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Bywong Community www.bywongcommunity.org.au
Fire Brigade <http://wamboin.rfsa.org.au>
Bywong and Wamboin Facilities and Contacts

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	Imconsulting@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 December 2024 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, November 24, 2024.** **Advertising prices**, per issue, based on rough fraction of the inside the margins A4 area: 1/8 \$24 1/6 29 ¼ \$35 1/3 \$44 ½ \$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.

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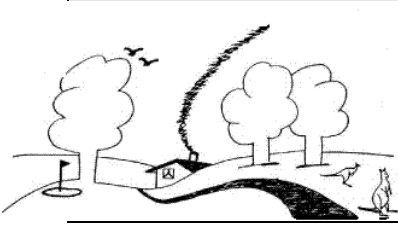
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Darren Hurley; 0431 546 702

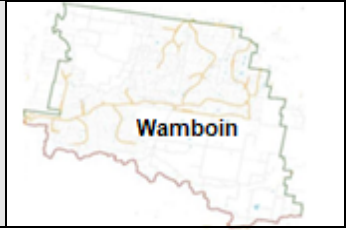
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Wamboin Community Association President's Notes



Well we're here. The last President's Notes for the year and its certainly been a busy year. We've had numerous community events over the year such as Wheels of Wamboin, Community Talks, Monthly Markets, Bonfire/Fireworks Night, Meet the Candidates for the local government elections. We've also managed to ensure that the sign at the entrance to Wamboin has not only been fixed but beautified. Now we are down to the last 2 events : the Annual Christmas Carols Night and (surprisingly) yet another Community Talk which coincides with our last meeting for year.

1. Community Christmas Carols. Its almost here – the annual Wamboin Carols Night. This is a non- denominational community event on **6th December at the Hall**. The event begins at **7:00 pm** and is a lot of fun featuring our musicians to help us sing carols and Sutton School who will give a performance. The Christmas Play as always will be performed which is always delightful, and of course Santa will arrive on a firetruck to distribute gift bags to all the children. See the 2 adverts further on in this edition of the Whisper for more details. Please come along. This is always a fun event aimed specifically at the younger members and their families but everyone is welcome to come and sing to our carols. Entry (yes there is an entry cost) is a present under the giving tree for someone less fortunate **PLUS** a gold coin donation for the sausage sizzle BBQ and drinks. All proceeds go to the Salvation Army who will be there. So come and enjoy yourselves and if any children want to be part of the Christmas Play please contact me – **Jenny Richards on 0490020165** to organize parts as soon as possible. At the moment all parts are open but the earlier you ring me the sooner we can fix things up. Hope to see many of you there especially those with the younger children.

2. Final Community Talk. A bit to my surprise our local council have approached the Wamboin Community Association wishing to address the Community and that of Bywong on **waste management issues**. The Association has agreed that the event could go ahead on **17th December at the Community Hall at 7:30 pm**. So if you have any questions, issues, or concerns about waste management please come along to this event and air them.

3. Final Meeting for the Year. The above mentioned event really is the WCA's final event for the year. We will of course be at the last Markets for 2024 but then the Association goes into a month long rest before recommencing in 2025.

Finally this year has been extremely challenging on a personal level for myself but it has shown me how important friends are. I simply couldn't have coped without the marvelous Committee which supports me. So thank you, Diana, Keith, David, Denise, Ned and Denise. Thank you also to those regulars who attend our monthly meetings to provide good, well grounded advice and suggestions, and finally thank you to my own family who have to put up with me. So now I'll just take this opportunity to wish you all a very **Safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**.

Wamboin Community Carols Night

Yes the end of the year is rushing towards us and so too is the annual Wamboin Community Carols Night! Put on by the Wamboin Community Association this is a wonderful way to celebrate the end of the year with a community get together. This is a non-denominational event and the emphasis is on the community enjoying themselves particularly the younger residents. However it is not for free. **Admission to the event is a gift under the Christmas tree for the Salvation Army people to take to someone less fortunate. Any gift is acceptable and remember teenagers and the elderly need gifts too.** The Salvation Army will be there to collect gifts and they are always touched by the generosity of the people in Wamboin.

The night features carol singing ably supported by local music group Poetry in Motion; the telling of the Christmas story (in its rather unique style); a performance by Sutton School Choir; a BBQ (gold coin donation which also goes to the Salvo's); and of course the arrival of Santa to distribute gift bags to the children. The date for this extravaganza is **6th December 2024 at 7:00 pm sharp** at the Community Hall in Bingley Way. So please come along and enjoy yourselves.

Organizing the Xmas Play is always a special event for me. The children love to take part and dress up and they always bring their own interpretation to a very old story. Its often funny, always exciting and definitely worth it. Parents of children wishing to perform in the Christmas Play are invited (PLEASE) to ring Jenny Richards on **0490020165** as soon as possible to organize parts. At the moment all parts are open.

Friday, December 6th 2024 @ 7:00pm

At Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way

Everyone is invited to come along and:



Join in the singing of Christmas Carols (both traditional and modern), ably led by our local musicians



Experience the Christmas Story, as presented by the children of Wamboin



Give generously to the Giving Tree (gifts and non-perishable food, preferably unwrapped or in a Christmas bag) for distribution by the Salvos



Say Hi to Santa when he arrives on his special transport, a Fire Truck



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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.

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BLACKSHAW



Hello everybody. Strap in and get ready for this Christmas addition of the Bywong Banter in the Wamboin Whisper. We have the Christmas drinks coming up, the greenways and community day successes and a consultation with the Council on the waste strategy. We also have another Plug for the Christmas Front Gate Competition.

On the weekend the BCA arranged a small group from the community who, under the guidance of Land Care, came out for the Community Day. under the guidance of the Landcare team, we and the greenways association were able to rid the area of an invasive weed. This weed is considered to be a garden escapee. Thank you very much to all those who helped as we made a massive dent into the segment of the greenways.

The next significance item is a discussion with the Council. The Councils Waste team would like our opinions on the Council's existing waste strategy. At this point they have arranged a visit to the combined meeting with the Wamboin Community Association. This would be Tuesday the 17th of December. We are however confirming with the council a consultation especially for Bywong. Even though we and Wamboin are close communities, we have different needs and requirements as well as those that are similar. As such I am seeking to line up the consultation with our annual Christmas drinks. We could use the tagline is "come and talk rubbish at the Christmas Drinks".

Just before we get onto the Christmas Drinks I think we should all take a moment to consider our Christmas decorations and the longtime competition for the Best Christmas Entrance way or gateway. This has been a hotly contested competition in the past and this year should be even better. Get your decorations out and dress up your driveway. Take a photo and send it in to the Wonderful Women of Wamboin. There are some hefty prizes including a massive hamper for the Winner of the Best Driveway and the Best Letter Box categories.

The Christmas drinks will be held on Saturday the 6th of December between 4:00 and 6:00 PM down at the Bywong Community Hall Birriwa Road. This is a nice casual event to come down meet some revisit some of your friends and also in the leader will be a discussion about the council's waste strategy

I look forward to catching up with many of you over the next few weeks and Months. Thanks again for a great year. – **Justin Jarvis**



	Meeting Date	Other Event
December	17	7 Christmas drinks
December	No meeting	
January	16	
February	20	
March	20	
April	17	

Waste and resource recovery consultation

Do you have concerns about, or are you interested in policy on, waste and resource recovery in Wamboin, Bywong, and the rest of the QPRC LGA?

Then create a placeholder in your calendar for Tue 17 Dec, 7.30 pm, at the Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin.

Members of the QPRC waste management team will be conducting a community consultation then on the QPRC Waste Strategy.

Council will provide details in the coming weeks.



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Wamboin Golf

By Ken Gordon

Sunday 3 November was the date for the much-anticipated Wamboin Open Golf Championships. Fifteen players braved the course and conditions. We welcomed Emma for her first game. The warm and windy conditions, along with the much drier course compared to previous years provided a challenge for all. The Open is played as both a stroke and handicap competition. The winners of the 9-hole and 18-hole championship competition are those with the lowest score 'off the stick'. The remaining competitors battle it out for the monthly handicap competition.

The sponsor this month was Wamboin Golf Club and we thank Joan Mason and Rob Gorham for the refreshments and Deb Gordon for the wonderful array of prizes.

The monthly joke was presented by Pete and recounted the 50th wedding anniversary celebration of a golfer.

The nine-hole competition was played using the Eastern course this year. The Men's 9-hole competition was taken out by Gerard Ryan (39) and Deb Gordon was the Women's 9-hole winner (48). The place

getters in the 9-hole handicap event were Pete Harrison (1st - 46/29), Kath Hansen (2nd - 63/31) and Steve Lambert (3rd - 45/33). Larry King, Cameron Hansen, Ken Gordon, Rob Gorham and Matt Hawke were the encouragement award recipients.

The eighteen-hole competition was very tightly contested with Tim

Barter (74) taking out the Men's Open

Championship and Vicki Still (91) the Women's Open title. The place getters in the 18-hole handicap event were:

David Bailey (1st - 80/55) and Paul Griffin (2nd - 87/70). David was very close to having the Ned

Kelly trophy bestowed upon him after scoring 11 shots under his handicap! His handicap will take a considerable pruning for his next game.

The other awards bestowed at the Open are the eclectic winners.

These are the players with the lowest scores across the year based on their best results on each individual hole after handicap. The winner of the 9-hole eclectic was Cameron Hansen, with Keith France taking out the 18-hole eclectic.

Winners nearest the pins went to: Ken, Gerard, Tim (2), David (2) and Pete.

The club also presented gifts to our 'groundkeepers' - The Mason's, Steve Lambert, Keith France and Pam Muston. Without their generosity of allowing us to play golf on their properties and the work they put in to manicuring the golf holes we would not be able to conduct this great community event.

The googly ball was shared by the group of golfers who all had a golf ball stolen on the same hole.

The dummy spit was initially awarded to Barb who thought Pete was about to repeat a joke from last month, but then went to Vicki for chasing and yelling at a crow that was stealing golf balls, and then for a string of expletives used (tried to claim she was praying to our Lord Jesus Christ, but that wasn't totally convincing).

A new presentation for 2024 was the Annual Dummy Spit Trophy, awarded to the golfer who had allegedly been nominated the most times across the year. Vicki Still was the inaugural (and some say well deserved) recipient.

We also awarded a lucky door prize to the 19th hole attendees and Barb Rowe was the recipient. With one prize spare

all names went in to the draw for the final meat tray and Joan Mason was the lucky winner.

Next month, the December event will be the Christmas Cup, sponsored by Matt Hawke and helpers.

We hope you can join us at the community hall at 12.15pm on Sunday, 1 December for the usual 12.30pm start.



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Kowen Kapers - Poppet Hill: a second mine shaft?

Peter Komidar

In the November 2023 edition of the *Whisper*, I submitted an article on Poppet Hill where I mentioned that the mountain most likely got its name from a mine situated on private property near the summit. I have recently discovered evidence a second mining operation on Poppet Hill - located on public land.

The name Poppet Hill most likely refers to a ‘poppet head’ - a framework above a mine shaft that supports a winch. The poppet head gave vertical access from the surface to an underground mine, allowing miners to enter the mine from above and for the precious ore to be hauled out. While the poppet head has long since been dismantled, the mountain contains evidence of at least two mine shafts. The largest, on private property, 150 metres west of the Poppet Hill trig. Situated near the summit, this is the most likely location of the poppet head from which the mountain got its name.

The other mine site is located within the Crown Reserve approximately 350 metres to the northeast of the trig. This site contains a shaft smaller than the one on the mountaintop but of a similar diameter to the two other mine sites in Kowen. (Which we’ll explore in a later edition).

Rather than holes in the ground, the two Poppet Hill shafts, and indeed all the mine sites in Kowen, are ‘slumped shafts’. Slumped shafts occur when a mine shaft, no longer in use, is filled with waste rocks and soil. Over time, the fill consolidates causing subsidence which leaves a dish-shaped depression at ground level. Slumped shafts are sometimes found to be filled with water even during dry periods. This is the case with both of the shafts on Poppet Hill and indicates that the mines may have been very deep indeed. Luckily for us, neither of the mine sites show evidence of recent movement such as tension cracks around the edges or patches of bare soil where the ground has been stretched. Nonetheless, it is wise to keep a safe distance from the depression when viewing.

As well as the slumped shaft itself, the mine site on the Crown Reserve contains scattered miscellaneous tin and cast iron objects as well as the remnants of a wood and corrugated iron building. The cast iron object (recently relocated from the building site to a position closer to the access trail) may have been part of a ‘stamp battery’ - a steam powered machine that crushed the ore in a pounding action. Alongside the ruin are some neatly stacked corrugated iron sheets. It appears that after the operation ceased, the shaft was filled in and the buildings were dismantled with salvageable material as possible removed for use elsewhere. Material found unsuitable for reuse was likely dumped in the shaft as fill.

Given its size and proximity to the Bywong and Captain’s Flat gold fields, it is likely that Poppet Hill was the site of at least two 19th century gold mining operations. Alas, the exact nature of the mines remains a mystery as I could find no references to them in local newspapers of the day. This is not surprising as there were so many mines in the region at the time. Moreover, given that, the location did not have a name at the time of the mines’ registration (Poppet Hill clearly being named after the mine was already in operation) I was unable to identify them on the NSW Historical Lands Records Viewer.

As to when the mines were in operation, the earliest mention of Poppet Hill I could locate was in an 1881 map of the Queanbeyan to Bungendore via Millpost Creek road (covered in the September 2024 edition). So, we can assume that the poppet head must have been in place before that date. This means that the mine would have been in operation in the twenty year period between 1860 and 1880 as gold prospecting in the nearby Bywong district began in earnest around 1860.

Directions: From Bingley Way (A), proceed to the Bingley Way horse entrance (B) but instead of crossing into Kowen Forest turn right and take the trail west on the NSW side of the fence line. After 600 m, at the base of Poppet Hill, you find a dirt road heading northwest (C). Follow this road and take the first trail right (D). Follow the trail downhill for 150 m (E). Here you’ll find the cast iron item near the trail and looking further east, the remains of a collapsed building. Proceed for another 100 metres and on your right you’ll see a circular depression in the ground about 15 metres east of the trail (F). This is the site of the slumped shaft. The return journey is a distance of 4.5 km.



Date	Kowen Events – December/January	More Info
September - TBC	Logging operations below Poppet Hill.	
19 December	Summer evening walk - Mologlo Nature Reserve - Canberra Bushwalking Club	canberrabushwalkingclub.mybilby.com/
19 January	Kowen Trail Run.	https://kowen-trail-run.com/

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Wonderful Women of Wamboin (WWOW)

In the early days, WWOW numbers were going through the roof bordering close to 50! And then came COVID. Its impact was huge, as we all know, affecting many aspects of our lives. But we continue, albeit on a much smaller scale.

2024 saw us facilitate Wamboin’s inaugural ANZAC Day event initiated by local Bruce Legge. That injected a sense of enthusiasm such that a few more women have joined our sessions. Though we still remain a small group.

Merle, who has returned to the fold continues to inspire us with her creativity and zest for life. She has shown us her collection of cultural costumes, Middle Eastern musical instruments eg zils, daf, riq and drums, and even introduced us to the world of belly dancing.

We are a social group for women in Wamboin and the surrounding rural areas of Bywong, Sutton, Bungendore and Gundaroo. Women in Queanbeyan and the ACT are also welcome to come along. We would love to share our Monday mornings with more women. So pop in and enjoy a cuppa with us.

The Wonderful Women of Wamboin (WWOW) meet on Mondays 10–12 at the Wamboin Community Hall.

Contact: Gail Ritchie Knight (0416 097 500, whirlwind1@argonite.com.au).

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WAMBOIN WEATHER – rainfall and temperature records

(49 years from Cooper Road) by Christine Rieber

November Rainfall Stats

November rainfall to the 24th 20.25mm
 2024 total rainfall to 24/11 570.75mm

December Rainfall Stats

2023 December rainfall 148.75mm
 Wettest December 177.75mm in 2010
 Wettest day 68mm on 2/12/10
 Driest December 0mm in 1979

December Temperature Stats

2023 December maximum 35.4°C
 Dec. 2023. Av. max 27.2°C & min 12.6°C
 Hottest Dec. day 41.5°C on 21/12/19
 Coldest December day 12°C on 16/12/16
 Average day temperature 25.5°C
 Warmest December 2019
 (Av. day temp. 32.0°C & night 12.3°C)
 (warmest night 14.9°C in 1994)

January Rainfall Stats

2024 January rainfall 113.5mm
 Wettest January 197.5mm in 1995
 Wettest day 74mm on 21/1/95
 Driest January 5.5mm in 2010

January Temperature Stats

2024 January maximum 33.6°C
 Jan. 2024. Av. max 26.9°C & min 14.2°C
 Hottest January day 43.6°C on 4/1/20
 & 43.5°C on 31/1/20
 Coldest Jan. day 12°C on 29 & 30/1/78
 Average day temperature 27.7°C
 Warmest January 2019
 (Av. day temp. 34.1°C & night 16.8°C)
 (highest night 17.1°C in 91)

Average November rainfall 79.7mm
 2023 November rainfall 138.75mm
 2023 total rainfall to 24/11 549.75mm
 48yr Av. to end of November 639.2mm

Average December rainfall 65.1mm
 Average no. rain days in December ... 8.3
 Highest no. rain days 17 in 2010
 Lowest no. rain days 0 in 1979

2023 December minimum 7.4°C
 Av. Dec. temp. 18.9°C (day+night comb.)
 Hottest December night 23°C (2 times)
 on 20/12/94 & 24/12/05
 Coldest December night 2°C (2 times)
 on 5/12/11 & 9/12/22
 Average night temperature 12.2°C
 Coldest December 2011
 (Av. day temp. 19.5°C & nights 8.7°C)
 (coldest nights 8.5°C in 2022)


Average January rainfall 61.9mm
 Average no. rain days in January 7.9
 Highest no. rain days 16 in 1976 & 78
 Lowest no. rain days 2 in 2003 & 14

2024 January minimum 5.8°C
 Av. Jan. temp. 20.9°C (day+night comb.)
 Hottest January night 26°C on 25/1/82
 Coldest Jan. night 5°C (4 times)
 on 24/1/00, 12-13/1/12 & 1/1/13
 Average night temperature 14.1°C
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 (Av. day temp. 23.2°C & night 11.1°C)

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QPRC Council News – from Councillor Ross MacDonald

Hello Whisperers. It's been a while since the election and a while since I last wrote. I'm only now finding some time to sit down and get back into writing after the mountain of emails, visits, meetings and council business which built up during the election campaign and in the months after.

Firstly, can I thank everyone who turned out to vote in the Council elections in September. Regardless of who it was for, the high turnout demonstrates that our community recognises the importance of Local Government and local representatives to deal with local challenges and that really encourages me. Can I also thank those who put their confidence in me to continue representing you on Council – this honour and the numerous conversations I had with many of you over the course of the campaign has given me a renewed sense of direction.

There's a lot happening across the region with various community events, markets, stalls, open days and country shows. I try to get along to most things because aside from being great fun filled occasions but also because it's a great opportunity to meet and chat with so many locals and even people visiting our region so please stop and say hi if you see me at any events.

There's also a lot happening which doesn't involve bumper cars, dagwood dogs, and livestock competitions.

The Council has been getting down to more formal business and one important part of that is settling committee appointments. Alongside a range of other s355 Committees I've taken on Wamboin Community Hall and will be the alternate representative for Canning Close Reserve. Many of you will have been involved in these committees and I've found them to be effective ways of hearing from those who are expert in, or highly dedicated to a particular part of our region. I'm looking forward to working with these Committees and the dedicate volunteer members to help make our region even better.

As many of you would know, roads continue to be a major focus for many in the region so I try to provide a quick update on road issues in my contribution to the Whisper and in my regular newsletter. Recently I've heard concerns about the condition of Weeroona Drive and I agree, it's really rough in patches. I've spoken to Council staff about this and it's on the list – I'll keep on the case and keep you updated, but please, if you have any issues with roads then please reach out so I can follow it up on your behalf.

In this role, it's often the 'little things' that matter – getting a pot hole dealt with, guiding residents on how to navigate a Council process or working with the community to deliver or improve our local infrastructure. Together we tackled one of those 'little things' together recently.

I'm told that years ago kids around Wamboin would wait for the bus on street corners, exposed to the elements, rail, hail or shine. That was until the Wamboin Community Association stepped in. The Association procured some old London Circuit bus shelters and they now form part of area's look and feel, as well as being a simple yet practical part of the local transport network.

A few months ago, some people reached out on Facebook about the condition of the Denley Drive bus shelters – they were run down, surrounded by weeds and vandals had smashed parts of them making the shelters unsafe and unusable. I took on the case, discussed it with Council staff and the Council and contractor crews got to work. I'm really pleased to see them looking almost brand new now so thank you for raising this issue and for the history lesson on the shelters.

I really enjoy working with the community to tackle a problem so, while I encourage you to go through the process of reporting issues to Council, I'm always happy to hear about the issue too so that I can keep an eye on it and let you know of any updates if I hear them.

Thanks again for selecting me to represent our community and I'm looking forward to catching up soon.

Cheers, Ross

*



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Thank You

Thanks very much to the 14 volunteers who helped with the clean-up around the Wamboin Hall on the 17th of November. We have amazing people in our community. A particular thank you to Leanne and Dylan who helped, even though they live in Canberra! Several other people had engagements to attend but still popped in and helped to load a trailer or do something to give us a hand in the time they had available.

Not everything was able to get done in the time but I'm sure you will notice the difference when you next go to the hall. There will be another working bee in autumn which will include planting and more pruning.

Unfortunately about 6 hours of our time was spent picking up the rubbish around the recycling bin area. It was quite disgusting to see (and pick up!). Several approaches have been made to council to try to overcome this ongoing issue. To date no action has been taken by QPRC. One option open to council would be to remove the recycling bins. Let's hope that doesn't happen. In the meantime, please sort your rubbish and only put recyclables in the recycling bins and make sure the lids of the bins are down when you leave. If the bins are full, please take the recyclables and your rubbish to Bungendore or Macs Reef Road. – Vicki Still

Can you write something for the February 2025 Whisper?

There's no Whisper for January 2025, partly because residents are busy and away, partly to give all 100+ of us who work to get out each issue a break.

Deadline for the February 2025 issue is last Sunday of January, so January 26, 7 pm. Can you come up with words and paragraphs that could entertain or inform or provoke thought? A short story or a poem? Guidelines are that content must be

written by a Bywong or Wamboin resident, attributed to him or her to allow readers to know you are real and local, not printed elsewhere, at least related to living out here, and run as a paid ad if seeking income. Thanks for anything you can create. – Ned Noel, volunteer editor on behalf of the Wamboin Community Association, nednoel@optusnet.com.au, whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au, mob 0409 997 082.

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Wamboin Home Produce and Craft Market - Christmas Market **Saturday 21 December 2024 (9-12md)**

Contact: Meriel Schultz 0422614304 or lmsconsulting@bigpond.com

The November home produce and craft market attracted plenty of stall holders and a good number of customers until about midway. We all enjoyed celebrating Joan's birthday. We are a friendly lot!

Please do come along to support your local market.

And please let others know on your social media pages

It's always the third Saturday of the month 9-12 md except July and August where we take a break. Stalls cost a grand \$5 a table and we accept all homemade or crafted goods and of course garden produce and plants. If you would like more information or a stall please send me a text or an email. (See contact details above).

The next market is our Christmas market - a perfect place to pick up those last minute gifts and the Christmas cake or pudding you forgot to make! There will be: **Barista** coffee and great music. Freshly baked sausage rolls/egg and bacon rolls from the kitchen. Cafe to sit in the sun and enjoy a chat with friends. Great choice of second hand clothing at bargain prices! Christmas cakes and puddings. Italian dolce. Fresh garden produce and plants. Beautiful quilted and hand made gifts and toys. Glow in the dark 'dragons' and other last minute stocking ideas. Christmas bunting and decorations. Excellent choice of hand turned woodwork artifacts. High quality jewellery. Hand stitched gift cards. Screen printed tableware (and more) from our local Wamboin Studio. Knitted ware. A variety of gingerbread, biscuits, jams and preserves. *What more could you want!*

.....**See you at the market!**

OPRC Mobile Library: The QPRC Mobile Library bus will be at the Wamboin Hall from 10.30-11.30am on Thursday 12 December 2024. There will be no mobile library service to Wamboin during January 2025 but will re-commence on 6 and 20 February 2025. Please come along and support this wonderful service. After you have visited the library drop into the Social Group and have a cuppa.

Wamboin Thursday Social Group: The Social Group operates each Thursday morning from 10-12 noon at the



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Wamboin Community Hall in Bingley Way. If you have a Thursday morning free, come along have a tea/coffee, chat and if you feel like it, a game of rummykub, scrabble or Mexican trains. The Group will take a break over the Christmas/New Year period. Our last group for 2024 will be Thursday 19 December and we will recommence on Thursday 9 January 2025. – **Narelle Pumphrey**



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Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For December and January I am writing about two bird species that usually co-occur in flocks and turn up in the local region in drier summers. I saw some recently flying over my place which fits with the drying summer weather we have experienced lately.

White-browed Woodswallow (*Artamus superciliosus*) -- 18-21cm

Masked Woodswallow (*Artamus personatus*) -- 17-19cm Status: Rare summer migrants

White-browed and Masked Woodswallows are two species that are typically found further inland in Australia. In the eastern states they are found in flocks that nearly always consist of a mixture of both species (hence the decision to feature these two together), though Masked occur widely in WA where White-browed become scarce. Both species are highly nomadic and move around extensively in the interior in response to conditions. However during drier summers they will congregate and move further east into the local area and other areas further east from their usual range, sometimes staying and breeding. They have been basically absent from these regions in the last few years due to the wetter conditions, but as it is drying out now it was nice to see a decent sized (roughly 200 birds) flock of them flying over recently. Typically the White-browed outnumber the Masked by a fair amount in the flocks moving east, usually a good estimate is around one in every 3-5 birds is Masked. White-browed Woodswallows are particularly handsome and neat, especially the male which is mostly dark slaty grey with a bold white eyebrow and chestnut belly. The female is similar but duller, with a paler grey and buffier underparts. In flight the pale underwing and tail contrast with the dark body of the bird. Masked Woodswallows are a pale grey below and darker above, with a clean black face mask, somewhat similar in colouration to a Black-faced Cuckooshrike. However they are a fair bit smaller and fly very differently, flapping fast and gliding at high altitudes or hawking acrobatically among the trees. Again, the female is duller than the male, with a diffuse dark face mask and less contrast in the plumage. Both species have a sturdy light grey bill, tipped dark with a slight curve, which is suited well to the species' mostly insectivorous habits. They also feed on nectar, and can sometimes congregate in flowering trees. Both species have a basically identical call, a high pitched "chyep", somewhat sparrow-like, which is often heard when flocks are flying high overhead, as is often the case in this region. As it dries out, make sure to keep a look out for these birds as they are likely to continue moving into the region over the summer.



Left to Right: Masked Woodswallow (female), White-browed Woodswallow (male), Masked Woodswallow male), White-browed Woodswallow (female) (Photos from Google images)



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Landcare needs YOU!

Did you know that volunteers are 53% more attractive to the opposite sex? Or that volunteers are 75% less likely to be killed by an elephant?

Now that I have your attention, here are the real stats. Across multiple studies, people who volunteer score higher on metrics relating to self-esteem, happiness, psychological wellbeing and satisfaction with life. These benefits increase with more time spent and the longer people maintain their volunteering. Social capital is improved when volunteers get together and share ideas. This makes communities more resilient to change.

With all these positive outcomes, perhaps volunteers are 53% more attractive... anyway, a few personal insights.

Volunteering in the Gearys Gap/Wamboin Landcare Group has greatly improved my knowledge of local plants and landscape management. The few hours' session each month gives me a greater connection with like-minded people, leaving me rejuvenated for the rest of my weekend. It's great to take this time out from my busy schedule to do something for myself, that benefits my community and the environment at the same time. I love mutual sharing of knowledge with locals at the Landcare plant sales, and my son loves coming along too. He is also gaining a greater connection to his landscape and community through my volunteering. I've gained new insights into local bird and animal species from other members' extensive experience. I've learned about plant selection for difficult locations and how to control pests, diseases and weeds. Coordinating with neighbours, maximising timing with the seasons multiplies the impact of our control efforts.

The Gearys Gap/Wamboin Landcare group primarily focuses on propagation and plant sales of locally hardy native plant species.

The purpose of these sales is not primarily to raise funds. Rather, their purpose is to educate the local community about the value of native plants and to provide them with plants that do well in our region, along with advice about how to establish and care for them.

The Gearys Gap/Wamboin Landcare Group website provides more information <https://landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/gearys-gap-wamboin-landcare-group/> also our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ggwlandcare/> or email ggw.landcare@gmail.com

Come along and try Landcare. It's a thoroughly rewarding way to give back to your community and the environment.

- **Leanne Hodge, Secretary, Gearys Gap/Wamboin Landcare Group**


References

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What the Heck Chapter 30

As you are reading this it is December, or very nearly. Which means it will soon be Christmas. But what is Christmas to you? To us at the SRMD, Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus. Whilst December 24 is almost certainly not his birthday, this date was decided on by church hierarchy many years ago, and I do not have the time to argue with them, nor do I have a date I could offer as more correct. So-called experts have been arguing over it for centuries and will continue to do so long after I am gone.

Even though our emphasis in the celebration is on Jesus' birth, we still exchange gifts and enjoy family gatherings as do most other Australians. And each of us will have a Christmas dinner, possibly the European tradition of a hot dinner with ham, turkey, pork and lots of roast veggies, or maybe prawns, fish, or whatever takes our fancy.

Unfortunately many families will not be able to afford such a feast this year and so we have decided to make Giving Trees of our in-church decorated Christmas tree this year and each week we will place a gift of non-perishable food at the base of the tree, then these will be forwarded to Home in Queanbeyan for them to distribute to the local needy.

If you would like to make a donation then you can come to a church service between now and Christmas Day and place your gift at the tree, or alternately we will have a donation basket at the front door of both churches into which you can place the gift any time you are nearby.

We are not looking for wrapped gifts, just some non-perishable food which will fill a hungry tummy. Thank you for considering this request and I know the recipients of your gift will be most grateful. December church service times are;

St Andrews Wamboin : Sunday 1st, Sunday 15th and Christmas Day each at 9.30am.

St Peters Sutton: Sunday 8th and Sunday 22nd at 9.30am and Christmas Eve at 7.00pm

And for a chance to let your hair down, join us in singing carols. Carols night at St Peters in Sutton at 7.00pm on Saturday 21 December. With a professional four piece musical group, (not us singing out of tune to an ancient piano).

-Merry Christmas and have a happy, heathy 2025. – **Alan Rope**

Carols at St. Peters Sutton.

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Continuing abuse of the recycling facilities at the Wamboin Community Centre

In early November, Kevin Rowe posted this photo to the Bywong & Wamboin Hub Facebook Group, exclaiming that *This is the current state of the Wamboin Community hall recycling bins. To the lowlife that has left their rubbish all around the bins please come back and clean up your mess. If there are names on any of these boxes and papers then the police may be called. Remember if the bins are full take your recycling home, to the Macs Reef Rd centre, to the Bungendore transfer station, or to the Queanbeyan transfer station.*



Well said, Kevin, but the abuse of this facility continues.

To the dumpers: who do you think cleans up after you when you overfill the recycling bins, or dump the materials on the ground when the bins are full? Well, it is community volunteers, not an army of paid workers.

Please do the right thing. Further abuse of the recycling facility could well lead to it being removed.

-Wamboin Community Association Inc.)

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How the Whisper Gets Into Your Mailbox Each Month

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 their communities a little bit friendlier and more sociable. Thank you to Barbara Wilkins and Darrin Lincoln for taking on the challenging 11 deliveries on Macs Reef's big steep hill.

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 CHRISTINE REIBER: phone 6238 3518					
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+Wimdra)	25	Phil Leeson&C Fogarty	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	27
235: CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER: ph 6238 3489					
Lesley Page	Valley View Ln	4	Deb Gordon	Yalana East	45
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	B.Wilkins & D.Lincoln	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
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Chris Fowler	Millynn Rd	22	David Featherston	B'doreRd SmHill to&nclgdCrkBRd	31
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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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&BrichmansFrnSarah2End	11
Murray Goodridge	B'dore Rd (McsRf to&nclSmrhil)	40	Diana Griffin	Majors Close	19
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On the pleasure derived from perusing old maps

David McDonald (ph. 0416 231 890) (Whisper online version shows map in colour)

In this article I reflect on an old—or at least oldish—map of our area, namely the north-easterly part of the first edition of the *Tourist map of the Australian Capital Territory*, published in September 1959 by the Commonwealth Government's then Division of National Mapping in the Department of National Development, now Geoscience Australia's National Geographic Information Group. The National Library of Australia has in its collections five editions of the map, dated from 1959 to 1972. Three of them are available there online: the 1959, 1962 & 1965 editions: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/work/10617510>.

Excerpt from 'Tourist map of the Australian Capital Territory', 1959



Source: Australia, Division of National Mapping 1959, *Tourist map of the Australian Capital Territory*, Canberra, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-320552257>.

Old maps are more than navigational tools. They are windows into the past, offering a glimpse into the lives, occupations, and social systems of earlier years. Studying these maps can produce insights into how people lived, worked, and interacted with their environment and with each other.

One of the most striking features of old maps, such as this one, is their detailed depiction of land use and settlement patterns. The excerpt from the *Tourist map*, above, covering our area, shows the locations of homesteads (some named, others shown simply as ‘HS’); outstations (‘OS’); the roads system, including tracks through the properties (mostly ‘jeep tracks’); sheds; woolsheds (‘WS’); huts; trig stations; watercourses; a post office (‘PO’); and more. Such details provide clues about the dominant occupations and industry of the time, sheep farming, offering a window into the livelihoods of past generations. The map also gives hints about the population density and growth patterns.

Some points that may be of particular interest to some readers include the following:

- Bungendore Road is named, covering its full length, but Macs Reef Road is not named, suggesting that, unlike now, the former was a more important road than the latter.
- Sutton Road is named thus, despite being called Yass Road from the colonial era to at least the 1980s.
- The Amungula Post Office, on Amungula Creek near what is now the foot of the Norton Road hill, is shown.
- The ‘Fernleaf’ homestead on the Yass River has that spelling, rather than ‘Fernloff’ as we spell the area now.
- The upper section of the Yass River from the western end of today’s Wirreanda Road is labelled ‘Cohen C’ (Cohen Creek). It is now considered to be part of Yass River, with Kowan Gully (variant Kowan Creek) being the branch running from the river’s source north-westerly towards the large dam south of Wirreanda Road.
- The pine trees of Kowen Forest cover a somewhat smaller area than they do today.
- The Royal Military College, Duntroon’s ‘R.M.C. Boat Shed’ at Gearys Gap.
- The interestingly named ‘Wombiana’ property near ‘Bywong’ station, on the Yass River just north of Sutton. (There is an area of the same name near Blayney, and a property ‘Wambiana’ near Campaspe, Qld.)

In using old maps, historians attended not only to what is shown on the map, but also to what is missing. They ask, what did the cartographer choose to omit, and why? What contents did they value, and what did they not? I notice that some key heritage sites in our area, the Macs Reef and Bywong gold mining sites and Alexander Johnston’s gold battery at Schofield Road, are missing, as is the former public road from Kowen to Bungendore Road (formerly Gundaroo Road) at Reedy Creek.

In essence, studying old maps such as this one allows us to piece together a richer, more nuanced picture of the past. These maps invite us to explore how geography shaped human experience, and vice versa. The layers of information embedded in this map make it a valuable tool for historians, and for anyone curious about the local history of our area.

Acknowledgement: AI tools were used in the creation and drafting of this article.

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Do you have a Bushfire Survival Plan?

Many of you may have heard about this package that the RFS has put together, either a hard copy or online. You might have picked up the hard copy from our Community Engagement Team at the Wamboin markets. Maybe you have one and not looked at it, thinking, “I’ll get around to it later”. Once you have a copy or download a plan, it only takes 20 minutes to fill in a few lines on the document, which might save your life, or a member of your family. A bushfire can be a traumatic event. Making decisions when a fire is approaching is difficult if you haven’t thought about a plan. The following information has been taken from the RFS Bushfire survival plan and is only a small part of the package to give you an example of what it contains and some question it asks you. One of the most important things to do before a bush fire is to decide what you’ll do if one should start. “What should you do?” You have only 2 Choices - LEAVING EARLY OR PREPARING TO STAY.

LEAVE EARLY, YOUR SAFEST CHOICE. When will we leave? What will be your sign to leave? It could be smoke in your area, or as soon as you find out there’s a fire near you.
Where will we go? Where’s a meeting place that’s safe and away from a fire area? It might be a friend or relative’s place, or even a shopping centre.

How will we get there? What road will you take? What’s your backup plan in case the road is blocked?
What will we take? Make a list of what you’ll take in the event of a fire. Remember to include pets, identification and irreplaceable items like photos or documents.

Who will we call to tell that we’re leaving and that we have arrived safely? Who will we call to let them know we’re leaving and that we’ve got there safely? What is our backup plan? What if things don’t go to plan? Identify a safer location nearby such as a neighbour’s home that is well prepared, or a place of last resort. Is there a Neighbourhood Safer Place nearby?

(Neighbourhood Safe Places are a place of last resort, such as a sports ground or local building that has been specially identified for use during a fire. The safer place may not always be accessible if roads are cut and would not be staffed by any RFS members or council employees. You could be there by yourself. Not all areas will have a Neighbourhood Safer Place so check www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/nsp for locations)

DECIDE TO STAY, ONLY IF YOU’RE WELL PREPARED.

Before you start, ask your household: Is your home well prepared to make it as safe as possible during a fire? Are we putting anyone in our family at risk by staying? For example, children, the elderly, or people with asthma. Will we cope in an emergency situation? In a fire, it will be hot, smoky and physically draining. Even trained firefighters can find it challenging. If you’re not sure or aren’t prepared, you should leave early.

Do we have all the equipment we need? Go through all the items on the Decide to Stay checklist and see what’s missing. Make a commitment to get all equipment by a specific date. When there is a fire, what is our sign to start defending our home? It could be as soon as you find out there’s a fire near you. Do not wait for an official warning.

Do we know what to do BEFORE, DURING and AFTER a fire?

Do all members of our household KNOW WHAT TO DO in all situations? Give specific roles to each person.

What is our backup plan? Consider unexpected events such as if one of us is home alone, if we aren’t home, if the fire moves faster than expected or if the phone lines and electricity are down.

It’s not safe to stay with your property under some circumstances, like:

- If the fire danger rating is Catastrophic.
- There is an Extreme fire danger rating and your home is not specially designed or constructed for bush fires.
- Your property is not well maintained.
- You or the people in your home aren’t mentally and physically fit and ready.

Under these circumstances, you should leave early.

Remember that bush and grass fires can move quickly and catch you off guard. If you are caught in a fire, protect yourself from the heat. The safest option is to leave early before the fire reaches you. Bushfire plans are available to download online on the RFS website or a hard copy from your local brigade.

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

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