

WOOTTON VALLEY NEWS

APRIL - MAY 2009 NO 59

DISTRIBUTION 400 WOOTTON COOLONGOOK
BUNGWAHL BUNYAH BULAHDELAH

Bar Shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis*

The Bar-shouldered Dove is native to Australia.

It is protected under the *National Parks and*

Wildlife Act 1974. It is a medium sized pigeon

varying in size from 26 to 30 cms with a voice a

distinctive and melodious "cook-a-wook" or

"coolicoo". It's flight is direct and swift and wings

whistle while the birds are in flight. The breeding

season in our area is February to April. Its nest

is a flat twig and grass platform usually in trees

and shrubs, mangrove or scrub. The dove will

lay two, white, glossy and rounded eggs. They

feed on the ground in short grass near cover and need to drink throughout the day. They mainly eat

seeds of grasses, herbs and sedges, as well as rhizomes (small root storages). Both parents incubate

the eggs and feed the chicks. Young doves are fed with 'crop milk', specially produced by the parent

birds (a common characteristic of pigeons and doves). Photo taken in Wootton recently.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Friday 10th/17th/24th April	Men's Group Wootton Hall 5-7pm
Saturday 11th April	Movie & Supper Night 7pm Brush Turkey Café
Friday 17th April	"Ladies' Night" Brush turkey Café 5-7pm
Saturday 25th April	"Pizza & Pasta" Community Dinner 7pm Cafe
Sunday 26th April	Wootton Fire Brigade Meeting 9am Fire Shed
Sat/Sun 2nd/3rd May	Total Field Day 9am-5pm
Thursday 7th May	Wootton Community Network meeting 7pm Cafe
Friday 1/8/15/22/29 May	Men's Group Wootton Hall 5-7pm
Saturday 30th May	"Curry Night" Community Dinner 7pm Cafe

Published by Wootton Community Network Inc

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Wootton Community Network

Next meeting dates are 7th May, 4 June, 2nd July at 7pm. ANYONE AND EVERYONE is welcome to attend these meetings.

Seniors Luncheon

We held a lovely day on Monday 6th April at the Brush Turkey Café. The seniors from Bulahdelah Nursing Home came along as well as locals over 55. They were treated to an old fashioned baked dinner and scrumptious desserts, Coolongolook school children sang songs and we listened to some old time music.

Café News

Please support our local community run cafe. Drop in for a cuppa, a delicious cake or a meal. Open 10-4 weekends. Thanks to all the volunteers.

Cafe Volunteers

Leanne Wright has taken over the position of organizing the cafe rosters. Thanks to Garry for doing this job over the past couple of years. Volunteers can leave a message for Leanne on the 'roster sheet' at the cafe or phone her on 49977201. She needs to know the dates you prefer to volunteer and how often you would like to volunteer. The more information received will make the roster system work for everyone. It is intended to have one month's roster in advance printed and placed in the cafe. If, for some reason, things come up (which they do) Leanne would appreciate it if you could swap or organize with someone else before you phone her.

Community Dinners

Our last dinner "Vegetarian" was well attended again. For \$20, which includes nibbles, entrée, main and dessert it is good value. Our next dinner on Saturday 25th April, will be a "Pizza & Pasta" night with lovely desserts as usual. Don't forget the May "Curry Night"! Book early, on 49977296. The dinners are a great chance to meet and catch up with friends and neighbours.

Cafe Garden

We are still picking from the garden. The spinach is going strong and the capsicums are powering along. Wonderful to be able to use such fresh ingredients in the café. Thanks again to Tracey.

Goods for Sale We are looking for locally produced products to sell in the café.

Look out for local skin care products soon to be displayed in the café.

Cafe Closing The Brush Turkey Cafe will be closed for July and August.

Artist at the Brush Turkey Cafe

This month's artist is Les Tattersall. Les has been interested in art while living in Sydney and with work, family commitments and hobbies such as bushwalking and sailing, he did not get the time. However he did do a lot of photography which gave him the grounding in light and composition. On retirement 12 years ago he moved with his wife Carol to Bulahdelah and promptly joined the U3A Art Group in Hawks Nest. He started off in water colours but now uses acrylic quite a bit and loves drawing in charcoal which he uses in his monthly life drawing lessons. His subject matter varies considerably and is always looking for something new to paint. Les's work is on display for the months of March/April.

Artists Wanted Anyone interested in exhibiting in the cafe, please leave your details at the Brush Turkey Cafe.

Creative Outdoor Workshop

Saturday May 16th - All day

Brush Turkey Café Wootton

Cost \$30 WCN member

\$50 for non members

Morning Tea & Lunch provided

Skilled craftsmen to teach you how to use power & crafting tools to make your own setting with the information sheets provided.

Following the great success of our first workshop!

Call 02 49977167 for details



Reflections on a community dinner...

On January 31st 2009 the 'Australia Day' community dinner was held at the Brush Turkey café. Although now a distant memory, I would like to express thanks to a range of people, and give a short account of the night. It was a story telling event. The night began with a local traditional aboriginal dreamtime story (permission given by the Worimi elders). The night was full of fun and frolicking as people arrived adorned in Australian 'garb' in the flavour of their favourite Aussie Icon. The stories, myth and legend, original and folk tales, rolled on throughout the night, told by elderly and young, local and newcomers to the area; the audience, a packed house, was enthralled. I sincerely thank those who helped make it a great night in Wootton. Prizes were donated by Monique Finlay of Wootton (Blossom Eco Skin Care), Foley's Seafood, Thriftylink Hardware and Rosco's Ice-creams. Please support these businesses where you can. Thank you (Dame) Patrick & Sylvie Riviere for the enthusiastic paparazzi style photos on the night and Danny Dunne for putting those photos on the web. Thanks to Leanne Wright and Pat for your 'shots' also. To our story tellers, thank you for your courage & creativity. Story telling is a rich medium for connection to our ancestors, our history, our land and the spirit of its people. It is the vehicle for the audience to get to know the story teller intimately and for us to learn from each other through laughter, metaphor and symbol. It connects us to each other. I was asked, "When will you be doing this again" by a few. It sparked memories of the 'good ole' days at the School of Arts Hall in Bulahdelah.' I am certain we have started a story-telling tradition for the January community dinner.

With gratitude, Elizabeth.



Dame Edna Everidge aka
Patrick Riviere

Do you have an interesting collection? Would you like to share it with others? We would like to display it at the Brush Turkey Café. Contact the café on 49977296. In May/June we will be displaying a collection of Aboriginal artefacts and paintings.



MOVIE & SUPPER NIGHT
'AUSTRALIA' the movie
 Saturday 11th April
 Brush Turkey Café
 Arrive 7pm
 \$10 includes supper & nibbles
 Bookings 49977296

Gold Coin Donation

LADIES' NIGHT

Brush Turkey Cafe
5-7 PM 17th April (3rd Friday of the month)
A social get together!
Ring Fran on 49977323 for details

Bulahdelah & Myall Lakes Local Health Advisory Committee

Bulahdelah Community Hospital (49974477) is a 12-bed acute medical rural hospital with a 2-bed Emergency Department providing 24 hr service. The Hospital cares for patients throughout the Myall Lakes Area and is served by a GP. There is no medical officer on site.

The Hospital provides:

	Radiology (Mon morn & Thurs afternoons)
Aged Care	Medical Care
Palliative Care	Emergency Care

Bulahdelah Community Health Centre (49974240) offers a range of community based health services, by appointment, to the public.

Clinical staff working out of the Centre offer the following services:

Aged Care	Early Childhood Nursing	Paediatric Speech Therapy
Child/Family Counselling	Genetic Counselling	Paediatric Occupational
Continence	Generalist Care	Therapy
Diabetes	Mental Health	Palliative Care
Dietics	Paediatric Physiotherapy	Women's Health

The Hospital and the Health Centre are both located, opposite each other, in Richmond Street, Bulahdelah. Volunteer Community Transport drivers are desperately needed in the Myall Lakes Area. You can make a difference.

Phone now: Amy Oakley (49972266); Julie Richardson (49977130)
 or John Smith (49977178).

Men's Night Out

Every Friday night from 5pm to 7pm in the Community Centre at Wootton, (the old school).

All men, all ages, all welcome.

The group has now been meeting for two months at the Wootton Hall each Friday at 5.00pm.

Euchre and darts have been the nominated competitions with byo refreshments. The afternoon generally opens with a local news exchange, twenty questions put together by our quiz kid and then the games begin.

While the group numbers twelve, we usually have about eight in attendance. Men of Wootton, give your wives, partners.... yourselves some free time, join us. The cost is \$2 to assist with hall hire for a relaxed and enjoyable afternoon. John Smith 49977178



Wootton Tennis The Summer Comp will be finishing in the next month or so, depending on the weather, and the Winter Comp will then start. Any enquiries please contact Alison Watt on 49977126

New Playgroup at Coolongolook

Gloucester Pre-School has organized a Supported Playgroup to run out of the Community Hall in Coolongolook. The Playgroup is funded by Families NSW and is run by 2 staff from Gloucester Pre-School. Hours are 10.30am - 12pm for children (0-6) and their families. A wide range of activities are provided for the children to explore, such as painting, play dough, dress ups, baby toys, construction etc. and there are lots of opportunities for Mums, Dads or carers to catch up with some other adults for a chat. The dates for 2009 are May 27th, June 24th, August 26th, September 23rd, October 28th and November 25th. For further information please contact Gloucester Pre-School on 65581643.



Another Toss in our midst

Who is the regular McDonald's and fast-food eater who regularly waits until they get to Wootton Way or Wattle Hill Rd to toss out their empty packaging? Are you aware of the penalties? On-the-spot fines of \$200 with maximum penalties of \$1100. Many government agencies have the power to enforce the litter laws and issue fines, such as the Council, National Parks, NSW Police, Forestry and many others. (www.policensw.com/info/gen/l1c.html) So, please take your rubbish home with you.

Are you thinking of putting a sprinkler system in for bushfire control?

Peter Molloy of Newman's Road has recently installed a sprinkler system and has gone through all the ins and outs, priced and installed. He realises this is quite a task and if anyone is thinking of doing the same, he is offering his help. If you would like Peter's advice you can ring him on 49977476

Funnel-web Spider Alert

After falling of a tree near our house recently, a funnel web spider wandered into the house so I thought it might be timely to find out a little more about these spiders, which are often seen in Wootton around March every year. Thinking it was coincidental that the spider appeared immediately after the tree felling I looked up for some information. They live in burrows in sheltered positions in the ground, or in stumps, tree trunks or ferns above ground. Their burrows are lined with a sock of opaque white silk and several strands of silk radiating from the entrance. Females can live up to 20years and are rarely seen **except during tree felling**, excavation or landscaping work. They usually pass their entire life inside their burrow. Males wander at night, especially during or after rain, and may enter houses. Funnel-web venom is highly toxic. To avoid being bitten, wear gloves when gardening, know what a burrow looks like, wear shoes and carefully shake out footwear and clothes before wearing. First Aid: Keep calm; move only if necessary; if limb is bitten, apply pressure bandage to bite area and around limb towards heart; immobilise with a splint; collect spider specimen (even if squashed); seek medical aid as soon as possible.



CSIRO website

Pat

The Great Lakes Catchment Management group had their first quarterly meeting for 2009 in the Memorial Hall at Coolongolook on February 11. Members from the local community were invited to attend the open forum for landholders and the presentation by Gerard Tuckerman on the status of the 'Darawakh wetlands reclaiming project', held after lunch.

One of the aims of the group is to enhance the communication flow between all the agencies undertaking activities in the Great Lakes catchment. Agencies include Great Lakes Council (GLC), Mid-coast Water (MCW), National Parks, Department of Primary Industries representing State Forests, Catchment Management Authority, Landcare and Taree Council. Each agency provides an update of their ongoing and upcoming activities allowing other agencies and community representatives to ask questions and make suggestions. For example, MCW and GLC were able to synchronize their efforts at the Crawford River weir pool, that provides drinking water to Bulahdelah.

The main focus of the February meeting was that the agencies are all working together to submit grant proposals to the new Federal Government's 'Caring For Our Country' (CFOC) initiative, to ensure the continued funding for staff and current and new projects. More details of the initiative can be found at <http://www.nrm.gov.au/>. Great Lakes has been identified by the Federal Government as one of 11 coastal hot spots in Australia, or one in three in NSW (<http://www.nrm.gov.au/business-plan/coastcare-priority-hotspots.html>) and so grant proposals are focused on activities that meet the CFOC objectives. The GLC's Environmental Special Rate (ESR) also provides funds that cover staff salaries, such as catchment management officers and a number of projects. Some funds from the ESR are also used to lever extra funds. For example, the current Sustainable Farming Program being run by GLC received \$140,000 from the 08/09 CFOC programming.

Caro Badcock, Community Representative, Wootton

Do the flashing lights on fire trucks make you panic?

Two members of the Wootton fire brigade (Mike Badcock and Bernard Caran) responded to the call for volunteers to help in Victoria's bush fires. Fortunately the worst of the fires were over by the time we arrived. We very quickly became aware of how traumatized the communities of the fire affected areas were when, for example, we stopped our trucks on the side of the road (with no lights flashing) in one of the local villages on the edge of the fire affected area. Once stopped people from the houses ran out questioning us as to whether we knew something they didn't. It was obvious there was panic in their voices! On that particular day the temperature was 23C, no wind, no sign of smoke yet people in the town were still frightened. We were advised not to put our lights on unless in an emergency as the locals associate the lights with trauma.

On a lighter note, the experiences of sleeping (or not) in tent city were an eye opener – next time ear plugs will be essential equipment as some fires certainly know how to snore!

The message that comes out of these fires is that all households in hilly, bush terrain MUST have an effective fire plan. During the next three to six months everyone in our community should prepare their own fire plans because ultimately your own personal safety is your responsibility. Assistance in developing a fire plan can be provided by contacting your local brigade (Mike Badcock, Wootton Brigade Fire Captain, 49977337).

Our local brigade is short on volunteer members. Anyone interested in joining the brigade is welcome to contact Mike Badcock.

The curious things of country living

I have a family of Land Mullet that live on my verandah under the freezer. They frequently scoot around my house picking up dropped crumbs and insects. They're quite friendly and not particularly scared by humans.

Sometimes when I'm washing up one runs across my feet and gives me a bit of a scare. Sometimes while I'm sitting on the lounge I feel something is watching me and I look up to see the mullet on the back of the lounge looking at me. I have to get up quite close before it takes off. Sometimes the whole family turns up and disappears under the fridge. The other day it did something it hasn't before. After cooking a big pot of soup for the community dinner I noticed upon moving the pot that the land mullet had settled very nicely around the gas ring under the pot. I suppose it was nice and warm. If I'd turned on the gas without looking it would have got a fright! I actually had to touch it to make it move. It then ran off and lurched itself into the air then landed on the ground and made off to less busy areas. This launching off reminded me about the tree snake the other day. I was sitting on the verandah and heard the familiar slide of a snake across the roof but noticed the slide was going on longer and was picking up speed. I looked up and saw the snake take off from the verandah roof. It looked like it was flying. It landed well away from the house, promptly slithered off and disappeared out of sight. You don't think of animals taking a run-up to make distance but I do now.



Bron Little

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\$45 Members -per 4 line ad space

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advertisers or wording changes.
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