



The Whisper

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Wamboin Community Assn www.wamboincommunity.org.au

Bywong Community www.bywongcommunity.org.au

Fire Brigade <http://wamboin.rfsa.org.au>

Bywong and Wamboin Facilities and Contacts

Bywong Community	Steve Walker - President	6230 3473	president@bywongcommunity.org.au
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	Neville Schroder - Captain	0409 991 340	wamboincaptain@gmail.com
Geary's Gap Pony Club	Cameron Smith	0419 449 747	
Golf	Peter Greenwood	6238 3358	p.greenwood2@bigpond.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
KYB Bible Study Group	Robyn Doran	6238 3469	rdoran4@bigpond.com
Landcare	Kathy Handel - Treasurer	6238 3596	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	Pip Easy - Contact Person	0414 366 856	Playgroup.sutton@gmail.com
Table Tennis	Mike Muston	0406 606 238	mikemuston@gmail.com
Wamboin Community Assoc.	Jenny Richards - President	6238 1329	president@wamboincommunity.asn.au
Wamboin-Bung. Book Group	Sally Saunders	0419 303 229	sally.saunders1@bigpond.com
Wamboin Hall Bookings	Joan Mason	6238 3258	joan.mason@internode.on.net
Wamboin Markets	Meriel Schultz	6238 3309	lmsconsulting@bigpond.com
Wamboin Play Group	Zoe Walker - Coordinator		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	Kathy Handel - Chair	6238 3596	khandel@bigpond.net.au
Wonderful Women of Wamboin	Gail Ritchie Knight	0416 097 500	whirlwind1@argonite.com.au
ARF (Rescue Dogs)	Lisa Whitney	0408 260 796	lisawhitney059@gmail.com
Building Community Resilience	Amanda Jones		Ajones.advisor@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 EnvoPrint 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 in doing the editing. Please email contributions to either whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au or 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, so the **deadline for the March 2023 combined issue is 7 pm Sunday night, February 26, 2023.** Advertising prices, per issue, based on rough fraction of inside the margins A4 area: 1/8 \$24 1/6 \$29 1/4 \$35 1/3 \$44 1/2 \$70 2/3 \$87 Full Page \$140. email or phone the editor as above.

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	<h2>President's Paragraphs</h2>	
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Welcome back everyone to a brand new year with new challenges and excitement. These first Notes may be a bit thin in content as the WCA has been in recess for a month however I'm sure things will soon get going..

1. **Rebecca Ryan's Visit.** At our final monthly meeting of the year in 2022 the GM of the QPLC payed us a visit. She spoke about a number of things mostly to do with rate rises. Councillor Grundy was also present. It was a good opportunity for the local people to make their feelings made known to the council.
2. **Markets Continuing As A Place To Meet & Greet.** Although I was not present at our first markets for 2023 I understand it was reasonably well attended with many people enjoying the opportunity to have a tea or coffee and talk with friends then perhaps pick up some local produce or items. If you haven't made it to our monthly markets yet I urge you to come along. Its a very friendly place with a variety of food, produce and craft stalls (not to mention Lou's tea & coffee). They are held on the **3rd Saturday** of every month except July and August and go from **9 am to 12 noon** .
3. **Wamboin Sign.** It is with some shock that the stone sign marking the entrance to Norton Road off Sutton Road sustained a fair amount of damage this last week when a vehicle crashed into it. However the WCA are already dealing with the issue. More about this can be found further in this issue of the Whisper and once the Committee meets in two weeks time I should have much more information to pass on to you.
4. **Monthy Meetings.** Our regular monthly meetings resume as of February. They are held on the **3rd Tuesday** of each month at the Community Hall in Bingley way and begin at **7:30 pm**. They are open to all residents of Wamboin so please come along and see one for yourself.
5. **March 25 NSW Election – Meet the Candidates Night.** Thew WCA will sponsor this event. Watch the chalkboards and Social Media and the March Whisper for the date.

That's it for now. A short President's Notes but as we and the year gets underway I'm sure that there will be many items of interest to fill each month. - *Jenny Richards – President.*



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As I am sure you are aware from the signs, the BCA Car Boot Sale will be held on March 26 back at the hallowed ground of Les Reardon Reserve (Bywong Hall) - 9am start. This time I got in early with the advertising so we have plenty of advance warning.

Also... Rebecca Ryan the General Manager of QPRC will be rockin up at the next BCA meeting (FEB 16) to learn of our concerns and interests and to answer questions about the Council's plans and activities..

Anyway... that's all I can think of at present... I bid you all good health and wealth for 2023.

Cheerio! – Steve El Prez

(the modified version you see above reflects changes by the Ned Noel, editor).

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The Bywong and Wamboin Greenways

By Chris Schweizer, s.355 Greenways Management Committee

What are they? Established as a pilot project in 1994, this network of public access ways is a combination of crown road reserves (some with paved roads, some without, some driveways and also crown roads that cut across existing private land) and also specifically identified 'greenways'. The current Greenways network comprises some 30 km of council reserves (most of which were formerly crown road reserves) and road verges.

The Greenways (as distinct from road verges that provide links between them) are for pedestrian, horse and push bike traffic only. In addition to recreational use, the land involved provides a unique opportunity to retain and revitalise areas of native vegetation. For the purposes of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the Greenways are designated a natural area for community use and the natural area is further designated as bushland.

Where are they? An excellent Greenways map can be found at www.bywongcommunity.org.au and a more detailed map, based on QPRC cadastral data, is online at <https://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Building-Development/Planning-Zoning/Online-Mapping>. Select the layer 'Greenways - Bywong Wamboin' and open the drop-down menu.

How are they managed? The Greenways are managed through the s.355 Greenways Management Committee (the Committee) of the Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council (QPRC). After discussions regarding the role and use of s.355 committees by the new Council in 2022, all s.355 committee terms of reference and guidelines are currently being reviewed. At its 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM), a seven member Committee was confirmed with Kathy Handel as Chair, Craig Bradley as Secretary and Carol Boughton as Treasurer. Cr Katrina Willis is the QPRC councillor designate for the Committee, and the alternate is Cr Louise Burton.

On-ground works are delivered in conjunction with local volunteer labour and Landcare groups, and periodic working bees, with a focus on managing water erosion, revegetation, weed management, grass and vegetation slashing, signage and public awareness. The Committee maintains a Works Schedule, which is updated throughout the year, as a guide for working bees and to direct the efforts of Council and others through appropriate grant funding opportunities. As Council reserves, QPRC has overall responsibility for the management of Greenways, including any major works that are beyond the capacity of community volunteers.

An overarching Greenways Master Plan was prepared by the Greenways Renewal Working Group (GROW)* and the Committee and was published in 2018 and updated in 2020. The Master Plan's objective was to establish a 10-year strategy for the development and maintenance of the Bywong Wamboin Greenways network, as well as providing a framework for the development of similar networks elsewhere in the Queanbeyan Palerang Region.

Over the past few years, the combination of COVID restrictions and persistent La Niña (wet!) conditions has seen significant weed growth and erosion in a number of places on the Greenways. The Committee met with the QPRC General Manager, Ms Rebecca Ryan and Cr Katrina Willis at the end of 2022 to discuss these and other challenges. The General Manager advised that while there is no funding in the QPRC Budget to support Greenways' capital works and maintenance, the Committee can apply for grants under the auspices of Council.


The General Manager encouraged the Committee to both update the Greenways Master Plan to include a section on priorities for action, and to submit the Management Plan to Council for formal endorsement (with a suggested timeline of April 2023). Council endorsement of the Master Plan would enable it to inform grant funding opportunities (as noted earlier, the Committee can apply for funding grants from the NSW and Commonwealth governments and other organisations under the auspices of Council), and would also help ensure that Council was aware of Greenways-related issues in considering development applications.

This is important because the Master Plan asks that Council refer any proposed crown road closures to the Committee to ensure that appropriate consideration is given to any impact these may have on Greenways planning or management. The Master Plan also notes that future rural residential subdivision of large lots adjacent to current rural residential areas should similarly involve consultation with the Committee so that any associated Greenway connectivity options can be identified. This is pertinent given discussions some years ago regarding the possibility of a new Greenway along Black Joes Creek, but subsequent iterations of the associated Development Approval (DA), and the final DA for the new area of Woodfield Hills, had removed this option without further engagement with the Committee.


How to get involved: Walk, ride or cycle the Greenways – privately, or as part of a guided walk, and share your experiences on one or more of the local Facebook groups. Join guided Greenways walks established to share and promote the objectives of the Building Community Resilience Project (for further information see www.resilientbywongwamboin.net). Some 170 people have already participated in the Spring Greenways walks under the Project. A further three walks are planned for autumn 2023.

Raise issues – any queries, issues or concerns relating to the Greenways can be brought to the attention of either the Committee Chair (Kathy Handel – her details are included on the front of The Whisper under the key contacts list) or the Committee Secretary (Craig Bradley – cbraddles@gmail.com). Depending on the nature of the issue, it could also be raised directly with the QPRC by sending an emailing to council@qprc.nsw.gov.au.

Much of the information in this article has been drawn from the Greenways website pages (see www.bywongcommunity.org.au).



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The market is auspiced by the Wamboin Community Association. We accept any produce you have grown or made and some second hand goods, but no selling-on of commercial products. I think someone managed to sell a rather smart motor bike at the Christmas market. Certainly plenty of interest!

We encourage 'young entrepreneurs'. The cost of a trestle table or spot for your own table/trailer/ute etc remains at \$5.00. These proceeds are returned to the Wamboin Community Association and the Hall Management Committee. The funds contribute towards hire of the hall and insurance.

Call or email me (see above) if you are interested or would like further information. Spaces in the hall are getting pretty rare but there is ample space outside. **And we are still looking for volunteers to run the community clothing stall.....**

Supporting the market is a key part of our Wamboin/Bywong community. See you there!

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3 ride-on mowers, a hand mower, a slasher and 7 whipper snippers/brush cutters

My thanks to the 15 community-minded volunteers who assisted with the garden tidy up at the Wamboin Community Hall in December. The gardens and surrounds now look fantastic with all the rubbish removed and the VERY long grass cut down. You should have seen us with 3 ride-on mowers, a hand mower, a slasher and 7 whipper snippers/brush cutters roaring in unison! The play ground area looks great and children can now play there and be seen! As we ate and drank refreshments we admired our handiwork and enjoyed the company of other locals.

December is a busy time of year and the growth of the grass and weeds on our own properties has been incredible so I was extremely grateful to the people who did turn up. We all have so much to do but someone needed to tackle the area to reduce the weed growth and keep the area under control and looking good. The council only mows the oval area twice a year and doesn't touch the edges, the back of the hall or the playground area so it is up to our community to do the rest. We hope to get some more mulch to cover the garden areas and plan on doing another working bee in autumn. Watch out for the date on the Wamboin/Bywong Hub on Facebook and in The Whisper and come join us next time – many hands make light work!

- VickiStill <vickistillnow@gmail.com>

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Building Community Resilience



Wheels of Wamboin



Save the Date Saturday 15 April 2023

9.00am to 1.00pm

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Contact Ken on 0438 600 393 or Kennyzdirtyworx@gmail.com

Wamboin Thursday Drop In Group Update



The Thursday Social Group is looking for new people to come along and join our group. If you have a few hours free on a Thursday morning between 10am - 12 midday, we would love to see you. You can have a cuppa, join in a game of scrabble, rummykub, triominoes, cards or just have a chat. If you would like more information, give Narelle Pumphrey a call on 0438 917206, via email pumpbnjc@westnet.com.au, or just drop in on Thursday.

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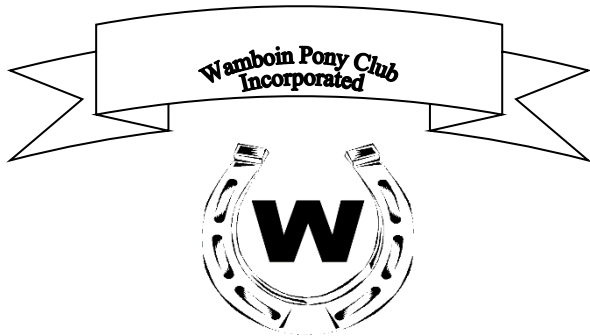
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Wamboin Pony Club Information

Phone: Club Secretary - Stacey Burgess- 0414 672 979
 Email: wamboinpcsecretary@gmail.com
 Club Grounds: 79 Canning Close, Wamboin NSW 2620
 Website: www.wamboinponyclub.org.au
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/wamboinpc/>
 Postal Address PO Box 885, Dickson ACT 2602

Wamboin Pony club is a small local pony club situated at 79 Canning Close Wamboin. We have 3 fully enclosed arenas for our members to safely ride in, (especially those beginning to ride and need to be in a confined area to maintain control), a club house, cross country jumps and horse yards.

We have 4 fully qualified instructors and members currently completing their instructors' certificates.

We have riders ranging from 3 years old to 80 years old and all our riders are helpful, supportive and encouraging of each other, no matter what your age or riding ability. Pony club is about learning and gaining new experiences and having fun with your horse, while making new friends along away. Note: Riders over the age of 25 are subject to the chief instructor's approval to ride at rally days. Riders over the age of 25 cannot compete in Pony Club competitions.

Pony Club rally days are usually held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month, even in the school holidays (except Christmas holidays). In the event the rally day isn't being held or there are changes members will be notified.

Rally days generally run from 9:00am – 1:00pm (approximately) Times may vary depending on weather. Generally, there are 1 or 2 sessions held in the morning with a break for morning tea around 11:00am followed by another 1 or 2 sessions. There are lots of different activities that you may participate in at rally day including show jumping, dressage, cross country, troop drill, mounted games, sporting, polocrosse, horse care and theory.

Lunch is around 1:00pm and this time is used to socialize and advise of any important messages or events coming up etc. These are indicative times and can vary on the day. A canteen runs every rally day providing yummy food for lunch and also sweets and snacks as well as drinks including fruit boxes, soft drinks, tea and coffee. All these items are available to purchase at a reasonable price.

If you would like to find out more information about Wamboin Pony Club, please contact our club Secretary Stacey via phone or email. – Belinda Cole

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We've been busy since early December with callouts. 4 x MVA's, 1 x Ambulance assist, 1 x structure fire and 1 x grass fire. The structure fire was our biggest incident for some time, as it required our attendance for 4 days. 6 Neighbouring brigades together with NSW Fire and Rescue, NSW Police and NSW Ambulance all remained on scene for at least the first 10 hours.

WHEN A FIRE STARTS IN OUR AREA

If you are reporting a fire, ring **ONLY 000**. Do not ring the Wamboin station or Captain.

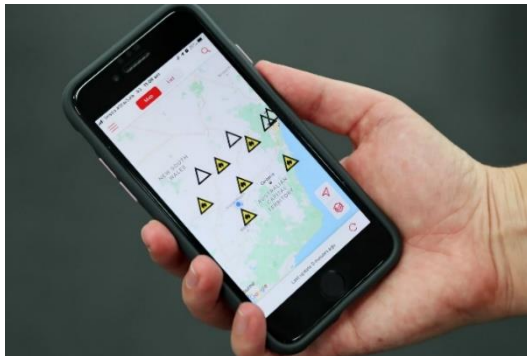
Once a fire has been reported in our area, it will immediately be listed on the FIRES NEAR ME APP. It will be listed as "OUT OF CONTROL". Until the RFS arrive on scene to assess the incident, it will stay listed as out of control. When it is changed to "BEING CONTROLLED", effective strategies are in operation or planned for the entire perimeter. When listed as "UNDER CONTROL", the fire is at a stage where firefighting resources are only required for patrol purposes and major re-ignition is unlikely. There are 3 alert levels, (triangles with a flame) next to the listed incident. Yellow is



ADVICE, meaning a fire has started, no immediate danger, but stay up to date in case the situation changes. Orange is WATCH AND ACT means there is a heightened level of threat, conditions are changing and you need to start taking action to protect you and your family. Red is EMERGENCY WARNING, this is the Highest level of Bush Fire Alert. You may be in danger and need to act immediately. Any delay now puts your life in danger.

If you haven't set up your own "WATCH ZONE" on Fires near me, do so ASAP. You can set up a radius search (say 30KM as an example) Any fires within that radius will send a notification to your phone to let you know there is a fire in that zone. You can change your "watch zone" to whatever area you like.

SOCIAL MEDIA and FIRE INFORMATION:



Don Evans

Social media can be a great source of information and sometimes misinformation. Often, people will post incorrect information which might cause unnecessary panic. Information posted by local RFS Brigades, NSW RFS or the Lake George Fire Control & Administration Centre can give accurate information. If a fire escalates to an emergency warning, local ABC radio will give information. The RFS website will also have up to date information on fires. This will list ALL FIRES in NSW, so even if you smell smoke, it could be from a fire hundreds of kilometres away and NOT in our area. BOTH the FNM app and RFS website will show at all times all incidents in NSW, so go and have a look when there isn't smoke or a fire in our area to see how it all works. Until next time, stay safe! -

USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade: <http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au>

NSW Rural Fire Service: www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

Wamboin Facebook page: [Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade](#)

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Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For February I chose the Dollarbird, an uncommon summer migrant that I have seen around the local area recently.

Dollarbird (*Eurystomus orientalis*)

Size: 26-30cm

Status: Uncommon breeding summer migrant

The Dollarbird is a colourful medium-sized bird that migrates to the local area from northern Australia (and further afield into Asia) during the warmer summer months, moving back north in winter. It is the only representative of its taxonomic family in Australia, the Rollers (*Coraciidae*), which mainly occur in Africa and Asia, and therefore it is quite unusual and distinct, with its closest Australian relatives being Bee-eaters and Kingfishers. Their plumage is a deep blue-green, becoming blackish on the head with a darker blue throat, wing tips and tail. They have a very wide red bill and red legs. The male and female look the same and the immature birds are more blackish with a dark bill and legs. They typically perch conspicuously by themselves or in pairs, on perches in open areas such as powerlines, often near water. They 'hawk' insects in the air with their specially adapted wide bill. In flight they have a distinctive pale blue 'dollar' shaped marking in their wings, which can look similar to the introduced Common Myna but Dollarbirds are larger and a rich blue (not brown) in colour with longer wings and a red bill. Their call is distinctive, which is a harsh metallic "kak". Dollarbirds are an uncommon bird locally and I haven't seen many in Wamboin, however they are more regular at a few other places nearby including Sutton and Fyshwick in Canberra. For those that go to the coast they are also more regularly seen in coastal regions. Recently I have seen quite a few, after not having seen many over the last few years. So make sure to keep an eye out for this colourful bird as the summer comes to an end. (Photo from Google Images)



Wamboin Playgroup Update: January 2023

After a great summer holiday, our Wamboin Playgroup is ready to resume the fun! With lots of sunshine in the forecast, kids can beat the heat under our canopied, local play equipment and playgroup cubby house—and in miserable weather, we have plenty of indoor play activities in the heated hall. Come be a part of this weekly opportunity for our kids to head outside and get some fresh air, sun and socialisation.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, we have had a great mix of playgroup sessions, exceptional attendance, lots of laughter and even a visit from Santa himself! There were plenty of opportunities for the children to get outside and run amuck in the sandpit, play pretend in the cubby, and make use of the slides and swing set. For us parents and carers, coffee and tea has been keeping us going, served with a healthy dose chatter and companionship with others while our children play. Playgroup is a wonderful place to bond and create memories that last a lifetime! We are excited to resume activities as well as play; with occasions of song, dance, and music to strengthen coordination and physical confidence in our little ones. With play shed nearly bursting of toys and craft supplies, there is something for every child and carer to enjoy.

How Wamboin Playgroup Works: Our local playground facilities are fenced in and child safe—so we can let kids run free and enjoy a cuppa with other adults. We are an unstructured Playgroup with lots of space to explore and variety of toys for babies and children. We also organize structured activities based on interest and input, but most of the time, the children decide what they want to do. The start of a new year is a great time to introduce our children to each other and establish new friendships.

We kindly request each carer bring a piece of fruit, which will be prepared on site into a healthy morning tea platter for our children to enjoy. We maintain and encourage a rotating baked goods roster, where those of us who like to get crafty in the kitchen bring in something tasty for all. Carers are also requested to bring along any essentials their children may need: water/drink bottles, sunhats, sun cream, etc.

When and Where: If you are home with little ones aged 0-6, please make it a priority to come to our free, local Playgroup every Tuesday from 10-12:00 at the Wamboin Community Hall at 112 Bingley Way. If you have any enquiries email wamboin.playgroup@gmail.com - Denise Lang- Wamboin Playgroup Coordinator

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Wamboin Golf

Sunday 4 December was the date for the 2022 Wamboin Golf Club Christmas Cup. It really was a merry occasion with a great turn out of twenty-two players venturing out to play. The course was in immaculate condition following the recent fine weather allowing the greenskeepers to undertake some course maintenance. The sponsors this month were the Harrisons (Pete and Barb) and the Thompsons (Karen, David and Robert). We thank them for the refreshments and prizes. We welcomed 5 visitors this month: Peter Baxter, Skye Rogers, Ruth Lambert, David Searle and Jack Whitney.

The nine-hole competition was played using the Eastern course this month. The Men's 9-hole competition was taken out by Deb Gordon (52/30) from Ken Gordon (36/32) and Steve Lambert (47/34). Robert Thompson continued to create work for the handicapper, winning the junior competition with 47/27. We have also had an update on Robert's latest adventures in the golfing world. His recent trip to Victoria saw him place 4th at St Andrews Beach, 1st at Portsea and equal 2nd in the Australian Challenge at Moonah Links.

The eighteen-hole competition was very tightly contested with David Bailey (95/68) winning on count back from Taylor Miners (89/68) and Keith France (83/69). Ball winners for longest drives and nearest the pins went to: Jack Whitney (2), Steve Miners, Colin Urquhart, Keith France, David Searle, Tim Barter and Pete Harrison. The googly ball was shared around this month. Initially it was handed to Steve Lambert for his faux par as a caddy having prepared a set of clubs for Ruth, but inadvertently including a left-handed club. The googly ball was then passed to Steve Miners for his trick shot which entailed the ball hitting a tree a few metres in front of the tee-box and finishing approximately 30 metres behind the tee-box. The dummy spit was awarded to Keith France after questioning who was carrying a certain golf bag and then drinks not being offered. Robert Thompson provided us with a 'Dad' joke before Lofty Mason provided the Ted Evans Joke covering the challenges of memory loss as we age. Lofty also took the opportunity to present evidence of the 'first' homegrown tomato of the season.

Sunday 1 January 2023. A hardy group of 15 golfers welcomed the New Year by playing a nine-hole, three club event. A warmish day, overcast with the occasional drop of rain was the major challenge for the golfers (or maybe recovering from NYE celebrations was a bigger challenge for some). The sponsors this month were L & L King and we thank them for the refreshments and prizes. We welcomed 3 visitors this month: Bill and Rhona Gillespie and Matt Hawke (already a generous sponsor, but now braving the course as well). We look forward to seeing them again.

The competition was played using the Western course this month. The junior competition was taken out by Robert Thompson (59/42). The winner of the open competition was Paul Griffin (41/33) from Glenn Crafter (40/34) with Gerard Ryan (44/36) in third place. Ball winners for longest drives and nearest the pins went to: Colin Urquhart (4), Glenn Crafter (2), Gerard Ryan, Rob Gorham and Ken Gordon. The googly ball was awarded to Col Urquhart after it emerged that he had manufactured an adjustable club (maybe not on purpose) during his round which may or may not have meant he was infringing the three-club rule. The dummy spit was awarded to Rob Gorham after complaining of an administrative error in the calculation of his handicap! Microsoft was contacted but no comment has been provided. Robert Thompson provided us with a 'Dad' joke before Lofty Mason provided the Ted Evans Joke with a Christmas theme.

Next month, the competition will be on Sunday 5 February and sponsored by the Whitneys and the Schrodgers. Nine-holers will play the Eastern course next month. We hope you can join us at the community hall at 12.15pm on Sunday, 5 February for a 12.30pm start. – Ken Gordon



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What the Heck: Chapter 9

By Alan Rope

In the last episode I detailed how the early St Peter's congregation begged and fought for indoor facilities for forty years. The plan printed with the article was one of several prepared for consideration, and not part of the initial proposal by Robyn and Yvonne for a five year plan. Their idea, and prompting, kicked off the discussion to physically do something, not just talk about it. However it still took many years to reach a decision. In those days St Peters was still part of the St John's church in Canberra, so discussions involved not just the Sutton congregation but also the St John's Parish Council, The Anglican Property Trust, and of course, Yass Valley Council. As was said in the last chapter, a five year plan was proposed early 2000, but it was not until 2006 that a committee was formed. Many plans and ideas were thrown around until 2014 when a decision was made by the building committee to erect a separate building for use by the community as well as church members.

Once this decision had been made it was time to begin many meetings and serious negotiation with the Council, to design and erect a building which met current planning laws, achieved the requirements for both church and community use, and complementary to the existing church building, which is listed as an item of historical significance to Sutton.

Construction of the hall commenced early 2020, but Covid 19 caused this to continue at snail's pace, greatly frustrating the church members. However by late 2021 there were bathroom facilities located in the hall and available for use.

Some people have said "but you still need to go outside of the church to use the facilities". Yes, this is true, but I do not recall ever visiting a church where one could access a toilet directly from the worship area. I can't imagine anyone jumping up mid-sermon and slipping into the loo in front of a roomful of watching eyes. Coming back would be even worse. And the poor preacher would probably lose his/her train of thought. And might even have to start the sermon again to the horror of the congregation. Then of course there would be the gossipers who would have a field day debating whether it was a #1, or a #2. Even Ladbroke's might get in on the act!

Meantime work is continuing on the building. Thanks to some successful fund-raising events and some very generous local donors, the kitchen fit-out will happen within a month or so.

Next will be the installation of the air-conditioning followed by the wall and ceiling sheeting, as more funds come in from more planned fundraising events.

We are getting there, but we still have a long way to go.

Wheels of Wamboin 2023

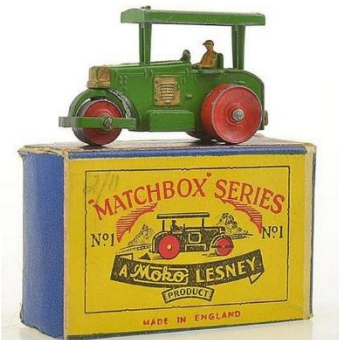
Start dusting out those cobwebs and checking the oils as the Wheels of Wamboin returns in 2023 on Saturday April 15th.

2023 marks some very important car anniversaries including Louis Renault who tested his first car 125 years ago in 1898 and this was of course the foundation for Renault. In 1903 (120 years ago) Henry Ford launched the first production A model Ford and 1923 marked the construction of the first BMW

motorcycle. In 1923 there were some truly iconic nameplates including Vauxhall, Dodge, Rolls Royce, Peugeot, Fiat, Alvis, Triumph, Buick, Cadillac, Auburn, Chevrolet, Hudson, Lincoln, Nash, Oldsmobile, Pontiac, Studebaker, Willys, only a few have survived the 100 year journey. 1923 was also the first year the 24 hours of Lemans motor race (and still running today) and electric windshield wipers first went on sale in the United States.

50 years ago in Australia, Holden sold 177,000 cars and the HQ Kingswood was the top selling passenger car and the Ford Falcon running second. Valiant's accounted for 31,000 cars. The ill-fated P76 was launched in 1973 so was the new XB Falcon in September. Along with the XB came the new ZG Fairlane. You could buy a new 180B Datsun or Honda Civic. The Mazda rotaries were on the market as was the new series 1 Celica from Toyota and the second generation Corolla. Torana's and Cortinas were on the streets as Australia started the move to the small and medium sized sedan with the oil crisis starting to bite late in 1973 and petrol soaring to around 50 cents a litre by 1974.

One of the big celebrations will be that of Matchbox cars who turn 70 years old. The first Matchbox models by Lesney Products rolled out of their matchbox size boxes to inspire generations of young car enthusiasts. The first model was a red and green road roller. Since then, they have sold over three billion cars. Expect some anniversary limited editions to be announced during the year including one for the coronation of King Charles III. -Peter Evans



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Wamboin Entrance Sign Damage

On 23 January an ACT-registered car crashed into our masonry Wamboin locality entrance sign at the corner of Norton Road and Sutton Road, badly damaging its northern half. The police attended. The driver was not injured, but the car appeared to be a write-off. Apparently the driver was an allied health professional travelling from Canberra to provide a health care service to a client in our area.

The Wamboin Community Association (WCA) is obtaining quotations for work to repair the sign, the costs of which we expect to be covered by the driver’s third party property damage car insurance.

The entrance sign was constructed in 2008 by Wamboin resident Dave Argæet, and his team. Sadly, Dave died in July last year. As Gabrielle Le Grand wrote in the August 2022 *Whisper* (p. 7), ‘Dave [Argæet] is probably best known for his stone masonry which is all around the Wamboin and Bungendore areas, most prominently the big Wamboin sign on the corner of Sutton and Norton roads, but also in beautiful handmade stone gateways and landscaping features throughout the region. Dave was also an artist and created the award-winning half-sunken “Sands of Time” house sculpture along Lake Road.’

The WCA will keep the community informed on progress in repairing and rebuilding the sign.

- David McDonald, Secretary, WCA.

WAMBOIN WEATHER – rainfall and temperature records

(48 years from Cooper Road) by Christine Rieber

January Rainfall Stats

January rainfall to the 29th..... 46.75mm
2023 total rainfall to 29/1 46.75mm

February Rainfall Stats

2022 February rainfall..... 50.5mm
Wettest February..... 170.75mm in 2010
Wettest day..... 54.5mm on 9/2/20
Driest February 1mm in 1986

February Temperature Stats

2022 Feb. maximum.....32.8°C
Hottest February day... 42.8°C on 1/2/20
(5.8°C higher than the previous high 37°C)
Average day temperature..... 26.2°C
Warmest February 1983
(Av. max day temp. 29.5oC & night 16.9oC)

Av. Feb. temp.. 19.9°C (day+night comb.)

December Rainfall Stats

December 2022 rainfall..... 63.25mm
2022 total rainfall..... 968.25mm

2022 was the 4th wettest year on record (i.e. in 47 years).

The January 2023 maximum day temperatures were 0.5°C above average, whilst the minimum night temperatures were almost 2°C below average, and the 8th was 0.5°C above the coldest night of 5°C.

Average January rainfall.....60.2mm
2022 January rainfall..... 77.0mm
2022 total rainfall to 29/1..... 61.25mm

Average February rainfall..... 58.8mm
Average no. rain days in February.... 7.4
Highest no. rain days..... 18 in 1976
Lowest no. rain days..... 1 in 1995
2022 Feb. minimum.....5.8°C
Feb. 22.. Av. max 26.5°C & Av. min 12.1°C
Coldest February day.... 12°C on 10/2/96
Hottest February night.. 25.9°C on 1/1/20
Coldest Feb. night..... 5°C (3 times) on
17/2/98, 22/2/17 & 10/2/19
Average night temperature..... 13.7°C
Coldest February 2012
(Av.min day temp. 21.0°C & night 11.4°C)

Average December rainfall..... 63.3mm
47yr Av. to end of December... 702.4mm

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173: CO-ORDINATED BY ALICE SCOTT: ph 0407 005 506 email alicehscott@bigpond.com					
Fay Kelly	Norton West Area from Cmpbl Pl	20	Christine Rieber	Cooper Rd	26
Dave Power	Fernloff Rd	34	Vicki Still	Canning Cl	15
Andrea Sadow	Poppet Rd	32	Alan Rope	Sutton Rd	47
175: CO-ORDINATED BY KATHY HANDEL: ph 6238 3596 khandel@bigpond.net.au					
Joan Mason	Bingley Way	44	Margaret Hekeimin	Merino Vale Dr	19
Sue Ward	Norton Rd (Bingley to Weeroona)	32	Anne Gardner	Weeroona Dr (Norton to Majors)	32
Kathy Handel	Norton(Wrona2 Hilltop+Wirndra)	21	Phil Leeson&C Fogarty	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	27
229: CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER: ph 6238 3489					
Lesley Page	Valley View Ln	4	Deb Gordon	Yalana East	45
Colleen Foster	B'dore Rd to Nrtm Rd	24	Dominica Lorima	Norton Rd – North End	42
Cassie Fisher	Clare Ln	12	Lyle Montesin	The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks	65
Jules Clancey	Norton Rd #1033-#1240	37			
200: CO-ORDINATED BY GARETH JONES: ph Ph: 6238 1988 givrjones@bigpond.com done in Aug & Sept by Dominica Lorimer					
Sophie Davis	Weeroona (254 – 400)	18	Susie & Brad Edwards	Weeroona (417-512)	17
James Houlcroft	Macs Reef Rd (DenleyToGumFlt)	7	Maria Taylor	Birriwa Rd & Gum Flat Lane	19
Nora Stewart	Rovere Ln	7	Justin Jarvis /Joel Smith	Macs Reef Birriwa to Harriott	14
Darryl Bourke	Harriot Rd	27	Belinda Morris	Macs Reef Rd (Nwington2 Bankers)	11
Sandra Favre	Newwington Rd	20	Carol &Clive Boughton	Macs Reef (Bankers To Fed Hwy)	34
Chrystal Earle	Snowgum Road	26			
165: CO-ORDINATED BY IAN COILLET ph 0402 027 452 lodestar@ozemail.com.au					
Peter Huckstepp	Federal HwSvcRd	22	Louise Baldwin	Wattle Flat Rd	11
Lyn Parkinson	Bidges/Hickey/OldGoldMines	53	Fire Brigade	Headquarters on Bingley Way	1
Glen Dorahy	Sutton Park Estate	53	Russell Ball	Macs Reef – Denley Dr to BngndrRd	25
147: CO-ORDINATED BY DAVID FEATHERSTONE ph 6236 9722 bushranger_au@hotmail.com					
Chris Fowler	Millyn Rd	22	David Featherston	B'doreRd SmHill to&nclgdgCrkBRd	28
Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	24	Leigh & Derek Morris	Wyoming Road	20
Kerrie Gougeon	B'dore Rd (CreekB to Fed Hwy)	33	Peter Sharp	Doust Road	20
258 CO-ORDINATED BY NED NOEL ph 0409-997-082 email nednoel@optusnet.com.au					
Robyn Elsom	Denley Dr (Sth End to 429)	15	JonesFmly+JulieJohnsn	Denley 191 to 414	26
Tony Bond	HoganDr/OranaDr/Yuranga Dr	52	Mary & Paulo Beneforti	Dnly Dr frm MacsReef to Birchmans	12
Janey & Paul Pedersen	BirchmansFrmDenleyUp2SaraRf	15	Helen Longdon	SarahReef&BrihmsFrnSarah2End	11
Murray Goodridge	B'dore Rd (MR to&nclgdg Smrihl)	40	Diana Griffin	Majors Close	19
Diana Boswell	Donnelly Rd 29 & Grove Rd 8	38	Advertisers & Misc	Out of area advertiser mailouts & msc	30
TOTAL 1,347					

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WCAG Update on the Broadband Fibre Network Project for Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton – January 2023.

Summary: Opticomm Ltd has been contracted by the NSW Government to construct and operate a Fibre to the Premises (FtTP) based Broadband Network for over 1,400 residences across Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton. Construction of the network is being undertaken on a cluster-by-cluster basis and commenced late last year in Sutton village. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2023.

Changes to Eligibility: The NSW Government is funding the full cost of the connection to eligible residences (ie at no cost to the property owner). As a result of the “Feasibility Review” undertaken by the Department late last year, there have been some changes to eligibility. Specifically:

- A significant number of properties were omitted from the original list provided by the Department. The outcome of the Review has seen the majority of these now being included. As a result, the number of properties being connected under the project has risen from 1,352 to over 1,400.
- However, in order to fund these extra connections, it appears that the Department has instituted a new policy it calls “one address, one connection”. The effect of this policy is that properties with more than one residence will only be funded for the connection of a single service. The list published by the Department last year included a total of more than 80 additional connections to second residences (ie dual occupancies), Caravan Parks, Businesses, Resorts, etc.
- Affected residents should already have been contacted regarding this change but if in doubt you should check your address status on Opticomm’s web site, and if necessary, contact the Department (see Links below). Opticomm can provide information and costs for additional connections.

Opticomm:

- Opticomm has undertaken a mailout to eligible residences across the three communities. However, it appears that many residents have not received a copy of this notice. The primary purpose of the mailout was to ask residents to register their contact details as Opticomm wishes to contact residents, prior to construction in each cluster, to discuss the fibre route and point of connection to the residence. To do so, they need to have your contact details (eg name, phone number, email address). Please ensure that, if you haven’t already done so, you registered these with Opticomm as soon as possible (see link below).
- Opticomm can provide further information to residents about how to go about using the service (including choosing a plan that meets your needs and budget) once the fibre is connected to the residence.
- WCAG has received some very positive feedback from residents in Sutton about the effort undertaken by the construction crew to minimise any impact on garden features, trees, etc. In your discussion with Opticomm’s construction team, regarding the route to be taken for the fibre lead-in, please ensure that you alert them to any existing underground services. This is especially important if this was installed by the owner.

Starlink

A significant number of residents across the three communities have installed SpaceX’s Starlink service at their properties over the last two years. There is no doubt that Starlink provides a far superior service to that of NBN’s SkyMuster satellite service, so the strong uptake by residents is not surprising. Several residents have reached out to WCAG seeking to understand why they should consider connecting to the fibre network, given that they are happy with Starlink. There are MANY reasons why you will almost certainly be better off with a fibre connection. In summary, these are:

- **Cheaper** - In addition to the cost of the Starlink dish (\$450 to \$924) and any costs of its installation on your roof, there are the usual monthly service costs of about \$139. Opticomm Service providers offer hundreds of plans, with many having far cheaper monthly charges for a comparable service. Depending on the contract you agree to, there may or may not be a once-off connection fee (typically \$100).
- **Faster** - Early Starlink users often saw download speeds of up to 300 Mbps. However, as more people in the area have installed the service, typically they now see download speeds of between 50 to 150 Mbps. Opticomm’s fibre service will be initially capable of up to 1,000 Mbps (ie 1 Gbps), and is able to be upgraded in the future to 10,000 Mbps.
- **Greater Competition** - While Opticomm is building and operating our fibre network, they operate as a wholesale provider. Your service contract is actually with one of Opticomm’s 50 Service Providers. This has the benefit of providing an environment that ensures competition and pricing that is aligned to residents in the cities. Contrast this to Starlink, which, once you purchase the dish, has a monopoly total control over pricing, speeds, download limits, etc. As we’ve seen from Starlink’s recent announcement to cap downloads for some users, this is a real issue.
- **Latency** – Starlink’s latency is far lower than other satellite-based internet services – being typically between 30ms and 50ms for Australian based servers. While this is adequate for most applications, it can degrade some services – eg online gaming. Fibre latency is more typically between 5ms to 10ms.
- **Reliability** – While this has improved a lot for Starlink over the last 18 months with the addition of more satellites, the fact remains that the service continues to be affected by very heavy cloud and rainstorms. The Starlink dish is also known to shut down when subject to high temperature. Fibre is not subject to such environmental issues.
- **Phone Service** – Many of Opticomm’s Service Providers offer a range of additional services – including the option to use the fibre connection to replace your existing phone. For many residents who have lost their copper connection and have had to rely on using a mobile service (if they can get a signal), this will allow them to re-establish a basic phone service again. For other residents, it may present them with a far cheaper alternative to that of retaining their existing copper service. This capability does not exist for Starlink.
- **Power Consumption** – Starlink users have noted much higher household power consumption.
- **Property Value** – It is generally understood that a fibre broadband connection adds value to a property above that of other internet connections.

Where can I get more information?

Opticomm – Project Information: <https://www.opticomm.com.au/nsw-regional-network/>

You can Register your Contact details or Check your address by selecting the links on this page.

Department of Regional NSW, Project Site: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/snowy-hydro-legacy-fund/regional-digital-connectivity-program/gig-state/wamboin-bywong-and-sutton>

Department of Regional NSW, Project Email Address: RDC.program@regional.nsw.gov.au



Drawings of Us

By Jean-Pierre Favre

Peter Greenwood has been part of the Wamboin Volunteer Fire Brigade since 1980. He's been on the Wamboin Hall Management Committee since 1982. He's been in the Wamboin Golf Club since 1986. He served as a councillor for 16 and a half years on the Yarralowlumla Council. His thought for other residents is: "Wamboin's and Bywong's value as a place to live is partially dependent on the various groups of residents who donate time to make life better for everyone. If you are already doing this, you deserve our thanks. If you can take another step or a first step in that direction, you may find the time satisfying and the company good -- and you will be making the place better for the rest of us." – Editor

The Wonderful Women of Wamboin

By Gail Ritchie Knight

Hey, guess what? The Wonderful Women of Wamboin haven't run away. We still get together every Monday sharing what's happening in our lives, or discussing the news of the world, conducting the occasional show-and-tell which is sometimes more tell than show. All this over a cuppa. We are a disparate group of women from different walks of life with varied interests. But that's what makes us interesting. So if you would like to join us, please contact Gail Ritchie Knight (0416 097 500, whirlwind1@argonite.com.au). We meet on Mondays 10am to noon at the Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way where there's plenty of space and parking is easy.

Can You Tell Us a Story?

Thank you to everyone who distributed the Dec/2022 / Jan2023 Whisper, wrote content that made it exist or ran an ad that paid to print 1,345 copies.

Can you think of a story at least related to living out here or tell us about something that happened here recently or long ago? Write it up for the March 2023 Whisper, deadline 7 pm Sunday February 26. Your words will probably take many of us on a mental trip to another place, an event, or back to piece of history, or to another place somehow linked to us now, or to a recent event that speaks of life. Be mindful of the many views residents hold. – Ned Noel, editor nednoel@optusnet.com.au or whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au or 0409 997 082.



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A Chronology of Wamboin and District, Part 12: July 1989 to September 1999

David McDonald

In August the fourth edition of an historical timeline of our local area, titled 'A Chronology of Wamboin and District, NSW', was published at the Wamboin Community Association's (WCA's) website. Visit <https://www.wamboincommunity.asn.au/localhistory/> and navigate through the left-hand-side menus Wamboin Locality | Chronology. It commences with a two-page synopsis for readers seeking a brief overview of the history of the area.

This is the eleventh article presenting some items from the Chronology that focus specifically on Wamboin and district, rather than the broader, contextual happenings. It covers the period July 1989 to September 1999, and future issues will continue the series. The full version of the Chronology at the WCA website provides the documentary sources (including URLs where appropriate) underpinning these contents and, in some cases, additional information, as well as other entries for the time period covered below.

Date	Occurrence/comment
1989, July	The Nordsvans commenced as editors of <i>The Whisper</i> and filled that role until February 1990. 210 copies were printed.
1989, 4 Nov	A front-page article in the <i>Canberra Times</i> issue of this date reported on a \$3.8 million cannabis crop that had been discovered in the roof of a house on a property at Wamboin. 'Police said yesterday they had charged a Canberra man with possessing, supplying and cultivating a prohibited substance. A Queanbeyan man was being questioned and was also expected to be charged.'
1990, April	The editors of <i>The Whisper</i> from this month until June 1993 were Jans/Frazer/Bedford.
1991	Steve & Ruth Lambert commenced planting wine grape vines at what became Lambert's Winery.
1991, 27 Feb	Bywong Community Incorporated registered. Previously known as the Geary's Gap Community Association.
1991, Sep	Wamboin resident, Peter Greenwood, elected as Shire President, Yarrawlumla Shire Council.
1992, Sep	'September 2022 marks the 30th anniversary of Wildcare Queanbeyan. Wildlife rehabilitation in this region began in 1991 with the formation of a group run by WIRES. According to Di Stockbridge, a founding member of Wildcare Queanbeyan, when the members realised more than 50% of the funds raised by them had to be returned to WIRES head office in Sydney and would not be used to benefit the animals in this region, she and the other founding members established a new group, and Wildcare Queanbeyan was born.'
1992, 24 Nov	Gearys Gap Pony Club Inc. incorporated, registration no. Y1621539. Based at the Les Reardon Reserve, Bywong.
1993, July	Ned Noel commenced as editor of <i>The Whisper</i> and he is still in that role. 325 copies were printed.
1994, 7 Jan	'A 14-year-old boy was officially cautioned by Bungendore police for lighting a fire on a day of total fire ban after a home-made ignition device he had been experimenting with started a fire on the Norton Road in Wamboin yesterday. 'The fire was reported at 11.30am and the Wamboin Bush Fire Brigade put it out before it could threaten property. About 2.5ha of grassland was burnt. A police spokesman said it had been a serious offence, but because of the boy's age he had received only an official caution.'
1995	Yarrawlumla Shire Council established a s. 355 Committee to manage the newly created Wamboin/Bywong Greenways.
1995, 20 Jun	Gearys Gap/Wamboin Landcare Group Incorporated registered. The first President (following incorporation) was Trevor Gough.
1995, 29 Jun	Wamboin Community Association Incorporated registered. The first President (following incorporation) was Steve Lambert.
1997-2009	The Millennium drought.
1997, Apr, Jun & Sep	Ned Noel, <i>The Whisper</i> editor, documented and published valuable oral histories of the Wamboin area in <i>The Whisper</i> .
1998, 8 Mar	The new St Andrew's Anglican Church, Wamboin, was consecrated by Bishop George Browning. The church was funded by David Robertson on land donated by the Schultz family. It was built by Ken Kelly.
1998, 29 May	Gazettal of name 'Bungendore Road' for the former 'Gundaroo Road'.
1999	The Wamboin Rural Fire Service came first in the Light Tanker Pumping Event at the 1999 NSW Rural Fire Service State Championships.
1999 – 2001	Wamboin Community Association (WCA) members became increasingly concerned about what they considered to be a significant increase in low-flying commercial aircraft in the skies above Wamboin. Keith France represented the WCA on a Noise Reference Group convened by the Canberra international Airport. The community's concern was about the adverse impacts of low-flying aircraft on community amenity.
1999, 7 Jul	Wamboin Pony Club Incorporated registered, incorporation no. Y3002121.
1999, 3 Sep	Yarrawlumla Shire Council notified its intention to close a section of Clare Lane at mid-length. 'The purpose of the road closure is to prevent through traffic along the lane in order to relieve safety concerns at the Clare Lane/Bungendore Road intersection.' The proposal was subsequently implemented, and the road closure today separates Clare Lane from Valley View Lane.