

**Wamboin Community Association
Annual Bonfire and Fireworks Display By Fireworks Australia
Wamboin Community Centre 112 Bingley Way Wamboin
Saturday 31 August 2024**

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

Support local community groups including: Wamboin Community Association, Golf, Pony Club, Play Group, Church, Sutton School with a range of traditional stalls offering: Gluhwein, apple pies, steak sangers, bacon & egg sangers, baked spuds, Glo Sticks, great coffee, soft drinks and other food and beverages.

Please Bring Some Cash \$\$\$ to pay the \$10 Family Entrance Fee and to Purchase Tasty Food and Warm and Cool Refreshing Beverages on sale at multiple community group Stalls. Limited Internet Connectivity at the Hall mean no ATM will be available at the hall and only some stalls, if any, will have an eft "square" to accept payment.

Please contribute fuel anytime from now on. Fuel type - only natural vegetation from your property ie no building material, pallets or treated wood. Must be less than 150mm diameter. Deadline for fuel is Sunday, August 25, to allow bonfire preparation but may be closed earlier



Family \$10

**Please note: No drones and by law, the only fireworks allowed
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Monster Raffle supported by Local Organisations and Businesses



The Wamboin Firefighter



FOR ALL

EMERGENCY CALLS

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Callouts and what we have been up to. The last month has had: 4 callouts. 3 x MVA's, 1 x Car fire and lots of training!
Wamboin Brigade had its 40-year anniversary in July! It's a huge achievement from when the first settlers of the "Canberra Country Estate" arrived. There was nothing here in terms of infrastructure, especially a fire brigade. In the early days, the locals were responsible for most of the things the community has today. The Fire Brigade was on the top of the list of things to do. It



became apparent that if we needed to defend homes in the area, we would need fire trucks and members. While the original area was under Sutton Brigade's jurisdiction, we were soon able to be part of that brigade and have our own trucks housed in the area. "Canberra Country Estates" was renamed "Wamboin" in 1981 after a meeting with residents and then an approval period, which gave the area its own identity. As the area grew, the need for independence became evident. In July 1984 the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade was formed. John Finn, Lofty Mason, David Robertson and Peter Greenwood were just a few people who had a major part of getting the brigade up and



running.

Cooper Road was the first location for a structure, built to house the first two vehicles. It was in a remote area, had no power or other facilities nearby. As the area grew, Bingley Way community reserve was closer to being the centre of Wamboin. It had power and water already on site, so a three-bay station was built alongside the Community Hall. The station was completed and opened for the Bicentennial. If you look closely, you can see this written on the front of the station. All these structures were built by the locals, with fundraising, generous donations from families and grants. The area grew, with subdivision after another, until it reached an end near Ryans Road. Development had started on another subdivision, (Clare Valley) from the Bungendore Road. At



this point, it became apparent that these two areas, if joined, would give dual access to Norton Road, from Sutton Road and Bungendore Road, and a huge safety benefit if a major fire was to impact the area. This has proved itself over the years where other brigades have easily been able to get to Wamboin and us into other brigade areas. Building continued for the brigade, where a fourth truck bay was built, attached to the existing station, and a training room on the second level. We also have installed a pump house for filling trucks from the dam and reticulated hydrant service for the community buildings and for training. While other brigades are envious of our facilities, we can say that we have all worked very hard over the years to get all these things and make the brigade what it is. The brigade continues to be of a high standard, with regular training, and training/assessments for other brigades being held at and around the station. We still have a few founding members living in the area and are still active within the brigade. We hope that some of the new residents of the area will feel the need to do as the original settlers did and become part of the brigade.

Those that have been part of the brigade have enjoyed the comradery that goes with belonging to the RFS and Community! I've been associated with the brigade since the age of 16, so you can never start too early!

Till next time, stay safe! - **Don Evans**

Membership enquiries Wamboinmembership@gmail.com	NSW Rural Fire Service www.rfs.nsw.gov.au
Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade https://wamboin.rfsa.org.au	Wamboin Facebook page Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade
Queanbeyan Fire Control 6128 0600 (business hours only)	

VERTEBRATE PESTICIDE INDUCTION TRAINING – WAMBOIN

The Wamboin Community Association is kindly hosting South East Local Land Services (LLS) to deliver a free Vertebrate Pesticide Induction Training at Wamboin. Upon completion of the training, participants will be accredited to use 1080, Pindone, PAPP and RHDV baits for 5 years. Training will cover legislation and legal obligations, baiting techniques, toxicity, storage, transport, and how to reduce non-target exposure.

Where: Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin When: Sunday 25 August

Time: 9.30am-1.00pm Cost: FREE Registration is required.

Please register by Wednesday 21 August using this QR Code:



Bywong and Wamboin Facilities and Contacts
Ambulance - Dial Triple Zero (000) All Hours
Bungendore Police: 6118 1240 Ambulance Bookings: 131233
Wamboin Community Assn <https://wamboincommunity.org.au>
Bywong Community www.bywongcommunity.org.au
Fire Brigade <http://wamboin.rfsa.org.au>

Bywong Community	Justin Jarvis - President	0404 460 568	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	Ken Gordon	0455 839 840	ken.gordon1962@gmail.com
Injured Wildlife	Wildcare – Helpline	6299 1966	
Justice of the Peace	Andrew Stainlay – JP	0408 469 880	stains@bigpond.net.au
Justice of the Peace	Leanne (Lee) Ward – JP	0411 207 317	leanneford@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	Felicity – Contact Person	0413 174 204	Playgroup.sutton@gmail.com
Table Tennis	Mike Muston	0406 606 238	mikemuston@gmail.com
Wamboin Community Assoc.	Jenny Richards - President	0490 020 165	president@wamboincommunity.asn.au
Wamboin-Bung. Book Group	Sally Saunders	0419 303 229	sally.saunders1@bigpond.com
Wamboin Hall Bookings	Joan Mason	6238 3258	wamboinhall@gmail.com
Wamboin Markets	Meriel Schultz	6238 3309	Imiconsulting@bigpond.com
Wamboin Play Group	Denise Lang – Co-ordinator		wamboin.playgroup@gmail.com
Gearys Gap Pony Club	Kate O'Connor, President	0413 008 824	gearysgap.ponyclub@gmail.com
Wamboin Pony Club	Stacey Burgess -Contact Person	0414 672 979	wamboinpcsecretary@gmail.com
Wamboin Thurs Social Grp	Narelle Pumphrey	0438 917 206	pumpbnjc@westnet.com.au
Greenways Mgmt Commtee	Chris Schweizer - Chair	0404 823 022	beltrim1108@gmail.com
Wonderful Women of Wamboin	Gail Ritchie Knight	0416 097 500	whirlwind1@argonite.com.au
ARF (Rescue Dogs)	Lisa Whitney	0408 260 796	lisawhitney059@gmail.com

The Wamboin Whisper: The Whisper is a monthly community newsletter established in 1981 by and owned by the Wamboin Community Association. The Whisper is printed at Elect Printing in Fyshwick at the start of each month, excluding January. It is distributed to every letterbox in Wamboin, Bywong and Queanbeyan-Palerang Council residents just southeast of the Federal Highway. Each issue goes to volunteer deliverers by the first Sunday of the month and is also then available at www.wamboincommunity.asn.au. Any proceeds from advertisements in The Whisper after printing costs go to the Wamboin Community Association.

Contributions to the Whisper: Contributions from all residents are encouraged, valued and the main content of the newsletter. The current editor is Ned Noel, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 0409 997 082. Paul Downey of Cooper Road also shares the editing. Please email contributions to nednoel@optusnet.com.au or mail them or drop them off. On contentious matters the Wamboin Community Association will strive to maintain a balanced view, by seeking advice from the editorial team and by seeking alternative views to be published in the same edition. The deadline for each issue is the last Sunday night of the month before. There is, by tradition, no January Whisper, mainly to give all its volunteer workers a rest. The **deadline for the September 2024 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, August 26, 2024.** Advertising prices, per issue, based on rough fraction of the inside the margins A4 area: 1/8 \$24 1/6 29 1/4 \$35 1/3 \$44 1/2 \$70 2/3 \$97 Full Page \$140. email or phone the editor as above.

Young Entrepreneurs: Rebecca Purdie – pet/horse sitting 6238 3343

Grace Taylor 0490 758 476 baby sitting and tutoring for primary school students gracetaylor145@gmail.com

Kathleen Dunkerly - baby sitting - 0435 794 070 kathleen.dunkerly07@gmail.com Elly and Rex Collins - house cleaning 0418 979 474.

The Great Wamboin Curry Night will be at the Wamboin Hall on 17 August 2024. 7:00 for 7:30. All welcome. Gold coin donation requested to pay for event expenses. Make a curry and bring it. Provide a description on paper to tell others a little about your curry. Bring your own drinks, plates, cutlery, and drinking glass. All curries will go on a serving table for each person to sample. Booking essential. Bookings and all other enquiries to Dave Hubbard at dave.hubbard@bigpond.com



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– Gina

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and Wagga Wagga, I now call Wamboin home and am raising my family in this incredible area.

For over 18 years, I've been helping people across NSW and the ACT to buy and sell homes.



So, if you're thinking of selling and want friendly, professional advice from a local who loves living and working in our region, please get in touch with me.

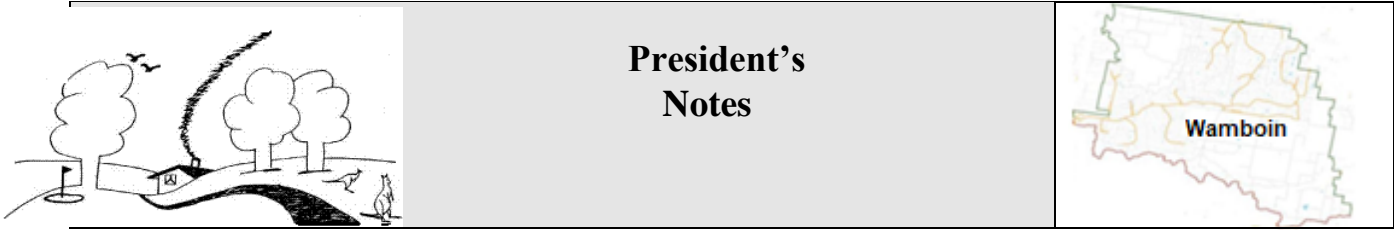


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Still cold but Spring is right around the corner – we hope. Still a lot to discuss.

1. Vertebrate Pesticide Induction Training. The Rabbit Talk was so successful that the WCA has organized a follow-up event. This is a training session by the South East Local Land Services to train people to use baits on their property successfully. A full write up of this coming event (**Sunday 25th August**) will appear further on in this edition of the Whisper. If you are interested please read the full article. The event will be held at the Wamboin Hall, Bingley Way and will commence **9:30 am to 1:00 pm**. The cost is free but registration is **essential!** This must be done by **21st August**. People completing the training will be authorized to use baits for the next 5 years.

2. Annual Bonfire & Fireworks Night. Yes its on again and coming soon – the annual Wamboin Bonfire & Fireworks Night. Date for the Bonfire is **Saturday 31st August at the oval**. The oval is open soon to receive branches, etc for the Bonfire but please remember **NO** pallets or anything with a nail or screw in it. Entry cost is **\$10 per family** and the food provided by the service groups in the Hall helps maintain those individual groups. There should be a large variety of food and drink on offer. Another reminder **THIS IS A CASH ONLY EVENT!** There will be an ATM machine but any electronic funds transfer will be **VERY LIMITED** as the Hall just doesn't have the capacity for large volumes of electronic funds transfer. The smart thing is to bring cash from the start. It will save you time and make your evening more enjoyable.

3. Service Groups at Bonfire. Since I've been put in charge of co coordinating the food and drink for the Bonfire would all service groups **PLEASE** contact me to let me know what you're doing etc. You can reach me either by my personal email (**jennyanneri@gmail.com**), by emailing The President Wamboin Community Association or by my personal phone number of **0490020165**. Look forward to hearing from you all.

Well that's it for now. Next meeting for the Wamboin Community Association is on **16th July at the Community Hall at 7:30 pm** where we will finalize Bonfire preparations. All welcome to attend. A final reminder about the Bonfire. Please be aware that while we all hope that this event will go ahead occasionally circumstances mean we have to cancel at very short notice. I hope this doesn't happen but our Community needs to be aware that this has always been and will always be a possibility. - *Jenny*

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Ava Merriman - 0429 517 003



Well July has been a quite month for us in Bywong. We are into the depth of winter and doing our best to stay warm, We are however preparing for the Summer months and we are preparing for the Annual General Meeting. The AGM is the opportunity to design your community association committee. The role of BCA Committee is to bring the community together, and we all know, a stronger Community is a more resilient one and that can only be a good thing.

This is also a great time for new people to join the Bywong Community Association as a member of the committee.

We are seeking local to be part of the BCA committee. The committee meets once a month usually on the Thursday evening at the Bywong Community hall, we plan events and activities for the local community. These include; The trivia night, the Christmas drinks and of course the Car Boot Sale. This year we have arranged a few more *Community events* that included some tree planting as well as some work on the hall and the greenways. We have partnered with the Greenways and Hall committee's to build up our resources that make up part of our community. If you would like to be part of this then please reach out and let us know. We can be reached through the Facebook page through the website or through old fashioned e-mail I look forward to hearing from you.

For those who aren't able to join the committee we're always looking for ideas of things that you as a community would like to do. In the past we had a small skills sessions, where people can learn new skills. We've had working bees and awards for local people doing good things for the community. We would love to hear more suggestions.

Email: president@bywongcommunity.org.au

Web site: <http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au/>

Face Book: <https://www.facebook.com/BywongCommunityPlayground/>

I look forward to the next few months - **Justin Jarvis** .

Kenny's Dirt Worx

 The logo for Kenny's Dirt Worx features the name 'Kenny's' in a large, red, cursive font and 'Dirt Worx' in a similar but slightly smaller red cursive font below it. To the right of the text is a cartoon illustration of a yellow excavator with a blue bucket, and a worker wearing a yellow hard hat and blue overalls, holding a tool.

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Wamboin's Newest Road: Top Flat Lane

Leon Reardon & David McDonald

The April 2020 to April 2021 issues of *The Whisper* discussed the 31 roads found then in the locality of Wamboin. They provided information on the origins of the roads' names. Here we discuss Wamboin's 32nd road, now officially named and currently under construction.

The *NSW Government Gazette* of 7 June 2024 (n2024-1030) included a notification under the *Roads Act 1993*, that Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council had officially named the new road Top Flat Lane, with the description 'Off Wirreanda Road Wamboin heading west for approx (*sic*) 200 metres'. This followed a unanimous resolution of Council on 8 May 2024 to adopt the new name, subject to there being no objections from the public for this to occur. There were no objections. Top Flat Lane is part of the 21-lot subdivision currently being constructed—a north-eastern extension of Wirreanda Road—by Nessfind Pty Ltd, the principal of which is Leon Reardon.

Why name it Top Flat Lane? First, it is a lane as it is only 200 m long, and its function is to provide access to the small number of blocks that abut it. More significantly, it is 'Top Flat Lane' as the area that has been subdivided has been known as 'Top Flat' since the colonial era.

Detailed documentation of the history of Top Flat from 1826 to the present time, prepared by Leon Reardon, was presented to Council on 29 February 2024 by PHL Surveyors. It can be found in the agenda papers for Council's 8 May meeting (<https://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Council/Council-Business/Council-meetings>).

The lane sits on a property which has been called Top Flat for at least 160 years. It was the home of Thomas Smith (b. 1826) who was the second son and sixth child of John Smith and Jane Smith (née Falkard). Smiths Gap is named after William Smith—Thomas Smith's elder brother.

In 1847, William Smith, as eldest son, inherited a property that his father had purchased from James Anlezark in 1837. His younger siblings and their spouses, on the other hand, built landholdings as selectors. During the period from 1837 to 1881 title was granted to around 200 portions of land in the parish of Wamboin.

The land that became known as Top Flat was selected by Thomas Smith between the years 1863 and 1879. It comprised portions 16, 19, 20, 77 & 111. These can be viewed on the parish map at https://wamboincommunity.asn.au/localhistory/content/support/parishmaps/Parish_Wamboin_2nd_edn_1891.pdf.

The death certificate for Jane Smith shows that she died at 'Top Flat near Bungendore' on 4 December 1865. It also shows her son Thomas Smith of Top Flat as the informant. Jane Smith was a widow for 18 years and was 78 years old at the time of her death. In these circumstances it would not have been unusual for her to be living in one of her sons' homes and to die there. In this case it would appear it was the home of her second son, Thomas, at Top Flat.

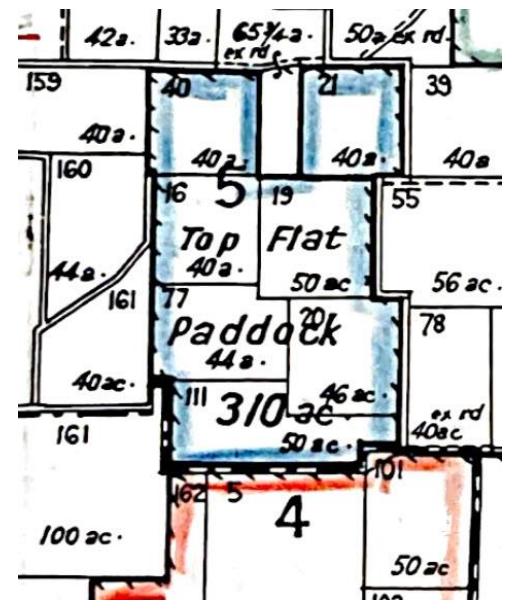
Subsequently, Top Flat was purchased by Charlotte Sophia Springle Powell née Brooks of Turalla Estate, Bungendore. The Powell family were very active in acquiring land in the Wamboin area in the early 1900's and were able to acquire an extensive number of former selections thereby significantly expanding Turalla Estate. Upon Charlotte's death the land passed to her unmarried daughters and, upon their deaths, in 1938 the executors of Charlotte's estate, along with the estate of her husband Nathaniel Stephen Powell, sold peripheral parts of the extensive Turalla Estate holdings at auction, including what they referred to in the auction promotion as Top Flat Paddock (310 acres). An article published in the *Goulburn Evening Penny Post* on 31 Oct 1938 (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article102417956>) describes the sale in some detail, and a map advertising the sale is available at the National Library of Australia (<https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/catalog/1402651>).

By that stage, Top Flat had been extended to include two adjoining portions to the north, portions 40 and 21. The 1938 purchaser of Top Flat was Randolph Taylor, brother of the then overseer of Turalla Estate, Curtis Taylor.

The property was transferred to Robert Edward Taylor in 1966, following the death of his father Randolph. During this time the final parcel of land, Lot 1, was added. Throughout the time that the property was held by the Taylor family, it was known as Top Flat.

In 1983, Top Flat was sold to JB & DJ Reardon (Bede and Jean). In 1985 they transferred the property to a family company, Nessfind Pty Ltd. While part of the property has been sold following stage one of the subdivision, the balance continues to be owned by Nessfind Pty Ltd, with Leon Reardon as the sole director and shareholder. Throughout the time the property has been held by the Reardon family, it has been known as Top Flat.

The subdivision of Top Flat means that the contiguous land holding no longer exists. The loss of a historical property name with connections to several pioneering Wamboin families (Smith, Brooks/Powell, Taylor & Reardon) would be regrettable. The adoption of the historic property name for Wamboin's newest local road is now an appropriate means of preserving that heritage. **The Map at right: Donnelly & Co. 1938, Subdivision sale of part of the well known Turalla estate, adjoining the town of Bungendore, National Library of Australia, MAP 1402651, <<https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/catalog/1402651>**



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Brief Items Sent In for the Whisper by Residents

Updated Chronology of Wamboin and District: The seventh edition of a historical timeline of our local area, titled *A Chronology of Wamboin and District, NSW*, dated 23 July 2024, is now available at the Wamboin Community Association's (WCA's) website. Visit <https://www.wamboincommunity.asn.au/localhistory/> and navigate through the left-hand-side menu Wamboin Locality | Chronology. It commences with a synopsis for readers seeking a brief overview of the history of the area, and contains 544 entries plus appendices and suggestions for further reading. – David McDonald

QPRC Mobile Library: The QPRC Mobile Library bus will be at the Wamboin Hall from 10.30-11.30am on Thursday 8 and 22 August 2024, and then fortnightly. The Mobile Library provides a wonderful opportunity to borrow books, CDs, audio books etc. Please support this great service. After you have visited the library drop into the Social Group and have a cuppa. – Narelle Pumphrey

Wamboin Thursday Social Group: The Thursday Social Drop In Group had a very successful "Christmas in July" lunch on 25 July 2024. There was a lovely group for lunch, including QPRC Councillor Ross MacDonald. A special thank you to those who came along and to those who provided food and/or drinks for the event. The group operates every Thursday morning from 10 – 12 noon at the Wamboin Hall, Bingley Way and if you have a Thursday morning free, we would love to have you pop in for a tea/coffee, chat or a game or scrabble, rummykub or cards. The group is very welcoming to new comers and provides a wonderful chance to meet up with some local residents. We look forward to seeing you. – Narelle Pumphrey



Below is a summary of the minimum PO requirements for mailboxes as appropriate for our area.:

Single Premises on Public or Private roadways or grouped at the junction of a Public roadway.

Boxes to be of approved dimensions, with unrestricted access and within easy reach without alighting from the vehicle.

Mailboxes should be facing the driveway or safely accessible from the roadway.

Mailbox Sizes: Minimum internal dimensions 330mm x 230mm x 160 high. Horizontal Aperture - min 230mm x 30mm and 130mm above the base of the internal space. Vertical Aperture - min 330mm x 30mm and min 40mm above the base of the internal space.

Location: Boxes should be erected so that the aperture is between 0.9m and 1.2m above the ground.

[G&M3039 Residential v2.pdf \(mailmastercommercial.com.au\)](#)

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- by Ned Noel, at the request of Sue Ward of Wamboin, who knows a bit, because she's delivered Whispers for decades

Thank you to each of you who delivered, wrote something for, or ran an ad in this August 2024 Whisper. It wouldn't have existed without the many ways 100 or so of us worked on it. We added one more way for those of us living in the homes out here can listen to and talk to each other. Give a winter gift to your fellow Bywong and Wamboin residents by writing for the September issue something informative, inviting or entertaining. I try to keep the Whisper worth reading by suggesting the following guidelines for content:

- Written by a resident and signed so as to let readers know the author is real and local
- Respectful of the many lifestyles and viewpoints among us -
- Related to living in Wamboin and Bywong
- Not printed elsewhere
- Run as an ad if seeking income Thanks for anything you can provide.
- Ned Noel, volunteer editor on behalf of the Wamboin Community Association

- nednoel@optusnet.com.au or whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au



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WAMBOIN WEATHER – rainfall and temperature records

(49 years from Cooper Road) by Christine Rieber

July Rainfall Stats

July rainfall to the 28th..... 25.75mm
 2024 total rainfall to 28/7..... 477.0mm

Average July rainfall..... 51.1mm
 2023 July rainfall..... 15.25mm
 2023 total rainfall to 28/7..... 421.25mm
 48yr Av. to end of July..... 378.6mm

August Rainfall Stats

2023 August rainfall..... 32.75mm
 Wettest August..... 170.5mm in 1985
 Wettest August day..... 77.5mm on 4/8/22
 Driest August..... 5.5mm in 1994

Average August rainfall..... 56.2mm
 Average no. rain days in August..... 10.2
 Highest no. rain days 17 in 1981 & 2022
 Lowest no. rain days. 3 in 1994 & 1995

August Temperature Stats

2023 August maximum..... 18.7°C
 Hottest August day..... 20.5°C on 22/8/21
 Hottest August night..... 13°C on 26/8/95
 Average day temperature..... 10.9°C
 Warmest August..... 1982
 Av. day temp. 13.8°C & nights 4.2°C
 (highest 14.8°C in 2021 4.5°C in 1995)

2023 August minimum..... -1.7°C
 Aug. 2023. Av. max 14.6°C & min 2.8°C
 Av. Aug. temp. 6.6°C (day+night comb.)
 Coldest August day..... 3°C on 5/8/15
 Coldest August night..... -5°C (6 times)
 18/8/10, 2014 (4 times), 4/8/15
 Average night temperature..... 2.3°C
 Coldest August..... 2012

Av. day temp. 8.0°C & nights -1.0°C

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

The six coldest weeks following the winter solstice end on 2nd August



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Wamboin Golf


Sunday 7 July 2024. A group of 15 golfers ventured out in typical winter weather to play in the Wamboin Golf competition sponsored this month by Vicki, Tim, Paul and Dianne. We thank them for the refreshments and prizes. We welcomed Keiran for his first game and Tom for his second after a break (he was awarded the encouragement award so hopefully will be back sooner for his third game!). We also welcomed Tony for his first game on the Eastern nine (noted by the awarding of a googly ball).



Six players contested the 18-hole competition with Col (92/37) taking out first place from Keith (79/36) and Tony (106/28).

The 9-hole event was taken out by Ken (31/24) from Matt (42/22) and Chris (29/22). There were mutterings that the Ned Kelly trophy should move from its current location. A googly ball was awarded to Tony as previously mentioned. The dummy spit was claimed by Col who complained that he didn't get to see Vicki spit the dummy last month due to Vicki actually being in Western Australia. Col quickly directed the dummy to Larry for bemoaning the lack of a caddy. Col was also mentioned in the googly ball discussion for his adventurous eagle (apparently the ball travelled 250m when it only needed to go 170m, but the result is still on the scorecard as they say). Longest drive and nearest the pin winners were: Ken (3), Col (3), Tim and Cameron. Ted's Jokes involved some PG rated comments from Sam regarding Col's golf balls won by for the longest drives. We were also updated on the exploits of one of our youngest members who continues to impress in the competitions played across the country.

We hope you can join us at the community hall at 12.15pm on Sunday 4 August for a 12.30pm start for the 2024 version of the Tradies competition. - By Ken Gordon



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<p>Giorgia Rose Bookings: wildrosequestrian@outlook.com m_office@sheronypark.com.au</p> <p>Performance Saddlefits Biomechanics & Saddlefit 10 August 2024 Bookings: info@performancesaddlefits.com.au</p>	

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Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

I chose the Diamond Firetail for August, a declining but brightly coloured and distinctive small woodland bird.

Diamond Firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata*)

Size: 12-13cm

Status: Uncommon-rare

resident

Diamond Firetails are a beautiful small species of finch that occur in the rapidly disappearing and degrading open woodlands of south-eastern Australia. The species is quite chunky for a finch and noticeably larger than the common Red-browed Finch or Double-barred Finch. They are a distinctive bird and can be identified even from a distance in flight by the huge bright red rump (much larger than in Red-browed) which almost seems to engulf the whole bird as it flies. When seen well, they are white below, broken by a contrasting black breastband across to the white spotted black flanks, with a brown back, black tail and pale grey head. The stubby bill and eye are red, connected by black lores. Immature birds are duller, with a black bill and eye and faded breastband and flank patterning. The species can often be detected by its loud and distinctive call, a mournful drawn out whine “twee”, which can be somewhat reminiscent of a Brown Quail call but is more of a single slurred note rather than two clear notes. They also give a raspy chirping alarm call. Diamond Firetails are usually found in pairs to small parties among mixed flocks of other small woodland birds. Large flocks are now seldom seen, as the species, alongside many of our other local woodland birds, is in decline. It is listed as globally vulnerable. It feeds on native grass seeds and is mostly seen hopping on the ground, or perched on fences or other



low perches. Their preference for grassy woodlands makes them at risk of decline due to the poor management and preservation of remaining native grassland areas. It was a surprise for me to see a pair recently along Sutton Road near to the Federal Highway intersection, as they flushed up off the roadside while I drove past. I turned back and managed to observe them for a few minutes after as they sat on the fence. This was my first sighting of the species in the general area, as they have mostly disappeared from areas around suburban Canberra and Wamboin. Thankfully however, they seem to be surviving on many side roads in nearby rural areas where I have observed them many times recently, and at good numbers in some spots. Most exceptionally I had a flock of 28 including immature birds near Sutton and have observed them on many side roads including near Lake George and Lake Bathurst, Araluen, Gundaroo, and towards Harden, Boorowa, Cowra and Forbes. It is a species to keep an eye out for especially in open grassy woodland patches including in farmland and grassland, especially over the winter months as there seems to be some local wintertime movements as is the case with many of our local woodland birds. (photo from Google Images)

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Kowen Kapers - The old QBN to BGD Road - Part 1

By Peter Komidar

A century ago, there were two roads to Bungendore from Queanbeyan. One closely followed the existing route of the Kings Highway. A second road ran through Kowen. Gazetted in 1884, and formally opened on 8 June 1888, the route of this second road was described as running "... from Queanbeyan, via Mill Post Creek, towards Bungendore, viz, from the Queanbeyan and Gundaroo Road [Sutton Rd - Kowen Rd intersection] to the Queanbeyan and Bungendore Rd [Kings Hwy - Mill Post Lane intersection]."

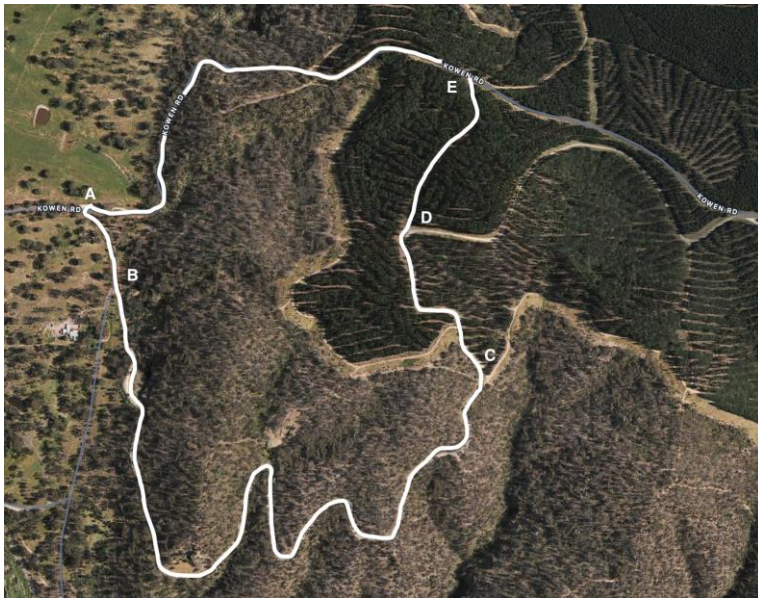
As well as improving access to both towns, the road provided a vital link for Kowen residents in wet weather as fords across the Molonglo River at Burbong were impassable in flood - sometimes for weeks on end. However, notwithstanding the needs of Kowen residents, with the opening of the Bungendore to Queanbeyan railway line in September 1887, the economic justification for a second Queanbeyan to Bungendore road diminished and the road gradually fell into disrepair. In 1910 local residents, the McInnes brothers (Kowen Homestead), made formal representations to the Yarrowlumla Council for maintenance to be done on the road. But by 1915, the condition of the road had deteriorated to such an extent that a map of Kowen described the road as a track.

Despite the road's deplorable condition, the southern section of the road found national notoriety as the site of the Kowen Hillclimb which was run on the stretch of what was then dirt road from the current Kowen Rd entrance gate to the top of the escarpment. The Federal Capital Motor Cycle Club held its inaugural race on 31 March 1911 and continued to hold races there until the commencement of World War I.

The road got a new lease of life in 1927 when it became a key access route for the expanding pine plantation. Given the steep gradient of the Kowen Rd entrance, a new entrance was created at Quarry Rd, some 200 metres to the south. The road gets its name from the several quarries that operated into the 1960s supplying gravel for forestry roads and commercially to the wider Queanbeyan and Canberra region. This section of road snaked its way at a much gentler incline joining onto the Old Kowen Rd at the top of the escarpment. A 1964 ACT Forests map shows Quarry Rd having been extended further east, joining up to the newly created Kowen Rd. When the Kowen Rd entrance section was sealed, access was again changed with entry to Kowen via the steeper Kowen Rd (suitable for empty trucks) and exit via Quarry Rd (for heavily laden logging trucks). And so it remains today.

Directions: Starting at the Kowen Rd entrance (A) head south towards Molonglo Gorge. In 200 m you will arrive at the Quarry Rd entrance (B), follow Quarry Rd until you reach the pine forest (C). From here, take the second road on your left - situated where the road takes a right angle turn east (D). Follow this road until it intersects with a paved road (Kowen Rd) (E). Turn left and return to the Kowen Rd entrance. The total distance travelled is 4.1 km.

From the Bingley Way entrance, follow the directions set out in last month's edition (available online at the Wamboin Community Association website). Then follow the directions above until you hit the paved road (E). Cross the road and enter Old Kowen Rd to retrace your steps. Total distance travelled is 21 km.



April - Sept	Canberra Sled Dog Club - Training/Social Gathering - Old Homestead Picnic Ground www.canberrasleddogclub.com
April - TBC	Logging operations in Sparrow Hill. No access www.facebook.com/groups/2081973678727841
July - TBC	Replanting in logged coupes
17-18 August	Canberra Sled Dog Classic (race) - Old Homestead Picnic Ground canberrasleddogclub.com
24 August	Capital to Coast (trail running stage race) - Molonglo Gorge and Glenburn Heritage Precinct capitaltocoast.com.au
31 August	National Parks Association ACT - Historic Sites of Kowen walk - North Burbong http://npaact.org.au
15 September	Canberra Ornithologists Group - Molonglo Gorge Field Trip https://canberrabirds.org.au

QPRC Report from Councillor Ross MacDonald

Hello to all the Whisperers,

I'm writing to you on the first snow day we've had in Wamboin for the year which is always exciting, especially because where I am we tend to only get one a year! We didn't get much snow today, but I did see some pictures on social media of a Wamboin winter wonderland!

There's been a lot happening at Council, especially as we head toward an election in less than two months' time. Council has a new director of infrastructure who commenced recently. As part of Mike's role he oversees Council's immense infrastructure holdings and projects which includes roads. I've had a chat to Mike about some of the road issues that you've been raising with me, and he's hit the ground running getting out around the region getting an on the ground perspective. I've been getting around and meeting with community groups and residents to listen. I find being out 'on the ground' is the best way to understand issues and represent you so I greatly appreciate the invitations to meet up for a chat, especially as the winter chill is biting.

Some of the issues I've been dealing with, aside from roads as I mentioned, include fighting for funding for community halls, the condition of our sports grounds and courts, making our region more 'senior friendly'. I hope to have some updates on some of the recent issues I've been pursuing and will report back. Council of course has a responsibility to deliver on the basics and that takes up most of my time but I also use my platform to champion a broad range of causes and take the fight up to the state and federal governments for the best deal for our region.

As Council's representative on the Lake George Bush Fire Management Committee, it's always great to meet with the volunteers of the rural fire brigades in our region. I recently had the chance to join members of the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade and many other units from our region at their training day in Bungendore. I got a crash course in firefighting and learned about some of the training they were undertaking to keep us all safe. Our local RFS and SES crews do an exceptional job so if it's something you've thought about doing then I recommend getting in touch with a local unit.

No July would be complete without the Wamboin Social Drop In Group's Christmas in July luncheon! A shout out goes to Narelle Pumphrey and the wonderful folk who organised this year's festivities. Lots of wonderful home cooking, a glass of wine and great company made the day extra special, even if I kept losing the Christmas cracker prizes to Denise! The Social Drop In Group runs each Thursday at the Hall with games, cards, a cuppa and a chat – if you haven't dropped in before and have a little time free on a Thursday morning then I recommend it!

Is anyone else getting into the Olympic spirit? At our house the family is hopping up a bit early and staying up a bit late to catch some of the events. One I really can't wait for is the women's boxing with Queanbeyan's own Monique Suraci! Monique is really inspirational. Sadly missing the Tokyo games through Covid and injury, Monique did not give up and is right now over in Paris preparing for her events. It's always great to have a local talent to get behind so please cheer her on!

I checked out the wood pile at the community hall the other day. It's starting to take shape for what will no doubt be one of our region's best nights of the year. I'm looking forward to seeing lots of people enjoying themselves and supporting many of our community groups who will be working hard. Please say g'day if you see me through the crowds!

As always, if there's anything I can assist with or something you want to bring to my attention then please get in touch with me by email or phone or keep up with what I've been up to on Facebook. I also try to promote local events and causes so if you'd like me to include anything then please let me know. **Cheers, - Ross,**
cr.ross.macdonald@qprc.nsw.gov.au

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Without the month by month donation of time by the residents listed below, it would be impossible for Wamboin, Bywong and other residents in the newsletter's catchment area to have The Whisper. Please remember all residents listed below, as they do what they do in order to make the communities a little bit friendlier and more sociable. Without the businesses that pay to advertise in The Whisper we could not pay for printed copies. Finally, the articles, invitations and notices you read in each Whisper are only there because you or others in the community took the time to write it.

174: CO-ORDINATED BY ALICE SCOTT: ph 0407 005 506 email alice.scott178@gmail.com

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

181: 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(Weero2Hilltop+Windr)	25	Phil Leeson&C Fogarty	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	27

235: CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER: ph 6238 3489

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Colleen Foster	BdoreRd BtwnJoRocks&NortnRd	25	Dominica Lorimer	Norton Rd – North End	44
Cassie Fisher	Clare Ln	12	Lyle Montesin	The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks	65
Jules Clancey	Norton Rd #1033-#1240	37			

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

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 Smith	Macs Reef Birriwa to Harriott	14
Megan Wallace	Harriott Rd	28	Belinda Morris	Macs Reef Rd (Nwington2 Bankers)	11
Sandra Favre	Newington Rd	23	Carol &Clive Boughton	Macs Reef (Bankers to Fed Hwy)	34
Chrystal Earle	Snowgum Road	26			

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

Simon Lewis	Federal HwSvcRd	24	Louise Baldwin	Wattle Flat Rd	11
Lyn Parkinson	Bidges/Hickey/OldGoldMines	53	Fire Brigade	Headquarters on Bingley Way	1
Chris & Kate M	Sutton Park Estate	55	Russell Ball	Macs Reef – Denley Dr to B'doreRd	26

149: CO-ORDINATED BY DAVID FEATHERSTONE ph 6236 9722 bushranger_au@hotmail.com

Chris Fowler	Millynn Rd	24	David Featherston	B'doreRd SmHill to&nclgdCrkBRd	28
Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	24	David & Connie Jansen	Wyoming Road	20
Kerrie Gougeon	B'dore Rd (CreekB to Fed Hwy)	33	Peter Sharp	Doust Road	20

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The Sport of Kings and Crooks – by Joan Ambrose – Short Story Contest – Highly Commended

(Inspired by a true Wamboin story - names of places and people have been changed to protect privacy)

Editor's Note: This is the last of the 18 entries. All 18 have now been published in the Whisper.

"I was out for a morning walk, when out of nowhere, these giant horses come running down the road behind me like they had the fear of God in their veins."

"Giants huh?" Gav laughed, tossing his fork to the side and lifting the bucket of manure onto his shoulder. "It was the 'out for a morning walk' part, that 'ad me confused." The wheelbarrow scraped along the concrete, strands of hay buffing up into the air as a biscuit was thrown into the feeders. "I'm telling you, Clydesdales are huge. Think of the one up north, that stallion at the Fernsdale Stud that you're always talking about. These would be at least three or four hands taller, and their shoes, twice as big." Diego's voice echoed through the empty barn. Gav and Duncan just rolled their eyes and muttered something under their breath about rookies and backpackers.

The smell of manure and cigarettes filled the stables; dappled light shone on the steel grid doors through plastic skylights in the ceiling. The radio static filled the empty silence between the three stud hands, forks scraping the concrete periodically, followed by the squeaky wheel of the barrow. Twenty stalls, that's about an hour for three mid-thirty year old men to muck out, fill the feeders and clean the troughs.

"That new speller is coming in soon. Back gate. Diego, you can handle it, yeah?" Gav let the weight of his head drop back onto the wall, mugs of black coffee in their hands. "Sure, Where's he going?" Asked Diego, lying on the wet grass, the dew soaking into his shirt, mixing with his sweat. "Put him in C block with the other two year olds. Boss will want to look at him later. I don't know why John moved him here, ay." Duncan shrugged "Maybe they weren't pushing 'im hard enough over a' Greens. I heard he spits the bit without much of a shakeup."

A freckled face with a smeared cap and a sideways grin peered around the side of the stables. "We're back from the track." "Damn bug boys. Come on lads." They sculled the last of their coffee and ducked around the corner to follow the apprentice jockey. A honk at the back gate and the white truck shook and jerked on its axles while a half ton of pure thoroughbred muscle kicked the red door repeatedly. Diego cursed, unlatching the double gate and letting it swing wide. The wind was sending shivers down his spine. Shirt still damp, he swung the lead over his shoulder and approached the loading ramp. Coming off the track, the colt was snorting,, his eyes darting to look for something familiar, his head throwing Diego's arm up into the air. "Hey!" Gav shouted from down at the stables. "Give him some slack or you're gonna find yourself with a dislocated shoulder." He and Duncan watched while Diego tried to let go of some of the lead, while still trying to direct the nervous steps of the two year old.

The yellow floods lit up the breezeways, the track riders and jockey apprentices making their way to Holdens with dented door panels and busted headlights. The stablehands were on the final door check. Harold lived above the C block colts, Jesse slept in the breezeway of the fillies in the A block stables. Diego, Gav and Duncan leaned on the stable door with the words 'Dark Whiskey' written in chalk, peering through the bars at the bay colt. "Huh, he doesn't look like a front runner. Not worth what John's paid for him for sure." Duncan and Diego nodded in agreement with the seasoned punter. "He shoulda stuck wit' cars, ay" said Duncan. "What'd the boss say when he saw 'im?" Diego rubbed his shoulders and stretched his neck to the side. "I'm not sure. He didn't say much; didn't seem at all impressed....." He winced as he rolled his shoulders back. "I'm going to call it a night - see you all in the morning, yeah?" "Hey you worked out your registration yet?" Gav asked, as the group stepped into the evening air. "Nah, the boss said he didn't have time to do it today. What does it matter, I'm still getting paid." Duncan and Gav just looked at each other and didn't respond.

The sun was rising over Lake George, its glow climbing up the escarpment and stretching over Clare Valley, painting the track in a golden glow. Three colts thundered down the track, urged on by their riders as they approached the final leg. "This horse is a dud" Diego whispered to Duncan. The boss folded his arms and turned to the new hand. "It's a heavy track and it's bad luck to make assumptions." "Maybe we should ease up on him boss. He hasn't got the energy to keep up with this routine." Gav hitched up his pants calmly and met the gaze of the trainer. "No, that's not necessary." With that the former farm manager left the group standing and watched the colts pull up, Dark Whiskey coming in last.

Gav held the colt's head in his right arm, feeding a syringe into his mouth, "Come on now lad, this is for your bones and your joints. You'll thank me later." He spoke calmly and quietly in his ear. Dark Whiskey didn't even flinch with the experienced horseman. "You ever ride?" Asked Diego, peering over the stall barrier next door. Gav shook his head. "Safer with two feet on the ground." Shouts from the opposite breezeway interrupted them, the colts pricked up their ears as Diego and Gav slid out of the stalls. They watched while a stable rider pushed around a stable hand. Apparently, he had kicked one of the two year olds in the guts while putting on its rug. "Arent you going to do something?" asked Diego, concerned that he would be next. "Nah, you shouldn't use physical pressure like that on a horse worth thousands of dollars - unless you are willing to pay for it. Remember that Diego. Let's go back to work." The trainer watched from his corner office, bringing a glass of single malt to his lips.

The baling twine was looped through the cracked leather headstall, straining under the weight of the nervous colt swaying in the truck making its way down National Highway 25 towards Yass. Gav rode shotgun, turning the dial on the radio to try and drown out the crude one-sided conversation from the driver. Thirty minutes later they're turning into the racing yard; a whole range of second string horse trucks parked like jigsaw puzzles with just enough room to lower the ramp and get their 'soon to be winners' out onto the track. "Ah, he's got the look of eagles about him eh?" Chuckled a pale car dealer, watching Gav lead Dark Whiskey down the ramp, as he smoked a potent cigar. "Sure, John, sure. He could be the next Phar Lap" replied the trainer, in a steady monotone.

Gav filled a dented bucket from a nearby tap, brassy, cold in his calloused hands. He brushed the bay down, talking to him all the while. "This ain't the Caulfield Cup but you'll be alright. Just keep focused on that finish line andhey boss, we got a problem." The trainer excused himself from the circle of seedy-looking owners in pin-striped suits. He ran his hand down the near hind. It was subtle to the eye but there was a distinct swelling around the cannon and hock. "Damn it. Get him ready and keep this to yourself." (continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

The trainer disappeared around the corner of the stables. The cool expression on his face when he returned tipped Gav off. The stablehand stepped away and shook his head. “No, I’m not doing it. He should be scratched from the race.” The trainer looked casually over his shoulder and ducked under the guard rail, next to the colt’s neck. He pulled a needle out of his jeans. As he turned back to Gav, he slid the empty syringe into his pocket. “We need this win. Keep him under wraps, you hear me. Give him his head on the homestretch. He needs to finish in the money or we’re.....” The trainer’s voice trailed off into a muttered sequence of swearing and curse words. The jockey nodded. “Hey, he’s looking a bit washed out there” Gav gestured towards Dark Whiskey, snorting while a nicotine cloud of gunmetal grey settled on his coat, The jockey shrugged. “He’s fine. Come on , my first race in the big leagues.” He dropped the cigarette butt under his heel and ground it into the turf.

They were at the starting line, each horse carrying a hundred punters and half their savings with them down the quarter mile. Gav stood at the fence, a ‘hail Mary’ under his breath as he watched them jump from the gate. The jockey was holding Dark Whiskey back as they sprinted down the track, turf ricocheting under their hooves. “You’ll be right ay, just get to the finish line - don’t hurt yourself now lad.” The small town crowd cheered on the placers. He was third.....he was neck and neck with the second place brown from Greens, and on to the home stretch. The jockey egged Dark Whiskey on. He was two lengths ahead, then three as he passed the finish line, Gav looked up to the stands where John was grinning from ear to ear, his friends and wife cheering for him. The trainer stood more composed, slaps on the back and words of congratulations echoing around him. As Gav ducked through the crowd of punters, he saw a steward approaching. “He’s tested positive John. Who’s the trainer? I’m afraid you’re both suspended.”

Gav led Dark Whiskey off the truck and back into C block, lame. The corner office was dark. Duncan and Diego had waited up. Word had got around that someone had doxed in the boss for giving an anti-inflammatory dose before the race. Gav settled the colt into his stall, rubbing some cream onto the swollen hind leg.

“What happened?” Asked Diego, as Gav stepped into the glow of floodlights, his eye bruised and his lips bleeding, staining his collar. He shrugged, the energy draining from every muscle. “On the upside, ya still ‘ave a job ay? The boss might think twice next year, ya never know.” Duncan steadied his mate up against the wall near the lawn. “Yeah I meanI got my registration papers today....So that’s something.” The backpacker sighed staring up at the quarter moon over the stable roof line. “I can’t believe they call this the sport of kings.”

Gav chuckled and winced as his lip stung from the smile. “The sport of kings? The sport of kings and crooks more like.”

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Still 'Shifting on' Sifton Bush (*Cassinia sifton*)

The Gearys Gap/Wamboin Landcare Group often receives queries from the community about sifton bush (*Cassinia sifton*). With our recent articles about native plants that can become problematic and invasive, it is timely to revisit this species.

Identification: Sifton bush is most easily identified by observing the large, dense (often monocultural) stands that have established in our region. It has grey-green aromatic foliage and numerous woody stems up to 2 metres tall. The flowers form in reddish tinged plumes on branch terminals. It excludes native pasture and can invade even stable vegetation communities. It provides harbour for rabbits, cats, pigs and foxes, and significantly impacts wildlife habitat. Sifton bush burns rather fiercely and may exacerbate fire risk on properties. It is generally unpalatable to stock and is difficult to remove once established, mainly due to the sheer amount of biomass it creates. It can dramatically reduce land values both for grazing purposes and resale.

You can find relevant background in our 2021 article on sifton bush at

[https://landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/gearys-gap-wamboin-landcare-](https://landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/gearys-gap-wamboin-landcare-group/documents/sifton_bush_210905.pdf/view)

[group/documents/sifton_bush_210905.pdf/view](https://landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/gearys-gap-wamboin-landcare-group/documents/sifton_bush_210905.pdf/view) . Another very useful reference is the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) fact sheet at <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/SiftonBush> . The DPI fact sheet contains useful

photographs which will assist in identification of this species. Some residents have confused young plants of local *Leptospermum* (tea-tree) with sifton bush, so if you are still unsure bring a specimen to one of our local Landcare plant sales for identification by an experienced local member.

Management: Unfortunately, sifton bush is not yet listed as an invasive native species. Landcare has raised South East Local Land Services' (LLS) attention to the risks this species poses, so in the future it is likely to be listed as invasive in our region.

There are no current legislated requirements for control of sifton bush on properties at this stage. However, the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015* states that anyone who is aware of a biosecurity risk, has a biosecurity duty to ensure as far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised. In the Act, there is also

"a general obligation on people to be aware of their surroundings and take action to prevent the introduction and spread of pests, diseases, weeds and contaminants."

Slashing is likely the only possible control option for established, mature infestations, especially those covering many acres. Once mature plants are cut, they do not usually re-emerge at ground level. Great care must be taken to avoid damage to desirable species that may still exist within the infestations. Slashing alleviates the immediate problem, but mature plants will have already released many billions of seed, which form a soil-borne seed store. Once a site is cleared, this seed will germinate in densities which may exceed the density of the former stand of sifton bush. So ongoing control is required to reduce this soil-borne seed store.

Soil-borne seed viability is short, generally 3-4 years. However, infestations in surrounding areas carry air-borne seed which will continue to reinfest treated sites. Therefore coordinated control efforts with neighbours is important.

While spraying may be a conventional option, this has considerable limitations depending on which type of spray is used. A broad-spectrum spray would eliminate all desirable recovering species. Other spray types could eliminate all species other than grasses, thus reducing diversity in recovering vegetation. Spraying should be a last resort in any areas of stable native ecosystems, or areas with native plant diversity. Hand removal is recommended in these circumstances.

In areas that are minimally infested, preventing further infestation is critically important. Young (juvenile) plants are very easy to remove, particularly when soil is moist. Care must be taken to remove young plants with most of the root system. If young plants snap off, many will recover and grow new shoots. Grazing is not an effective option so should not be relied upon.

Other control techniques are detailed in the DPI fact sheet linked above.

Working together as a community we can monitor and control this and other invasive species in our local area. Author: Gearys Gap/Wamboin Landcare Group



Colonised area



mature foliage



juvenile foliage



Foliage & spent flower spikes



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Sled Dog Racing in Kowen

The Siberian Husky Club of NSW is a dedicated breed club hosting two sled dog races each year showcasing the ability and passion both mushers and dogs have for this unique sport. The club held its first sled dog race in 1997 and for the first time this year they held their main event, The Sled Dog Shield, at Kowen Forest in Canberra.

Dry land dog sledding is a seasonal sport and can only be held during winter when the temperature is low enough to safely run the dogs. It consists of open classes from 1 dog up to 6 dog teams. There is also Bikejoring, Canicross, Touring classes for beginners, Veteran classes for older dogs, Juniors and Pee-wees which caters for the upcoming mini mushers. There are various dog breeds including Siberian Huskies, Alaskan Malamutes, German Shorthaired Pointers and mixed breeds. The dogs run in front of a scooter or rig, taking commands which requires trust and a connection between the lead dog and musher.

The Sled Dog Shield, held on the 15th and 16th of June, was a very successful race weekend for the club. There was a total of 50 mushers and 76 class entries which is a great outcome. Mushers travelled from Victoria and South Australia to attend the event. Canberra produced below zero temperatures which is perfect for running sled dogs. The tracks were

technical which kept the dogs thinking and the known hills of Kowen Forest can be hard work, but all teams thoroughly enjoyed them. Most returned covered in mud due to the recent rain but that didn't wipe the smile from their faces.

Racing began at 7am on Saturday and Sunday. There are two heats, and the times are combined from both heats to determine final places. First to third is awarded for each class, the first Siberian team is awarded, and a red lantern prize is given to the last team. This year's trophies were hand made by one of the committee members using timber.

Coast to Coast catering provided a delicious spit roast dinner on the Saturday night for campers and the Funky Brew provided much needed coffee for the early morning starts. There was a communal fire, raffle, auction and many happy dogs and mushers.



Siberian Huskies are bred to work in harness. It is what they love to do, and this can be seen by their excitement when they're waiting to take off from the start chute. Their concentration, focus and desire to run is truly amazing.

The Siberian Husky Club will again be holding The Sled Dog Shield at Kowen Forest in June 2025. Local club, The Canberra Sled Dog Club will be holding The CSDC Classic on the 17th and 18th of August 2024.

For more information on dog sledding and the events, the clubs can be contacted on the following email addresses. The Siberian Husky Club of NSW nevicatasiberians@gmail.com Canberra Sled Dog Club canberrasleddogclub@gmail.com

Photo Credit: SSD Photography

Written by Samantha Hartwig (Sledding coordinator)



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- Share a paddock with another friendly horse – hay or hard feed options – NO DIY
- Use our dressage arena, jump paddock, exercise tracks, ride out on the Greenways



Bonfire & Fireworks Saturday Night August 31