

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

# The Whisper

May 2008 CIRCULATION: 1072

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 February. 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 the June 2008 Whisper the deadline is Sunday, May 30, 2008, 7:00 pm. The Whisper always goes to deliverers by the first Saturday of the new month.

## 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

Wamboin Community Assn	Helen Montesin	President	6238-3208
Bywong Community Assn	Nora Stewart	Acting President	6230-3305
Fire Brigade	Cliff Spong	Captain	040-999-1340 bh 6236 9220 ah
Wamboin Playgroup	Angie Matsinas	Convener	6238 0334
Sutton School Playgroup	Laura Taylor	Convener	62369662
Landcare	Roger Good	President	6236-9048
Community Nurse	Heather Morrison	Bungendore	6238-1333
Breastfeeding Assoc.	Belinda Dennis	Community Educator	6236 9979
Emergency Services	NSW Call Centre	Staff	132-500
Emergency Services Admin	Colin Brown	Controller	6238-1067
Justice of the Peace	Peter Greenwood	JP	6238-3358
Justice of the Peace	Keith France	JP	6238-3596
Justice of the Peace	Margaret Fletcher	JP	6238-1211
Wamboin Scout Group	Peter Harrison	Contact Person	6238-3525
Wamboin Guides	Rosemary Riley	Contact Person	6241-6565
Wamboin Pony Club	Robyn Slater	Senior Instructor	6238-3472
Gearys Gap Pony Club	Leigh-Anne Barlow	Secretary	6238-3376
Play Group	Angie Matsinos	Convener	6238-0334
Hall Bookings	Joan Mason	Bookings	6238-3258
Church, Anglican	Robyn Robertson	Warden	6238-3202
Christian Prayer Group	Steve & Imelda Taylor	Contacts	6238-3220
Golf	Peter Greenwood	Golfer	6238-3358
Injured Wildlife	Wildcare	Helpline	6299-1966
WonderfulWomenOfWambn	Claire Ayling	Convener	6238-3347
Lake George Day VIEW Club	Pauline Segeri	President	6238-1996

## THE YOUNG WAMBOIN ENTREPRENEURS

Ashleigh Caird, babysitting .....	6238 0746.
Deanne Brucic, babysitting & petsitting .....	6238-1884
Ellen Smith, petsitting (experienced with horses) .....	6238-3115
Fiona Skea, babysitting .....	6238-3290
Rebecca Purdie, petsitting .....	6238-3343
Elena Sutcliffe, petsitting and babysitting .....	6238-3228
Gabrielle Simpkin & Nicolette Neveu-Abramczuk, petsitting .....	6238-3600
Matilda Whitney, pet care .....	6238 3059
Liam Foley, computer repairs .....	6238 3154 .... <a href="mailto:liamorama@gmail.com">liamorama@gmail.com</a>

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

**NOTICE**

**The Wamboin Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade  
2008 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**



will be held on  
Tuesday 10 June 2008  
Wamboin Fire Station  
112 Bingley Way Wamboin.

The meeting will begin at 7.30pm.

The AGM is the Brigade's most important formal event of the year.  
All members are encouraged to attend.  
Aspiring members, families, and other visitors are welcome.  
Nominations for all positions are welcome. Nomination forms are available from  
the Secretary.

The Brigade's area covers Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton Park.

Lan Collet  
Secretary  
6238 3425



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## Wamboin Community Association -- President's Paragraphs

by Helen Montesin

**WCA Meeting** – Everybody is most welcome to attend the next WCA meeting on **20<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30pm** at the Community Hall.

**Wamboin Produce Markets** – The markets continue to thrive providing a great range of local produce and the opportunity to catch up with friends over a cup of coffee/tea and scones/muffins. The next markets will be on **17<sup>th</sup> May** from 9:00am until noon.

**Palerang Council** – The NSW Electoral Commission is conducting a **free Candidate Information Seminar** for prospective candidates at the 2008 Local Council elections (to be held on 13 September 2008) at the Queanbeyan City Council Chambers, 253 Crawford St, Queanbeyan, on **Saturday 28 June 2008 from 10.30am - 12 noon**. The seminar will cover a range of topics including the election timetable, nominations and groups, mayoral elections, election advertising and how-to-vote material, public scrutiny of candidates, voting and formality, scrutineering, vote counting and Election Funding obligations. More information is available on the Internet at [http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au/local\\_government\\_elections/candidate\\_information\\_seminars](http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au/local_government_elections/candidate_information_seminars)

If you are thinking of standing for Council, it would be beneficial to attend the seminar.

**Wamboin Locality Sign** – Lofty Mason, Dave Argaet and Charlie Montesin met with Gordon Cunningham from Palerang Council to discuss the Wamboin Locality Sign for the corner of Norton and Sutton Roads. They have agreed on the specifications for the sign and work should start soon.

**New Residents** – If you are new to Wamboin, or know someone who is, Lofty Mason has collated a “Meet and Greet” package. It contains useful information about Wamboin, including a map. It has details of the diverse range of community groups in the area. Please contact him on 6238 3258 for a copy.

**WCA Electronic Noticeboard** – The noticeboard is a great way to keep up with issues of community interest and I encourage everybody to subscribe. To subscribe, simply send an email message (doesn't need any subject or content) to **Wamboin\_Noticeboard\_subscribe@yahoo.com.au**.

**Calendar of events** – If you have any events that you would like included in June's Whisper, please contact John van der Straaten (ph: 6238 3590).

**Change of email address** – Please note that I have changed jobs and my previous email address ([helen.montesin@canberra.edu.au](mailto:helen.montesin@canberra.edu.au)) is no longer valid. My new email address is [montesin@tpg.com.au](mailto:montesin@tpg.com.au).

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**How The Whisper Gets From the Printer To Your Mailbox**

The 40 people below each spend time each month to make sure that Wamboin and Bywong residents own and receive a free community newspaper. If your deliverer has been on the job for a long time and you have a bit of time you could spare, think about offering to take over the job. If you already have too many tasks in your month, every now and then give your volunteer paperwoman/man/boy/girl a thank you.

160 CO-ORDINATED BY HELEN MONTESIN: Ph 6238 3208					
Dean Evans	Nrtn Area frm Campbl West	18	Bill Owen	Cooper Rd.	26
Helen Montesin	Fernloff Rd	33	Stuart Whitten	Canning Close	17
Hank Berlee	11 Poppet Rd (for all on road)	34	Alan Rope	Sutton Road	30
278 CO-ORDINATED BY SUE GANE:					
Joan Mason	Bingley Way	45	Margaret Heleimin	Merino Vale Drive	17
Sue Ward	Norton, Bngly to Weeroona	32	Anne Gardner	Weeroona, Norton to Majors	31
Sue Gane	Majors Close	20	David Anderson	Weeroona, Majors to Denley	35
Ned Noel	13 PalerancCn cl+41Advtrs	55	Penny Evans	Norton, Cmpbell to Bngly	25
Kathy Handel	Yalana West	19			
227 CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER:					
Colleen Foster	Joe Rocks to Norton	20	Ph 6238 3489		
Deb Gordon	Yalana East	41	Rob Gorham	South End - Clare Valley	38
Cassie Fisher	Clare Lane	11	Axelby Family	North End - Clare Valley	42
Lyle Montesin	Forrest Road area	60	Bungendore Shop	Bungendore	10
196 CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN:					
Sheryl Barnes	Denley/Kestral to End	20	Brian Higgison	Deley/Birchmans - Kestra	112
Don Malcomson	Macs R -- Denley to Gum Flat	7	Rhett Cox	Macs Reef /Nwngtn to Bankers	12
Ann Platts	Denley MacReef to Birchman's	26	Morag&Guy Cotsell	MReef /Newington/Harriot (A)	30
Nora Stewart	Rovere Lane	7	Sandra Favre	MReef /Newington/Harriot (B)	20
Joan Milner	Birriwa & MacsR to Harriot	30	Ian & Esther Rudd	Mreef/Bankers to Fed Hwy	26
Beth Hope	Gum Flat Lane	6			
211 CO-ORDINATED BY LAURA SNOWDON Ph 6236 9609					
Trevor Kirk	Macs R - Denley to Bung Rd	20	Snowdon Family	Hogan Drive	28
Kevin Anderson	BungRd - McRf to Smmhl	33	Diana+Keith Gascoine	Snow Gum Road	23
Kerrie Gougeon	BungRd - FedHy to Smmh l	25	Thelma Martin	Shinglehouse & Millyn	20
Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	17	Judith Miller	Wyoming and Doust Rds	25
TOTAL FOR WHISPER 1072			TBA	Summerhil / Creekborough	20



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## The Magic Necklace

By Tom Crane - Bywong and Wamboin Short Story Competition winner – Year 5

I'm in Wamboin. My mum gave me this necklace. I call it an animal necklace because it glows whenever I go near an animal. Anyway, I was in this chook pen. I had just spotted my favourite chook. As usual, the necklace glowed. I tried to pick up the chook but, as soon as I touched it, it started growing and growing.

"Aaaah" I said.

It stopped when it got to my size (and I'm pretty tall). There was an ear-splitting "BOK". I ran to the house.

"Mum, mum. I touched a chook and it grew really big."

"I'm sure you were imagining it."

"But ..."

"Now go off and play."

I went to the chook pen. My favourite chook was the same size. This was getting weird, I thought.

The next day I realised my full might: I could make fish come to the top of the water; make my dog go anywhere I wanted it to. I could even make birds sing songs to me. This was great! I could build up an army of frogs to attack girls in my class.

I had to tell my friends. The next day at school, I told my friends. One said, "Make a bird swoop Liam (my teacher)."

"OK," I said. A bird flew overhead. Suddenly it changed course and started swooping Liam. Then it flew off.

"Cool," said one of my friends.

"That's heaps awesome," said another.

I couldn't wait. Maybe a giant chook in someone's bed.

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## Wamboin Rural Golf Club

by Lofty Mason

21 golfers competed in the annual Wamboin Mini Masters on the 6th of April. A special thanks to Graham and Darren Heathcote of Bungendore Foodworks who supplied the great meat tray prizes and also the nibbles for the day. Our thanks to Hank and Don who were brave enough to judge the pitching competition.

The main competition was 'off the stick' over 6 holes (played twice). Players who make the cut after the first six holes are eligible for the major prizes. All players play the same 6 holes again. A secondary competition for all players is based on 2/3 normal handicap.

On return to the 'Clubhouse' a pitching competition is held. Players are handicapped over the 4 shots by playing the first pitch from a steep ramp, the 2nd standing on a tyre, the 3rd from a 300mm high tee and the 4th from a sand trap. Steve Minors recorded the best result with a total of 39.4 meters and Paul Griffin took home the handicap prize.

As the day drew to a close the leaders board showed indications of a playoff however, early favourite Len Ivey, slipped to a 49 leaving Tim Barter and Darrill Kildey equal second on 48.

The winner of the Wamboin Mini Masters and proud wearer of the Green Jacket was Rod Kildey on a 47.

## Notes from St Andrews

by Claire Ayling

With winter fast approaching, Sundays in St Andrews provides warmth and fellowship with their services. Morning Prayer is on the first Sunday of the month and Holy Communion on the third Sunday. The services start at 9am. Robyn Robertson who is the Rectors Warden can be contacted on 62383202 for any queries.

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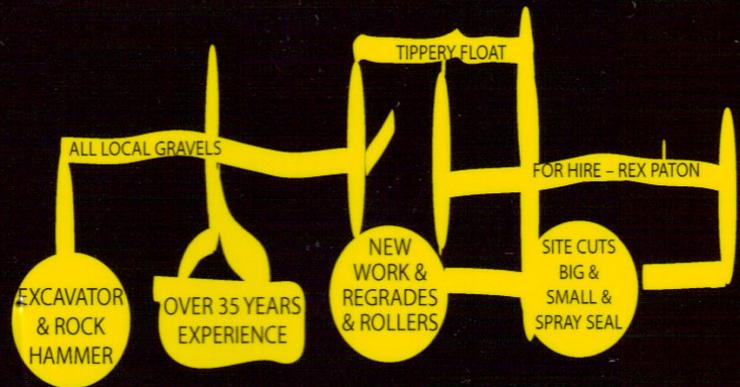
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## Lost in the Bush

By Nathalie Morris - Bywong and Wamboin Short Story Competition winner – Year 6

"I hate the bush. I absolutely hate it!" cried Lucy as she finished her breakfast. Lucy had just been told that she was going to Wamboin to stay with relatives for a week.

After about four hours of driving, they reached their relatives' house, which was an old stone shack in the middle of thick bushland. There were birds and kangaroos everywhere.

"Welcome to our home!" shrieked Lucy's uncle and auntie together as they carried her bags into the house. Lucy waved her parents goodbye and trudged inside the house.

A few days later, Lucy and her cousin, Stevie, decided to go for a picnic in the bush. About half way to their destination, Lucy tripped on a piece of bark and landed head first in cow manure.

"I HATE THE BUSH. I ABSOLUTELY HATE IT!"

Later on, while dodging a branch, Lucy nearly stepped on a brown snake. She screamed and ran away, the snake following her at a rapid speed. Stevie grabbed Lucy and pulled her up into a tree. The snake slithered away.

"I HATE THE BUSH. I ABSOLUTELY HATE IT!" she said.

When they reached the picnic grounds, they set up their picnic.

"Where is the bathroom?" Lucy said, looking around. Stevie explained that there was no bathroom in the bush. Lucy headed off for a big tree. Before she knew it, she was lost! Suddenly, out of nowhere came a boy and asked her who she was. He explained to her that he had been lost for over a year.

Meanwhile Stevie, worried sick, raced home to tell her uncle and aunt what had happened. Immediately they headed off into the bush to search for them.

Finally they saw them. Two lost figures. Soon they were back at the cottage.

"Mum," said Lucy, when her mum picked her up, "when am I going back to Wamboin's bush?"

"Next month!" replied her mum.

"I CAN'T WAIT!" she squealed. "I LOVE THE BUSH. I ABSOLUTELY LOVE IT!!!"

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**Thank you, thank you! Your help and willingness to do whatever you could to help was hugely appreciated. I could not have got back to Bingley Way to chase up all that paperwork for council, let alone be there for them to do inspections. It was a really stressful time and you just made things happen - I never had to ask you offered, that was just so thoughtful.**

**Things are settling down now, work and life are back on track and now I have time to say how happy I am. The sale went really well, I hope the new owners are as happy there as I always was. Out of the four agents who inspected my home I really made the best choice.**

**During a tough time in my life with lots going on, your quiet support really made a difference.**

**I wish you every success for your future,  
Thanks again,  
Petra Fleischer**

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## Wildcare is Great!

by Phillip Machin

Wildcare is your local wildlife group. It's a voluntary organisation that has charity status, which is great if you want to give a donation and get a tax refund! More importantly, throughout the year you can rely on getting hold of someone 24/7 who can give advice or arrange for someone to come out and rescue, remove or just help out with a wildlife problem. There are over 200 members in Wildcare spread across a huge region from Bredbo and Cooma in the south, through Bungendore, Captain's Flat, Queanbeyan and onwards to Yass, Young and Cowra. There are 29 licensed shooters who are able to attend incidents, such as road accidents, where wildlife is involved and decide whether an injured animal can be rescued or humanely dealt with. Sometimes car drivers get a lift home too! There are no less than 65 snake handlers who are always in demand in the hot summer months removing snakes from where they shouldn't be.

Wildcare, like all NSW wildlife groups are licensed by the Department of Environment and Climate Change. And there are rules to be followed in terms of how to deal with rescued animals and how and where they can be released. It's against the law to harm wildlife and you can be prosecuted for doing the wrong thing. Better to help look after our furry, feathered and slithery friends – who knows how long they will be around?



Many Wildcare members deal with all animals, including mammals, birds and reptiles, but others simply specialise into particular areas. One carer, Lesley, says "I've got two Joey kangaroos in a pre-release enclosure, two others who are released but taking some milk, an adult wombat recovering from severe injuries, another one who is learning how to be a wombat after being a discarded pet, a turtle with a cracked shell who will be released this week, three different types of lizard who are in permanent care and a local mob that likes to see what's on offer".

Many people think Wildcare volunteers are paid, but they are not. They are trained and they do a professional job, but the cost is all theirs. So, as we drift towards the end of the financial year why not donate to your local wildlife group!

If you want to get involved, or get advice, ring Wildcare on 6299 1966 and visit their website [www.wildcare.com.au](http://www.wildcare.com.au).

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## WWoW Whispers

by Claire Aying

The Wonderful Women of Wamboin continue to grow in numbers, and continue to add activities to the weekly meetings.

Over the last month, we have had a demonstration of cake decorating by Kellie's Cakes in Bungendore. The attached photo shows Kellie with the icing teddies we all made!



We also had a visit from Wendy Downs who runs the Support Crew for our local Bushfire Brigade. She gave an overview of the importance of the support crew's role and we then discussed ways in which the WWoWs and the Bushfire Brigade may be able to assist each other - watch this space!

Today, Emeritus Professor of Physics from ANU, John Sandeman came along and gave us a great presentation on climate change. The presentation gave us all food for thought and more importantly made us realise that if each person made some contribution, hopefully we can make things turnaround.

The group now enjoys speakers once a month ( and what a wealth of interesting people live as our neighbours!), and in the intervening weeks carry on with various craft activities - at present we are knitting beanies for aboriginal ladies in Alice Springs and also making 'little quilts of love' for the hospital in Alice Springs.

If anyone in the area knows of people who would benefit from our 'talents,' please let me know. Also new members from the area are most welcome to come along. We meet in St Andrews Church on the corner of Poppet and Norton Roads at 10 am each Monday - Follow the sounds of laughter and fun! If anyone needs further assistance please call Claire Aying on 62383347

## Locality Sign

by Lofty Mason

If you are wondering about the activity near the Fire Brigade sign at the corner of Norton and Sutton Road; read on. Over the last few months the Wamboin Community Association has been discussing the placing of a suitable Locality Sign at the entrance to Wamboin. We have decided that the most suitable would be a sandstone block etched with 'WAMBOIN' and mounted in a stonewall. When we read in the Mirror that Council had allocated money toward these signs we decided to go ahead with our plans. I was nominated as project officer. After several unanswered approaches to Council by Email and phone I finally presented at the office and had a discussion with Peter Bascomb and Gordon Cunningham. The outcome being the grant had evaporated however if we were still interested Gordon would meet us on site to give the go ahead. On Wednesday Dave Argaet, Charlie Montesin and I met with Gordon and drove in a few pegs and sprayed some lines on the ground. We have checked with 'Dialbeforeyoudig' and there are no problems. Charlie will do the earthworks; Dave Argaet's team will do the construction and me? As Project Officer, I take all the credit if it goes OK and know who to blame if there are problems.

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# The Wamboin Firefighter

**THE FIRE DANGER PERIOD HAS ENDED.  
BURNING OFF IN THE OPEN WILL BE PERMITTED, BUT PLEASE ENSURE  
YOU NOTIFY YOUR NEIGHBOURS AND YOUR BRIGADE CAPTAIN AT  
LEAST 24 HOURS BEFORE YOU LIGHT THE FIRE.  
RING 000 (Zero-Zero-Zero) TO REPORT FIRES OR SMOKE SIGHTINGS.**

A newsletter from YOUR volunteer rural fire brigade compiled

by Cliff Spong with help from many members of the Brigade

## From the Captain's Desk



We have been officially notified that the fire danger period has now ended. This means that fires can now be lit in the open without the need for a permit. However it would be greatly appreciated that if you intend lighting up that pile of vegetation could you please notify your neighbours and your brigade Captain at least 24 hours before you light the fire. This way it gives your neighbours time to move stock or get the washing in on the day. It can also avoid a visit from your volunteer firefighters if and when a smoke sighting is received that we don't know about.

The past fire danger period was probably one of the quietest for some time; not only in our zone, but for many across New South Wales. While some people predicted last year that we would have a busy time during the fire season, no major bush fires were reported in our area despite some adverse weather conditions late last year. Few smoke sightings, which were not related to fire permits issued recently, were recorded. There were a number of motor vehicle accidents, including two during April. Luckily only a few of the car accidents resulted in some possible serious injuries. The pleasing thing to note, as always, was that the many volunteers in your brigade responded quickly whenever needed.

Now that the fire season has ended it is time for everyone who intends using wood fires or slow combustion stoves in their houses to check their chimneys. Make sure the chimney or flue has been swept to remove as much creosote as possible. It is also a good idea to check inside the stove, especially if it hasn't been used for some time. You never know what you could find that may block the entrance to the flue or chimney! Some friendly wildlife may be lodging there. Some of our recent high winds may have caused some damage. It is always worth checking. A chimney or flue fire is sometimes hard to detect and can cause a lot of damage in the roof space before it becomes obvious to the occupants of the house.

Although the fire danger period has ended we all have to remember that one thing does not change for us. Even though we all know to ring 000 to report an emergency, it is that half an hour after the call or when the emergency happens that we need to plan for. The fact of rural life is that it takes some time for any emergency service to get to where we live. It is during those 30 minutes that your foresight pays off. The first aid course you did can help minimise medical complications. The plans you made for when fire threatens can be put into action. The fire fighting equipment can be put into action or you put your evacuation plans into effect. Those 30 minutes can mean the difference between minimal and major consequences to your family, stock and animals, and your property. If we consider the threat of fire for a moment, whether we like it or not, protecting your property is a joint responsibility. The volunteers in your fire brigade, as well as other emergency services, will respond as fast as is possible, but houses have been lost before they can arrive. In some cases this could have been avoided if property owners had taken the time to consider what could be done before those emergency services can arrive on the scene. Could a properly functioning fire fighting pump be used to contain the fire? Could constructing a buffer zone around the house have stopped an approaching fire from damaging your house or outbuildings? Could an evacuation plan help get people with mobility difficulties away from danger earlier?

It is also worthwhile checking to see if your smoke detectors are still working. Smoke from a home fire is toxic, only early warning can assist in giving your family vital time to escape a smoke filled room. Also, when you are asleep you will not smell the smoke from a fire and the smoke will actually put you into a deeper sleep. A smoke alarm can provide the early warning you need and is the critical first step in your home fire safety plan.

Tips on smoke alarms:

- Install at least one smoke alarm on each level of your home
- Use only Australian Standard 3786 smoke alarms
- Replace alkaline batteries when daylight savings changes (2 April 2006)
- Test smoke alarms once a month
- Clean smoke alarms every six months – use a vacuum cleaner
- Get new alarms every 10 years, or earlier if they need replacing

- Ensure you have a home fire evacuation plan.

The Brigade's internal and external training programs continue with several of our new members undertaking their basic training courses over the past few weeks. Also a large number of members have enrolled in the next advanced firefighter course. It is also pleasing to report that we also have a number of people who are also taking part in crew leader courses. The pictures below show some of the activity during one of our well attended internal training sessions during April where we practised the many facets of dealing with a motor car accident.

During the past few months your Brigade has received several generous donations from the Eagle Hawk Hotel Social Club and our local Landcare group. We also raised a sizable amount of money from our refreshment stall at the Bywong Car Boot Sale. With these funds, and a forthcoming donation from the Bywong Community Association, your brigade will be able to purchase some specialised equipment for our latest tanker. The equipment is a self-powered hose reel which will be fitted on the rear of our largest tanker. It will not only reduce the fatigue of our firefighters in having to roll up hoses many times during incidents but will allow those firefighters to move to new tasks more quickly.

In closing I would like to pass on the good wishes from everyone in the Brigade to Wendy Downs who recently spent a little while in hospital. We all hope Wendy gets well very soon.

Finally, if you need any advice about fire protection around your property please call 0409 991 340.

<b>THE CAPTAIN'S LIST</b>		<b>Businesses supporting the Wamboin Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade</b>
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FOR HIRE from the Wamboin Community Association: GAS BBQ - Party Size, Portable, \$30 (includes gas) together with \$30 cleaning bond, both payable on collection. Cleaning bond will be refunded if BBQ is returned clean. Enquiries - Joan Mason 62 383 258.
Trestles and chairs are available for hire by local residents. Hire rates are: Trestle \$10ea and chairs \$1.50 ea. Price does not include delivery or pick-up charges. Available from the Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way. Must be returned in clean servicable condition. All damages are responsibility of the hirer. Equipment must be tied securely on trailer etc. when taken (otherwise they don't go.) Time of pick-up and returned MUST be adhered to (I don't live at the Hall!) -Joan Mason, 62383258.
FOR HIRE: WAMBOIN COMMUNITY HALL. Bookings arranged by Joan Mason 6238 3258. Local Residents \$70, Bond \$200. Non Resident \$125, Bond \$250. The Hall is not available for teenage or 21st functions.
FOR HIRE: BYWONG COMMUNITY HALL. Suitable for smaller functions and seminars, groups etc. Check availability and booking information on <a href="http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au">www.bywongcommunity.org.au</a> .
The Whisper is a community newspaper for Wamboin and Bywong. If you live in the area and have something to say about living here that is informative, thoughtful or entertaining, think about writing it up for the next issue. For more information contact the editor on 6238-3484 or email nednoel@optusnet.com.au. And thanks if you have already done so.

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## Bungendore Adventure

By Ariana Baker - Bywong and Wamboin Short Story Competition winner – Year 8

Vice looked around her and just stared.

“What is this place?” She looked around in wonder. “When did I get here?”

Vice looked behind her and saw she was on a street named ‘Gibraltar Street’

“Huh?” Vice thought, “Bungendore? I’m supposed to be at home! What am I doing here?”

She saw a restaurant ahead and looked at the dim light in it and walked towards it.

“Mum?! Dad?!” Vice looked shocked. Weren’t they supposed to be at home too?

“Vice!” Her dad looked at her. “Sit down and eat already!”

Vice looked at them and nodded, then slowly walked over and sat down.

Her mum and dad talked about all sorts of things but Vice’s attention was directed elsewhere ...

“What’s that? Is that a kid? Looks around my age and she looks familiar,” Vice thought before excusing herself to go outside.

Vice wandered around a bit, trying to find the shadow before she saw something move.

“Hey! Wait up,” she called after noticing the form’s looks. “Kathryn?!” Vice chased after it until it came to a stop at a tree.

“Kathryn?” Vice asked, confused. “What are you doing here? I thought you were in Perth with your family. You look pale. Come inside and explain everything.”

Kathryn, the girl who was standing outside, just stared at Vice with fear and sadness.

“Kathryn?” Vice went to put her hand on her shoulder but it slipped through.

“Agh! What just happened? Look, wait here.” Vice panicked. “I’ll go get my dad, OK?”

As Vice turned around, she heard a scream and stopped dead in her tracks and looked back only to see Kathryn being carried off by ghost pirates.

“Agh! Kathryn!” Vice screamed. “Man, this is really messed up!” (continued on next page)

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As Vice looked to see if there was something she could help her with, she noticed something on a verandah. "Huh? A sword?" She looked confused. "Oh, well! Not like anything else is making sense around here. Why should this?"

Vice followed the pirates with her new sword all the way to a ship floating above the Bungendore post office.

"Aghhhh! What is this?" She saw a rope hanging from the ship. "May as well."

As Vice climbed aboard, she noticed that there was a group of child spirits and a lady all trapped in a cage in the centre of the ship.

"Hey, you pirates!" she shouted. "Let go of these people right now!"

"Ahahaha! Now that's a joke!" A tall man walked down the steps of the ship. "A young lass waving a sword around, telling us what to do! Bah! Get her!"

A stream of ghost pirates rushed towards Vice as she prepared to fight!

Vice was almost done with the pirates and advanced towards what seemed to be the captain.

"I don't know how and when I learnt to fight, mister ..." She glared at him. "But I know I'm gonna kick your behind for taking my friend!"

"Hahaha. You certainly are a feisty one!" the captain sneered. "Too bad you wont be alive for long!"

Vice snarled and launched herself at the captain and they battled fiercely. Vice eventually got the upper hand and knocked his sword from his hands.

"Ha!" She grinned evilly. "Say your last words, pirate."

"Why, you ..." the captain stopped dead as Vice swung her sword and cut his head off.

"Kathryn, I hope you're ..." Vice stopped and looked at them " ... all OK?"

Vice stared at them dumbfoundedly. They had thankful looks on their faces but were fading ...

"Kathryn," Vice asked. "What's happening?"

"I'm OK, Vice," she grinned. "Thank you!"

"WAIT!" Vice ran after them but stepped forward and felt like she was falling.

"AGHHH!"

Clunk. Vice looked up and saw that she was on the ground in her pajamas.

"Wha?" She looked at her mobile on her desk. "That was all a dream? Wow. Now I know not to watch *Pirates of the Caribbean* before bed."

She got up and walked to her desk and saw her mobile flashing, telling her she had a message.

"Thanks from Kathryn." Vice went pale. "Wha ... what?!"

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## Nature Notes – April 2008

Jo Walker

Well, it looks as if we might be getting a little of that promised rain today, at last. We did get a surprise dump of hail in the middle of the month but only, it seems, in a small area of Wamboin. It was evidently quite fierce here (I was out at the time), as the driveway and pavers were covered in a fine mulch of sliced green leaves when I came home.

So far autumn has been quite warm – mild nights so far and no frosts. Probably because of this, some of the spring-flowering plants are sporting a few blooms. A few *Acacia genistifolia* are carrying pale cream flowers and one of the Parrot Peas, *Dillwynia juniperina*, has a few of its yellow and red flowers opening.

Two of the heaths, *Styphelia triflora* and the smaller Urn Heath (*Melichrus urceolatus*), are flowering well this year. They are both nectar sources for honeyeaters during winter and spring. We're lucky in Wamboin to have at least eight of the local heath plants (in the Epacridaceae family) growing here, some of them quite prolifically. *Styphelia triflora* is the largest of them, often growing to over a metre tall, and its long, narrow cream bells make it a conspicuous part of the landscape at this time of the year. *Melichrus urceolatus* usually grows to about 30 cm, but there is a huge one, wide as well as tall, growing up through a pile of logs on a neighbour's place. Its cream, sturdy flowers, often crowded densely along the stems, make it an attractive little plant.

Another heath, the narrow-leaved *Monotoca scoparia*, can grow to over 100 cm and has tiny, often profuse, cream flowers. This seems to be a particularly good year for them. *Brachyloma daphnoides* is a similarly-sized shrub with greyish ovate or elliptic leaves and white flowers. New growth often has a distinctive pink tinge. These two species, as well as *S. triflora* and *M. urceolatus*, are mostly found in rocky areas on shallow soils – plenty of that sort of country here!

*Leucopogon virgatus* likes slightly damper sites, and, on my place, seems to grow mostly near stands of Burgan (*Kunzea ericoides*). *Leucopogon* means "white beard", a description of the fine hairs on the insides of the flowers which give them a furry appearance. The white flowers are borne on the tips of the stems during summer.

The Peach Heath, *Lissanthe strigosa*, can grow into a dense small bush, but most of the plants at Wamboin are the low-growing form. This one is a suckering plant and can form a large patch of dark green, prickly stems. Although it is a spring-flowering species, the sometimes dense heads of dark pink buds are attractive during winter.

Two species of heaths that form dense mats are *Astroloma humifusum* (Cranberry Heath) and *Acrotriche serrulata* (Honeypots). *A. humifusum* is flowering at present and its tubular little red flowers (borne in an upright position) are unmistakable, clustered amongst the prickly, dense mat of bluish-green leaves. *Acrotriche serrulata* forms very large mats sometimes – although this is a slow-growing species, there are some very large ones on my place, one with a diameter of two metres or more. The tiny linear leaves are bright green and hide the clusters of tiny green flowers growing at the base of the stems. These flowers produce copious amounts of nectar, hence their name of Honeypots.

As well as nectar, most heath plants also produce edible soft fruits (albeit with very hard seeds enclosed) providing a food source for birds and some of the smaller mammals.

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## Fire

By Zoey Shepherd - Bywong and Wamboin Short Story Competition merit awardee – Year 5

There once was a fire  
A fire in Bywong  
Colours  
Colours of red, yellow and orange.  
A bushfire has happened  
Oh no oh no  
A fire in Bywong  
I hope the rain comes falling shortly  
I hope the rain comes down real soon.

## Lake George Day VIEW Club

by Lydia Teodorowych

Lake George Day VIEW Club will hold it's next meeting on Tuesday May 20, 2008 at Goolabri Country Resort Goolabri Rd Sutton. Arrive at 11.30am for a 12 noon start. Lunch will cost \$21. Join us for our meeting, lunch and prepare to be pampered by Anne Maria. Bring along a friend and get a free raffle ticket. To book your lunch phone Lorraine on 6238 1953 by Friday May 16. For more information on the VIEW Club ring President Pauline on 6238 1996.



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## ***Magic, Mystery, Fire and Frogs!!!*** **Winners announced for the Bywong and Wamboin Short Story Competition**

We have had another successful story competition this year with 11 winners and four entrants receiving merit awards. From a total of 61 entries (100% more than in 2007), the range and quality of stories was very interesting. However, we had no adult entries and only one high school entrant and would be looking for more of these next year. We congratulate all our winners. They will receive book vouchers from *A Suitable Book* in Bungendore and a certificate.

The story competition winners for 2008 are:

High School	Ariana Baker	<i>Bungendore Adventure</i>
Year 6	Lauren Lind	<i>Mysterious</i>
Year 6	Nathalie Morris	<i>Lost in the bush</i>
Year 6	Lillie Pryor	<i>Four Girls Amaze and Time</i>
Year 6	Adrian Schmidt	<i>The Day After The Day After Tomorrow</i>
Year 6	Jack de Puit	<i>Tank on the Rampage</i>
Year 5	Ciara Bowman	<i>The Cave of Screams</i>
Year 5	Oscar Lange	<i>Bywong the Great Toad</i>
Year 5	Erin Cooper	<i>Frog</i>
Year 5	Nicky Craze	<i>The Big Mistake</i>
Year 5	Tom Crane	<i>The Magic Necklace</i>

We also had a large number of poems submitted and chose some for publication. Merit Awards for poetry were awarded to:

Year 6	Jessica Pearce	<i>The Drought on Forest Road!</i>
Year 6	Mitch Perkins	<i>Bushfire</i>
Year 5	Tilda Musgrave-List	<i>Bywong Bushfires</i>
Year 5	Zoey Shepard	<i>Fire</i>

The judging panel would like to thank all the entrants and those who assisted for their efforts, for their support to this competition, particularly the Bungendore Primary School and the Sutton Primary School. We would also like to sincerely thank our generous sponsors, the Bywong Community Association, the Wamboin Community Association and *A Suitable Book* in Bungendore.

A selection of these stories and poems will be published in the Whisper over the next few months. We hope you enjoy reading the stories. We are interested in feedback about the competition - [wordnerd@yless4u.com.au](mailto:wordnerd@yless4u.com.au)

**Nora Stewart, on behalf of judging panel Colin Brammall, Nora Stewart and Stan Melville**

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News from Sutton School

by Gay McNeill

Thank you to all who supported Sutton School's recent County Fair. The sun shone down on a wonderful family and community day and this year we raised over \$7000. The P&C will use this money to buy resources, improve facilities within the school and fund teacher training, visiting performances and our enrichment program.

For the past ten years students in Years 3 and 6 have completed Basic Skills Tests which were set by the NSW Department of Education and Training. This year the Federal Government has introduced national testing in literacy, numeracy and writing for all Australian students in Years 3 and 6. Sutton teachers have been working to revise basic topics and familiarise students with the new testing format ready for 12 – 14 May.

Primary students have been using their daily PE time to train for the school cross country race which will be held on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Our best runners will then compete in the District Cross Country on 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

Our school captains are currently organising a Grandparents' Day for Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June. Visitors will join in classroom activities for the morning followed by a special assembly and tree planting.

Congratulations to Nicola Price from Year 6 who is our Student of the Month for April.

For many years the highlight of Term 2 has been our weekly enrichment activities. This year, with the support of parents for transport, we have added ten pin bowling and rockclimbing for the older students. Thanks to Mr Scott for also organising tutors for T-shirt printing, knitting, dance, cooking, French, fire safety and chess. Students in Kinder and Year 1 choose from a different range of activities. Thursday afternoons have never been so much fun!!



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