



Landcare Update



President: Mick Ryan Ph:4844 5012
 Sec: Shirley Cornish Ph 4844 5101 Fax 4844 5364

The AGM held on the 13th January was very well attended.

New Office Bearers are:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| PRESIDENT: | Mike Ryan |
| VICE- PRESIDENT: | Greg Knights |
| SECRETARY: | Shirley Cornish |
| TREASURER: | John Pearce |
| WORKS MANAGER: | Warren Yates |
| ASSISTANTS: | Merv Cornish, Lloyd Turner, Peter Hudson, Tony Greville |
| STORES MANAGERS: | Albert Stockford and Andrew McMillan |
| MEDIA/PUBLICITY OFFICERS: | Peter & Cynthia Hudson and Secretary. |

Goulburn/Mulwaree Council are erecting signs naming a number of our water courses in the District.

The Landcare Awards Night is to be held on Sat.24th March at the Garanvale Woolshed in Braidwood. Cathy Meehan is attempting to organise a bus to take all interested people to the Venue. Please let Sec. Shirl know if you are interested in attending.

Our Group's next busy-bee will be held on Saturday 3rd February at John & Joy Darragh's property in Willow Glen Rd. The work will involve the removal of a fence to allow the Department to carry out heavy machinery repair work.

Thanks were extended to Allan Chapman for his monthly reading of the peizometers at the Hall and for the Report he sent to the AGM.

PINE TREES: We have submitted an order for 6,000 trees for July 2007 and have been informed that due to the drought and fires, trees will be in short supply. Please put your orders in EARLY to Merv Cornish, as there will not be an extension to our original order (which rose to over 10,000 last year.)

Fees of **\$5.00 per Family** are now due and should be sent to Treasurer, John Pearce, "Glencoe" Sandy Point Rd., TARAGO. NSW. 2580.

Thank you, and as was extended to us from Prominent Local Mates:

"May your well never run dry, and your tanks always be full."

Take Care- Stay Safe.

Sec. Shirl.



Weather Watch

16th November to 15th December

Adrook, Oallen Ford Road, Windellama	nil ml / 0 days
Timberlight, Oallen Ford Road, Oallen	** ml / * days
Amaroo, Roberts Road, Windellama	48.5 ml / * days
Gar-den, Oallen Ford Rd, Windellama	17.5 ml / 3days
Johnno's Corner, Oallen Ford Rd	43.5 ml / * days
Hollow Log, Willow Glen Rd, Tarago	** ml / * days



Weather Watch

16th December to 15th January

Adrook, Oallen Ford Road, Windellama	45.25 ml / 5 days
Timberlight, Oallen Ford Road, Oallen	** ml / * days
Amaroo, Roberts Road, Windellama	1.5 ml / 1 days
Gar-den, Oallen Ford Rd, Windellama	33.5 ml / 5 days
Johnno's Corner, Oallen Ford Rd	32.0 ml / * days
Hollow Log, Willow Glen Rd, Tarago	** ml / * days

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*WINDELLAMA HISTORICAL
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At the AGM in December most of the Society's committee members and office bearers were re-elected and the President, Rex Hockey, spoke of the achievements of the past year – the building of the new machinery shed for the Museum, the purchase of the new computer equipment, which will assist us, among other things, in producing more of our history book titles, and the setting up of the Windellama Historical Society's web site.

We have a selection of Tom Bryant's books which are based on the history of the area, as well as bookmarks and postcards – all reasonably priced – available at the Museum.

We have received a notice from the Yass and District Historical Society informing us of their 'Beyond the limits of location' seminar to be held on 23 – 25 March 2007. Topics to be presented include local history, indigenous and ethnic research, ephemera and there will music provided by folksingers and musicians Chloe and Jason Roweth. Enquiries from Cheryl Mongan 6226 2708.

Our next meeting will be at the Hall on Friday 3 March 2007 at 2 pm. New members are welcome.

If you would like more information, please phone one of the following members:

Cynthia Hudson 4844 5005

Sandra Greville 4844 5047

Joanna Croker 4844 5125

Just Trivia Night - 10th February

PRU GOWARD

Candidate for Goulburn



Please join me for a cup of tea or coffee at the *Bungonia Hall* on *Tuesday 6th February 2007* at *5.30pm*.

There is a lot to talk about including:

Local services

Health

Water management

I'm keen to hear your views and hear how you are managing in the drought.

Tell me what needs to be done.

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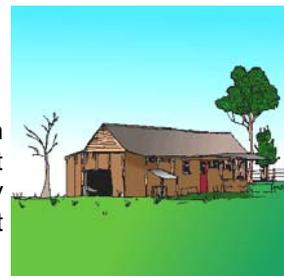
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THE NIGHTMARE OF VIOLENT BREAK-INS

So you think your weekender is secure?

So did we until this weekend when we arrived and discovered a window had been smashed and our little shed had been totally ransacked, trashed and almost demolished. We had tried to make it as secure as possible with deadlocks, security doors and keyed window locks plus electronic phone lock – windows were the weakest point.



They had lit candles and dripped them over all the doonas, clothes, carpets, curtains, chairs and cushions. When I unlocked the doors I saw they had even left a candle alight on the tablecloth on the wooden table. Believing they might still be inside we didn't venture in at first. Not that you could, actually. Everything had been thrown out of every cupboard and flung across floors and furniture – even cupboard doors had been wrenched off and broken. There was no money or jewelery for them to find - we never keep anything of value here just in case – holey tea towels and old worn (wouldn't be seen dead in at home) clothes are the order of the day, with butter containers for sugar & teabags and old containers for anything else – don't expect any luxuries when you visit us.



Scenes of devastation and destruction were everywhere – even the police were shocked at the extent. Years of hard work down the drain. Contents of cupboards piled high all over the floor. Glass fragments & blood dripped over clothes and bedding, mugs, lamps & gas lamp smashed. Alcohol and food thrown at and over every surface – mind you, they had drunk gallons of every kind of alcohol and thrown those bottles around too – we'll be teetotal for a while yet. One major concern was that they stole many knives (from us and others) including my large chefs knives – you dread to think what they could do with them.

We also had no means of communication as they had torn the phone off the wall & ripped out the circuit board, and without mobile coverage in the area how do you call the police? Thank goodness for wonderful (permanent) neighbours when we hightailed it off our property.

Unfortunately they too had been broken into and the police had been there the night before. We later discovered our other young neighbours (also weekenders) had also been broken into but had disturbed the thieves who had threatened them at knifepoint with their lives – a shocking experience for anyone to have to endure. It turns out that at least 6 properties had been done over in a couple of days – or at least that's how many of them have been reported to the police.

I strongly urge everyone to report all break ins to the police and, in fact, any unusual activity or menacing strangers – the more information the police receive the bigger the case they can put together and the sooner they can apprehend, arrest & charge these brutal brain-dead morons, hopefully eradicating them from our community.

The police did catch them, dead drunk of course, as they had stolen and drunk alcohol at most properties. Unfortunately, even though these two have a prison record, at least one was released on bail the next morning (Sunday) after sobering up, as they could only be held on a couple of "minor charges" – can you believe this? At the time of writing the police are awaiting forensic reports in order to lay further charges. But they've probably absconded again and won't be likely to turn up for any court appearance.

Just be careful, as they are used to living rough, in the scrub with few possessions, possibly even on your property with obviously no respect for themselves or anyone else. Don't be alarmed – just be safe.

It's not fair for our friendly community to suffer such acts – we have enough worries with the weather, drought, snakes & bushfires (which also came perilously close to us in the Blue Mountains where we live). As a last stand we now have bars over all windows – we are more fortified in this beautiful peaceful countryside than in a major city.

To be forced into this situation and being too scared to sleep has been just the pits but I would like to thank all of the community who had also been broken into and called in the police – everyone's report is important. I would especially like to thank our wonderful neighbours & friends – your concern & assistance is really appreciated. We have been violated & shocked but we will move on with our lives, victors not victims.

Cheers! Liz-Ann

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PERMITS REQUIRED 1ST October 2006 – 31ST March 2007

Contact Lynton Roberts 4844 5118 for ALL permit requirements

Brigade
enquiries
4844 5359

During the last two months our Brigade has attended two motor vehicle accidents. Members have attended five fire call outs as well as being on stand by to assist other Brigades outside our area.

On days of extreme fire danger and total fire bans crews have been stationed at the fire station in case of incidents arising.

This time of the year is particularly bad for storms. Always be on the alert for lightning strikes as these are one of the main causes of fire. If you notice smoke, even well after (could be days) the lightning has been around contact the Brigade on **4844 5359** or **000**.

*** * * Be Extremely careful when working with Machinery Outside * * ***

When working with **slashers** you are now required to **carry** with you either a **9kg fire extinguisher** or **knapsack of water**, penalties apply for not carrying either the fire extinguisher or water.

Permits Required During the Fire Season

Remember permits must be obtained before any burning off can be done during the fire season. When a total fire ban is issued there are precautions that must be taken particularly when working outside, and if possible many tasks such as working with welding equipment, slashers etc. should be put off.

For **permits** contact **Lynton Roberts on 4844 5118**.

Training

Refresh your skills, familiarise yourself with our vehicles and equipment, the next training day will be 17th February, 1.00pm at the fire shed. **All welcome.**

General Meeting	17 th February 2007,	7:30pm
Training	17 th February 2007,	1:00pm

Till next month **please drive carefully** and take care, see you all at the next meeting

All welcome.

Ellen Sylvester - Secretary

Fatal Fire on Spring Creek

Yesterday, shortly after one o'clock, a fire broke out in a hut on the opposite side of the creek, quite close to the main road. The smoke was first observed by a neighbour, who perceiving the door was locked, broke in, and found the furniture and bedding in flames, and an infant screaming in the cradle. The child was speedily snatched from its dangerous position and carried outside.

Knowing that another child must be in the place, instant search was made, when the little boy, not more than four years old, was discovered cowering in a corner with its clothes all burning. He was snatched up, and conveyed at once to the hospital where death ensued very soon after his admission. The poor little fellow was frightfully burnt. The soles of the feet having alone escaped the fire.

It is supposed to have originated through the unhappy little victim having been playing with a box of matches. The mother, a Mrs. Roberts, whose husband is working on the Adelong, having occasion to go to the post office, had left both children in the house, not anticipating any mischief during the brief interval of her absence. Most of the contents of the hut, and the building itself, which was partly calico and partly bark, were destroyed by the fire.

Excerpt taken from Goulburn Herald (2-6-1860)

From Marie Elliott



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By Paul Alessi

palessi@tpgi.com.au

Hyacinth Orchid (*Dipodium punctatum*)

This orchid is one of the strange things you can find in Windellama bushland at this time of year.

It resembles a purplish stick of asparagus about 30cm high topped with bunches of spotted pink flowers.

It's mostly found emerging through thick leaf litter usually beneath a snappy gum (*Euc. mannifera*) and at one time was thought to be a parasitic herb living off the roots of the Eucalypt above it.

It's now known to be a saprophyte (an organism that gathers its nutrients from dead organic matter) and so lives off subterranean fungi which form on buried leaves and other rotting matter in the leaf litter layer.

There are about 20 species of *Dipodium* in the world and 10 of these are endemic to Australia.



Green Wattle (*Acacia parramattensis*)

The only tree wattle that flowers at this time of year in Windellama is the Parramatta Green Wattle, probably so named because of the area where the first specimen was described.

Flowering starts from about Christmas Day and onwards through January, so it's easy to tell this one from the other tree wattles by its flowering time alone.

Parramatta Green Wattle is an excellent firewood and here at home we use anything over about 50mm in diameter.

They root sucker and also coppice well, and so renew themselves giving an endless supply of hot burning wood.

Being an Acacia they are also leguminous and so put nitrogen into the soil.

They can grow to 30cm in diameter and 15 metres high in good soils, but are often smaller and more branched in harsh sites, unlike Black Wattle (*Acacia decurrens*).

Parramatta Green Wattle is extremely frost hardy.



Just Trivia Night - 10th February

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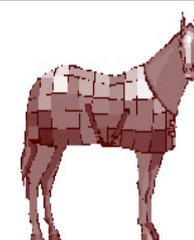
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