

The Whisper

March 2013

CIRCULATION: 1,269

Wamboin Community Assn:

www.wamboincommunity.asn.au

Bywong Community:

www.bywongcommunity.org.au

Fire Brigade:

<http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au>

All proceeds from advertisements after printing costs go to the WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION that started The Whisper as a community newsletter in 1981, and continues to own it. The newsletter is distributed to all letterboxes in Wamboin, Bywong and to Palerang Council residents southeast of the Federal Highway at the start of each month, except January. Contributions from all residents are encouraged, valued and the main content of the newsletter. The Editor is Ned Noel, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 6238-3484. Please email contributions to either nednoel@optusnet.com.au or whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au or mail them. The deadline for the next issue of The Whisper is always the last Sunday of the month, 7 pm, so for the April 2013 issue the deadline is Sunday, 31 March, 7 pm. Instant Colour Press will then multiply 1 copy into more than 1200. Then the new issue goes to volunteer deliverers by the first Sunday of the new month.

LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCIES Fire/Police/Ambulance - Dial Triple Zero (000) All Hours

Bungendore Police: 6238 1244 Wamboin Fire Brigade Info Centre: 0409 991 340 Ambulance Bookings: 131233

LOCAL FACILITIES AND CONTACTS

Wamboin Community Assn	Jenny Richards, Vice-President	6238 1329	vicepresident@wamboincommunity.asn.au
Bywong Community	Darryl Bourke, President		president@bywongcommunity.org.au
Fire Brigade	David Cochrane, Captain	0409 991 340	
Palerang Councillor	Pete Harrison	0427 711 028	cr.pete.harrison@palerang.nsw.gov.au
Palerang Councillor	Keith France	0427 365 715	cr.keith.france@palerang.nsw.gov.au
Wamboin Markets	Joan Mason, contact	6238 3258	
Sutton School Playgroup	Johanna Bradley, Convenor	0406 399 713	johannabradley@dodo.com.au
Landcare	Roger Good, President	6236 9048	
Community Nurse	Heather Morrison, Bungendore	6238 1333	
Emergency Services	NSW Call Centre, Staff	132 500	
Emergency Services Admin.	Colin Brown, Controller	6238 1067	
Justice of the Peace	Peter Greenwood, JP	6238 3358	
Justice of the Peace	Keith France, JP	6238 3596	
Justice of the Peace	Margaret Fletcher, JP	6238 1211	
Justice of the Peace	Jill Sedaitis, JP	6236 9559	
Wamboin Scout Group	Peter Harrison, contact	6238 3525	
Wamboin Pony Club	Leanne Quick, Club Captain	6238 3435	
Geary's Gap Pony Club	Katarina Biondic, contact	0421 859 917	
Wamboin Play Group	Emma Auzins, Convener	6238 3974	cotsell@moraguy.net
Bywong Hall Bookings	Guy Cotsell, contact	6230 3523	
Wamboin Hall Bookings	Joan Mason, contact	6238 3258	
Church - Anglican	Robyn Robertson, Warden	6238 3202	
Christian Prayer Group	Steve & Imelda Taylor, contacts	6238 3220	
KYB Bible Study Group	Yvonne Barrett, contact	6230 3539	
Golf	Peter Greenwood, Golfer	6238 3358	p.greenwood2@bigpond.com
Injured Wildlife	Wildcare, Helpline	6299 1966	
Wonderful Wmen of Wmbn	Gail Ritchie Knight, Contact	0416 097 500	whirlwind@argonite.com.au
Lake George VIEW Club	Lydia Zielinski, contact	6230 3488	
Wamboin Book Group	Alice Scott, Secretary	6238 3178	

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

Alana Stenning	pet sitting	6238 3030	Jess Smith	pet sitting, house sitting	6238 3115
Fiona Skea	baby sitting	6238 3290	Ashleigh Caird	baby sitting	6238 0746
Rebecca Purdie	pet sitting	6238 3343	Gabrielle Simpkin	baby sitting/ pets sitting	6238-1335
Mara Sutcliffe	pet sitting	6238 3228	Jack & Matilda Whitney	child, pet & house sttg, odd jobs	6238 3059
Jordan Brown	baby sitting	0414-907-921	Genevieve Phipps	Babysitting, pet care or farmstay	6238 1660

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We would like to say thanks!

We are proud and pleased to say thanks, for helping us become Bungendore's most successful selling agent in 2012. We are thrilled more than 40 families sold their property through our new office last year and we say thanks.

We had a strong year in 2012 marketing and selling houses, farms, rural land and development blocks and now we offer Property Management.

As part of our ongoing growth, Donna Bayley, our Property Manager is now onboard and we are dedicated to expanding our enthusiastic and professional service to Rental Management.

We also have a small information booklet that provides you, the Landlord with all the relevant information and related facts to consider when choosing a Rental Management company.

Please call Donna at the office on 6238 0700 for a chat anytime or to request a copy of our Rental Management booklet. You can also head to our facebook page and request it there!

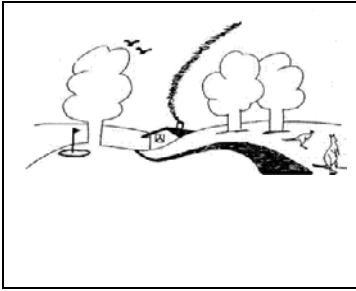
www.facebook.com/RayWhiteRuralBungendore

Ph: 6238 0700 **Fax:** 6238 0712

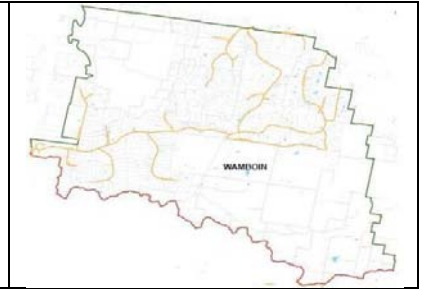
E: bungendore.nsw@raywhite.com

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Wamboin Community Association Vice President's Paragraphs



Hello everybody and welcome to the March edition of The Whisper. For a short month February has been a busy month around Wamboin and, as can be seen from various advertisements further on in this issue, March is even busier.

Clean Up Australia Day — The first Sunday in March (March 3rd) is Clean Up Australia Day in Wamboin. Information is displayed more fully further on in this issue. It would be wonderful to see as many people as possible on the day so we can keep Wamboin beautiful. Any enquires please contact either myself on 6238 1329 or Lofty Mason on 6238 3258.

Palerang Local Environment Plan (PLEP) — Several members of the WCA Committee have been meeting regularly this past month to dissect just what the PLEP means to those of us who live here in Wamboin. Several interest groups are involved and meetings have included a broad cross-section of our community so that we can get a better feel for people's thoughts and reactions. By the time the March Whisper reaches you we should have a preliminary document ready on what we may question and possibly change in the PLEP. However the deadline for submissions to council for such possible changes is March 8th, 2013. If you are among those many who have looked at the PLEP document and have questions you feel need to be addressed, I urge you to send in individual petitions to the Palerang Council before that date.

AGM/GM — The March meeting is when the WCA elects its office bearers for the next twelve months. It is on 19th March at 7:30 pm at the Community Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Sutton School Fair — Although not strictly an event in the Wamboin area; Sutton School will be holding its annual School Fair on Saturday 16th March from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm at the school. Many of our local children attend Sutton School and the Fair is greatly anticipated among those families with school age children. More information is available elsewhere in this issue.

Car Boot Sale — The other greatly anticipated event this coming March is, of course, the annual Car Boot Sale hosted by the Bywong Community Association. This will be held on March 24th and is a must for all keen bargain hunters. Again much broader information will be available further on in The Whisper.

- Jenny Richards (vicepresident@wamboincommunity.asn.au)

FOR SALE – Historic Art Deco Captains Flat Hotel Walk In Walk Out

View full details on Allhomes Commercial - <http://www.allhomes.com.au/ah/nsw/sale-commercial/51-foxlow-street-captains-flat-queanbeyan-region/1316836435011>

A referral commission is being offered to anyone recommending a successful buyer to the owners of \$5,000

For all Enquiries please contact Tony or Vicky hollandfamily@rockyhill.com.au or 0447 626 857 or 62366201





Come and have a good time at Bywong's biggest community event of the year. Over 100 stalls selling things you couldn't live without. If you have things you can live without, why not get a site for \$15 and make some money in the process. Fun for the kids with plenty of toys and books on sale as well as rides. Enjoy a cup of tea and cakes inside our hall. View demonstrations by your local fire brigade. Enjoy dogs and horses and maybe more exotic animals on display.

The Car Boot Sale is a not for profit event and it is free to the public. Money raised from the event is primarily donated to the Fire Brigade but also to other groups within the local community.

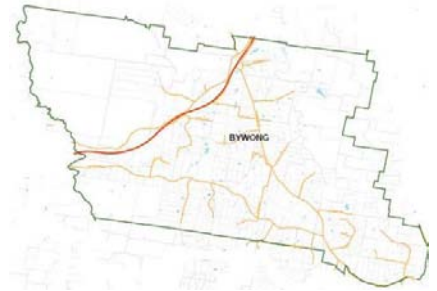
We thank our local business's for their generous support in prizes for the raffle. If you would like to become a sponsor and donate a prize, email Pauline on paulinechambers@yahoo.com.au

If you want to become a seller and need a site contact Greg Gougeon on 62369841 or email to bywongbootsale@y7mail.com. Alternatively you can turn up on the day by coming to the Les Reardon Reserve, Birriwa Road Bywong before 8am and be fully set up by the start of the event at 9:00am...See you there

Bywong Community News

www.bywongcommunity.org.au

Darryl Bourke, President
This News Put Together by the
Bywong Committee



BYWONG COMMUNITY NEWS

Car Boot Sale. Yes, it's nearly here again! While you've still got time, use it to negotiate which of your old shed treasures can go to the Bywong Car Boot Sale, and which have such sentimental value that they must continue to clutter up your shed. The committee is now deep into planning mode to ensure that the Car Boot Sale will be as good as or better than ever. Proceeds go to the Fire Brigade, who will be on display, and to other local groups. The date is Sunday 24 February. See the ad in this issue for details.

Macs Reef Road. The Community thanks all those locals who came to our last meeting for the consultation on a proposal for temporary closure of Macs Reef Road. We also thank our Mayor Pete Harrison for conducting the event, and Council's officers for a detailed and informative presentation and for listening to the concerns of affected residents. About 70 people attended the meeting to hear the reasons for Council's proposal.

With the help of a carefully prepared slide presentation and large wall charts and photographs, Palerang Director of Works Gordon Cunningham explained how Council could save both time and money on the major works needed to repair the hill section of the road by closing the road to traffic for about six weeks. We heard how a period of total closure could reduce the need for a longer period of single-lane traffic delays. Mr Cunningham and Council engineers were particularly concerned to hear from those who live on the hill and nearby. We thank all those who contributed to discussion.

The Community was very happy to host this event, and was proud of the fact that its recent gifts to the Hall – chairs, projector and screen – contributed to its success. We hope that this example of the value of a local residents' body might prompt more to join. Don't forget, it's free – you have only to ask!

We see this consultation as a welcome sign of Council openness and hope to see it continue.

Great LEP Forward? Another forum where Council is currently consulting people concerns the draft Local Environmental Plan (LEP). In our February news we advised people to have a look at the proposed new Plan. Apparently some of you did so, and have expressed concern to the Community about the rezoning of your property from Rural Residential to E4 Environmental Living. The Rural Residential zoning, however no longer exists in the new NSW State Government guidelines for LEP, and E4 is the closest fit. So most residents in the new E4 zones will find little or no change to their conditions of tenure. Most people seem comfortable with this.

As part of its community consultation, Council has invited submissions from people who fear they may have been disadvantaged. Those who are in doubt about how they might be affected may also seek a short interview with one of Council's planners to ask for specific clarification. While the actual classifications themselves are laid down by the NSW State Government, Council are looking for your comments on how best to describe them for our community. We encourage you to write to Council if you have concerns about their draft.

Young Riders in Bywong. Gearys Gap Pony Club, whose home base is Bywong, will hold its next Rally Day at Bywong Hall on 10 March. The February Rally saw a good turnout of forty riders. Elsewhere in this Whisper you will find a full account of the Club's activities.

Parcel non-post. Following the Christmas rush, when parcel deliveries at Bungendore Post Office ceased completely, things appear to have returned to normal. We note that Australia Post has even printed a smart new notification card, specifying that parcels may be collected at Bungendore, rather than leaving us to guess whether it is at Bungendore or Queanbeyan. While this is an improvement, there is still concern that our postpersons, who now operate out of Queanbeyan, seem unable, or reluctant, to deliver even the smallest of parcels to our boxes. The Community decided at its last meeting to raise the matter formally with Australia Post.

Next meeting. The next meeting of the Community is on Monday 11 March in the community hall at 7.30 p.m. We can't offer another Consultation, but please come anyway.

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Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin - 38-year statistics from the Robertsons

by Robyn Robertson

February rainfall to 20/2 ... 16 mm

2013 rainfall to 20/2 ... 69.25mm

Average March rainfall ... 59.4mm

Wettest March ... 303mm in 1989

Wettest March day ... 160mm On 15/3/1989

Coldest March day ... 13C X 3 times (twice in 2012)

(Robyn apologises for the early close to Feb figures, but her father's 104th birthday in Melbourne took priority.)

(Feb 2012 ... 143.5mm)

(2012 to 28/2 ... 190.5mm)

(March 2012 .. 208.25mm)

Driest March ... 3mm in 1986 & 1998

Hottest March day 35C On 8/3/83

Coldest March night ... 3C on 28/3/99



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News from WWOW - The Wonderful Women of Wamboin

by Gail Ritchie Knight

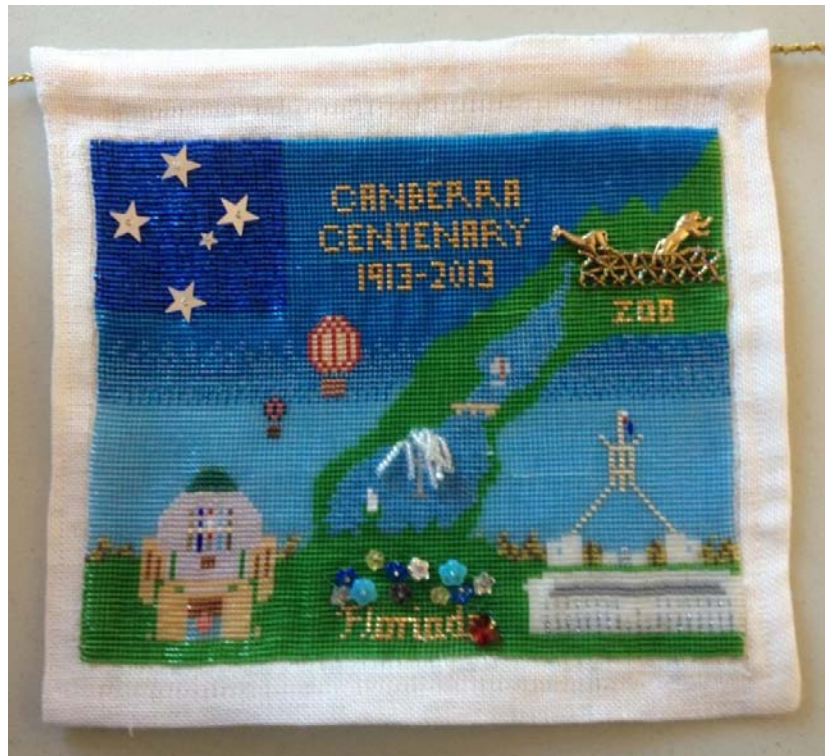
The Wonderful Women of Wamboin are a group of women who meet every Monday over a cuppa during the course of a couple of hours. It's a great way to meet new people as well as catch up with old friends. Women come not only from Wamboin, but also Bywong, Sutton, Bungendore, Queanbeyan and even a couple from Canberra.

Last month local Bywong resident Randy Knispel spoke to us about caring for our knives — well, not just knives but just about all things sharp. He spoke of magnetic strips and sheaths being better ways of storing knives. Blocks are good also provided you insert knives blade side up. So I suppose tossing knives into a crowded utility drawer just doesn't cut it.

We are such a talented group of women. A few of us take along some craft to work on during the morning eg knitting, crocheting, cross-stitch or beading. Those of us not inclined to such activities marvel at the beauty, talent and dexterity these women display, all the while chatting as their pieces grow before our eyes.



And testament to the talent within our group is the news that three of our very own have won prizes in the recent Canberra Show. Margaret Ferrett, a resident of Sutton, won third prize in Contemporary Quilting and Patchwork. Norma Arnold, also from Sutton, won first prize in Bedspread or Rug in the Crochet section. While Trish Mavity in the Beading section won not only first prize in Celebrating the Centenary of Canberra and champion in the Special Challenge open to all ages but also she was awarded Overall Reserve Champion. Her piece represents Canberra as having both important national institutions and a living and liveable city with many social and cultural attractions. There are more than 12,000 beads in her work of art.



All women are welcome at WWOW — Mondays, 10 AM to 12 NOON at St Andrew's Anglican Church on the corner of Poppet Road and Norton Road in Wamboin.

For more information contact Gail Ritchie Knight 0416 097 500 whirlwind@argonite.com.au.

Pictures from Canberra show 2013: Top: Norma Arnold, 1st prize, crocheted rug.

Middle: Beading, by Trish Mavity, 1st prize.

Bottom: Detail of quilt by Margaret Ferrett, 3rd prize, contemporary quilting, patchwork.



Wanted Properties for Sale



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E-mail: **jan.ladmore@bigpond.com**

Horizon has a very good brochure that is a guide called 'Steps to Buying Your Home' in NSW & ACT. This offers advice for both the Seller & Buyer. If you would like a copy sent to you contact Jan Ladmore

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WAMBOIN HOME PRODUCE MARKETS

Contact – Joan Mason, Ph. 62 383 258

Wamboin Community Hall

112 Bingley Way.

Our local market sure lived up to it's name – Home Produce Markets - for February. What a wonderful array of lovely fresh home grown produce for the locals to purchase.

Greg was there with his home grown Pontiac potatoes, beetroot and basil. Chris and Rachel had a great variety of potatoes namely – King Edward, Dutch Cream, Sapphire, and others, Rita's stall was chok-a-block with silverbeet, capsicums, beetroot, parsnips, etc, etc, and Pauline had heaps of wonderful home grown veges, tomatoes, parsley, herbs and fruit to buy. Many happy customers with their bags full saying how good it was. Hopefully March will be similar while the local produce is available.

A nice variety of native plants grown by Jo available each month, also Lofty with his one tonner full of plants, - all at good prices.

Leonie and Margaret always have a few cakes and biscuits on their table, and Sally, with a variety of cakes, pies, quiches and sausage rolls. (Note: Sally is unable to attend the March market.)

Danni and Damo did a wonderful job with the egg & bacon rolls, Tony serving great coffee and coffee beans available to buy, and Jenny and Anita selling their jam and cream scones, all help to make our markets a great place to visit.

There are lots of other different stalls at our markets, so come along to our next one on:

SATURDAY 16 MARCH 2013 9AM-12 NOON

NOTE: In conjunction with the APRIL 2013 MARKETS a display of 'Unusual cars/vehicles/wheels' is being planned, and hopefully will be on show on the oval next to the hall during market time. Further details in Whisper.

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Wamboin Golf

by Jack Whitney

The February event was conducted under ideal Wamboin summer conditions, with the usual gathering of accomplished golfers and their husbands. The day's proceedings started at 12:30 from the community hall in Bingley Way and concluded with snacks, nibbles and riveting conversations.

An excellent field of golfers turned out with the day's stroke event being sponsored jointly by the Whitney and Schroder families of Wamboin. Our golfing visitors today were Ellen Smith, Mike Fileman, Kevin Rowe and Nick Ivey.

Winners: The Junior event winner this month was Rachel Schroder who had a wonderful 60/23 for the nine holes. Encouragement awards went to Madison and Alex Gordon.

Nearest the pin and longest drive ball winners were Mike Fileman, Jack Whitney x2, Tim Barter, Ken Gordon x2, Rob Goram x2 and Nick Ivey x2.

The 9 hole event was won by Deb Gordon with a 49/29, second Paul Hogarth with a 41/34 followed by Helen Locke on 79/43. The 18 hole event was won by Rob Gorham with a blistering 80/59 (handicapper should have fun with this), second was Tim Barter 77/63 on count back from Jack Whitney with a 82/63.

Don't forget next month's event on the 3rd March. Come along to the Community Hall in Bingley Way on Sunday at 12:30, all welcome.



Sutton Road Upgrade

by Graham Bailey, Norton Road

This title in the February Whisper in conjunction with the short contribution from the ACT government it headed surely takes the cake.

Good for a laugh, so long as Palerang ratepayers aren't funding the fiasco.

To a retired civil engineer like myself, the fantasy was little short of awesome.

Simply put, damaged stormwater pipes and 'inconsistent' subgrade material should not be a surprise during construction.

In the bad old days, before deskilling within government, the project investigation phase would include subgrade evaluation and testing ahead of the development of appropriate technical specifications, including selection of materials and of construction methodology.

This isn't rocket science – Australian flexible pavement practice goes back to the 1950's and beyond, based on test track work by the then U.S. Corps of Engineers.

Make no mistake. This project debacle represents wastage on a grand scale ... not forgetting the protracted 'inconvenience' to road users.

And the 'holding treatment' is not holding. If the pavement roughness gets much worse, Wamboin residents will need to be aware of the safety implications, as the pavement depressions can have the unwanted effect of throwing lighter vehicles into the wrong lane.

How The Whisper Gets Delivered Each Month

The 50 or so people below each spend time every month to make sure that Wamboin and Bywong homes own and receive a free community newspaper written by residents. If your deliverer has been on the job for a long time and you have a bit of time you could spare, think about offering to take over the job or help out. If you already have too many tasks in your month, every now and then give your volunteer paperwoman/man/boy/girl a thank you.

Thanks to each of you. - Ned Noel, volunteer editor

168: CO-ORDINATED HELEN MONTESIN: ph 6238 3208

Fay Kelly	Norton Rd West Area from Cmpbl Pl	20
Helen Montesin	Fernloff Rd	33
Julie Veal	Poppet Rd (for all on road)	32

172: CO-ORDINATED BY KATHY HANDEL: ph 6238 3596

Joan Mason	Bingley Way	48
Sue Ward	Norton Rd (Bingley to Weeroona)	32
Kathy Handel	Norton (Weeroona to Hilltop)	18

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

Lesley Page	Valley View Ln	4
Colleen Foster	B'dore Rd to Nrtn Rd	22
Cassie Fisher	Clare Ln	12
Dominica Lorima	North end Clare Valley	42

245: CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN: ph 6238 3590

Sheryl Barnes	Denley Dr (Sth End 1/2 way2 Kestral)	15
Don Malcolmson	Macs Reef Rd (Denley to Gum Flat)	7
Connie & Hans Bachor	Dnly Dr to Macs Rf Rd incl Bchm Gr	28
Nora Stewart	Rovere Ln	7
Carol & Clive Boughton	Macs Reef Rd (Bankers to Fed Hwy)	33
Beth Hope	Gum Flat Ln	6
Kevin Beier	DenleyDr (Kestral2 1/2 way 2SthEnd)	15

140: CO-ORDINATED BY IAN COILLET ph 6238 3425

Michael & Jose Deane	FdHwSvcRd/Bidges/Hickey/O'Gold	63
Robert&Marzena Luton	Sutton Park Estate	48

203: CO-ORDINATED BY KEVIN ANDERSON ph 6236 9333

Phil & Pam Dawes	Donnelly Rd & Donnelly Ln	25
Kevin Anderson	B'dore Rd (Macs Reef to Summerhill)	35
Kerrie Gougeon	B'dore Rd (Fed Hwy to Summerhill)	25
Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	21

109: CO-ORDINATED BY NED NOEL ph 6238 3484

Diana Griffin	Majors Close	18
Advertisers & Misc	(Out of area mailouts)	41

TOTAL 1,269

Bill Owen	Cooper Rd	26
Stuart Whitten	Canning Cl	17
Alan Rope	Sutton Rd	40

Margaret Heleimin	Merino Vale Dr	17
Anne Gardner	Weeroona Dr (Norton to Majors)	31
Penny Evans	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	26

Deb Gordon	Yalana East	44
Rob Gorham	South end Clare Valley	38
Lyle Montesin	The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks	60
Bungendore Foodworks	Bungendore	10

Brian Higgison	Denley Dr (Birchmans to Kestral inc)	12
Rhett Cox	Macs Reef Rd (Newington to Bankers)	7
Morag & Guy Cotsell	Macs Reef Rd b'n Nwngtn& Harriott	30
Sandra Favre	Macs Reef Rd b'n Nwngtn& Harriott	20
Joan Milnor	Birriwa Rd plus Macs Rf Rd to Harriott	30
Tony Bond	Hogan Dr/Orana Dr/Yuranga Dr	35


Jenny Bryce	Wattle Flat Rd	11
Penny & Russell Ball	Macs Reef (Denley Dr to Bungdre Rd)	18

David Featherston	Summerhill and Creekborough Rds	26
Attila & Cherry Hrgsi.	Snowgum Rd	26
Chris Fowler	Shinglehouse & Millyn Rds	20
Richard Holding	Wyoming & Doust Rds	25

David Anderson	Weeroona (Majors to Denley)	36
Palarang Council	Council Offices	14

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'SHUT THE .. STABLE DOOR!'

by Ian Collet

An occasional piece

‘A picture is worth a thousand words’, so goes the adage. Right, so rather than blab (other than to say I came upon the longest brown snake ever the other day, head up, poised, checking me out some 10 metres distant) here’s just 3 opportunistic snaps of some of the more eyebrow-raising moments on our little patch in Wamboin these past few weeks.



Tragically, not just a ‘bad hair day.’



- This month’s mystery item -



Gonzo & Whoopi – still ‘hot’ for each other even after their 10th ‘shower’ on a wet Sunday 24th February.

Oh, back to the snake; in the 10 seconds it took to bundle the two Under Editors (dachshunds) inside, the snake was gone. I trust it was just ‘passing through’.

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The Wamboin Firefighter

The Wamboin Firefighter newsletter is produced by the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade for the benefit of residents and property owners in the brigade's area i.e. the localities of Wamboin, Bywong, and Sutton (south of the Federal Highway).

WE ARE IN THE BUSHFIRE DANGER PERIOD

(1st October – 31st March)

**THERE IS A REAL RISK OF UNCONTROLLED FIRES
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FIRE PERMITS. With few exceptions, during the declared Bushfire Danger Period a Fire Permit is required for any fire in the open. For further advice and to seek a Fire Permit, contact the local Fire Control Centre (Lake George Zone FCC in Queanbeyan) on 6297 1840 during weekday business hours. To contact the Wamboin brigade directly, email captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au or phone 0409 991 340.

BUSHFIRE SEASON UPDATE

Thankfully, the intense heat and wildfire activity experienced across the region during January has reduced these past weeks but that said, there is no room for complacency. At the time of finalising this article, Sunday 24th February, there's been a welcome drop of rain but the Fire Danger Rating (FDR) is in the HIGH range. The FDR is an assessment of the potential fire behaviour, the difficulty of suppressing a fire, and the potential impact on the community should a bush fire occur on a given day. In our region, historically, March is the most dangerous period for bush and grass fires. The ground has warmed through the summer months and the fuel load, i.e. grass, bush and leaf litter is at its driest. Add a little wind and we have a nasty cocktail. This is a fire prone area; it is important that all residents remain vigilant and follow their Bush Fire Survival Plan.

Calling the Emergency Call Service – mobile phones



Occasionally, attempts by callers to contact the Emergency Call Service are frustrated when using a mobile phone. The following information on Australia's Emergency Call Service has been extracted from the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) website. ACMA is a government agency responsible for the regulation of broadcasting, the Internet, radio telecommunications and telecommunications. ACMA regulates and monitors the provision of emergency call services.

Triple Zero (000) is Australia's primary emergency service number and should be used if urgent emergency assistance is required from either police, fire or ambulance services. Triple Zero (000) can be called from any fixed or mobile phone and certain VOIP services.

However, the nature of mobile handsets and mobile networks means that in some circumstances calls from mobile phones are not as reliable as calls from a fixed network. Special roaming capabilities of the vast majority of mobile phones when calling Triple Zero (000) mean that when you are out of your service provider's coverage area but are in another carrier's mobile phone network coverage area, your call will be carried on the other carrier's network. But, it is important to realise that if there is no mobile coverage, you will not be able to reach the Emergency Call Service via a mobile phone. Australia also has a secondary emergency service number for use with digital phone technology:

112 is the GSM international standard emergency number that can only be dialled on a digital mobile phone. Mobile phones enable individuals to call the Emergency Call Service from most places in Australia. As with the Triple Zero number, it is important to realise that if there is no mobile coverage on any carrier's mobile phone network, you will not be able to reach the emergency call service via a mobile phone, regardless of which number you dialled.

Further information including Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding these Emergency Call Services can be found on the ACMA website via the following link http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC_100581 or by phoning ACMA on (02) 6219 5555.

BRIGADE ACTIVITY

Callouts. February has been a relatively subdued time for brigade members when compared to the busy and demanding activity in January. Since the last newsletter the Brigade has responded to 3 incidents.

On Saturday 2nd February, just after 7pm, along with several other brigades in the Lake George Zone, a Wamboin crew responded in one of the brigade's large tankers to a fast moving grass fire in hilly country beyond Tarago. The fire burnt through several hectares of farmland and threatened a number of buildings before being brought under control. Our crew and tanker returned to the Fire Station at approximately 11pm.

On Wednesday 13th February, shortly after 12.20pm, brigade members' pagers were activated and crew in heavy and light tankers responded to a bush/scrub fire in difficult terrain on a property in Old Mines Rd Sutton. Other brigades also attended including a tanker and crew from the Sutton Rural Fire Brigade plus vehicles and crew from the ACT. Aviation support (helicopter and bucket) also helped quell the fire. Fortunately, the weather was relatively benign. Had it not been so, the fire would have been far more difficult to contain. It is possible that the fire may have been triggered by a lightning strike a day or so prior. The last of the Wamboin crew returned to the Fire Station at 5.45pm.



On-ground firefighting in difficult terrain supported by aviation.



Wamboin tanker and crew protecting the homestead.



ACT NPWS tree feller dropping a large tree made unstable by the fire.

The third callout for the period occurred just before 4.45pm on Sunday 17th February and involved a single vehicle motor accident on the Federal Highway Sutton just beyond Geary's Gap. Other emergency services also attended.

Training News. There were two set training sessions during February. Early in the month the focus was on practising Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and the use of the Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) that are now carried on all of the brigade's vehicles. The second training session later in the month focused on grass fires and branch (nozzle) work with a practical exercise that involved revisiting the scene of a fire that occurred in January on agricultural land in the heart of Wamboin. The session also provided additional experience for drivers and crews on the back of each fire tanker.

Community Education. Saturday 16th February - the brigade ran a Community-Wide Bush fire Information Session at the Fire Station. Given the spate of bush and grass fires in the area since the start of the year many residents who attended were keen to digest the information provided by the various presenters with a view to starting, reviewing or building on their Bush Fire Survival Plans. The 30 members of the community who attended the brigade-led information session were treated to an excellent presentation by a property owner who experienced first hand the reality of wildfire on her land in Cherry Tree Lane on the Lake George escarpment during January. Many thanks to the various presenters and to the brigade's Support Crew for

their time and effort leading up to and on the day. Our thanks also to Bungendore Rural Services for again supporting this brigade initiative with its display of fire fighting equipment including pumps, hoses, nozzles, fittings and tools.



Attendees at the information session were all-ears as Cherry Tree Lane resident Sue Halden-Brown 'lets them in' on her recent experience and biggest lessons learnt during a fire on the property in late January.



Senior Deputy Captain Richard Hobbs explaining to residents the finer points of various useful fire fighting tools.

Sunday 17th February - four brigade members attended a **Fire Safety Meeting** at 7.30pm of twenty-two members of the **Joe Rocks Rd/Mountain Rd Community Group**. The purpose of the community-driven meeting was to initiate/enhance dialogue and better understanding within the group of fire-related risks they faced as property owners/residents in the area and potential strategies and options for addressing and reducing those risks.

New Brigade Members. The Brigade would like to extend a very warm welcome to several new members who have joined and to others who are in the process of joining. We are always keen to hear from residents who would like to join and actively participate in the community's fire brigade whether as a fire fighter or a member of the brigade's Support Crew. If you would like to know more about what's involved, please ring the Secretary, John Taubman, on 6238 3153 or email: secretary@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 24th March: 2013 Bywong Car Boot Sale. The Brigade has marked its diary for the Bywong Community Association's annual giant Car Boot Sale at the Les Reardon Reserve, Birriwa Rd Bywong (off Macs Reef Rd) and so should you. Brigade members will again be managing the car parking for buyers and sellers. We'll also be conducting a series of community education activities.

And, while you are sussing out or selling a bargain, to really help make everyone's day, the Support Crew will again be offering its much sought after mouth-watering BBQ goodies and refreshments during the morning and early afternoon.



FURTHER INFORMATION

Wamboin Brigade Website. The site will help you monitor local conditions and Brigade announcements. The **Community Information** section has useful information including links to other websites including the NSW Rural Fire Service that provide guidance regarding bush and grass fire preparations. You'll also find the brigade's history and other interesting material including photos on the Brigade's site at <http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au>

As always, if at any time you have a query about a fire-related issue including preparing yourself, your family and your property for a bush, grass or house fire, please contact the Brigade directly by email captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au or phone 0409 991 340.

FOR ALL EMERGENCY CALLS



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GEARYS GAP PONY CLUB

by Natalie Smith

Geary's Gap Pony Club had an exciting start to 2013 with our annual GGPC camp. The camp was held from 3 - 6 January at Bungendore showground. The camp was attended by 21 riders ranging in age from 3 - 18 years and saw many new members to the club enjoying everything a pony club can offer. The camp is not only an opportunity to improve riding ability but is also an important social event for all members of the club who attend.

There were a number of riding sessions held every day conducted by well-known and regular instructors. Our young riders participated in variety of sessions to improve the skill of all riders across all disciplines including; show jumping, dressage, cross country, sporting, horsemanship, rider first aid and horse first aid. There were also excursions to the Bungendore pool on the Friday and Saturday to avoid the midday heat much to the delight of our young riders.

The riders were divided into troops for the period of the camp with older riders taking on a leadership role for younger and less experienced riders. The camp culminates in a troop competition based on their conduct over the period of the camp, their presentation of horse and equipment and a riding demonstration arranged by the riders in the troop. This year the coveted troop trophy was won by Jade troop.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank all those who supported this event including: Canberra Equine Hospital, The Bungendore Butcher; The Feed Shed; Ziggy's Fruit and Vegetables; Zip water. We would also like to thank Bungendore Pony Club and Bungendore Show Society for the use of the grounds and equipment. And finally all the volunteers, parents and friends and riders for making the 2013 GGPC camp a great success.

February saw our first official rally day for 2013, which a great success with forty riders attending. Thank you to everyone for your assistance in making this a great day for all.

GGPC next rally day will be held on Sunday 10 March with gear check commencing at 0930, all riders must be a financial member prior to riding which will commence by 10am. Further information of GGPC can be found at <http://www.gearysgap.pcansw.org.au/>.

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Nature Notes February 2013

Jo Walker

After a rather dry February, the last few days of the month seem set to provide us with enough rain to get the grass growing and green again. The Galahs were enjoying the first few light showers a few days ago, hanging upside down from branches, flapping their wings and cackling their appreciation of the rain.

Recently a pair of King Parrots has been visiting my place. They were quite friendly, and came in close to the house for a feed of sunflower seed. I hadn't seen them for several days when Denise rang to say that there seemed to be three young King Parrots and an adult at her place, just up the road from here. Unfortunately, an unidentified raptor seemed to be keeping an eye on them. I saw the hawk here a day later, but it flew too quickly into the trees and out of sight for me to get a good look at it. I still haven't had further visits from the adult King Parrots so, hopefully, they are keeping an eye on their brood.

The Little Pied Cormorant that has frequented my dam sporadically now seems to have chosen it as its main residence. Most mornings when I walk down to pick up the newspaper it is either on the dam or roosting watchfully on one of the dead wattles on the dam wall. A few days ago, it was joined by a Long-necked Turtle enjoying some sunshine as it perched on a half-submerged log at the edge of the dam. And several times recently there has been a large White-necked Heron in the vicinity as well.

The rather shy Swamp Wallabies and Red-necked Wallabies here seem to be getting more tolerant of human presence and occasionally graze just down from the house. A female Red-necked Wallaby and her little joey have been here several times this week.

One of the resident (and definitely not shy) female kangaroos has a joey this year with a rather strange colouring. The fur on its back and sides looks as if it has been shorn short in places and is a distinctly reddish colour. The joey has just started emerging from the pouch, and the only explanation that seems probable for the strange colour is possibly lack of pouch cleaning on its mother's part combined with very hot days that may have caused staining or damage to the joey's fur. It will be interesting to see if the colour persists as the joey grows older. Wamboin is full of surprises.



SCHOLARSHIPS OPEN FOR LOCAL ARTISTS

The Veolia Mulwaree Trust is now calling for applications from local artists for the 2013 Veolia Creative Arts Scholarships. The Veolia Creative Arts Scholarships were established to support the creative culture in our region and recognise the valuable contribution artists make in enriching our community. Two scholarships valued at \$3000 each are available for this year. The scholarships are on offer to local creative artists working in any arts discipline, including but not limited to, visual arts, music, theatre and writing.

One arts practice scholarship will be available for a creative artist to further his or her art practice, such as by making and/or completing a body of work for exhibition, publication or for performance. One arts study scholarship will be available for a creative artist to undertake a program of arts study in any format, for example, at a tertiary institution or other educational program, through a mentorship program or study tour.

Veolia Mulwaree Trust Chairman Paul Stephenson said he was very encouraged by the number and quality of applications in 2012 with the scholarships being awarded to two worthy recipients, ceramicist Sandy Lockwood and tenor Richard Lane.

Mr Stephenson said the region boasted a vibrant and varied local arts community and he encouraged all practicing and emerging artists to apply this year. The closing date for applications for the 2013 scholarship program is Wednesday 20 March 2013.

The 2013 Veolia Creative Arts Scholarships are available to practicing and emerging artists from any one of the seven Local Government Areas serviced by the Veolia Mulwaree Trust, including the Goulburn Mulwaree, Oberon, Palerang, Shoalhaven, Upper Lachlan, Wingecarribee and Wollondilly Shire Council areas.

Further information and application forms for the Veolia Creative Arts Scholarships are available on the Trust's website www.mulwareetrust.org.au or by phoning 02 4822 2786.

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Wamboin 15 years ago: From the Whisper, March 1998 Circulation: 600

by Robyn Robertson

There is a lovely article by Morag Cameron on page 3, promoting the "BIGGEST AND BEST EVER THIRD ANNUAL RURAL GARAGE SALE" What a claim! It refers of course to the Bywong Car Boot Sale - another local success story for our very special community. Surely the Car Boot Sale is now an "institution", and we can look forward to its 20th birthday in 2 years' time.

And, on page 7, there is the invitation to the community to share in the service on the 8th March, at which the Right Reverend George Browning, Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn, will consecrate the new church building. The service will be attended by the President of the Wamboin Community Association, the Mayor of Yarrawlumla and the Member for Eden-Monaro, as well as many of the clergy who have led services in the hall for 13 years.



Lost Dogs - Kelpie x Koolie called "Mater" and a Great Dane, called "Broken" went missing after 10a.m. on Thursday, 14th Feb 2013.

Mater is 5 yrs old, desexed female, has dark brown, brown and beige patches and is microchipped. She wears a wide pink collar with studs. **Broken** is 4 yrs old, black male and has a thin leather collar. Last sighted 152 Weeroona Drive, Wamboin in the trees on Tuesday 19th Feb 2013

Please note: even if you have destroyed Mater would you please notify me - I am a sheep farmer and understand that this may have happened - I would just like to know. With thanks, Wendy.
Would you please report any sightings to us - even if she was not alive. Contact **Wendy Kemp** on 0428 788 866 or Peter Kemp on 0428 549 106.



Bungendore Tigers Junior Rugby League Club Inc

Registration Day

All teams from Under 6 to Under 16's — Boys and girls aged from 5 to 16 yrs

**Saturday, 16 February 2013 and
Sunday, 24 February 2013**

When: 10.00am to 1.00pm — 16 Feb 13
1.00pm to 4.00pm — 24 Feb 13

Where: 'The Shed', Mick Sherd Oval
Gibraltar Street, Bungendore

Registration fees:

\$90—first child,
\$80—second child,
\$50—third and each additional child,
\$50—Under 6 players.

Fees are payable on registration.

A Birth Certificate must also accompany all New Player registrations. Please bring along the original plus a copy.

Credit card and EFTPOS facilities will be available on both of the above days.

The Club fosters and promotes the ARL's National Code of Conduct and SafePlay Code.

Further information:

- www.bungendoretigersjunior.sportingpulse.net or Club Facebook page
- Contact the Club's Registrar on 0407 266235 or Secretary on 0413 031 314

Registration fees cover:

Nationally accredited Coaches, First Aid Officers and support staff.

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Shorts & socks. (Game day jersey is supplied.)

Tiny Tiggers:

Tiny Tiggers introduces 4-6 year olds to the fun of modified Rugby League through a 4 week-after school skills-based program.

The program will be held on Monday afternoons from 4pm at Mick Sherd Oval, Bungendore starting on 11 February 2012.

Tiny Tiggers is run by a qualified Coach and is FREE for all participants.



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Councillor's Corner

Draft PLEP — A number of councillors, myself included, have received communications from concerned residents following my article in the February Whisper. I guess that's good from a couple of points of view: people read The Whisper, and many have also taken the trouble to look at the new draft Palerang Local Environmental Plan (PLEP). There appears, however, to be a degree of misunderstanding about the intent of the exhibition phase of the new Plan, and perhaps to a lesser extent, the background to the new Land Use Zones.

At the risk of boring those to whom I've already written, I thought I'd provide a little more background.

First up, it's important to understand that the exhibition phase of the PLEP development process is not some sham of a consultation exercise. It is genuinely intended as a means of seeking public input on the Plan, and in the process identifying anomalies that have crept in through the various editing and amendment cycles of the draft document.

Next, since most problems seem to have arisen as a result of perceived land use restrictions, one must realise that only the land uses that are described in the dictionary (see p.91 et seq) of the standard instrument can be used in defining permissible uses in any particular land use zone. As part of the standard instrument, the dictionary cannot be modified. The fact that the terms in the new dictionary are entirely different to those in previous LEPs is at the root of many of the issues that have been raised—in mapping land uses from the 1(d) zone in the YLEP to the E4 zone in the PLEP, there was rarely an exact match.

The omissions most commonly noted by local residents were the specific identification of grazing and bee keeping as activities that should be permissible without consent in the E4 zone. This appears to have been a simple oversight, and can easily be rectified by moving Extensive Agriculture, a land use that includes both grazing and bee keeping (see p.99 of the draft PLEP), from 'permitted with consent' to 'permitted without consent'.

Some residents have become overly anxious about this issue, extending the reasoning to imply that because [as it stands] consent is required for commercial grazing, they would not be able to keep a horse. At this point then, it's important to note that it is a general planning principle that land uses that are ancillary to the primary use of the land are permitted without consent. In this context, when consent is granted for a dwelling, it is also implicitly granted for ancillary land uses. In a rural areas, as are all the areas zoned E4, grazing of cattle, horses, goats etc., animal breeding, keeping poultry, bee keeping etc., which are ancillary to the primary, residential use of the land, are all permissible without consent. Obviously, if a lot is dominated by a particular, commercial land use, such as a vineyard, the primary land use might cease to be residential and consent may then be required for that particular land use.

Finally, it is important to note that the new PLEP will not stop anyone doing anything that they are lawfully doing now. Known as existing use rights, these rights are articulated in the Environmental Protection and Assessment (EP&A) Act (Sections 106–109B) and Regulation (Clauses 39–46). As subordinate legislation, a Local Environmental Plan cannot extinguish these rights. Further, these rights remain with the land and so transfer to a new owner on the sale of a property—no additional consent is required to continue such an activity.

The Palerang Blog—New entries in my councillor website Blog (<http://peteharrison.id.au/blog>) since my last update:

- Existing Use Rights
- Macs Reef Road WTS DA Approved

See also the Palerang Info Zone (<http://peteharrison.id.au/infozone/lep>). Council's General Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month, commencing at 5.00 pm. Members of the public are welcome. The meeting location varies—check Council's website (<http://palerang.nsw.gov.au>) for details. Meeting Business Papers are also available on Council's website on the Friday preceding the meeting.

- Cr Pete Harrison, Ph. 6238 3640, Mob. 0427 711 028, Email: Pete.Harrison@palerang.nsw.gov.au, Website: www.peteharrison.id.au

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- Having trouble seeing the snakes come out to play?
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- How many times have you said to yourself "I wish I knew a bloke with a mower".

WELL NOW YOU DO!!! And he lives right here, in Bywong!!.

My mighty Toro mower will handle light to medium tussock (but not a paddock that hasn't been slashed for years, with tussocks a metre tall!). Give me a holler, and I'll come and have a look before committing to the job. If the mower (or the operator!) is not up to it, I'll tell you straight and not waste your time and money. \$45 per hour, or fixed price negotiated rate.

In Oklahoma it's great to have grass as high as an elephant's eye, but not around here. Cut it NOW!

Phone Graham on 0421356666.



Hi WW

After reading Simon Scott-Findlays story about the lack of snake sightings in recent years and could it be the lizards keeping them away , I decided to share this photo that may help answer his question.

We have been in the area for a little over 3 years and until recently have not seen any snakes. We do have a large population of lizards living in the rock walls and in the gardens around the house.



One afternoon my wife saw a snake outside our kitchen window , we watched it move into a small bush where it seemed to be wrestling with another snake. After a short time it came out with a lizard chasing it. As you can see in the photo below the lizard was biting the snake on the tail.

So it would seem that lizards will chase snakes out of their territory.

- From Russell Ball , 140 Macs Reef Road.

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ADVERTISING RATES: Local classified advertisements are free, as are announcements from community organisations and clubs. Business advertisements pay printing and Community Association Projects. Contact editor on 6238-3484 for information. Advertising rates: Full Page - \$120 Half Pg - \$60 1/3 Pg \$40 1/4 Pg - \$30 1/5 Pg - \$25 1/8 Pg - \$20

FOR HIRE from the Wamboin Hall: A 4 Burner, Hooded BBQ with side burner. Half cast iron plate and half grill plus temperature gauge. \$50 (includes gas) together with \$30 cleaning bond. Both payable on collection. Bond refunded if BBQ is returned clean. Enquiries - Joan Mason 6238 3258.

Trestles and chairs are available for hire by local residents. Hire rates are: Trestle \$10ea and chairs \$1.50 ea. Price does not include delivery or pick-up charges. Available from the Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way. Must be returned in clean servicable condition. All damages are responsibility of the hirer. Equipment must be tied securely on trailer etc. whentaken (otherwise they don't go.) Time of pick-up and returned MUST be adhered to (I don't live at the Hall!) - Joan Mason, 62383258.

FOR HIRE: WAMBOIN COMMUNITY HALL. Bookings arranged by Joan Mason 6238 3258. Local Residents \$100, Bond \$250. Non-Resident \$150, Bond \$300. The Hall is not available for teenage, 18 or 21st. functions.

FOR HIRE: BYWONG COMMUNITY HALL. Suitable for smaller functions and seminars, groups etc. Check availability and booking information on www.bywongcommunity.org.au.

The Whisper is a community newspaper for Wamboin and Bywong. If you live in the area and have something to say about living here that is informative, thoughtful or entertaining, think about writing it up for the next issue. For more information contact the editor on 6238-3484 or email nednoel@optusnet.com.au

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Sunday March 17th 9am - 3pm
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or inverolem@westnet.com.au before 28 March.

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St Andrews, Wamboin and St Peters, Sutton -- SRMD Church Notices

There are several important dates to note in your diaries for this month.

The Annual General Meeting of the SRMD will be at 7pm on Friday evening, 15th March. This is not just an important meeting but it will also be a celebration to mark the 15th anniversary of the consecration of St Andrews Church on 8th March, 1998. There will be wine and cheese, a birthday cake, and coffee and dessert after the meeting. Come along, make your ideas and wishes known and join the party!

Easter is a special time for many reasons. For many of us it is the last holiday before we start to feel the chills of winter, and it is an exciting time for children with the arrival of the Easter Bunny. For the church it is the most significant time in the Christian calendar.

The Passover meal, marking the culmination of Lenten Studies in the six weeks of Lent leading up to Easter will be at St Andrews, corner of Poppet and Norton Roads, at 7pm on Tuesday, 26th March. Whether you have been part of the Lenten Studies group or not you are most welcome to share this very special meal.

A quiet, reflective service at 9am on Good Friday, 29th March, will be held at St Andrews. On Easter Sunday, services celebrating the risen Christ will be held at 9am at St Peters, and 11am at St Andrews. The Rev. Dr Peter Grundy will be officiating.

Kids Club at St Andrews on Friday evenings between 5.30 and 7pm, continues with activities and dinner for children up to about 8 years of age. Parent helpers are always welcome.

Something to think about mid year is the Bonfire at St Peters, in June. This is a joint initiative of the Sutton Community Association and the Church, and there will be more information about the event closer to the date.

Contacts: Peter Cartwright 62303202, Robyn Robertson 62383202, Bronwyn Elliott 62383359

Services: St Peter's Second and Fourth Sunday of each month, St Andrew's First and Third Sunday of each month.

Sutton Primary School Annual Fundraising Event

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<http://suttonps.com.au/>



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TELEPHONE SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS – PLEASE LOG ALL FAULTS

By Jenny Warren

Whisper readers who subscribe to the Wamboin Community Noticeboard on-line forum (*see “JOIN THE COMMUNITY CONVERSATION” below*) will have read over 40 posts in the last 6 weeks from local residents, discussing issues with our land-line and internet service in the Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton communities.

Ranging from recurring 6236 9XXX exchange outages to unsatisfactory internet performance, the issues are clearly causing some angst within our community.

A document outlining phone-number specific issues and general feedback was compiled by Pauline Chambers, based on feedback on the on-line forum. That document was forwarded by the President of the Bywong Community Association (BCA), Darryl Bourke, to Chris Taylor, Telstra’s Area General Manager, Capital South East region.

If you would like your issue added to the list for submission to Telstra and you’re not an internet user, please contact me on 6236 9560 and I will ensure your information is passed on. If you are an internet user but haven’t posted details of your phone issue on the on-line forum, you can email me at aussiejb@yahoo.com and again, I will pass your details on.

Telstra’s Chris Taylor has actively engaged with our community in the past, including bravely presenting to a ‘spirited’ audience at the November Wamboin Community Association (WCA) meeting (you will find the report of that presentation in the December 2012 / January 2013 Whisper).

Initial feedback suggests that the service history Chris might find in Telstra’s service records doesn’t support the perceived level of community outrage being expressed in the on-line forum.

Whilst some of the dissatisfaction expressed in the forum relates to the difficulty of navigating Telstra’s fault logging processes, it is vital that a fault is reported to Telstra (or your third-party retail service provider) each and every time you experience a service outage or disruption - even if the service has subsequently been restored. The fault may be recurring and intermittent, so even if your phone is now working you can report the details of the recent service interruption and ask that you be informed of the reason for outage.

Telstra can only validate the level of concern being expressed by dissatisfied customers in our community by seeing the volume and nature of faults being logged in their system.

The recent 6236 9XXX exchange outages are a prime example. Starting in early January, there have been numerous intermittent outages of all 6236 9XXX services. The outages lasted from 15 minutes to many hours. Sometimes, by the time you managed to climb Millpost Hill or hang out your neighbour’s upper-floor window to get a 1-bar mobile signal and dialled 132 203 (Telstra faults), your home phone service was back on and you’d hang up without logging the fault. A number of 6236 customers, including me, have reported that this is what they have been doing these past weeks.

The other issue I and others faced was actually getting past the Telstra call centre scripted responses. The first thing you are asked by the call centre operator is “have you unplugged all equipment attached to your phone line?”. When you say that you are not going to do that because you’ve already checked with 7 of your neighbours and they’re all affected, the call centre processes can struggle to respond.

If you are going to log a fault, it may be worth performing an isolation test to ensure that another piece of equipment isn’t causing the fault. Then you can say that you have already performed such a test. Persevere - don’t be intimidated by technical terminology or be put off by any initial reluctance to log a fault.

In some circumstances, the fault may be the customer’s responsibility. Some examples might be a lightning strike which affects the line or connections within the ‘customer-side’ equipment, or electrical interference from other equipment in your home, or rodent damage to wiring. In these cases, Telstra’s (or your service provider’s) processes will assist in analysing the fault and determining appropriate resolution. Remember, the attending service provider can charge a service call fee if the fault turns out not to be on the carrier’s side of the network.

JOIN THE COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

By Jenny Warren

If you are an internet user, the Yahoo Group http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/Wamboin_Noticeboard offers an excellent, real-time forum for community-based communication. Members post information ranging from lost & found, to upcoming garage sales, to asking your neighbours if their phone is also dead. Currently the Group has 153 members.

Join up - there’s no obligation to write anything but you can learn a lot about what’s going on in your community and maybe share your knowledge and experience with other residents. Along with...

- ▲ the wonderful monthly “Wamboin Whisper”
- ▲ the Wamboin Community Association (WCA) website <http://www.wamboincommunity.asn.au/>
- ▲ the Bywong Community Association (BCA) website <http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au/>
- ▲ the monthly meetings of our Community Associations
 - ▲ WCA - 3rd Tuesday of every month except January, 7:30pm at the Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin
 - ▲ BCA - 2nd Monday of every month except January, 7:30pm at the Bywong Community Hall on the Les Reardon Reserve, Birriwa Road, Bywong, and
- ▲ the road-side blackboards,

...the on-line noticeboard is a great way to share information within our community.

Green the Greenways on St Pat's Day

by Mel Hillery

Come and... **PLANT A GREENWAY** on **ST PAT'S DAY**



**Sunday March 17th Warramunga Close
(off Woolshed Lane) Wamboin 9.30am–1pm**

◆ Planting for biodiversity teams start at 9.30am and 10.30am: bring hat, shoes, tools and water bottle ◆ BBQ and drinks stall ◆ Info stalls: Land for wildlife (FuturePLANS), Landcare, Wildcare, Palerang Council, Friends of Greenways/ GROWing the Greenways, ACT Rescue Dogs

**PALERANG
COUNCIL**



**CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY**



Ever wondered what the Greenways are? Looking for something to do with the kids and meet some locals? Interested in how to manage weeds or promote wildlife on your block?

Friends of Greenways has partnered with the Palerang Council S355 Greenways committee, Gearys Gap/Wamboin Landcare and Land for Wildlife (administered by FuturePLANS) to put together a "Green the Greenways" field and planting day on St Pat's Day, March 17th 2013.

The Greenways in Bywong and Wamboin are a fantastic set of interlinked trails that allow residents to walk and horse ride about the neighbourhood away from busy roads.

They are also important habitat for plants and animals. Linking bigger habitat patches is important so that plants and animals can relocate in the landscape to find the conditions which suit them best.

The newest Greenway in the network was declared last year and links an existing Greenway from Norton Rd through to the Warramunga Close development off Woolshed Lane where blocks are currently selling.

Join us to plant a few trees from 9.30am or 10.30am. There will be a fundraising BBQ for FuturePLANS and information stalls from a range of organisations covering topics including Land for Wildlife, Wildcare, Landcare, weed management, small farm dams and water management, Friends of Greenways (and growing the Greenways network) as well as other sustainability topics including home energy monitoring, community owned renewable power, teleworking and public transport.

Please bring a hat, sturdy shoes, gloves, large and small digging tools, a bucket and a water bottle if you are joining a planting team.

Or just drop by for a chat at an info stall. For further information contact Mel Hillery at melophorus@bigpond.com or 0427 440 335, or see <http://www.sustainingourtowns.org.au/local-projects/palerang/>.

This project is funded by the Federal Government's Caring for Our Country program.



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Bungendore Evening VIEW Club News – We need you!

by Tracy Greer

Did you start 2013 with the thought that you would like to get involved in doing something to help others? Do you have a belief that education is a great way to provide a hand up rather than a handout? Do you mistakenly think that you cannot work by day and still become involved in making a difference?

“Membership to VIEW is suited to all women interested in meeting monthly with other women from all walks of life, providing them with an outlet to help others, as well as establishing lasting friendships and contributing to the community”, said Dianne Lesak, President of Bungendore VIEW. Pictured below are (L to R) Dianne Lesak (President), Margaret Gooch (National Councillor for Area AA), Lauren Greer (Treasurer), Tracy Greer (Secretary).



VIEW stands for, Voice, Interests and Education of Women and was founded by the General Secretary of The Smith

Family, George Forbes in 1960 to support the charitable work of The Smith Family. Today VIEW comprises 19,600 women members throughout 357 clubs in local communities in every State and Territory throughout Australia.

“VIEW supports The Smith Family, a national children’s charity helping young Australians in need get the most out of their education, so they can create better futures for themselves”. VIEW members contribute significant fundraising and volunteering support to The Smith Family. Last year, VIEW members raised more than \$1 million and supported more than 985 disadvantaged children through The Smith Family’s Learning for Life program.

In 2012 this was achieved through our regular monthly local dinner meetings with interesting guest speakers as well as fun themed social nights. Our meetings are held on the first Monday of each month (unless there is a public holiday).

VIEW is looking for positive and motivated women to join, have fun, make new friends and play their part in educating the disadvantaged youth of Australia. VIEW needs you! It costs \$20 to join initially and a \$15 annual subscription fee, so \$35 if you are new to the Club.

Join us for the March VIEW meeting to be held **6.30 for a 7pm start on Monday 8th April** at The Royal Hotel (Top pub) Chinese Restaurant, Bungendore. You purchase your own meal and drinks and make a \$5 contribution to VIEW on the night. A meeting follows the dinner. Contact Dianne Lesak (Club President) on 6238 1444 or email at admin@fcj.com.au or alternatively Lauren Greer (Club Treasurer) on 6238 0263 or email bungendoreview@gmail.com to RSVP by Wednesday 27th February. To find out more about VIEW visit the website at www.view.org.au or call 1800 805 366. Also contact us if you consider you have an interesting and education topic to speak about. (VIEW is a non political and non religious organisation)

-- Tracy Greer, Secretary

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LAMBERT VINEYARDS
2013—time for a change
The Café is now closed. Thank you to Wamboin locals for your patronage over the past 9 years.
Cellar Door: 11 am—4 pm Sat & Sun or by appointment
810 Norton Rd, Wamboin Ph: 62383866
eLink South Coast 0439 959 959 gongle drive mmm... Cheers! LAMBERT VINEYARDS



PUBLIC NOTICE

MACS REEF ROAD ROADWORKS

As part of its ongoing commitment to its road network, Palerang Council will shortly be commencing a major road rehabilitation project on Macs Reef Road between Bankers and Newington Roads. Site works are expected to begin during the week commencing 11 March and will extend until mid to late June. The area will be under controlled traffic arrangements for this period and some delays should be expected.

Motorists are encouraged to avoid the area and to seek alternative routes wherever possible.

More detail concerning options for these routes, and on the project more generally, are available on Council's website or by telephoning Council's Works Division on 1300 735 025 during business hours.

Any inconvenience is regretted.

- P Bascomb, General Manager, Palerang Council

- PO Box 348, BUNGENDORE NSW 2621, records@palerang.nsw.gov.au



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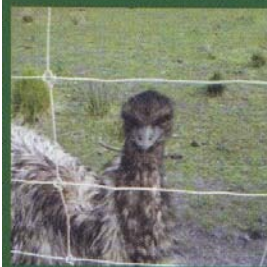
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Macs Reef Road Upgrade to Start in Late March Based On Information and Drawings Provided by Palerang Council

Written up here by Ned Noel

“As part of its 2012/13 management plan and budget, Council voted some \$1.125m toward the rehabilitation of Macs Reef Road, between Newington and Bankers Roads. Planning for this important project is now well advanced with site works expected to commence late in March and carry through into June this year – weather permitting.

“The scale of the project is likely to have some considerable impact on traffic movements through this area of Macs Reef Road and one strategy currently under consideration is the complete closure of the road between Newington Road and Bankers Road during the earthworks component of the project—a period of approximately six weeks from early April to mid May.

“In response to initial feedback from the Bywong community, Palerang Council will hold a public consultation session in conjunction with the February meeting of the Bywong Community Association, at 7.30 pm, Monday 11 February at the Bywong Community Hall, Birriwa Road, Bywong.”

(The above words come from a council announcement that was provided for the February Whisper but was omitted due to a mistake on my part. As a second best “Plan B”, the notice was delivered on Sunday, February 3, into 400 mailboxes in the areas judged most affected by any closure, printed in the Bungendore Mirror, posted on area websites, placed in the online version of the Whisper, and published on the Wamboin Electronic Noticeboard. – Ned Noel)

At the February 11 meeting Council’s Director of Works, Mr Gordon Cunningham provided an illustrated overview of the project and engineering staff were on hand to answer questions about the project and about Palerang’s overall construction program.

The general feeling at the end of the meeting seemed to be to support the 6 week closure on the grounds that it would lessen the danger of accidents on the steep worksite and shorten project duration. It would also allow allocation to core construction work of the more than \$100,000 that keeping the road open every day and night would require. This cost would be necessary to pay for traffic control measures during the construction period and, during the weeks when the pavement is removed from the slope, the time required each evening to prepare the hill for unsupervised overnight use and the time required each morning to reset the site for the day’s construction work.

Mr. Cunningham made a number of points at the meeting and heard many questions and comments from an estimated 70 attending residents. These points were reviewed again at a later session at Council Offices on February 21 by the Project Engineer, Mr. Barry Osmond. He went over them with me for this article to help present them clearly and accurately so as to inform residents. The main points are:

- Traffic on Macs Reef Road now exceeds 4,000 movements per day, making it Palerang’s busiest road, even busier than the Kings Highway.

- The section to be upgraded, from just west of the tip entrance to just east of Newington Road, is badly in need of this major upgrade.

- The upgrade will require a very significant funding package - now set at \$1.132 million, put together from about 5 different buckets of money, including use of all of the year’s NSW annual funding to Council for maintaining significant regional roads.

- Many other roads in council area are crying out for work which is overdue in any desirable maintenance program, but money for roads is insufficient to meet such schedules.

- An overtaking lane would push cost to over 2 million dollars, so it has not been included.

- The final plans for Macs Reef Road’s intersections at Newington Road and the Waste Transfer Station and at Bankers Road are still being considered.

- The 6 week closure period is meant to be conservative, making some allowance for weather and other holdups.

Unusually bad weather or other unforeseen problems could cause additional delays in this schedule.

- Closure presently planned to start on Monday April 8 and run thru Saturday, May 18

- This start time for the road closure is chosen because Easter week will have passed and holiday traffic will have ended.

- Significant publicity and signage will warn of the closure and will be maintained while it is in effect.

- During closure school buses will be allowed. This is because rescheduling them would cause considerable inconvenience to families if schedules for 6 buses in the morning and 5 in the afternoon had to be altered and lengthened. The bus company will be in touch with parents about any schedule changes required.

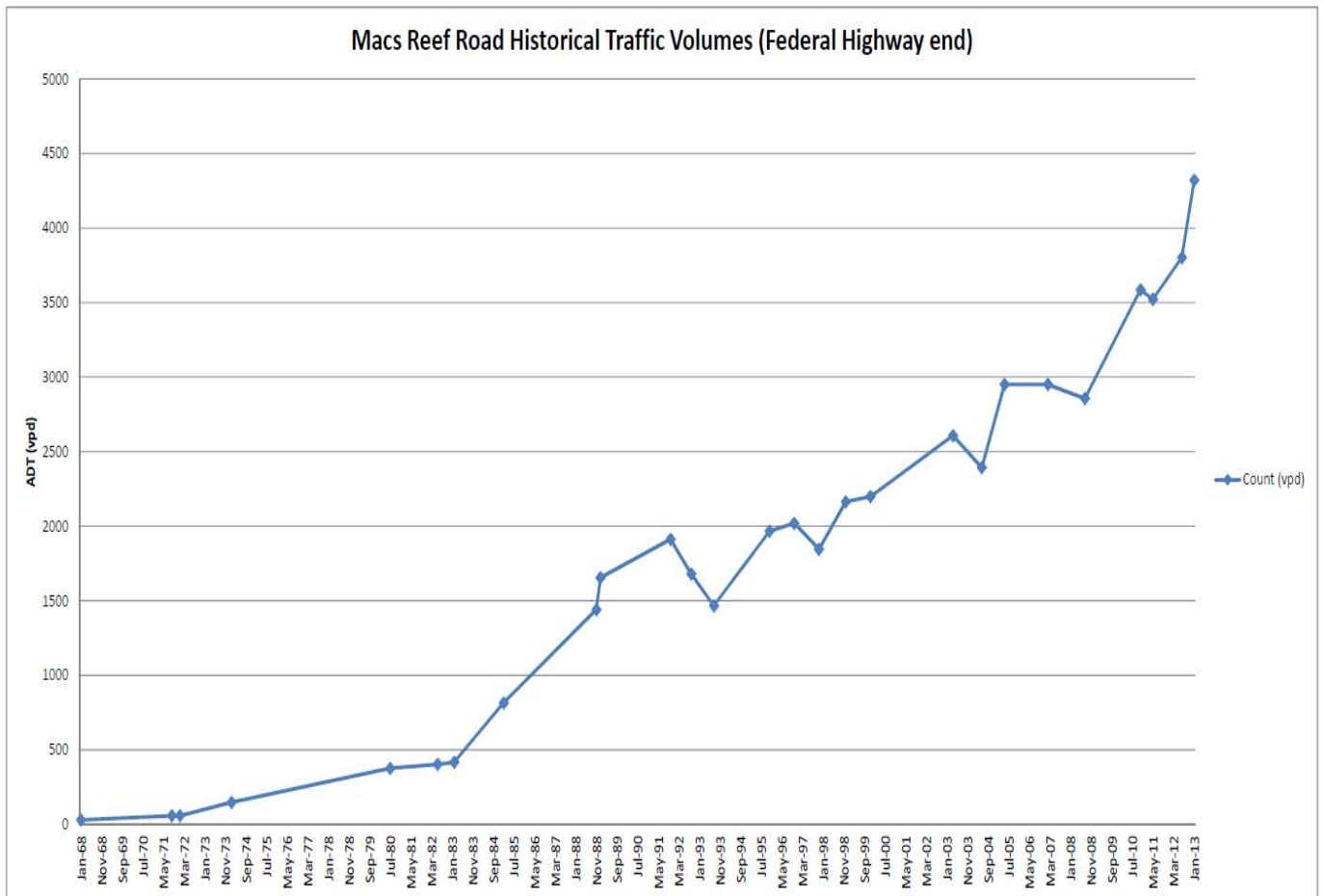
- Residents with driveways in the 2k construction stretch will continue to have access to their homes.

- After the closure period work will continue for a number of weeks, but the road will be open to traffic with traffic control measures as required. During this period extended delays for road users are expected.

Palerang Council, through Mr. Barry Osmond, provided for the benefit of residents the drawings and traffic count graph that accompany this article. (The map below, from Google Maps, shows the section to be upgraded. – Ned Noel)



Traffic movements on the road are now exceeding 4000 per day, with growth over the decades illustrated by this graph from Palerang Council.

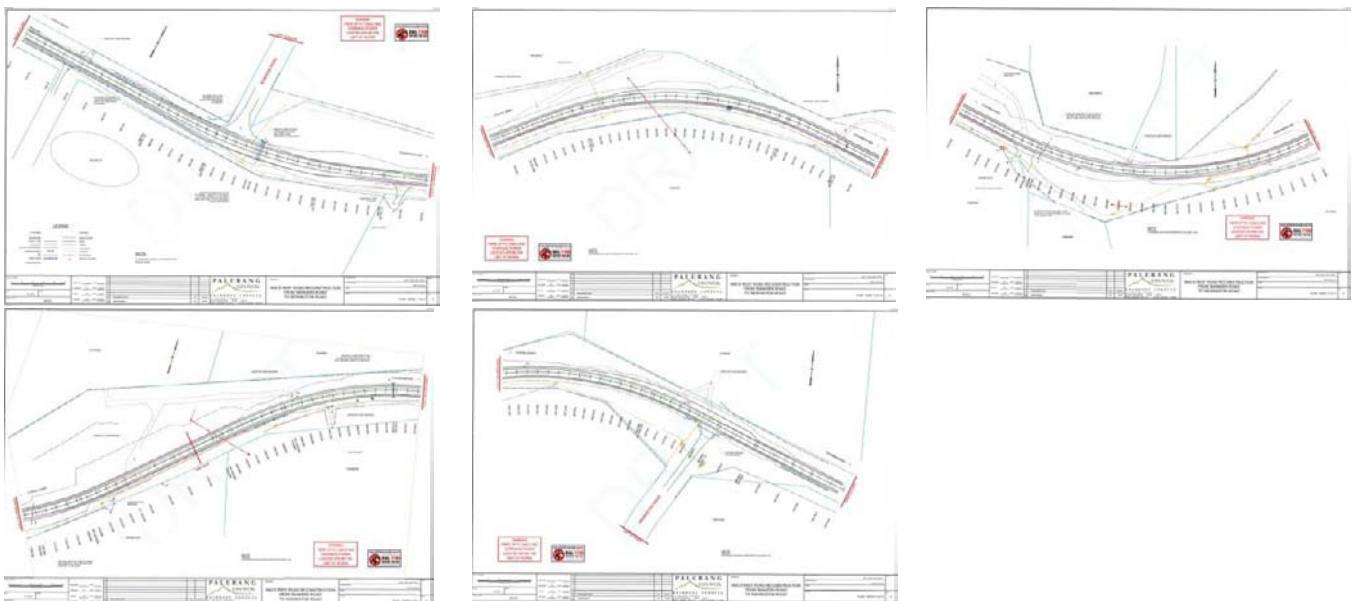


Palerang Council has provided for interested draft engineering drawings of the upgrade for residents. Barry Osmond, the Council Senior Works Engineer who oversaw the provision of this information, did note that these are draft drawings, with some changes likely before they are finalised for the construction that will start at the end of March.

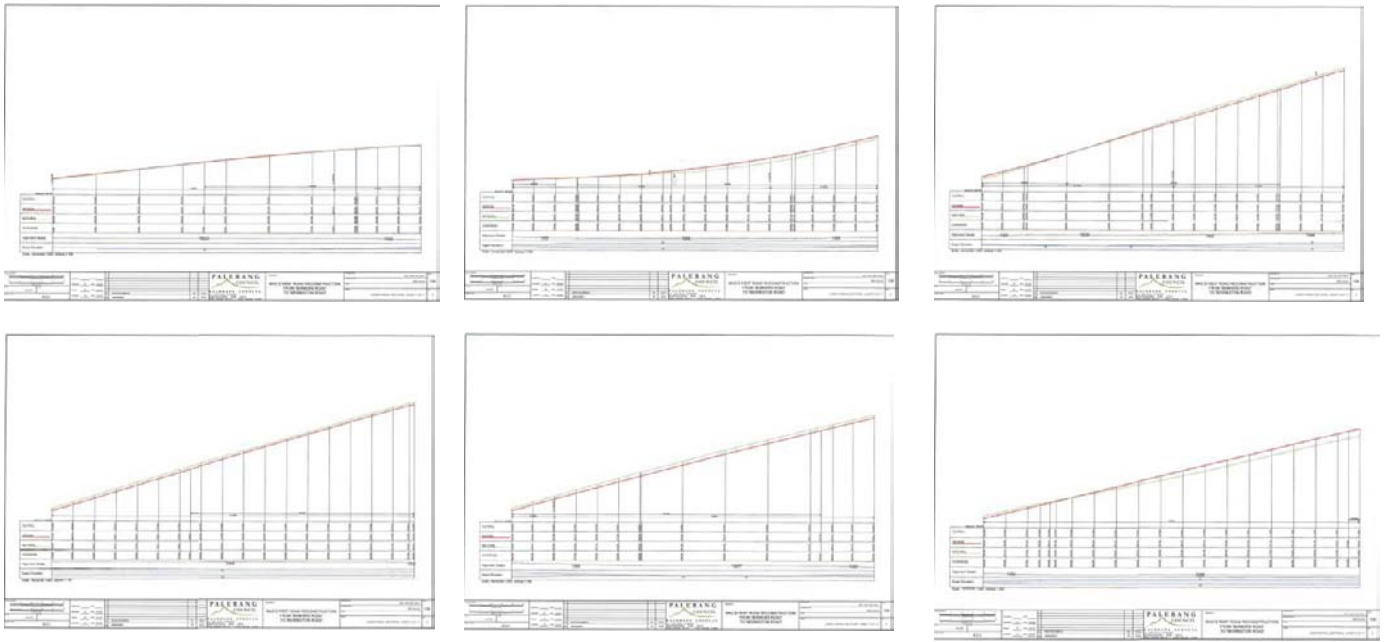
Because there are about 18 of these A3 drawings it seemed too expensive to print them in the Whisper. Instead miniature versions of most of them are shown here. The full size drawings are available at:

<http://www.wamboincommunity.asn.au/thewhisper/content/2013/Macs%20Reef%20Rd%20Draft%20drawings.pdf>

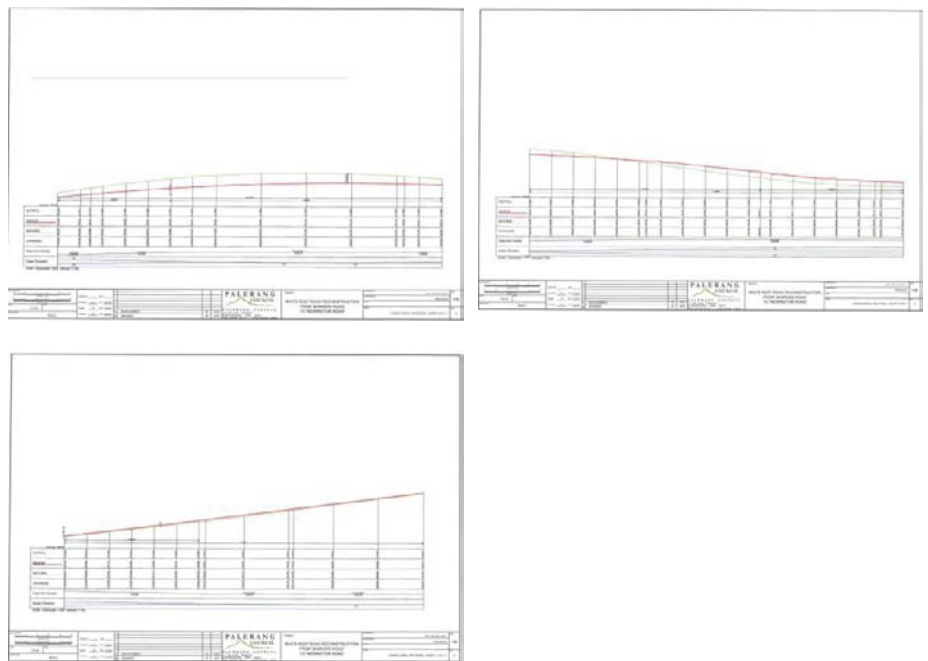
Included are ... Five drawings showing a “from above” view of the upgraded road’s pavement and shoulders:



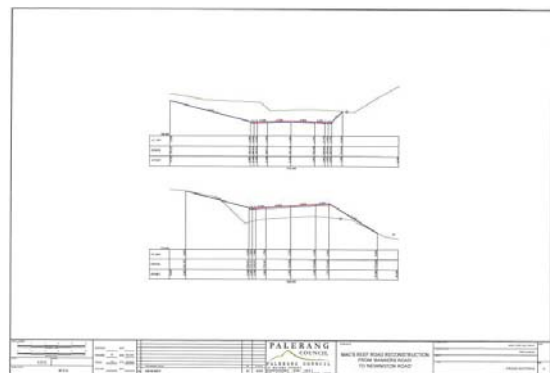
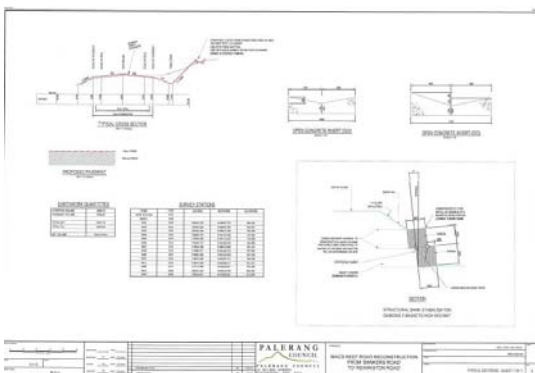
Eleven drawings that show “side views” of the upgrade. It starts about 20 meters west of the tip entrance. It will carry us into and up the steep hill. It will then take us down and up the varying levels between that hill’s crest and past Newton Road, at which point the new work will finish.



Sheet 7, showing the road just below the top of the big hill, is missing at present, but an effort will be made to get it into the online drawing set.



Two other drawings show, respectively, (a) a planned cross section of the road’s surface and a planned gabion wall beside it and (b) two cross sections of the proposed road in areas which have a substantial cut and a substantial fill.



Wamboin Pony Club - February 2013

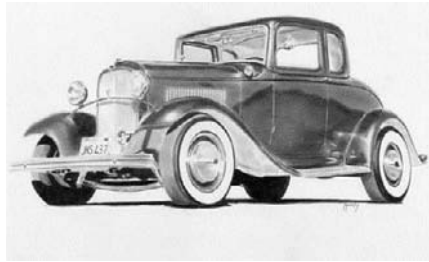
February saw the riders at Wamboin Pony Club get together for 2 Sunday Rally days. The first also had two new riders Matthew and Ben join the group and it's great to have some fresh faces this year. 14 riders spent the day refreshing their show jumping skills and learning some of the practical things you need to know when competing in this event. Our local club has a great mix of experience All young people of varied ages and all with different horse riding skills. This allows the less experienced to gain knowledge from those who have ridden for a longer period. A number of our riders also were able to attend a second rally day in the month on Sunday 24th February. At the Wamboin Pony club we try to do this as often as possible, (many clubs only have one rally day each month) as we feel that many young riders only have Pony Club as their outlet for riding so its worth it trying rally days more often. Our newly surfaced main arena stood up well to the test of many horse hooves pounding the sand and we were especially impressed that the rain showers during our most recent day didn't have an effect on the riding surface. As usual there was a great hot lunch served at our canteen for hungry riders.

So if you have access to your own horse and are aged from 5-25 come along and enjoy the company of other riders and see what Wamboin Pony Club has to offer. Rally days are a great social day out. Our club has dedicated volunteer instructors who will not only help your riding improve but make the day enjoyable. Wamboin Pony club usually meet's twice a month on Sunday's at our grounds at the end of Canning Close. Next rally day is Sunday 10th March so if you are interested come along and see all that Pony Club can offer. We would love to have some more riders join our local club. For information about Wamboin Pony Club and our upcoming rally days contact our club secretary Jenni on 62383313 or go to our website: www.wamboin.pcansw.org.au for information. - We hope we will see you soon. - **Steve Quick**



Above: Riders at our recent rally days

Wheels of Wamboin



Bring your beauty down for a display of unique, interesting and all things automotive.

Gold coin entry – swap tables \$5

Saturday 20th April 2013

9.00am to 1.00pm

(in conjunction with Home Produce Markets)

Wamboin Hall - Bingley Way

Wamboin

The first Wheels of Wamboin is drawing closer. Please bring down your old or new car, bike, truck, tractor or engine so a good old fashion display and natter. Plus the home produce markets will be on to pick up a healthy bargain.

Please email peter.evans@wamboincommunity.asn.au to confirm attendance so we can ensure catering on the day.



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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

As I sit at my desk looking out at a low, dark sky, listening to the soft patter of rain on the metal roof I am glad that I had a sudden rush of blood to the head this morning. I leapt out of bed and through bleary eyes scattered the contents of a long opened bag of lawn seed onto a bare patch of ground that had been troubling me for some time. A friend had confided that her Grandmother, steeped in Nordic myths and legends, had told her as a child that there are "fairies in the rain", and it had rained on and off all night. But it wasn't just the potential fairy magic that had encouraged me.

Over the past few weeks I have noticed a change in the rabbit population. Their behaviour had changed. They appeared both tamer and bolder. Then it dawned on me that they were probably losing their sight, suffering from Myxomatosis. Although I did feel some sympathy for the poor little bunnies, it did also give me hope that finally I might be able to grow some grass. I trust, however, that there are indeed a lot of fairies in this recent rain. Reading the instructions on the packet as I consigned the empty bag to the bin, it occurred to me that perhaps I'd overlooked a few vital steps in my seed sowing preparations and that I may need more than just help from the fairies. Hopefully the seeds can't read, and come from hardy, agricultural stock as well!

My vegetable garden hasn't happened this summer, but I have valued the fruits of other gardens. Last week at our market I bought magnificent capsicums, tomatoes, beetroot, apples and rhubarb, and a beautiful bunch of basil which put my few spindly plants to shame. But our ducks and chooks have started producing again, and suddenly I am into my recipe books looking for anything that needs a lot of eggs. Although I'm a "bit of this and a bit of that" type of cook, and rarely follow instructions to the letter, I love recipe books. Recipe books acquire a certain patina; like good wine they improve with age.

The best and most loved recipes are usually hidden between two glued together pages. There are smudges and spills, notes scribbled in the margins, measurements crossed out, bits added and countless scraps of paper tucked between the leaves with instructions in different hands; neat, flamboyant, hurried, cryptic. I claimed my mother's crumbling recipe books when she'd forgotten how to use them, and found a treasure of social and culinary history. There were names of aunts, cousins and friends attached to recipes, dishes and food that evoked memories of childhood parties and celebrations, references to cuts of meat no longer seen in supermarkets and handy hints that read like a foreign language. My mother would find a modern recipe book equally confusing! It made me stop and think, however, when a young friend said she got her recipes only from the internet. In a flash there was the recipe she wanted, and in a flash it was gone. Sometimes I use the internet for a quick recipe, but what a difference to thumbing through a falling apart book!

And as the gossamer like rain changes to a steady drumming on the roof, I am starting to fear for those fairies. Perhaps, like the lawn seeds, they'll end up floating away in the creek and someone downstream, like magic, will score a lawn.....but I wouldn't live anywhere else!

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