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Bungendore Police: 6118 1240 Ambulance Bookings: 131233
Wamboin Community Assn <https://wamboincommunity.org.au>
Bywong Community www.bywongcommunity.org.au
Fire Brigade Captain-Wamboin-Palerang-vol@rfs.nsw.gov.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	Matt Jackson - 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	leannefward@gmail.com
Bee Swarm Support	Adrian Meijer	0427 101 550	adrian.meijer@gmail.com
Landcare	Kathy Handel - Treasurer	0447 289 638	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	playgroup.sutton@gmail.com / Sutton Playgroup Facebook page.		
Table Tennis	Mike Muston	0406 606 238	mike.muston@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	lmsconsulting@bigpond.com
Wamboin Play Group	Kayla May – 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	Merle Ketley		Wonderfulwomenofwamboin@gmail.com
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 June 2026 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, May 31, 2026.** Advertising prices, per issue, based on rough fraction of the inside the margins A4 area: 1/8 \$26 1/6 32 ¼ \$40 1/3 \$54 ½ \$80 2/3 \$108 Full Page \$160. email or phone the editor as above.

Young Entrepreneurs: Rebecca Purdie – pet/horse sitting 6238 3343 Kale Blundell, Fernloff Road, babysitting, 0493 556 689 Elly and Rex Collins house cleaning 0418 979 474

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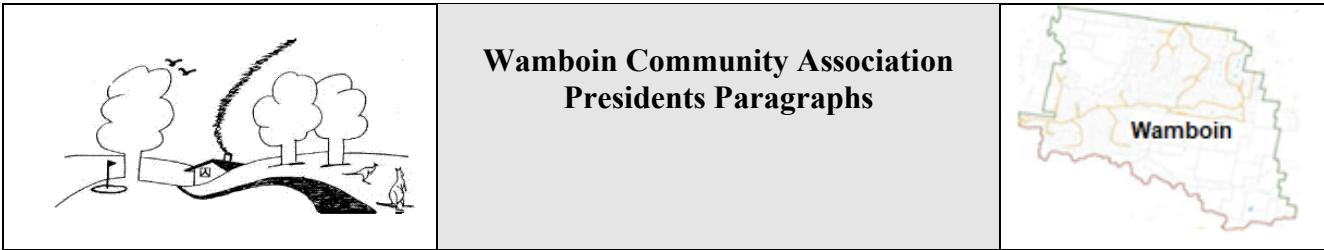


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Hello everyone. Well ANZAC Day is past and our heaters and fires will slowly start to come on.

1. **Meet The Local Council.** Our last meeting (held 21st April) was a Meet and Greet event for the local council. Several representatives attended this very informal evening. Numbers were lower than wished but those who attended all took away valuable information about their local Council in regard to rates, roadwork, and possible areas where Council may look to fund things for Wamboin etc.
2. **Bonfire and Fireworks Night.** Our annual Bonfire/Fireworks night is so far scheduled for the last Saturday in August. Plans are already underway. If you are a person who intends to hold a food stall on the night please contact me **Jenny Richards on 0490020165** any time from now on, thank you.
3. **Annual General Meeting.** As mentioned in last month's edition of the Whisper, the Wamboin Community Association decided to postpone its AGM until the following month **19th May**. A more detailed document about this is located further in this edition of the Whisper. This is when all office bearer positions are open so if you have been a member of the Wamboin Community Association for a year please consider putting your hand up for the Committee. The Committee works very hard to bring about events that hopefully the community in general enjoy but we can always accept help. Nomination forms can be obtained from the website or through myself or the Secretary. If you feel you cannot put your hand up for office at this stage please come to this event which starts at **7:30 pm Tuesday 19th May** at the Hall. Let your voices be heard.

- Well that's it for now. I hope as many of you as possible will come to our events they are open to everyone in the community to attend. - **Jenny Richards – President.**

Notice of the WCA Annual General Meeting - Tuesday 19 May 2026

The next Annual General Meeting of the Wamboin Community Association, Inc. (WCA), will be held in the Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin, at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 19 May 2026. The main business of the AGM will be the election of a new Committee for the 2026-27 year. Nominations for the election of Committee members should be made in writing, signed by two Association members, and contain the candidate's written consent. Nomination forms can be obtained from the Secretary or downloaded from the WCA's website: <https://wamboincommunity.asn.au/communitygroups/index.php?op=wcadocuments> .

The Committee is keen to have some new members, so please consider nominating as an office-bearer or as an ordinary Committee member. You are welcome to contact the President, Jenny Richards president@wamboincommunity.asn.au , to discuss what Committee membership entails. The WCA and the events it has promoted have been well managed for many years, and the Committee would benefit greatly from some new members to help maintain this momentum.

Should any member have any business to be dealt with at the AGM, please advise the Secretary more than 14 days before the meeting, or more than 21 days before the meeting if it requires a special resolution.

Agenda: Opening; Acknowledgement of Country; Welcome to new members and visitors; Apologies for non-attendance; Adoption of the minutes of the previous AGM; Presentation and adoption of the President's, Treasurer's, and other reports; Election of the office-bearers of the Association (the president, one or two vice-presidents, the treasurer & the secretary) and at least three other committee members; other matters for which notice has been given; Close of meeting.

Hon. Secretary, WCA, email secretary@wamboincommunity.asn.au.

Wamboin Winter Dance

Saturday 20 June
from 6pm til late



Raising funds for a
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Hi neighbours,

With our beautiful crisp autumn days and the leaves starting to turn, what better time than now (we thought) for another Greenways walk/ BBQ. The greenways group will lead a wonderful walk through the Greenways. It will be held on 17 May starting at 9AM. It will be a 6 km walk starting at the Bywong Community hall at 9am, walking west and south along greenway tracks, stopping for morning tea at a delightful hollow and returning the same way. The walk is expected to take 2.5 to 3 hours. Carol and Kathy will be leading the walk. The Bywong Community Association will put on a BBQ at the end for a little light lunch. So let us know if you are planning to come down.

GREENWAYS WALK 17 May 9AM Bywong Hall 67 Birriwa Rd Bywong

If you are reading this too late and missed this one - don't worry we will be holding another one in spring. In the interim make sure you have a reminder in your diary for our **annual trivia night**. The Trivia night is an annual staple of the area. Last year it was very hotly contested. We usually book in table groups, so gather your friends, trivia nuts, or both. This will be at the Hall on **20th of June: 6:30pm for 7pm start**. Tickets are \$15pp (bring cash on the night). Book your table now!

Email: president@bywongcommunity.org.au

- Justin Jarvis

The logo for Kennyz Dirt Worx features the name 'Kennyz Dirt Worx' in a large, red, cursive font. To the right of the text is a cartoon illustration of a man wearing a yellow hard hat and a blue shirt, holding a yellow excavator. The excavator is shown in a dynamic, working position.

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Callouts, and what we have been up to: The brigade has been busy with callouts – 2 x MVA's, 1 x pile burn and 1 X assist the public. Training and assessments have been continuing, as well as assessments for the Lake George District being held at our station and grounds.

Change of seasons, and what you need to do: Just as important to be prepared for the fire danger period, now is the time to prepare for the cooler temperatures when your firefighting equipment is not required. When freezing temperatures arrive, water can be your enemy to water pumps. Ice forming can expand and damage or destroy your portable pump, so look for the drain plug, remove it, and put it in a safe place. A firefighting pump is an expensive asset which should last for decades if maintained and protected from the elements. Remember also to remove that old fuel from the fuel tank and carburettor for best results. If you have an electric pump, you should also drain water over the winter months. Keeping your pump covered with a waterproof cover when not in use, will protect fuel hoses, electrical parts and air filters from corrosion or UV damage.



Hoses, nozzles, and fittings should be drained and kept dry and out of the sunlight.

Wood heaters: With some frosts already occurring, many of you will have already lit your wood heater. Maintaining your heater and flue is important to ensure clean burning and any risk of a heater problem or chimney or flue fire. Yearly chimney or flue cleaning as a minimum should be completed early in the cooler months. The pictures below show what happens when those items are not cleaned regularly. This is the main cause of chimney and flue fires. When temperatures outside are cooler than the



inside, the conditions for making creosote, (a dangerous byproduct of incomplete combustion) occur. Build up is more likely on the flue and cowl above the roof where the colder air helps it to form. The whole flue or chimney can get a buildup of creosote over time, so regular cleaning inside the flue should be done



yearly or even more frequently. We do get callouts every year for chimney fires. Do not let it be at your house!

Remember, house fires are more common over the cooler period. Only ring 000 if you suspect a problem with a heater or electrical items that cause unusual heat or smoke to appear. Ringing 000 will get the most available fire appliance at your house in the quickest time.

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

Membership enquiries

wamboin-rfs-membership@rfs.nsw.gov.au

Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade

<https://wamboin.rfsa.org.au>

NSW Rural Fire Service

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

Wamboin Facebook page

[Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade](#)

Queanbeyan Fire Control

6128 0600 (business hours only)

COUNTRY PARK



Winter Herbs

For horses that become a bit stiff in their movements when the weather turns chilly, there are several supportive approaches you can consider. Traditionally, herbs rich in essential minerals and vitamins important for joint repair and known for their gentle diuretic properties to help clear excess metabolic waste are often used. These include nettle, dandelion, celery seed, and parsley.

Alternatively, you might consider a general circulatory tonic to enhance blood flow to the tissues surrounding arthritic joints, which can help improve muscle flexibility. Herbs such as yarrow, hawthorn, rosemary, and ginkgo are commonly used for this purpose.

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Welcome to Wamboin Playgroup – Term 2

Hello everyone, and welcome to another exciting term at Wamboin Playgroup!

We are thrilled to welcome families, carers, grandparents, and children from all walks of life to Wamboin Playgroup. Our playgroup continues to grow as a warm, supportive, and truly multigenerational community where everyone feels welcome and belongs.

Wamboin Playgroup offers free, unstructured play every Tuesday during the New South Wales school term, from 10 am to midday. There is no expectation or pressure. Come along every week or simply drop in when it suits your family. Each session is relaxed, friendly, and non-judgemental, with open arms for all who join us. Many wonderful friendships have formed here, for both children and adults.

We meet at the Wamboin Community Hall on Bingley Way, and we are incredibly fortunate to have access to this beautiful space, including a fully fenced playground. Children can play freely and safely while carers enjoy a cuppa and time to connect. If you are able to, we encourage you to bring something small to share, although this is always completely optional. To help build stronger connections within our playgroup, we now have name badges available for all adults. We encourage everyone to wear one during sessions to make it easier to get to know each other and foster a welcoming, inclusive environment.

As always, we love embracing the seasons together, soaking up the last of the summer warmth, enjoying the golden days of autumn, and continuing to connect as winter settles over Wamboin. No matter the season, the sense of community remains at the heart of our playgroup.

We are also excited to share that Wamboin Playgroup will be involved in the upcoming Wamboin Bonfire and Fireworks event. Planning is already underway, and our playgroup will be contributing with pork bun rolls and a delicious range of homemade slices, cupcakes, pop cakes and other fun favourites such as, lolly bags and raffles on the night. Events like this play an important role in helping us raise funds so that Wamboin

Playgroup can continue to run free for all families who attend. It is a wonderful opportunity for our playgroup to be part of the wider community



while bringing a little extra joy to the event, and we hope to see many of you there.

We would also like to extend a huge thank you to Jessica Robson and Lee Rice for their generous donation of books and puzzles, which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

Thank you for being part of Wamboin Playgroup. We look forward to sharing another term of play, connection, and friendship with you. – by **Kimberly Riding**

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Thursday Social Drop In Group: The Thursday Social Group meets every Thursday morning from 10 – 12 noon at the Wamboin Hall. It provides a wonderful opportunity for people to come along for a chat, a cup of coffee/tea and a game of rummykub, scrabble, Mexican trains or mahjong. If you don't want to play a game, just come for a chat. We would love to see you there. If you want to have a chat about the group, please give me a call on 0438 917206 or email pumpbnjc@westnet.com.au - Narelle Pumphrey, Convenor

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council Mobile Library Service: This wonderful service visits Wamboin Hall every second Thursday. The mobile library contains a wide selection of materials for all age groups. You are able to reserve items from Bungendore, Braidwood and Queanbeyan libraries and collect these from the mobile library when it visits. Printing and photocopying facilities are also available on the bus. This is a great community resource and I would encourage all residents to support the service. The next visits for the Library at Wamboin are scheduled for Thursdays 7 and 21 May 2026 (10.30-11.30am)

Speak Up On The Incinerator:

The NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Energy from Waste Facilities will hold a public forum in Goulburn on 14-15 May. This is the time for residents, farmers, businesses and community groups to show up and speak up on the proposed large scale waste incinerator which would burn Sydney's waste 24/7, 365 days a year in Tarago for at least 25 years – risking the safety of air, land and water across our region for generations to come. Check our website and Facebook group for final location and times once they become available.

www.notaragoincinerator.com/newsletter
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/491803828839813>

Can you write, draw, provide a good photo or write a poem for the June 2026 Whisper?

Thanks so much to each of you who delivered, wrote something for or paid for an ad that helped to make this May 2026 Whisper come to be in our 1300+ homes. It would be less without your giving your time or your money. It just one more little part of listening and speaking to each other in Bywong and Wamboin.

Deadline for the June 2026 Whisper is 7 pm the last Sunday of May, so that's Sunday May 31. -Ned Noel, volunteer editor on behalf of the Wamboin Community Association, which owns the Whisper.

nednoel@optusnet.com.au or text or phone 0409 997 082

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Ross' Report

Hello Wamboinians

I hope you're doing well and for the parents among us, survived another round of school holidays. Firstly, thanks to everyone who came along to the community meeting on the 21st of April at the hall. We had some of Council's senior staff available and in true Wamboin style, the hospitality warm and the questions sharp and a great way to represent local interests. It was also great to meet some new locals there too.

There are a few things I want to update you on but before I do, I want to remind you that we're well and truly into budget season – the point in the year when Council considers bids from across the community and develops a budget for the financial year ahead. I've had a couple of budget bids come in from locals and I'll be taking them forward and arguing the case for local investment but if you have anything ideas about what Council should reinvest your rates back to then please get in touch.

More broadly, one of the things I've long argued for is equity across the region. In Wamboin and surrounds, there's two areas of most impact which I have championed; roads and waste. We have in place a waste voucher system which, if you can remember the old Palerang days, works sort of like the old tip pass. If you don't have them already, please download the QPRC Waste app and follow the simple instructions to apply for your waste vouchers which allow you to self haul hard waste and there is a vouchers to dump a mattress too – they're included as part of your rates so no additional cost. I want a really strong take up of the voucher system so as that when it's evaluated I can mount a strong argument to retaining the system.

There's been a little progress with the C4 zoning and a gateway determination – a technical term for a checkpoint in a planning proposal. That's with the State Government and I hope to have some more information to update you with about it soon. Again, I'll take this chance to thank the residents who have been working hard both behind the scenes and with the local community to resolve this issue.

As a member of Wildcare I see and attend to many animals hit on our roads and it's sad and has a big impact on many fronts. It means there's a car damaged which costs, insurance premiums which account for it and there's an emotional toll on the driver who has an animal strike and those who render assistance. Our local roads are particularly bad with The Capital Region recording the highest number of wildlife collisions in NSW. We will soon be trialling digital fencing to reduce the number of vehicle-animal collisions and will start with around 1km. The technology, also known as virtual fencing involves installing green posts at intervals that emit sound and light signals when they detect approaching vehicles, typically between dusk and dawn. Other councils, including in the Shoalhaven, are using digital fencing and have reported positive results.

If you're on Facebook or Instagram then feel free to follow to keep up with my work as well as other information about the work of Council and as always, please get in touch with me if I can assist with any Council issues and I'll be happy to help.

Cheers, - **Ross Macdonald**, ross.macdonald@qprc.nsw.gov.au

Yoga in Sutton



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WAMBOIN WEATHER – rainfall and temperature records
(51 years from Cooper Road) by Christine Rieber

April Rainfall Stats		Average April rainfall..... 47.9mm
April rainfall to the 26 th 11.75mm		2025 April rainfall..... 31.25mm
2026 total rainfall to 26/4..... 218.75mm		2025 total rainfall to 26/4..... 186.0mm
		50yr Av. to end of April..... 228.1mm
May Rainfall Stats		
2025 May rainfall..... 55.25mm		Average May rainfall..... 47.0mm
Wettest May..... 171.0mm in 1995		Average no. rain days in May..... 8.5
Wettest day..... 52mm on 3/5/95		Highest no. rain days..... 20 in 1989
Driest May..... 1mm in 1982		Lowest no. rain days..... 1 in 1982
May Temperature Stats		
2025 May maximum..... 21.7°C		2025 May minimum..... 1.2°C
Hottest May day..... 24°C (2 times) on 2/5/95, & 1/5/21		May 2025. Av. max 17.2°C & min 5.5°C
Hottest May night..... 14°C (5 times) on 2/5/88, & 1&2/5/95 & 3/5/19 & 15/5/22		Coldest May day..... 3°C on 29/5/00
Average day (max.) temperature.... 13.7°C		Coldest May night..... -6°C on 31/5/01
Warmest May..... 2025		Average night (min.) temperature.... 5.1°C
(Av. max day temp. 17.2°C & night 5.5°C) (highest 8.1°C in 1989)		Coldest May..... 2012
		(Av. min day temp. 10.1°C & night 0.8°C)
		Av. May temp.... 9.4°C (day+night comb.)

During May the daylight length will decrease by 42 minutes from 10.5 to 9.8 hours
April 2026 will be the 5th driest on record, given there is no rain forecast for the rest of month.

The average day maximum temperature in April to date is 3°C above the 51-year average, whilst the average night minimum is 1.7°C below the 51-year average.



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Contact: Meriel Schultz 042 261 4304 Email: imsconsulting@bigpond.com

It is getting difficult to fit everyone in the hall these days. This is great, but we would still like to see more people, especially locals support us each month. Come and listen to good music; catch up with your neighbours, meet new people and select from :

- Garden produce Home baked goods, Craft all all kinds Jewellery Plants Jams and preserves Barista brewed coffee Egg and bacon rolls and sausage rolls from the kitchen And more.....

Under new guidance from Fran, the clothing stall is now up and running again. There are plenty of new bargains just waiting for you! -See you at the May market!



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This is a chance to get together with your neighbours, share experiences, tackle challenges like weeds together, and build a supportive local network for managing our grasslands and woodlands. When we work across fencelines, we create healthier landscapes for everyone.



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How the Whisper Gets Into Your Mailbox Each Month

Thanks so much again to the Fisher Family who distributed 7 batches of Whispers do deliverers for a decade and half. Thanks also to the 7 people along the eastern half of Norton Road who put up their hands to take over that that job. The first two persons to put up their hand to take on that that task – Bryan Clark and Richard Krege, who will split the job between them. Thanks also to Nina Kolleth who has offered to deliver the 8 Whispers to the homes on Kestrel Place.

Without the month by month donation of time by these people and the other 50+ 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 this place 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, each article, invitation and notice you read in each Whisper is only there because you or someone else in Bywong or Wamboin took the time to create it. – Ned Noel, volunteer editor.

174: CO-ORDINATED BY CHRISTINE RIEBER: 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
186: CO-ORDINATED BY KATHY HANDEL: ph 0447 289 638 khandel@bigpond.net.au					
Joan Mason	Bingley Way	44	Maryanne Mengelkamp	Merino Vale Dr	19
Sue Ward	Norton Rd (Bingley to Weeroona)	32	Anne Gardner	Weeroona Dr (Norton to Majors)	32
Kathy Handel	Norton(Weero2Hilltop+wWrmdra)	23	Phil Leeson&C Fogarty	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	27
Alison Evans	East Wirreanda	9			
131: CO-ORDINATED BY BRYAN CLARK: bryantclark@bigpond.com					
Deb Gordon	871 – 1023 Norton	44	Lesley Page	Valley View Ln	5
Jules Clancey	1115 – 1240 Norton Rd	38	Dominica Lorimer	1241 to North End of Norton Rd	44
103: CO-ORDINATED BY RICHARD KREGE: r_krege@iimetro.com.au					
Richard Krege	Clare Ln	13	Colleen Foster	BdoreRd BtwnJoRocks&NortnRd	25
Lyle Montesin	The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks	65			
212: CO-ORDINATED BY GARETH JONES Ph: 6238 1988 givrjones@bigpond.com					
Sophie Davis	Weeroona (254 – 400)	18	Rachel Palmer	Weeroona (417-512)	19
James Houlcroft	Macs Reef Rd (DenleyToGumFlt)	7	Maria Taylor	Birriwa Rd & Gum Flat Lane	19
Chelsea Moore	Rovere Ln	8	Justin Jarvis Smith	Macs Reef Birriwa to Harriott	14
Megan Wallace	Harriott Rd	28	Barbera.Wilkins	MacsReef 670,622,618,568,566	5
Georgina Goonan	Newington Rd	28	Darrin Lincoln	MacsReef 538,565,587,623,625,649	6
Merle Ketley	Snowgum Road	26	Carol&Clive Boughton	Macs Reef (BankersTo FedHwy)	34
172: 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	57	Russell Ball	Macs Reef – Denley Dr to B’doreRd	26
150: CO-ORDINATED BY Chris Fowler ph 0438 591 098 christf1@pcug.org.au					
Chris Fowler	Millynn Rd	21	David Featherston	B’doreRd SmHill to&nclgdCrkBRd	31
Cheryl Le Mesurier	Brooks Rd	25	David & Connie Jansen	Wyoming Road	20
Kerrie Gougeon	B’dore Rd (CreekB to Fed Hwy)	33	Peter Sharp	Doust Road	20
253 CO-ORDINATED BY NED NOEL ph 0409-997-082 email nednoel@optusnet.com.au					
Robyn Elsom	Denley Dr (Sth End to 429)	17	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	16	Helen Longdon	SarahReef&BrichmansFrmSarah2End	12
Murray Goodridge	B’dore Rd (McsRf to&nclSmrhil)	40	Diana Griffin	Majors Close	19
Diana Boswell	Donnelly Rd 29 & Grove Rd 8	36	Advertisers & Misc	Out of area advertiser mailouts & msc	23
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Wamboin Golf – May Report

Sunday 5 April 2026. Seventeen golfers remembered to adjust their watches/clocks for the end of daylight savings and eagerly registered to participate in the annual Mini-Masters event sponsored by the Wamboin Community Association. We thank them for the refreshments and prizes. The course was dry and firm given the drier conditions since February. Plenty of bounce off the ground as well as the usual bounce off trees, rocks and animal droppings. The competition was played using the two holes at the Hall and four of the holes at the Mason's. After receiving some basic instructions from the starter, all players headed out for their first six holes and returned to submit scores.

Robert provided our Teds joke with advice on appropriate dietary requirements for golfers. The dummy spit was awarded to Deb G. The excuse provided was that she had endured 2½ hours of heckling from her son. The googly ball awarded started with Liv E who somehow managed to have the ball bounce off the top of one of the recently dropped pine tree stumps and proceed down the middle of the fairway. It then moved to Vicki for what was lucky to not be a spit the dummy, as apparently the marks across the sand green perhaps indicated that the ball may have touched the flag constituting a hole in one, but we will never know!!



To complete the days competition, a series of novelty shots were attempted from the tee in Firefighters Grove. Players were given two shots from each of three different 'tees' with the aim of getting nearest to the pin. The first of these tees was from a sloping plank angled down from a 300mm log to create an uneven stance. The second was a tyre on which players had to stand on and take their shots and the third a wooden box filled with sand to create an above ground bunker to hit out of.

A number of shots did little to create work for the official measurer, as they either dribbled off the tee, went towards the fire shed or across the carpark. Thankfully no damage to adjacent people or property but plenty of dust sprayed onto those resting on the bench seat.

We welcomed Liv Evans, Iain Barter and Graeme Searle for joining us on the day. After all of the calculations were done the prizes were awarded. Each of the eight players making the cut were awarded a golf ball or bar credit (Ken G, Vicki S, Tim B, Iain B, Craig P, Scott M, Andrew H, Robert T.). The winner of the 2026 Mini-Masters was Ken G with a score of 45 from Vicki S (51). The Junior Master for 2026 was Robert T (57). A secondary competition was held using handicaps. This was taken out by Craig P with a score of 37 (7 shots under par for the day, and not to be missed by the handicapper), from Scott M (37 ocb – also not to be missed by the handicapper)

The novelty nearest the pin competitions were taken out by: Ramp – Graeme S (4.2m), Bunker – Sam U (2.25m), Tyre – Sam U (1.2m), Overall – Sam U (13.45m). The highest score was shared by five golfers who failed to get a shot from any of the tees within 10m of the hole. (Thanks to the measurers and ball retrievers).

The winner of the inaugural meat tray raffle was Andrew H.

Next month, the competition will be held on Sunday 3 May. It is sponsored by Vicki, Tim and Paul and we thank them in anticipation. We hope you can join us at the community hall at 12.15pm for a 12.30pm start. – Ken Gordon



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Kowen Kapers - Curley's Hut

From our starting point on the River Road overlooking the confluence of the Molonglo River and Glen Burn Creek (as set out in the March edition), we follow the signposted road in an easterly direction for 750 metres. Here, we leave the road and follow the signposted trail down the hill and across a small stream. Looking to the right (south), we spot an interpretive sign near a large blackberry infestation. In 2017, when the area was listed as part of the Glenburn Heritage Precinct, the blackberries had been removed, revealing the ruins of *Curley's Hut*. But now, nearly a decade later, they have returned with a vengeance.

As you look at the remains of *Curley's Hut*, it is hard to believe that it was once a five-room, timber slab home, enclosed by a full-length verandah, with wooden floors, weatherboard gables, an iron roof and a brick chimney. There was also a separate timber slab kitchen, with wooden floors and a bark roof. It clearly was no mere hut. Today, however, it is a pile of rubble, and even the rubble is mostly obscured by those thorny blackberries.

As I mentioned in last month's article, I have developed an alternative narrative regarding the goings-on in this part of Kowen. For the purposes of this article, however, I will stay with the received wisdom and save my convoluted arguments for my book on Kowen, which I hope to release later this year.

What is beyond doubt is the fact that the land on which the home was built was conditionally purchased by William Collier in June 1882. We can, therefore, surmise that the house was probably built in 1882 or 1883 in accordance with a requirement that applied to all conditional purchases. The conditional purchase process was established in 1861 as a way of obtaining land (priced at £1 per acre) before it was surveyed. The purchase was dependent on a set of conditions being met. In particular, the purchase was conditional on: paying a deposit of one quarter of the purchase price; adding improvements to the value of £1 per acre; and to deter land speculation, requiring the selector (as they were called) to reside on the land for a period of no less than three years.

Curley's Hut was actually the Colliers' second house; their original house, known today as *Collier's Homestead*, was built around 1880 and was situated 100 metres away. It has been assumed that the Collier family inhabited both houses, as William and his wife, Bridget, had ten children in total. In July 1889, the Colliers sold their Kowen landholdings to Frederick Campbell, who was managing the *Duntroon* estate at the time. The Colliers were living in Queanbeyan at the time of the 1891 census, and sometime later, they moved to Goulburn, where they ran a boarding house.

So, if the home was built by William Collier, why is it called *Curley's Hut*? There are two possible answers. Bridget's maiden name was Curley, so it could have been named after her. However, Bridget's brother, James Curley, was known to have worked in Kowen as a *Duntroon* roustabout and may have subsequently taken up residence there with his wife and family of five children.

Curley's Hut remained part of the *Duntroon* estate for seven years before being sold to Williamsdale pastoralist, Joseph Keeffe, in 1906. Joseph retained ownership of the land until 1915, when parts of Kowen began to be resumed by the Commonwealth. Over time, *Curley's Hut* was probably used as accommodation for farm workers or for storage. But in the absence of proper maintenance, the building was left, by Joseph and subsequent ACT lessees, to decay into ruin.

- Peter Komidar, Wamboin



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What the Heck, Chapter 45.

Four years ago I wrote an article in this esteemed publication to explain the term SRMD, after an overheard remark as to “What the Heck is SRMD?” at a Wamboin Market Day where the local church had a stall. I explained that it was Sutton Road Mission District, a title with which we were not enamoured, but lumped on us by the local Anglican Diocese; ‘we’ being the churches at Sutton and Wamboin. We have lived with that for nearly 14 years, but the candle has finally burnt out.

So whilst we are officially the SRMD, we are referring to ourselves as SRA, Sutton Road Anglicans, partly because lots of people were asking which branch of Christianity we represented. We are a mixed bunch of Christians. Not all of us were brought up as Anglicans, or C of E as it used to be called. We also boast Methodists, Presbyterians, Roman Catholics, Uniting, and Baptists. We will welcome you to our churches regardless of what branch in which you have been raised.

And talking about services, it was a thrill to welcome so many people to our recent Easter services. Normally our Sunday congregations are relatively small but on Easter Sunday at Wamboin, we had to dig out our pile of spare seats, a lovely thing to have to do.

This increase in numbers was because of the attendance by those who only attend church on a special occasion such as Easter and Christmas. That is fine by us. You are welcome. But did you know that the church has other ‘Festival Days’ throughout the year? Not just those two.

The church year starts late November/early December on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. So there are another four special Sundays, plus Eve and Day if they are not Sundays. Then there is Lent, which gives us another half a dozen Sundays, plus Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Add in Patron Saint days, which for us are Peter in June and Andrew in November. That is becoming a big number of special occasions.

But for Royce, Wendy, David and Alan, who produce the services for each and every one of the 52 Sundays, plus the add-ons, each is a special occasion. A lot of work goes into the preparation. These days using music videos and illustrative slides, is making a church service more like a concert. The old days of sitting on a hard bench and listening to hours (seemed like) of fire and brimstone is a distant memory for those of us getting a bit long in the tooth and grey haired.

So why not join us for a ‘special occasion’, occasionally or regularly, at Sutton or Wamboin, any Sunday. The signboards at Norton Road and at Victoria Street will tell you where the service will be held for that day. Or call us. We will welcome you as a long lost friend. - **Alan Rope**



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Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For May, I chose the Eurasian Coot, a common waterbird found on nearly any bodies of water including local farm dams.

Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*)

Size: 35-28cm

Status: Common resident

The Eurasian Coot is a medium-sized, slaty-black waterbird, with a distinctive white bill extending up onto the forehead in what is known as a frontal shield. They have a bold red eye and greyish legs, with thick, lobed toes, a unique feature that is unusual for such an aquatic bird, and distinguishes them from ducks which have webbed feet. Whilst some people may confuse them for ducks, they are actually in the rail and crake family, with other close relatives in the local area being the Dusky Moorhen and Australasian Swamphehen. Another misleading idea about this species is its name; whilst it is called "Eurasian", it is native to Australia, occurring all the way through Asia to Europe. Despite their feet not being webbed, their lobed toes make them powerful swimmers, often diving to feed, where they can stay submerged for extended periods. They primarily eat aquatic vegetation, supplemented by other small aquatic prey such as insects or small fish, and grazing on grass. Eurasian Coots are a widespread and common bird that can utilise nearly any waterbodies, especially those with vegetation, ranging from large lakes to wetlands and small farm dams. They can occur in singles up to flocks of thousands at larger reservoirs. They usually forage diving in the water, though also graze on nearby grass where available, especially at golf courses. They can become very habituated at urban parks alongside other waterbirds that are fed by people. At times they can be quite aggressive and noisy, fighting with each other and chasing other waterbirds. They have a sharp raucous call, a harsh "kyik", often repeated. For quite a common bird, they are observed breeding quite infrequently in the local region, with pairs usually building a nest of vegetation in shallow water or on an island. The chicks are fluffy black, with an orange head and bill, with a white

tip. If you have a dam on your property, make sure to keep an eye out for this charismatic waterbird. (photo from Google images)




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Friends of Wamboin Crown Reserve – Autumn Walk Report & Winter Walk Preview

The Friends of Wamboin Crown Reserve held our 3rd guided walk on 8 March. A group of about 20 met at The Community Hall car park for formalities before car pooling up to the closest parking. It was great to see some familiar faces from earlier walks and to welcome new walkers to the delights of the Reserve.



This walk focussed on familiarising walkers with the trails as a whole, rather than concentrating on flora, fauna or history. Not that some of those topics weren't incorporated ☺. We were able to point out the Horse Poles entrance to Kowen Forest for those wanting to return for longer walks in Kowen – perhaps taking routes from Peter's regular Kowen Kapers articles in *The Whisper*.

I was somewhat optimistic in assessing how far we might get – a lesson learned for future walks! We had planned for escorted 'short cuts' back to the cars as the terrain can be rough and steeper than many imagine. We all managed Boundary, Fenceline East then further west to 'Firetrail'. Kathy's photo shows us catching our breaths before some returned by a more direct route to Coppermine and The Saddle and the cars. The majority of us 'summitted' Poppet Hill and a few added a short section of the CSIRO track to The Coppermine/ Saddle trails. We all seemed to arrive back at the cars around the same time so a final catch up before heading back to "The Hall".

The Friends plan on holding seasonal walks as they do seem popular with 20 or so joining us each time. Our Winter Walk on *Saturday 27 June* will be much more challenging. It will be a late afternoon-evening sunset walk timed to watch the sunset from atop Poppet Hill. And then seeing what 'eyes' we may spot on the ground and in the trees as we descend Poppet and return to the cars under torchlight. Stay tuned for our 'ads' in the June *Whisper* and on the Wamboin & Bywong Hub.

Thanks to Kathy Handel for the photography. - **Jenny Kruse, Friends of Wamboin Crown Reserve**, friendswcr@gmail.com



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What is the connection between Wamboin and Spooks Hill, Bungendore?

David McDonald david [at] dnmcdonald.id.au

Do you know Spooks Hill in Bungendore? It is better known as Days Hill, though neither appellation is a registered geographic name. It lies in the eastern part of Elmslea, abutting the railway line. Atop it is a half-circle pine plantation, and the Bungendore water supply reservoir. A pleasant place for a walk. For generations, the local children have called it Spooks Hill. The origin of that nickname is beyond the scope of this brief article, but it refers to a 'haunted house' there.

The Wamboin connection lies in its semi-official name, Days Hill, which is named after Michael James Day: born 1859 at 'Currandooley', Bungendore; married Charlotte Brown in 1879 at St Gregory's Catholic Church, Queanbeyan; had nine children, plus one adopted and two fostered; died 1924 in Sydney and was buried at Bungendore. Charlotte was born c. 1862 and died in 1938, also buried at Bungendore (Proctor 2001).

The Day family's farm was called 'Hillside'. Yes, it was on the side of what we now call Days Hill, named after the family.

In 2025, former Bungendore resident and prominent local historian, Neville Gallagher (a descendant of the Day family) published a skilfully researched, comprehensive history of the family titled 'The Days of Hillside'. He wrote:

Michael James Day was born on 17 March 1859 in the district of Bungendore, fifth born in a family of ten. A few years earlier in 1853 Catholic education arrived when the first Catholic School was opened in a slab building but whether Michael received any formal schooling there is doubtful. It was claimed he was illiterate when he and Charlotte were married in 1879, he signed their certificate with his mark and without the opportunity of formal education, his brother at court in 1882, was similarly described: 'only a marksman, he cannot write'. In the years to come and with the help of Charlotte who 'kept the books' he operated a successful farming establishment called Hillside.

Aside from his farming interests Michael worked as a Ganger on road construction, his main occupation for a lifetime.

Given these supervisory responsibilities, clearly any question of illiteracy would have long been resolved. He engaged in other industry as well, including the establishment and operation of a butchery in the village (later taken over by his son, Michael James junior), and in dealings at land and cattle sales throughout the district. During his lifetime he and Charlotte assembled a diverse property portfolio including several blocks forming the Hillside farm, a 640-acre property near Creekborough, 50 acres at Hoskinstown and a dozen town blocks in the village (p. 4.1).

Now we come to the Wamboin connection!

Note the mention above of the '640-acre property near Creekborough'? 'Creekborough' was the 640-acre (one square mile) property established by William Moore in 1839 and acquired by John Walker following Moore's death in 1861. It straddled today's Macs Reef Road/Bungendore Road intersection.

Let us turn, now, to the Parish of Wamboin map, published in six editions from 1881 to 1967 (McDonald 2018). It is online at the Wamboin Community Association's local history website pages <https://tinyurl.com/wamboin1891>. In it we note just three relatively large land grants in the Wamboin part of the parish, all of 640 acres: 1) 'Creekborough'; 2) James Anlezark's block immediately south of 'Creekborough' acquired in 1837; and 3) in the middle of Wamboin, Michael James Day's selection, a Conditional Purchase granted on 15 March 1883. The centre of the block lay in the Weeroona Drive/Majors Close vicinity. It was the largest selection granted in the parish during the selection era, the only one of one square mile (the others were all far smaller). The annotated excerpt from the parish map here provides further information on the location of Day's Wamboin selection. Note the Queanbeyan to Gundaroo road crossing the selection: much of today's Weeroona Drive follows it.

This is the same Michael James Day who, with his wife Charlotte, established and ran, for decades, their 'Hillside' farm at Spooks Hill/Days Hill, Bungendore.

References

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