Wamboin Whisper, November 2026
Circulation 1,387

The Whisper

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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-Bngndr 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	Contact Person		wamboinpcsecretary@gmail.com
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Greenways Mgmt Committee	Kathy Handel	0447 289 638	khandel@bigpond.net.au
Wonderful Women of Wamboin	Merle Ketley		Wonderfulwomenofwamboin@gmail.com
Wamboin Crown Reserve	Friends of WCR	0407 760 083	friendswcr@gmail.com

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

Contributions to the Whisper: Contributions from all residents are encouraged, valued and the main content of the newsletter. The current editor is Ned Noel, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 0409 997 082. Paul Downey of Cooper Road also shares the editing. Please email contributions to nednoel@optusnet.com.au or mail them or drop them off. On contentious matters the Wamboin Community Association will strive to maintain a balanced view, by seeking advice from the editorial team and by seeking alternative views to be published in the same edition. **The deadline for each issue is the last Sunday night of the month before**. There is, by tradition, no January Whisper, mainly to give all its volunteer workers a rest. The **deadline for the December 2026 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, November 29, 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

Important Notice: QPRC Council Community Meeting for Bywong and Wamboin Wamboin Hall 112 Bingley Way, Tuesday 17 November, 7:30pm

Members of Council will be on site to answer community questions and take inquiries on Council and community matters. The goal of this meeting is to hear from locals from Wamboin and Bywong and gain a thorough understanding of what these communities are currently prioritising or have questions about. There is no set agenda for this meeting, but items that have already been raised include: - **Council's proposed removal of the rural recycling station at the Wamboin Hall.**
- **Council's proposed improvements to the waste voucher system.- Proposed 350 Wirreanda Road development plan.**
Any additional items are welcome at this meeting, and community attendance is highly encouraged. Complimentary coffee, tea and light snacks will be provided courtesy of the Wamboin Community Association.

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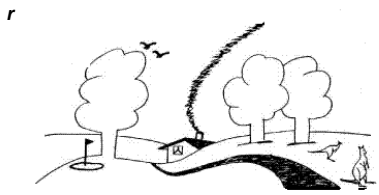
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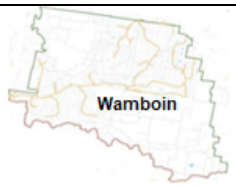
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Wamboin Community Association President'sNotes



Where did the year go? Its already November and some of us are already gearing up for Christmas.

1. **Community Christmas Carols Night.** Already I'm being asked *"are the Carols on this year?"* I can answer that **yes** its definitely **on** in fact it's closer than you think – the annual Wamboin Community Carols Night will be held on **Friday 4th December beginning at 7 pm sharp**. This is a non-denominational event to herald in the Christmas season. It will be held at the Community Hall (Bingley Way). Once again we have our musicians Poetry In Motion to help us sing carols, and the Sutton School choir will give a performance. The Christmas Play will be performed and there will be a sausage sizzle, cold drinks and fruit platters available afterwards for a **gold coin donation**. As always in Wamboin this is a *cash only event* so bring your gold coins because its all in a good cause as the money goes directly to the Salvation Army who will also be there that night. Entry to the event is a gift under our tree for someone less fortunate for the Salvation Army to collect and distribute – please see the adverts further on in the Whisper. Oh and yes Santa *will* be there, arriving on a firetruck to hand out gifts to all the children. So come and be a part of this special event. Its a great way to begin the Christmas season. Any questions about the event or the Play please contact me **Jenny Richards on 0490020165.** Hope to see as many of you as possible there especially those with younger children. Its a great way to kick off the Christmas season with a truly Wamboin Christmas.
2. **Christmas Mail Box or Entrance Decoration Competition.** Once again Gail Ritchie-Knight will be running the Xmas mailbox or entrance decoration event. Gail will have information regarding this event further in this edition of the Whisper especially about when entries close (and the intrepid 3 judges set out to judge. Believe me its harder than you think) and prizes will be awarded at our Christmas Market on 19th December. The prizes are great so please think about entering.
3. **Council Meeting at Wamboin Hall.** But before any of the exciting Christmas stuff begins QPRC have asked if they can meet with us for an informal get together on **Tuesday 17th November at 7:30 pm.** This is an excellent way for residents to talk with local Council about issues that may be affecting you. There may be questions that you wish to raise about recycling; vouchers for Bungendore tip; local developments; roads and their upkeep; etc. Please come along to this meeting and have your views aired and discussed. Naturally tea, coffee and cakes will be served .
4. **Well that's all for me.** Hope to see many of you at the Council Meet and Greet in November and at our Carols Night on the 4th December. - ***Jenny Richards – President.***

WAMBOIN COMMUNITY CAROLS NIGHT

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

The night features carol singing ably supported by local music group Poetry in Motion; the telling of the Christmas story (in its rather unique style); a performance by Sutton School Choir; a BBQ (gold coin donation which also goes to the Salvo's); fresh fruit trays; drinks; (once again gold coin donation) and of course the arrival of Santa to distribute gift bags to the children. The date for this extravaganza is **4th December 2026 at 7:00 pm sharp** at the Community Hall in Bingley Way. So please come along and enjoy yourselves.

Organizing the Xmas Play is always a special event for me. The children love to take part and dress up and they always bring their own interpretation to a very old story. Its often funny, always exciting and definitely worth it. If you would like your child to take part in the play please ring me **Jenny Richards** on **0490020165;** we can always use little angels, little sheep and little shepherds. Some costumes are supplied but if you can supply one for your child that would be great. Hope to see many of you there.

Jenny Richards

WAMBOIN COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Friday, December 4th 2026 @ 7:00pm

At Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way

Everyone is invited to come along and:



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



Experience the Christmas Story, as presented by the local children of Wamboin and surrounding area



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



Say Hi to Santa when he arrives on his special transport, a Fire Truck with a small gift for the little ones



Enjoy the traditional sausage sizzle or fruit platter (There will be a donation box with all proceeds to be given to the Salvos)



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Bywong Community
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Bringing Bywong Together

Well, it's another year coming towards the end of spring and into summer time.

We've got some of our Christmas things that are coming up soon.

On the weekend we were down at the Bungendore show and ran into many locals and got to see quite a few things put on but the local communities.This has offered time to Pause and think about what the Bywong Community might be wanting from the Community association.

As many of you will know we have the much-loved car boot sale, and some other events throughout the year.

The Bywong Community Association also likes to team up with other groups to get a greater effect.

Each year, for example, around Christmas time we help with prizes and judging for the Christmas Letter box and driveway competition, and we have had some fantastic results. This Competition is a terrific way to dress up your driveway or letterbox with community spirit, for those who like to look around, It is an enjoyable way to see bits around your community.

We are also getting ready for our Christmas drinks on the second Saturday of December

However, importantly this year we've have held several events, and we want to look back and see what you, the community, are looking for from your community association.

As such are holding a survey. We hope this will help us understand what people would like from us as the Community Association.We have a few questions about demographics and some about what it is that you would like for us to be doing. We would love your input on that so please click on the QR code just at the bottom and go to the survey. It will take you inside of five minutes to do it. It can be done on your phone and just to give us some simple ideas of what you all want. We will report back on this at the December edition so let us know what you think.This is really going be helpful for us to find out what the Bywong Community wants. Follow the QR code... get on it .!!! - **Justin Jarvis, President Bywong Community association.**

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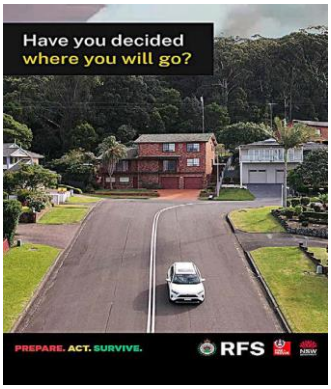
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FOR ALL EMERGENCY CALLS

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PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

A bushfire plan needs a trigger!



A message from the Captains of Boro/Mt Fairy, Bungendore, Hoskingtown-Rossi, Mulloon and Wamboin Rural Fire Brigades

Many people living in bush fire-prone areas will tell you they have a bush fire survival plan. They know they would leave rather than stay and defend. They have thought about where they might go, what they would take and how they would move their pets or livestock. But there is one question that can reveal a dangerous gap in even the best-intentioned plan: What, exactly, will trigger you to leave? It sounds simple, but 'we'll leave if it gets bad' is not a trigger. Neither is 'we'll see what happens' or 'we'll wait until someone tells us to go'. By the time a fire looks or feels dangerous, leaving may already be difficult - or no longer safe. Bush fires can move quickly, and conditions can change with little warning. Smoke can reduce visibility, fallen trees may block roads, power and phone services can fail, and the route you planned to use may no longer be available. An official warning is important information, but it should not be the only thing standing between your household and action. Warnings may not arrive as early as you expect, and a fire can escalate faster than warnings can be issued. That is why your decision needs to be made before there is smoke in the air.

Choose your trigger now. A trigger is a clear, pre-agreed point at which your household stops considering its options and puts the plan into action. Your trigger might be:

• an Extreme or Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating;
• a Total Fire Ban combined with forecast hot, dry and windy conditions;
• a fire starting within a particular area;
• the fire reaching a location, road or landmark you have identified in advance;
• receiving a particular warning level; or advice from the NSW Rural Fire Service or another emergency service to leave.

The right trigger will depend on your household, your property and where you live. However, it must give you enough time to leave safely. Households with young children, older people, someone with a disability or medical needs, or pets and livestock may need to act much earlier. Moving horses, loading animals, collecting medications or helping someone with limited mobility takes time - usually more time than we imagine when making plans on an ordinary day.

Make the decision specific. Sit down with everyone in your household and finish this sentence:

"We will leave when..." Then make the rest of the plan equally clear:

• Who makes the final call? • Where will you go? • Which route will you take? • What is your alternative route? • What will you take? • Who will collect children or other family members? • How will you move your animals? • Who needs to know that you have left? • What will you do if some household members are away?

Write the answers down and make sure everyone understands them. If different members of the household have different ideas about when to leave, resolve that now - not while a fire is approaching.

"Hazards Near Me NSW" is an important tool for monitoring fires and warnings, but downloading the app is not the same as making a plan. Set a watch zone around your home and other important locations, understand the warning levels and check information from more than one reliable source. Make sure more than one household member has Hazards Near Me NSW installed, with watch zones covering your home, workplaces, schools and anywhere animals are kept. Agree on how you will contact one another and where you will meet if you are separated when the plan is activated. You can create or review your household plan at myfireplan.com.au Most importantly, decide what information will cause you to act. A bush fire survival plan should remove decisions from the most stressful part of an emergency. It should tell you what to do while you still have time, visibility and safe roads. Having a destination, a packed bag and a plan for the pets is valuable - but only if you have also decided when to begin. A plan tells you what you will do. A trigger makes sure you do it in time. From your local Captains: Noel - Boro/Mt Fairy Rural Fire Brigade, Sandi - Bungendore Rural Fire Brigade, Andrew - Hoskingtown-Rossi Rural Fire Brigade, Mark - Mulloon Rural Fire Brigade & Matt - Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade. 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)

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September Golf

(Accidentally omitted last month by me – editor)

Sunday, 6 September ’26 was a great Spring Day and 12 golfers played in an Ambrose Event. Joan, Lofty and Scott Mason sponsored the day with a highlight being Joan’s Spring Rolls. Ambrose Golf is a team format where both players hit off and then select the best shot after each stroke. Both players play from this position. A modified team handicap is subtracted from their gross score. The strategy of the game is who hits off first. Sound complicated? Don’t worry all the players have to do is enter their score and the starter does the rest.

Two teams contested the nine with Pete and Steve Harrison (38/27.8) taking out first from Rob Gorham/Craig Purdham (37/31.3). Four teams played the 18 with Tim Barter/Vicki Still (66/59.8) coming first with Glen Crafter/ Paul Griffin second (67/60.2).

The encouragement award went to Maisie McKerchar who teamed with her father Angus. We welcome them as new Wamboin residents and players.

The first Sunday in October Barb, Pete and Stephen Harrison are sponsoring the event (what else but Octoberfest) with signing in at the Hall at1215. (Don’t forget to turn your clocks **forward** to DST).
Lofty Mason.
PS. Is there any truth in the rumour that POTUS is renaming Canadian Geese: Donald Ducks?



Below: An email sent to the WCA Website

From: "Burak Er" <hello@jigsaway.com>
Subject: For the Wamboin Social Group page
Date: 19 October 2026 at 06:38:58 AEDT
To: <webmaster@wamboincommunity.asn.au>
Reply-To: <hello@jigsaway.com>

Hello,
The contact page says to write to the webmaster with contributions, so here goes. I enjoyed reading about the Thursday drop-in group at the Wamboin Community Hall, with scrabble, cards, rummikub and triominoes over a cuppa, and the mobile library calling in every fortnight.
For anyone in the group who likes a jigsaw at home between Thursdays, I've built Jigsaway, a jigsaw site you use straight from a web browser, without signing up and without adverts. Its seniors page has bigger pieces, clear pictures and no timer: https://jigsaway.com/puzzles/jigsaw-puzzles-for-seniors
If it fits on the Social Group page, or as a line in The Whisper, I'd be really pleased. And if it doesn't suit, no worries at all.
Thanks for keeping such a thorough community site going,
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Golf Report – October 2026

Sunday 4 October saw 7 players front the starter for the Octoberfest Wamboin Golf competition.
The sponsors this month were Pete, Barb and Steve Harrison. We thank them for the prizes and refreshments. Pete declared the event would be 'Stableford' and the captain had the trusty computer ready to do the calculations.
The nine-hole competition was played using the Western course this month, and as usual the holes were in great condition despite the heavy rain on the day before. Craig P (19 points) took out the competition on countback from Rob G (19 points).
Unfortunately, due to sponsors not being eligible for prizes Pete (21 points) missed out on taking out the win, but will be rewarded with a handicap reduction for next month's Open championship. Unusually good scoring given that some years the games leading up to the Open appear to display signs of handicap maintenance!!
The 18-hole competition was taken out by Scott M (41 points) from Paul G (37 points).
Ball winners for longest drives and nearest the pins were shared equally between Rob, Craig, Paul and Scott. Each won two of the holes.

The googly ball was awarded without challenge to Pete who had to adjust his stance on Lambert's Leap due to the presence of a coiled snake, which led to the dummy spit being awarded to Larry for his request for minute details of the incident.

Next month, the November event will be the Wamboin Open, sponsored by the golf club. We hope you can join us at the community hall at 12.15pm on Sunday, 1 November for the usual 12.30pm start.

– **Ken Gordon**

-+



Yoga in Sutton



It feels so good!

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How the Whisper Gets Into Your Mailbox Each Month

Without the month by month donation of time by these 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 respect the residents listed below, as they do what they do in order to make this place a little bit friendlier and more sociable. Note also that 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 REIBER: ph 0400 976 596					
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
185: 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+wWrrndra)	21	Phil Leeson&C Fogarty	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	27
Alison Evans	East Wirreanda	10			
129: CO-ORDINATED BY RICHARD KREGE: r_krege@iimetro.com.au					
Deb Gordon	871 – 1023 Norton	45	Lesley Page	Valley View Ln	5
Jules Clancey	1115 – 1240 Norton Rd	35	Dominica Lorimer	1241 to North End of Norton Rd	44
105---------- CO-ORDINATED BY BRYAN CLARK: bryantclark@bigponmd.com					
Bryan Clark	Clare Ln	13	Colleen Foster	BdoreRd BtwnJoRocks&NortnRd	25
Lyle Montesin	The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks	67			
211: 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	25	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 chrisft1@pcug.org.au					
Chris Fowler	Millynn Rd	21	David Featherston	B'doreRd SmHill to&ncldgCrkBRd	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
261 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&BrichmansFrnSarah2End	12
Volunteer hoped for	Summerhill & MacRf 1140-1187)	20	Diana Griffin	Majors Close	19
Volunteer hoped for	B'dore Rd (MacsRf to 1150)	20	Nina Kolleth	Kestrel Place	8
Diana Boswell	Donnelly Rd 29 & Grove Rd 8	36	Advertisers & Misc	Out of area advertiser mailouts	23
TOTAL 1,387					





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WAMBOIN WEATHER – rainfall and temperature records

(51 years from Cooper Road) by Christine Rieber

October Rainfall Stats		Average October rainfall.....	60.5mm
October rainfall to the 25th	86.25mm	2025 October rainfall.....	30.75mm
2026 total rainfall to 25/10	567.0mm	2025 total rainfall to 25/10.....	489.0mm
		50yr Av. to end of October.....	558.7mm
November Rainfall Stats			
2025 November rainfall.....	34.25mm	Average November rainfall.....	78.9mm
Wettest November.....	200.0mm in 2021	Average no. rain days in November...	9.5
Wettest day.....	77mm on 19/11/86	Highest no. rain days.....	19 in 1992
Driest November.....	0mm in 1982	Lowest no. rain days.....	0 in 1982
November Temperature Stats		2025 November minimum.....	-1.1ºC
2025 November maximum.....	30.0ºC	Av. Nov temp...	16.2ºC (day+night comb.)
Hottest November day...	39ºC (2 times) on 27/11/97 & 21/11/19	Coldest November day.....	9ºC (2 times) on 11 & 12/11/13
Hottest November night....	22ºC 26/11/02	Coldest Nov. night.....	-1ºC (2 times) on 1/11/16 & 12/11/25
Average day (max.) temperature....	22.4ºC	Average night (min.) temperature..	10.0ºC
Warmest November	1982 and 2009	Coldest November	1992
82 (Av. day temp. 26.8ºC & night 12.5ºC)		Av. day temp. 18.8ºC & night 8.5ºC	
09 (Av. day temp. 26.2ºC & night 12.7ºC)		(lowest 6.5ºC in 13)	
Nov. 2025. Av. max 23.4ºC & min 8.1ºC			

During November the daylight length increases by about 45 minutes from 13 hours and 27 minutes to 14 hours and 12 minutes.

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What the Heck #51

Local Anglican Church services began in 1985 and since that first service there have been almost 1000 occasions when a worship service has been held in Wamboin. (There would have been a few more had not the coronavirus caused disruption to gatherings.) In addition to these services there have been around 60 baptisms, 8 weddings and 10 funerals. The largest congregation at a worship service was 52 in September '92 however there have been several larger attendances at the other services. Generally numbers in the congregation are larger for Easter and Christmas services, seventy plus being common. The service held in the new church building on Christmas Eve '97 was attended by 160.

The figures for services at Sutton are not easily accessible, but I suspect that on many occasions in its early life, St Peters would have been filled with a congregation of around 70 or more; back in the early 20th century most people attended church services. If we assume there were two services every month plus special occasion services such as Easter and Christmas that would mean there has been at least 3000 services in its 100+ year life. I cannot quote the exact numbers for weddings, baptisms and funerals, but I know of a couple of very large funerals in recent years. Maybe some local residents can have a think about it and provide some information.

Apart from services, the church facilities are used for other activities. In 2009 St Andrew's held a Nativity Pageant in the grounds, with parishioners playing the roles of the humans, along with live animals including sheep, alpaca and donkeys. These pageants regularly attracted an audience of around 200 local people and continued each Christmas Eve for 9 years. The Pageant was discontinued due to the difficulty in finding enough 'actors' to play the parts. Finding youngsters to be Angels and Shepherds was not too difficult, but locating a baby to play Jesus involved begging parents-to-be from March onwards. Added to this was the difficulty twisting arms for a Joseph and an Innkeeper, and for a Mary prepared to ride a donkey whilst padded out with cushions, provided we could first locate a donkey. Sheep were not always co-operative for the shepherds, cattle and horses would not stay in the 'barn', and camels are very scarce in this area. There were plenty of offers of cats and dogs, however these do not figure prominently in the nativity story.

But the hardest part was locating three wise men. Had it been three wise women, we may have had better luck. – **Alan Rope**

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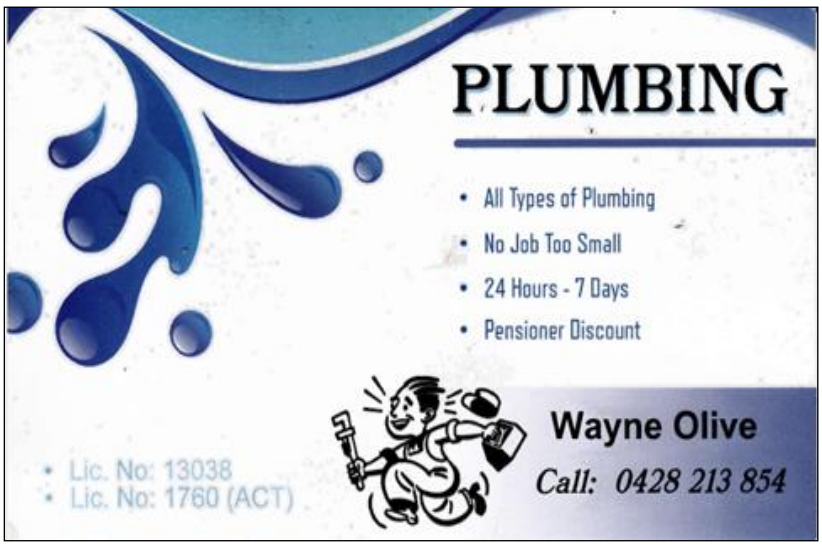
The Wonderful Women of Wamboin

We were so pleased to have so many present at our recent 20th birthday party: WWOWs and BOWWOWs (Boyfriends of the wonderful women of Wamboin such that we might even celebrate in another 20 years!

We continue to meet once a week sharing stories of what's happening in our lives. It's always pleasant on Mondays, even somewhat raucous at times as we recount stories of what we got up to decades ago. Not surprising as we are a group of various ages, some of us even from the Swinging 60s!

So if you have time between 10am and 12 noon, drop-in for a cuppa at the Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way on Mondays except the last Monday of the month when we go out for lunch. We would love to see you. Contact: Gail on 0416097500 or Merle via email wonderful women of wamboin@gmail.com.

***Photo**:* Lawrie and Mario, two of our favourite BOWWOWs in deep conversation at our 20th birthday party. – **Gail Ritchie Knight**









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A

Bustling Spring Season with Wildcare!

Spring arrived early this year, meaning an early breeding season for many of our precious native birds. This is a critical time for our native birdlife as they raise their young - and understanding them can make a big difference.

Finding a baby bird on the ground is a common occurrence during Spring - but leaving them there could do more damage than good. In many cases the bird may have injuries or be too young to be out of the nest. Even when parents are feeding a baby on the ground, in the evening they will fly off to roost leaving the baby vulnerable to predators and weather. If the bird is very young with only sparse feathers, and you are *certain* it is not injured, you may be able to place it gently back in the nest if you can safely reach it. Please do not handle birds that are exhibiting signs of H5N1 avian influenza. If you need assistance or advice with a bird, please call out 24/7 **Wildcare Helpline on 6299 1966**.



Wildcare volunteers are continuing to rescue native birds and is liaising closely with Dept of Primary Industries and DCCEEW to ensure the correct protocols are followed as we monitor the development of H5N1 avian influenza.

Upcoming Events: All our events, including registration, can be found on our website at **Wildcare.com.au**.

Snake Rescue Course: 14 / 15 November - Murrumbateman Recreational Grounds 28 / 29 November, 12 / 13 December – Burra Community Hall

Monitor Rescue and Rehabilitation: 21 November - Queanbeyan Girl Guide Hall

Euthanasia-by-Firearm: 28 November – Jerrabomberra Community Hall

2027 Wildcare Calendar: Our much-loved Wildcare calendar returns for another year. The calendar includes 12 full size images of animals a Wildcare volunteer has rescued or rehabilitated. If you are a local business or would like to help distribute them this year, please get in touch at calendars@wildcare.com.au.

As a registered charity, every donation made to Wildcare goes directly toward helping native animals in need. Whether you choose to make a one-off contribution or set up a recurring monthly donation, every dollar helps keep our volunteers equipped and gives sick, injured and orphaned native animals a fighting chance. All donations to Wildcare are tax-deductible. Head to **wildcare.com.au/donate** for more information. – **Krystal Hemsworth, Communications Coordinator**

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More exciting clinics coming in the new year so watch this space!!

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Wamboin Home Produce and Craft Market

Saturday 21 November 2026 9-12md

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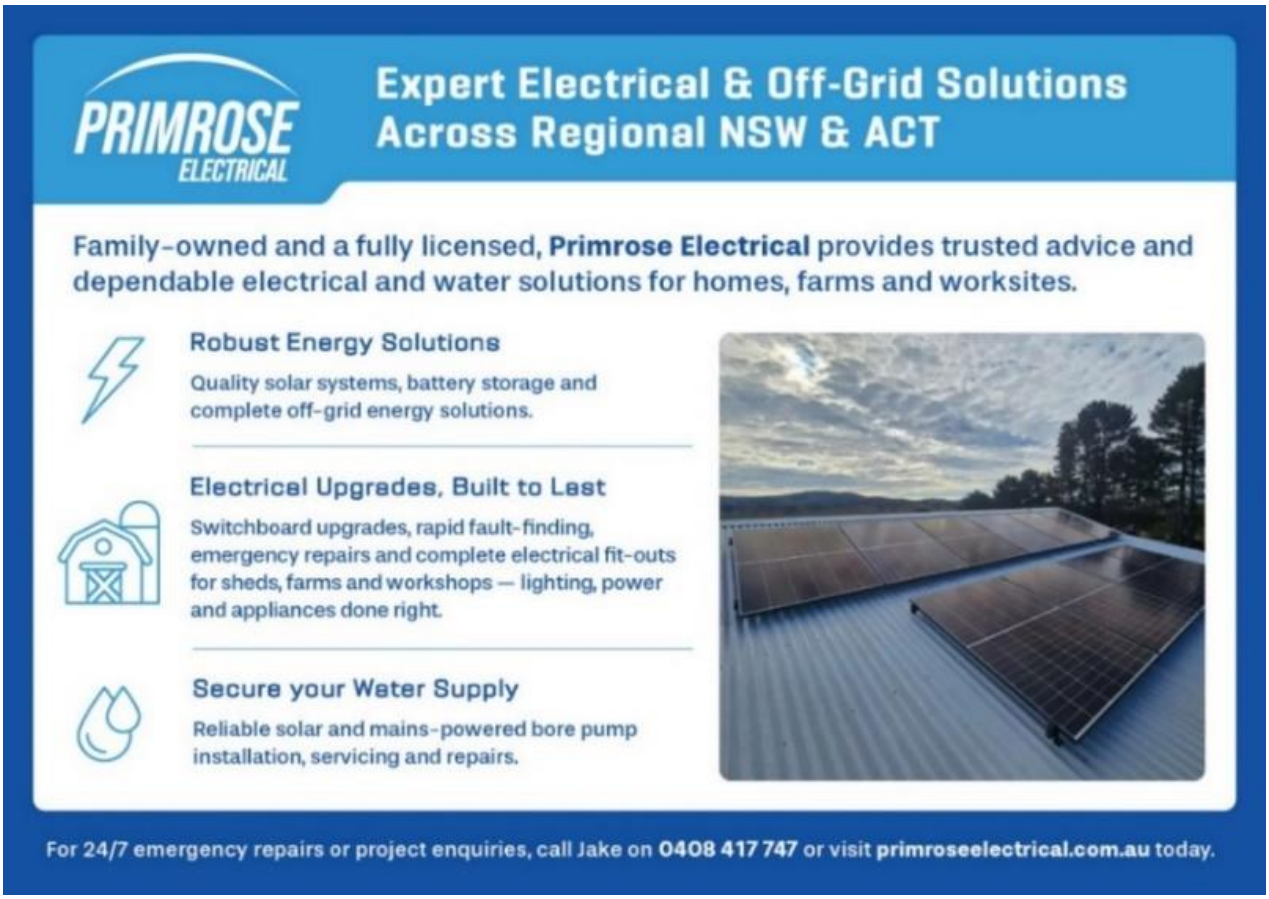
We had a splendid market on 17 October! Despite competing with several other markets and the Murrumbateman field days we had an excellent turn up. The hall was full - I am finding it increasingly hard to squeeze everyone in! We combined the market with a small art and photography exhibition as part of the QPRC Arts Trail. There was also plenty of art and craft on sale from our market stall holders. After a flurry of activity on Friday, borrowing display boards from the Community Bank Braidwood and spending several hours hanging art and photography, we had it organised!

I was asked to try and keep a rough head count of visitors on the day and Im so pleased to report that we definitely had 80 visitors to the 'gallery' - maybe more! A big thank you to the artists and photographers who helped set up and contributed their work to the exhibition. I have attached some photos - best seen of course on line - as they will be in colour there!



Market stall holders did well this month too selling mix of craft, produce and plants.
Please come along to the November and then the Christmas markets to show your support for our local market.

See you at the November market!







The 2026 Christmas Decorating Competition

Two prizes: Best mailbox
Best entrance

Send one photo of your creation, with your name, address and phone number to:

WWOW.XmasDecoratingComp@gmail.com

Deadline:
8pm Wednesday 15 December

Winners announced at: 10.30am Wamboin Markets 19 December

Two prize hampers funded by both Bywong and Wamboin Community Associations plus two vouchers to the value of $50 from the Community Bank, Bungendore in support of local businesses.



Wamboin Social Group

The Thursday Social Group celebrated its 10th birthday on 22 October 2026 with a morning tea and cutting of a cake. A number of people who had previously attended the group were present and there was a general discussion about the "old days". Thank you to those people who attended, to those who worked hard to get the group off the ground and to Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council who assist the group financially with venue hire of the Wamboin Hall.

The photo depicts (from left to right) Larry Evans, Jo Walker, Denise Hales and Pam Musten with her two grandchildren.

If you are not busy on a Thursday morning between 10 – 12 noon, then come along and see what you think. 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 5 November and 19 November 2026 (10.30-11.30 am) Regards, **-Narelle Pumphrey**

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Kowen Kapers - *Argyle* homestead



From the Coppins' *Cohen* homestead, we now retrace our steps south. At the River Road intersection we head east for just 20 metres arriving at a road heading down to the river. After crossing a ford in the Molonglo River, which I like to call Coppin's Other Crossing, we follow the road up a steep bank. At the top of the bank, you will find the last vestiges of Luke Colverwell Jnr's *Argyle* homestead. All that remains is a fireplace and a rubble pile that was once an outdoor bread oven. In their 1990 cultural survey, Bulbeck and Boot identified several post hole depressions indicating that the main building was of wood construction, measuring 11.5 by 6 metres in size. They also found evidence of a separate building 14 metres to the west of the home. The depressions have since been obscured beneath a jungle of Kunzea, but the fireplace and bread oven remain.

Born in 1841, Luke Jnr was the only son of the first permanent European residents of Kowen, Luke Snr and Mary Colverwell. As well as working his father's two stations, Luke also worked on properties owned by Queanbeyan entrepreneur John Wright and on the Campbell family's *Duntroon* estate. But Luke's ambitions extended beyond working for others. In 1874, Luke married Maria Sophia Smith of Creekborough in Bywong and began selecting property. Initially, Luke focused his efforts on consolidating his father's *Burbong* station. But from 1877 onwards Luke went on a selection spree, conditionally purchasing and leasing portion after portion. Within Kowen, this included the purchase of eventually all the portions within Kowen south of the Molonglo which he called *Argyle* station. In fact, the road which circumambulates the area is named Colverwell's Boundary Road. By 1885, Luke had 1,353 acres of freehold land with properties in Burbong, Reedy Creek, Kowen and Bungendore. In addition, Luke also had significant leasehold land. In July 1893, for instance, Luke leased an additional 4,920 acres in Amungula Parish alone.

In the long run, Luke's avaricious appetite for property was the undoing of *Argyle* station. On 16 April 1896 Luke died suddenly after a short illness, aged only 54. As rents and mortgage payments came due, Luke's estate was forced to sell more and more portions. Interestingly, the executor that Luke appointed to administer his will was Frederick Campbell of *Yarralumla.* As a result, Campbell was able to purchase most of Luke's *Argyle* property. By 1908, only one 40-acre portion remained outside of Campbell's ownership. It was owned by Luke's wife, Maria.

For 31 years following Luke's death, Maria took it upon herself to rebuild the Colverwell family's possessions. *Argyle s*tation's fortunes turned again with the departure of Frederick Campbell from the district, following resumption of *Yarralumla* by the Commonwealth in 1913. Maria managed to regain control of *Argyle s*tation in its entirety. Her success, however, was short-lived with the Commonwealth resuming land in Kowen just two years later. After being unsuccessfully advertised for lease, something quite unusual happened. Somehow Maria convinced the government to allow *Argyle* to retain its freehold status. And so, *Argyle* remained in the Colverwell family's possession through the rest of Maria's lifetime and beyond. *Argyle* station had, in effect, become an island of freehold land, within the sea of leasehold that was the ACT. And the only freehold remaining in the Kowen District.

Maria died on 26 July 1927 at the age of 74. She is buried alongside Luke at Riverview Cemetery in Queanbeyan. The Colverwell family continued to occupy *Argyle*, after Maria's death. And so it remained until 1973, when *Argyle* was finally resumed and transferred to ACT Forests for plantation development. As for the homestead itself, its proximity to the river saved it from being swallowed up by the pines. - **Peter Komidar**

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Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

I chose the Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo for November, an open woodland migrant that has arrived in the region now in spring.

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo (*Chalcites basalis*)

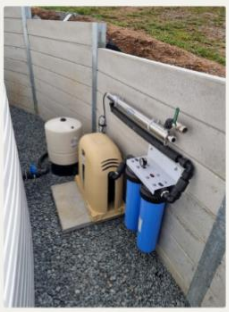
Size: 15-17cm Status: Uncommon summer migrant

The Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo is a small cuckoo, with brownish-green upperparts that have a dull glossy sheen, and white underparts with dark barring that is broken down the centre of the belly. On the face they have a brownish head and a brown ear covert, separated by a white eyebrow. The outer tail feathers are rufous, and the bill and legs are dark. Juvenile birds are duller brownish, with faint to absent barring. Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoos are often first detected by their loud calls, a clear, repeated phrase of descending "tseeeuw" notes, often given from high perch. They also have a high pitched "chirrup" contact call. When not vocal they are rather unobtrusive, foraging low to the ground on insects, especially caterpillars. They have a swift and undulating flight with a pale underwing lining visible. The similar Shining Bronze-Cuckoo tends to be more common locally in my experience though prefers more wooded and forested habitats as opposed to Horsfield's which is a bird of open woodland and farmland areas. Shining Bronze-Cuckoos are a much more vibrant glossy green above, with complete dark barring below, and lacking the dark ear covert and rufous outer tail. The song is also different, a series of faster paced, ascending (not descending) notes. Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoos are more common and present year-round in further inland areas, and arrive in the local region in late August and September when they are most vocal initially, gearing up to breed. They are a nest parasite like other Cuckoos, and lay their single egg in the nest of a small passerine such as a Fairywren, Thornbill or Robin, with the host parents raising their young. They tend to become a lot less frequently encountered later in summer once they are less vocal post-breeding, and depart the region in autumn, heading back inland and north. Make sure to listen and look out for these migrants at the moment as they are most prevalent.



(photo from Google images)





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