse Rd area
<b>TOTAL 1003</b>			

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# The Wamboin Firefighter

A newsletter from YOUR volunteer rural fire brigade compiled  
by Cliff Spong with help from many members of the Brigade  
(Wamboin Brigade's website is [www.wamboin-fireshed.com](http://www.wamboin-fireshed.com))

**Fire permits are not required if you want to burn off or light fires  
in the open. Your neighbours and your fire brigade Captain  
need to be notified 24 hours before you light up.  
RING 000 TO REPORT FIRES OR SMOKE SIGHTINGS.**

## From the Captain's Desk



Since last month's report your brigade has been busy attending several incidents across the new brigade area. Several members have also been involved with our ongoing training programs, both at the brigade and Region level.

Towards the end of April we received a call to investigate a smoke sighting near the Federal Highway. It was quickly determined that more resources were needed and three crews from your brigade were dispatched to deal with a grass fire that was threatening to cross the Yass River. As you can imagine with the lack of the wet stuff falling from the sky, access to available and plentiful water was a key to quickly controlling the fire. Our job was made infinitely easier thanks to the assistance of Jeff Bingley. As many of you know Jeff has a water carrying business and when he heard about the incident on his CB radio he made special trip to Mitchell to get his tanker filled with water to help us. This meant that our vehicles were able to fill up quickly rather than going to a local dam. Jeff's prompt and generous actions meant that the fire was contained more effectively and quickly.

During last month we attended two motor vehicle accidents. One, in the early hours along Macs Reef Road, was a tragic one for the driver and his family. The second, on Norton Road, left the driver with minor injuries and the car on its roof. In both cases no fires occurred but we were there and ready if needed, as always.

The brigade was also called to the scene of a car that had been set on fire late one night on the Federal Highway. We responded two crews and although the fire had been extinguished by the time we got there, we were able to provide protection for a Hazmat team, called from the ACT by the NSW police, in case of any flare ups. Fortunately all went well and after returning to the fire shed most of us were back in bed around 3am.

After several intensive training sessions four of our members, Darrell Tipton, Geoff Foster, Chris Murdock and Brad Arrowsmith passed the recent Village Firefighter course. They were ably assisted by our resident rural fire instructor, Richard Hobbs. In this course members are trained to deal with structure fires, houses, sheds and other buildings, gas fires and motor vehicle accidents. Congratulations to our members for setting a high standard during the course and thank you to Richard for his assistance and the long hours put in behind the scenes.

It is again pleasing to report that many people are notifying their neighbours and their brigade when they intend burning off the odd pile of rubbish or their back paddock. This makes things much easier for us when smoke is reported to Triple "O". When these reports come to us from Fire Control via 000, we are required to take some action and often need to investigate to make sure things aren't getting out of hand. One such call was received recently and while it was good for some of our members to get some action, it was both distressing and embarrassing for the property owner. I received a call of a smoke sighting one pleasant Sunday about mid-afternoon. I jumped into the red ute to investigate. The report we had was a little vague about the exact location and so it took a little time to find it. I stopped at one property which appeared close to the fire only to be told that the fire was on adjacent land. I mentioned that the smoke I was investigating was from a fire which had not been rung in. When I got to the next property I was presented with the scene of a large hilly paddock with the tussock grass well alight and a very tired young man valiantly trying to beat the fire into submission with a damp sack. I immediately called for backup and then helped get one of the flanks of the fire under control with a knapsack. In a short time we had two crews on scene. The fire was quickly contained and mopping up started. While this was going on I noticed more smoke across a gully from the first fire. I called for more assistance and our main tanker was dispatched with its crew eager to lend a hand. I left the first fire to investigate the second smoke sighting and to meet the main tanker on location. When I eventually located and reached the property of the second smoke sighting it turned out to be the first property I visited when trying to locate the first fire! After we patiently explained the need to notify the local brigade and neighbours 24 hours BEFORE lighting up, we returned to the first fire scene to finish blacking out.

Apart from ringing in beforehand, there were several lessons to be learned from that day. Property owners need to appreciate what could go wrong when they try to just burn off the odd patch of blackberries and to make sure they have the proper resources to deal with what could go wrong. This means having enough water on hand to put the fire out as well as

wearing appropriate clothing and accepting that it takes a lot of energy to put out a rapidly moving grass fire. If in doubt call for help before it might be needed.

The pictures below also tell other tales. One shows two members of one crew, Ian Coillet and Chris Murdock, who appear to be enjoying getting into the action. The other shows an inevitable problem with the current weather conditions. Many dams are getting very low and this presents further problems when fires occur.

During August we plan to undertake a hazard reduction burn at the back of the Wamboin Community Hall and all residents are invited to come along to watch their brigade in action – from a safe distance of course! Details will be provided next month.

It is with some sadness that I have to announce that Tim and Jenelle Warren have left Wamboin for new adventures in Milton. Tim was a valued and well respected member of the brigade. We all wish them well.



All Bywong, Wamboin and Sutton residents are welcome  
at the

Wamboin Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade

**Annual General Meeting**

14<sup>th</sup> of June 2005 at 7.30pm

Wamboin Community Hall

Bingley Way

Refreshments will be provided after the meeting

**THE CAPTAIN'S LIST**

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### WHERE ARE THE KILLERS NOW?

I am referring to straying dogs. Just after the full moon ( 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> April) my neighbour had three sheep killed, one badly mauled and one was chased through the fencing onto my property. Whose dog(s) was responsible? Not mine do I hear you say? My pet wouldn't hurt anything, let alone kill anything. Think again, do you know where your dog is all the time. Is it always in the house or its yard or on a chain?

In the Autumn 2005 Newsletter of the Braidwood Rural Lands Protection Board there is a comment on this subject and I quote – “Dog owners should be aware that any dog is capable of causing damage to stock. With subdivision of land occurring more and more in the district, the number of domestic dogs in the rural area is increasing greatly.

The Board is appealing to dog owners to be vigilant as regards the whereabouts of their dogs and if left alone they should be either enclosed in a run or tied up. Dogs are capable of travelling large distances overnight and returning to their place of residence before daybreak, thus giving the impression they have been home all night.”

I realise that many of the owners of smaller parcels of land will not have seen this newsletter as it goes only to owners of properties over 10 hectares. However, the owner of a straying dog is still responsible for its behaviour. For instance, twice in the last two weeks. Once on a Saturday morning at 6.45a.m. my forty or so alpacas were giving loud alarm calls, and again on 5<sup>th</sup> May in the afternoon, they were again calling their warnings. When I investigated on both occasions, I saw a golden Labrador (?) with a dark collar well inside my property. It ran away when it saw me and headed off across the paddocks towards the Bungendore end of Norton Road, below my property.. It would be a pity if this dog was enticed by other roaming dogs to join together and begin to “worry”, lets not beat about the bush, kill sheep. It would have to be destroyed. So too would the large black dog also seen by my neighbour on his property.

During the day after the sheep were killed, and again during the night following at 3.a.m. my alpacas were most disturbed, giving continuing warning calls and scattering and running in all directions. I had been in and out to reassure them all day, maybe they scented the blood of the dead animals or worried by the eagles which came for the feast. I did not enjoy my moonlight vigil, in the end to give them security I brought them into my garden at 4.30a.m. Alpacas give good protection against foxes which are usually solitary, but are virtually defenceless against a pack of dogs. They are, as you will appreciate valuable animals.

Again I quote the RLPB Newsletter “ For the stockowner that is losing sheep or goats [\*or alpaca] it is a very distressing time and it also creates a lot of extra work in having to deal with stock that have been mauled by dogs. [\*Or pay expensive vet bills] please make sure that your dog or dogs are kept under control so this type of stock loss can be stopped.” My sympathy goes to my neighbour for his loss. [ \*my addition] -D.Royal, 06.05.05

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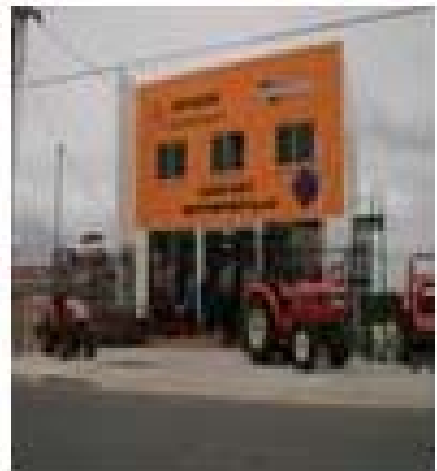
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## **Wamboin 15 years ago.....from the Whisper, June 1990 (Prepared by Robyn Robertson)**

Ed: Edwina Jans      Circulation: 265

**From the President's Paras** "Recycling is a great idea and has been proposed, discussed and died on a number of occasions by the WCA. The reason....like all great ideas it needs people to implement and manage it. Actions speak louder than words, so if all those willing(and able) to act put together a comprehensive plan of action something might happen! Perhaps a public meeting of concerned residents is required?" -- Peter Thomson

### **The Bungendore Evening VIEW Club**

... will meet at the Café Woodworks from 6.45pm for dinner on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> August. Come and enjoy a great meal at the usual cost of \$23 plus drinks. Our guest speaker will be Chris Pearson from Active Travel. Chris will let us know of her travel tips for a successful trip. Bookings please by 24 July to Debbie Hudson phone 6238 1571 or dhudson2vtown.com.au. Our next meeting in September will feature Jeff Butler and his topic is local landcare and gardening. Members and guests are always welcome. - Robyn Barter



### **- Home Truths = To renovate or not to renovate?**

Many people who are considering moving in the next couple of years don't know if they should put money into improvements on their current home by renovating, extending or adding a pool or tennis court. It's a difficult question with no simple answer.

The plethora of renovation shows on the box would have you believe that renovating is the quick path to easy money. The trouble is that they never put the "before renovation" property to a true test. They rely upon an opinion of market value and compare that to the eventual "post renovation" sale price. The "before renovation" price remains an opinion that has never been tested.

We, at Sutton Real Estate, think that the answer comes down to the lifestyle benefit you believe you will receive from the renovations or improvements prior to selling. The benefit is not easily measurable, but 2 or 3 years of the kids frolicking in the new pool or the pleasure of using your new ensuite after years of sharing a bathroom with the kids, could well be worth the investment, even for the short term. It pays to be a bit careful with the type of improvements though as some can very easily fall into the category of over capitalising. The vast majority of potential purchasers will place some value in a pool, less in a tennis court and possibly less again in a dressage arena.

If you do decide to renovate be a little cautious. The style in which you renovate usually comes down to individual taste. Be careful not to be too individual. Far better to go a little more neutral with your colours. Strong colours create strong emotions and sometimes buyers, rationally or otherwise, decide if they like a property based on atmosphere created by those colours.

Taking away significant issues by way of repairs is always a better investment than either renovations or improvements. For example, if the bathroom tiles are loose and the wall is water damaged, then cost effectively repairing the bathroom (maybe you have the skills to do it yourself) will prove significant when it comes time to sell. In our experience, potential purchasers will tend to over estimate the cost of repairs, sometimes by many thousands of dollars, money they generally take off your asking price.

So, as you can see there is some judgment involved and there is no simple answer. In summary:

1. Concentrate on not over capitalising
2. Be cost effective
3. Take away repair issues.

David Collins  
Sutton Real Estate  
Ph 6230 3240

### IF ONLY THEY COULD TALK

This month's article was written by Dr Fiona Cox BVSc (Hons)

### Potentially Toxic Things around the Home.

Last Christmas I wasy kelpie pup Kiah. After going to investigate why she was being so quiet, I found her with two empty boxes of rat bait! Sadly that was the end to our relaxing holiday! While rat bait is an obvious one, there are a number of 'hidden' things around the home that are potentially toxic to our furry friends. This month we will discuss things that are safe to us, but potentially toxic to our pets. Next month we will discuss heavy metals and their potential effect on our livestock and pets. Garlic & onions, macadamia nuts, chocolate and paracetamol (Panadol®) are examples of things that are potentially toxic to our pets.

We will start with chocolate toxicity, given that hot-chocolate will be starting to come out the cupboard with winter approaching. Theobromine is the toxic compound found in chocolate. Levels of theobromine are highest in cocoa powder, cooking & dark chocolate, and lowest in white & milk chocolate. Animals that have consumed toxic amounts of theobromine show the following signs: nervousness, excitement, tremors and seizures. In some cases chocolate toxicity can even be fatal.

Macadamia nuts are another potential toxin (particularly the chocolate-coated ones!). Animals can show signs very rapidly after ingestion. Signs of toxicity include: ataxia (wobbliness) and hind-leg paralysis. Garlic and onions (raw and cooked) contain 'allyl propyl disulfide'. This compound damages red blood cells (that carry oxygen), resulting in anaemia. Signs of toxicity relate to the anaemia and include: lethargy, weakness, pale gums and laboured breathing.

Paracetamol is a toxin of cats. They are unable to metabolise the drug and it damages the liver and red blood cells. The toxin causes blood cells to break down and interferes with their ability to carry oxygen. As little as one paracetamol tablet / capsule can be fatal to cats. Signs of toxicity include: laboured breathing, blueness to the gums and / or a red tinge to the urine. If you think your pet has consumed one of the above toxins, they should be promptly presented to their veterinarian for assessment and treatment.

In addition, to clear up a contentious point, our dogs and cats should not be fed cooked bones. Cooked bones splinter when they are chewed and may damage or become stuck in the gastrointestinal tract. Ideally small dogs and cats should be given raw chicken necks or wings while larger dogs should be fed raw beef marrow bones. I should add, Kiah lived to see another day, and hasn't eaten anything toxic again (yet!).

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## The Kosciuszko Bogong Moth



by Ian Collet

## THE STABLE DOOR

Don't recall seeing too many bogong moths late last year. This night-flying insect is notable for appearing around major public buildings during Spring, most publicised of which is Parliament House. In a typical migration year, the building is all but overrun by these (not so) little critters. But last season, moth numbers appeared to be down. Perhaps it's another impact of the prolonged drought to have gripped the region over the last few years? Be what it may, bogong moths have been a feature of the landscape for a long time. Each year they've made lengthy migrations to spend summer months in large congregations in caves and crevices of rocks in the Australian Alps. The Australian Alps is the general term for the highest mountain ranges in south-eastern Australia significant areas of which include Mt. Kosciuszko, Kosciuszko National Park and the Snowy Mountains in New South Wales, and Mt. Bogong and the Alpine National Park in Victoria. During the Spring and early Summer months the moths are attracted to lights, such as those in the Capital Region, at night. Even here in Wamboin, my (and I'm sure your) experience over the years has been to find plentiful numbers around the house and other well-lit buildings as the moths rest during the day. I believe that in Winter, adults disperse to pastures across inland New South Wales and Queensland to lay their eggs.

For hundreds of years, the bogong moths were a regular part of the food supply of the Aboriginal tribes in the area through the summer months. As these drab, dull-coloured moths migrated each year to the mountains from the pastures and winter crops of south-eastern Australia, Aborigines would collect them from their resting places in the granite outcrops, and roast them in their thousands for their sweet, walnut flavour.


But, it seems the bogong moths were not always dull and drab. Several years ago, my very dear, late mother, kindly offered me a painting (well, alas 'tis but a print) of one of Ainslie Roberts' Dreamtime works. Ainslie Roberts is one of Australia's best-known and best-loved artists. His unique body of work, based on the mythology of the Australian Aborigines is eagerly sought, and has become known to millions of readers through the famous Dreamtime books. The artwork my mother gave me was Ainslie Roberts' interpretation of the Aboriginal myth surrounding the creation of the Jenolan Caves that, for me, is a powerful, spiritual interpretation of a fascinating story.

Well, what's this got to do with the bogong moth? Oh, perhaps nothing directly. But given the hundreds of years the moths were a regular part of the food supply of the Aboriginal tribes in the area, it's not surprising there's an equally engrossing myth attached to this insect. For indeed, long ago in the Dreamtime, one of the most beautiful of all creatures was Myee the Moth. With her dazzling, multicoloured wings, she lived among the grasses of the river bank. But she often wondered and yearned to find out for herself why the mountains high above her were covered in white.

Her husband, Bogong, often warned her not to leave the safety of the river grasses. But, one day, Myee's curiosity was too much for her and, as the sun was setting, she flew up towards the mountains. As she reached the mountain heights, snow began to fall.

The snow beat the fragile Myee to the ground, and soon covered her. Myee did not die. She lay covered by the snow until Spring. But as the snows melted, Myee's beautiful colours also drained away. As they did so, they ran into and coloured the new Spring flowers of the mountains. That is why today, the colours of the Bogong moths of Mt. Kosciuszko are generally dull and lifeless, and only the Springtime and Summer wildflowers of Mt. Kosciuszko carry the Dreamtime colours of Myee, the first bogong moth.

In the Introduction to his book "Ainslie Roberts and the Dreamtime", Charles Huxley, in 1987 noted, ..."Professor Manning Clark once remarked that only in the last thirty or forty years had white Australians begun to realise that the Aborigines could teach them much about how to live in this ancient continent, and that they possessed a spirituality many of us had lost. The historian's comment is not an isolated one. The search for a national identity we read so much about must include the Aboriginal past. This can be respected as an alien tradition and no active concern of ours; or it can be used creatively, as we find in Ainslie Roberts' remarkable gallery of close to 200 paintings on a wealth of themes from Aboriginal mythology."

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WAMBOIN GOLF CLUB – MAY COMPETITION RESULTS

The May competition was sponsored by Nifty Neville Schroder and we thank him for the donation of the trophies and provision of the eats.

We had a little trouble with crows pinching golf balls but fortunately Wamboin's local rules cover all possible problems!!

Ball winners for the long drives and nearest the pin holes were; Bob Mettam, Steve Miners x2, Paul Griffin, Tony Fisher x2, Charles Guscott, Ken Gordan and Sue Gane.

Nine hole competition won by Vincent Gorham

B Grade won by Tony Fisher

A Grade won by Charles Guscott with Trevor Barker second and Steve Miners in third place.

- Peter Greenwood , Golf enquiries 6238 3358



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## HELPING SKIPPY

Prepared by Lesley Machin on behalf of Queanbeyan Wildcare

Love them or hate them most people want to do the right thing by our wildlife. Skippy is one of our national emblems and it is good to know what to do if you come across an injured or recently killed kangaroo. As Naomi Henry, the Mammal Coordinator for *Wildcare* says "Over the next few months there is a good chance that any injured or deceased female kangaroo will have a small Joey in its pouch. Or even a Joey that may have been thrown out of the pouch during an incident and is hovering around nearby."

Kangaroos are unpredictable creatures and even though we do our best to slow down at dusk and at night, there is still the chance that we might ourselves be responsible for hitting and injuring one. Please stop if you come across an injured Roo and assess what needs to be done. Your safety is paramount either from passing traffic or from the animal itself. In the local NSW area contact the *Wildcare* helpline on 6299 1966 – this is a 24 hour service and they will give advice and takeover. In the ACT you need to call *Canberra Connect* on 13 22 81. Why not make a note of these numbers.

*Wildcare* rescuers can quickly attend an accident. This might mean organising for an animal to be euthanased and then rescuing a Joey that might be in the mother's pouch. If a Joey is on its own away from its mother and you can safely catch it, then wrap it up in something warm and put it up your jumper or jacket to keep it out of the cold! Kangaroos get stressed quite badly and you will have to do this as calmly as possible. And as Naomi says "If you can't stay at the scene of an accident, then work out the exact location where you are so that you can tell *Wildcare* or *Canberra Connect* where to head for".

Not everyone is aware that the Law protects all of our native animals, including Skippy, so let's do the right thing by them. And if you are interested in joining *Wildcare* to help rescue native animals in distress, give them a call or visit their Website: [www.wildcare.com.au](http://www.wildcare.com.au).



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## **COP THIS SAD AND SORRY THIEVING INDIVIDUAL!!**

by Peter Greenwood

You can't but help feel sorry for this person who discovered that his (or her) home water pressure pump had broken down. The problem apparently was with the pressure tank which needed to be replaced. Most people would just go down the street and buy a new one, but this person decided that the tank on the pump at the community hall was community property, and being a member of the community it was his (or hers) and therefore decided to take it home.

Armed with an angle grinder, which was then plugged into the pump power supply, the person ground off the locks on the steel cover and removed the tank, but that meant that water was spewing out of the pipe. Even though the tank valve was less than one metre away he (or she) did not even bother turning off the water but absconded with the tank leaving precious water pouring out to waste. Once again it was up to the few volunteers who maintain and clean the hall to fix the damage.

The brain power, or lack thereof, of the thief is beyond comprehension and if there is a family at home you can only feel sorry for them also. What an absolute #%\*~! by Peter Greenwood, representing the Wamboin Hall Management Committee

**Update Monday 30 May** Guess what? - this prick has today knocked off the new replacement. If you know anyone with a new yellow Davey pressure tank with Wamboin Community Association engraved on it your committee and the police would be interested.



## **1<sup>st</sup> Wamboin Scout Group News**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Wamboin Scout Group has provided a range of outdoor activities for local boys and girls for over 20 years. In recent times, our scouts have demonstrated their outstanding skills by regularly winning the local District Standards Camp, an annual competition involving local scout groups, run over 3 days in Kowen Forest.

After a very brief break, the 1<sup>st</sup> Wamboin Scout Troop is again meeting on Monday evenings (7:00 – 9:00 pm), at the Wamboin Community Hall, and is now on the search for boys and girls, aged between 10 and 15 years, to improve the viability of the group. The focus of the Scout Section is on the development of outdoor skills such as bushcraft and pioneering (construction), through in-hall activities (on Monday evenings) and weekend camps (both summer and winter). If you have an interest in having fun while developing your outdoor skills, come and see the Scouts.

Our Joey Scout Mob (boys and girls aged between 6 and 8) and Cub Scout Pack (boys and girls aged between 8 and 10) are still in recess, awaiting adult volunteers to take on the respective leadership roles. If you have an interest in helping the youth in our community, by becoming a youth leader in the Scouting Movement, please contact Pete Harrison to discuss these opportunities.

For further information, please contact one of the leaders listed below.

Marita Corra  
Ph. 6238 3246 (H)  
6238 3882 (W)  
Email:  
marita@cyberone.com.au  
Scout Leader

Paul Brugman  
Ph. 6238 3539 (H)  
6125 3830 (W)  
Email:  
paul.brugman@anu.edu.au  
Scout Leader

Pete Harrison  
Ph. 6238 3525 (H/W)  
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## Nature Notes – May 2005

### Jo Walker

Last month, it was beginning to look grim, but after another four weeks without rain it's looking even more serious. The south-facing slope opposite my house still looks reasonably green with the Silver Wattles (*Acacia dealbata*) in bud, but closer inspection reveals the land turning to dust and even the tough (and very short) Kangaroo Grass drying and browning off after the few frosts we've had recently. The little joeys just beginning to tumble out of their mothers' pouches for their first uncertain steps are going to have a hard time.

Some of the mistletoe clusters in the eucalypts and wattles are dying or looking very stressed. Now, I know that some people have an unjustified dislike of mistletoes, but they are as much part of our environment as any other native plant. They rarely, if ever, kill a healthy host tree and are a food source for insects and birds, especially the colourful Mistletoe Bird. This is a very handsome little bird – the males are glossy blue-black on the head, back and tail and white-breasted with a scarlet throat and under-tail (the female is paler and has no red on her throat). They have rather short, blunt beaks. Mistletoe Birds feed mainly on mistletoe fruits and have a digestive system modified to enable fast passage of the fruit through their gut. The hard seed at the centre of the soft and sticky fruit is not harmed by the birds' digestive juices, and, if voided onto a tree branch, can germinate there and form a new mistletoe plant.

The most common mistletoe in the Wamboin area is *Amyema pendulum*. The flowers are in clusters of three - bright red, tubular, narrow flowers. They contain nectar which attracts honeyeaters. The very similar *Amyema miquelii* also grows in the region. The main difference between the two species is that, although both have their flowers grouped in threes, the middle flower of *A. pendulum* is sessile (without a stem) and all of the flowers of *A. miquelii* have stems of equal length.

These mistletoes are also the food-plant of the beautiful Imperial White Butterfly (*Delias harpalyce*). This butterfly is greyish-white and black on the upper surface of its wings, but, when the wings are folded the undersides exhibit patterns of black, grey, red and yellow. Its larvae are brownish and bristly and feed in a group on the leaves of mistletoes. The pupae hang from a silken web spun onto the leaves prior to pupation.

While on the subject of butterflies, I've noticed a lot of little moths fluttering around during the day. They are about 2-3 cm long, mostly black, but with white blotches on their wings. Their bodies are striped with bands of black and white (the males' bands are yellowish). They are *Nyctemera amica*, a moth whose larvae feed on Senecio plants.

A surprise bird sighting earlier in the month was a little Rose Robin which came down for a drink while I was watering the garden. This is the first time I've seen this species here. They are more common in wet forest, especially along gullies, but can move into more open country during winter. It was probably on the move to a more salubrious spot, as I haven't seen it since.

### Notes from St Andrews Church

The little church on the hill...on the corner of Norton and Poppet Roads, is part of the parish of St John's, Reid, together with St Peter's, Sutton. Services are at 9am on the first and third Sundays at St Andrew's, and at 8.15am on the second and fourth Sundays at St Peter's. Please join us, you will be very welcome. For information about the church please phone Robyn Robertson, 62383202, or Bronwyn Elliott, 62383359.

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### Wamboin Muse

BY Jill Gregory

I haven't spent much time in our autumnal hamlet this month. Apart from a few days tottering around on unaccustomed high heels among the dim, draughty canyons of Melbourne city, I have been wrapped in the warmth of the far north. Picnics watching the sun slide into the tropical sea, T- shirted evenings lit only by the moon, thundering waterfalls, fresh water swimming holes, crocodiles on tidal mudflats, wetlands throbbing with life, and sprinklers idly spraying water on already green lawns, at midday. The greatest difficulty I had was lingering in the shower, guilt free. Water, water everywhere, and they were claiming it'd been a "dry" Wet. Despite priming myself for the worst, arriving home was nevertheless a bit of a shock. My hot air balloon was pricked.

When we decided to move here nine years ago, the trickling creek was full of deep waterholes. The dam seemed to reach to unfathomable depths, the orchard was robust and the well fed kangaroos kept their distance. I grew vegetables, gave away dozens of eggs, made jam, bottled fruit and felt like I had the lead role in a remake of "The Good Life". We could indulge ourselves, knowing we didn't have to make a living off the land.

I've learned a lot since I've been here. I've watched the seasons and learned that rain is something you only read about in weather forecasts. I've learned that rosemary, lavender, diosma, choisya and nandina are largely kangaroo resistant. I've learned that sleeping in to avoid a frost doesn't work with impatiens and dahlias, and I can pick a bad fox night by the carnage next morning. We've tried all sorts of water wise schemes and I realise that the best way to save water is to turn off the tap and drink wine. But oh! how I long to be profligate with water, to luxuriate in a ten minute shower, flush the toilet just for fun, wash the car, welcome overnight guests without thinking twice about washing almost clean sheets the next morning, and let the sprinkler idle away on the lawn, if we had one, until midday.

I wouldn't live anywhere else....but it's so, so good to escape...just sometimes!

### Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin 30 year statistics from the Robertsons

May rainfall to 29/5 2mm (May 2004 8mm)	2005 rainfall to 29/5 149.5mm	(2004 to 29/5..82.5mm)
Av June rainfall 56.6mm	Wettest June 1977 138mm	Driest June 1979 8mm
Hottest June day 7/6/01 17degrees C	Coldest June day 28/6/93 4 degrees C	Coldest June night 20/6/01 -5 degrees C

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