

WOOTTON VALLEY NEWS

APRIL/MAY 2016 NO 101

DISTRIBUTION WOOTTON COOLONGLOOK

BUNGWAHL BUNYAH BULAHDELAH

The Australian Magpie *Cracticus tibicen*



The Australian Magpie has one of the world's most complex bird songs, a loud musical flute-like song, often performed as a duet or by groups. They are very vocal around Wootton just now looking for insects and their larvae. The plumage pattern varies across its range. Its nape, upper tail and shoulder are white in males, grey in females. Across most of Australia, the remainder of the body is black. In the south-east, centre, extreme south-west and Tasmania, the back and rump are entirely white. The eye of adult birds is chestnut brown. During breeding season they can be aggressive and attack humans and pets.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sat 9 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Food swap 5 pm at the Wootton Community Centre groundsAdult's and Kid's pizza and movie night, Brush Turkey Café, 6 pm, adults \$10, children \$5
Fri 15 April	Meet the Artist Mary McEnallay, Brush Turkey Café, 6 pm
Sat 30 April	Pizza Night, Brush Turkey Café, 7 pm, adults \$20, children \$5 (using our new, improved pizza oven)
Sun 1 May	Wootton Fire Brigade training at the Fire Shed, Squires Rd, 9 am
Sat 7 May	Wootton Community Network Meeting , Brush Turkey Café, 3 pm Café meeting, 4 pm Network meeting
Sat 14 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Food swap 5 pm at the Wootton Community Centre groundsLight Supper and Movie night, Brush Turkey Café, 6 pm, adults \$10, children \$5
Sun 15 May	Wootton Fire Brigade AGM, Fire Shed, Squires Rd, 9 am
Sat 28 May	European Night, Brush Turkey Café, 7 pm, adults \$20, children \$5
Sat 25 June	HOLD THE DATE—BUSH DANCE AT COMMUNITY HALL

Published by Wootton Community Network Inc

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Join our group on Facebook: Wootton Community or email brushturkey@live.com.au

Visit our website @ www.wootton.org.au

Wootton Community Network News

Next Meeting— as always, everyone is welcome

May 7th (First Saturday of every 2nd month) 3pm Café meeting, 4pm Network meeting

Food Handling Course : If you are a volunteer at the café or are thinking of it or just want to do a *Food Handling Course*, could you please contact Pat on 0422 251 508. Great Lakes Council will run a course for us if we have at least 10 participants.

Working Bee: We will be having a working bee in the next few months and need help. Please contact Jim on 4997 7323.

Community Dinners: The last dinner in the café was a Valentine's Day dinner and was enjoyed by everyone, dressed for the occasion (lots of black ties and pearls—sometimes both). Thanks to all the cooks and helpers. These are **community** dinners and can't happen without lots of help from everyone. Dinners are held the last Saturday of every month.



Supper and Movie Nights: These, again, are **community** nights and rely on volunteers to run them. Thanks to Julie Williams for always supplying her beautiful egg sandwiches, loved by everyone. Movie suggestions are always welcome.

Additional thanks to:

- ♦ Jim and Fran who tirelessly keep everything ticking away in the café and the Network.
- ♦ Judy who keeps the vegie garden happy, makes cakes, works in the café and bought blinds
- ♦ Brian and Robyn who work in the café and acquired and had repaired a salamander.
- ♦ Ian who always puts his hand up to do little jobs - he is about to install the new blinds.
- ♦ Leanne who looks after our finances and is always a willing helper despite being always busy.
- ♦ Peter who has done lots of jobs and is at the moment building new table tops for the café.
- ♦ Pam for organising the artists and finding time to work in the café as well as helping at dinners.
- ♦ Patrick and Sylvie who turn up every Sunday afternoon to help clean up in the café.
- ♦ Ella, Gwynne, Peter, Megan and many other volunteers who keep the café and Community Network going.

Daphne and Tom Ward returned to Wootton for their regular stay in late January when unexpectedly **Tom passed away** on the 5th February. Daphne would like to pass on her heartfelt thanks to the community for their support.



Crown Land Issue

Well, the issue of returning the management of the Trust to the Crown seems to have resolved itself for the time being. Tracey Farrant (Council's Community Engagement Officer) followed up with Andrew Braybrook (Council's person responsible for the handover) on our behalf. They have let us know that even though Council has recommended this action, the Crown has no interest in following through at this stage and the management of the land will remain with Council for the foreseeable future.

As a result the Wootton Community Hall Committee and the Wootton Community Network will continue to work collaboratively to provide facilities and activities aimed at supporting our local community.

Caro Badcock (on behalf of the Crown Land Working Party)

Planning for Wootton

Tracey Farrant is keen to work with the community to create a community plan for Wootton. Coolongolook is currently revising their plan and at this stage they look like they will concentrate on their village. Tracey understands that Wootton has very different opportunities and challenges to Coolongolook and would like to help us develop a Wootton focused plan. The strategies that come up in the plan will then be fed into the Council's long term planning processes.

We plan to hold some community meetings to discuss what we would like to see in our plan and we will let you know when they are to be held.

Caro Badcock and Jim O'Connor (on behalf of the Wootton Community Hall Committee and Wootton Community Network)

Easter Community Hall Dinner: Fantastic crowd, lots of locals and visitors even from the UK, scrumptious food. Good entertainment for all ages.



Preventive Health Clinic

The Wootton Preventive Health Clinic provides important local services within our community. Preventive health care is about early intervention to reduce the risk of injuries and illnesses worsening. The Clinic opened on the 30 January this year with Dr Jenna Norrie providing Osteopathy services to our community. There has been lots of very positive feedback and Jenna really likes working out of the hall. With the screens in place and the curtains over the windows for a bit of privacy she has a large, comfortable space to work in. If you wish to make an appointment call Jenna on 0488 520 456.

We are now seeking to include additional services such as acupuncture, physiotherapy, podiatry and therapeutic massage in the near future. The community are welcome to suggest services they would like to access locally and nominate interested practitioners by contacting Sue Williams on 0438 433 063 or Caro Badcock on 0408 415 420

Celebrating Newman's Road New Gate

As many of you have noticed, our property on Newmans Rd in Wootton has a new front gate. Well actually the gate surround went up a year ago. Now finally a year later we have found and attached the right gates underneath and it is finished, flowers, foliage and all.

You may be wondering why so elaborate?

We love to reuse and repurpose which is how we came to get our wonderful new gate. Late in 2014 Sydney Theatre Company staged a production in Sydney Theatre called "Cyrano de Bergerac" in which Richard Roxburgh played the lead role. Our gate surround was a set piece from the production, designed by Alice Babidge in the French Rococo style. There is a cat walk on the top of the piece and during the performance there were several sword fights and at one stage Julia Zemiro's character serenades some suiters from the catwalk on the top.

When the production closed the set piece was sadly destined for Sydney Theatre Company's Stores. Having been in the industry for years and having watched production set pieces get shunted around the stores, year after year, getting damaged and invariably ending up being "binned", Grant was quick to offer to "rehome" the piece. The piece did go to the stores, did get shuffled around and did sustain a little damage. But after a reasonably short period of time, thanks to persistent daily phone calls to check on whether permission had been granted or not, the powers that be said yes, we could have it! Even better the set builders were happy to see the piece that they put their love into and that cost \$25,000 to build, go to a good home and they even supplied a box of "spare parts" and touch up paint.

It took only a couple of days, much rigging of scaffolding, slings, chain blocks, tractors and helpful neighbours to hoist the 3 parts to the gate surround up and into place. It was a big, heavy job as the internal frame is steel. Thank heavens my hubby is a rigger!

We are really happy that our new entrance has given locals a new topic of conversation and even some not so local as people far and wide are hearing about "that mad gate in Wootton".

So there you go, there's the story of our gate, which instead of eventually ending up in landfill is now our totally over the top entrance way and gate which we just love!

Disclaimer: please drive carefully and keep your eyes on the road while passing. If you would like a better look at our gate please pull over. We take no responsibility for any accident that may occur due to "sticky beaking". Monique Finlay



NEW ARTIST

Our new artist for April and May is Mary McEnallay, the President of Forster Art Society. Mary was born and raised in Trundle, NSW. Always interested in art which was not an option in her school, her principal Mr Hill allowed her to study by correspondence. Mary and her children moved to Forster in 1990 where she enrolled in TAFE and obtained certificates in Drawing, Painting and Foundation art. To see some of Mary's art please visit the Brush Turkey Café. A Meet the Artist evening is on **Friday, April 15th** at 6pm where you will be able to talk to Mary in person about her work.



Topi Topi Sustainable Farming Group

Many members are undertaking a Holistic Management Course conducted by Brian Wehlburg, Inside Outside Management (an Educator in Allan Savory's Holistic Management). This local course is being subsidised by TAFE between January and June this year and provides an opportunity to learn more about holistic management, a decision-making framework to ensure decisions are economically, environmentally and socially sound. More on <http://savory.global/> and <http://www.insideoutsidemgt.com.au/holistic-management>

The Topi Topi Sustainable Farming Group wish to thank Karine Raiz and Peter Feldman for hosting our February meeting at their beautiful Surilox Alpaca Stud, Coolongolook. We learnt that Alpacas are native to South American and found predominantly in Peru, Chile and southern Bolivia. Australia has the largest alpaca herd in the world outside of South America and is on the brink of becoming the largest producer of commercial grade fleece in the world. Alpacas are ideally suited to the Australian environment and are extremely light on the land. More information can be found on their website at www.surilox.com



We would also like to thank Megan Cooke for providing an informative tour of her Edible Garden at Charlotte Bay in March. Megan is passionate about teaching people how to grow and prepare food in line with the Permaculture Ethics in order to nourish their families and community. Permaculture is a holistic ecological design system for creating human environments where households and communities are productive, sustaining and largely self-reliant and have minimal impact on the environment. More information and future events can be found at www.gardentotable.com.au

Food Swap - March

March was interesting. Fred and Sue brought delicious golden coloured watermelon, kaki pumpkin which you grow just for the seeds. You can eat them raw or toast them, taste like pepitas. Peter Dixon is good for the unusual: a lemony tasting, leafy plant that you can stir fry, hot and very hot chillies and feijoa and tiny gourmet tomatoes. Judy brought multi coloured chillies, homemade berry crumbles and bulbs of various plants; eggs from Sue Williams, snake beans, eggplant, and cucumber from Richard; also chokos, capsicum. Everyone enjoyed themselves.



Pat Tate

Wild Dogs

Mid North Coast Wild Dog Association has been established to bring together all the individual wild dog groups which are currently operating in isolation. We are hoping to create co-ordinated joint programmes throughout the whole Mid North Coast, reducing the need for reactionary wild dog programs and move to an eradication and maintenance programme. It is too late when our livestock are already dead! We have the motto that your dog is our dog and so we all need to work together to fix the problem. MNC Wild Dog Association Inc will be able to obtain its own funding and be able to target specific programmes in particular areas. For example, if the area is has a high percentage of absentee landholders, we can offer training and information that target these landholders. We are currently seeking members and membership is FREE. For more information please go to www.wilddogassociation.org.au or email info@wilddogassociation.org.au.

Julie Steepe (Regional Coordinator MNC Wild Dog Association Inc)

On the local front, a number of wild dog training days have occurred in Wootton since January. Training to obtain a license to lay 1080 baits has been held. A day was spent in the state forest with Laurie Mullen (LLS), Mick Worth (State Forest) and a professional dog trapper to train us in how to identify dog activity including tracks, scat and markings. Shortly a 2-day course will be held to train us in how to trap wild dogs. Call Mike on 0409 448 330.

Wootton Community Hall

Wootton Community Library: The books have been sorted. Being a small library with limited space only one copy of each title has been kept with a focus on fiction and biography type books. Also a tight selection of cooking, gardening, sporting, history and children's books and organic/ holistic farming type magazines have been kept.

For ease of sorting, the fiction books have been displayed in alphabetical order by author and the biographies by title

We have some large selections of titles by individual authors e.g a hard cover set of Agatha Christie and numerous titles by Bryce Courtney and James Patterson.

The library is open on Sundays while the café is open and during any other community events like dinners, food swaps and movie nights.

Mowing: Four volunteers have been inducted by the Council so they are now able to use the Council mowing equipment in the shed to maintain the back paddock and the grass on the western side of the driveway as you come into the back parking lot. The contractor will continue to maintain the area around the hall, toilets and tennis courts.

Wootton Rural Fire Brigade

The fire season has drawn to a close. It was very uneventful for the local brigade; only a few minor fires were attended and several motor vehicle accidents.

It is now going into winter where the main issue is house fires. These tend to start from poorly maintained or unattended heaters or food left cooking on stove tops.

Until the 1st October fire permits are not required but you still need to give 24 hours' notice to your neighbours and Fire Control (6539 7700 9 am – 4 pm Mon-Fri).

Garage Sale Trail Newman's Road Wootton Sunday April 17 — from 9 am

There will be an exciting collection and a huge variety of items for sale!! From

Sporting equipment; weight bench and weights, boxing gloves, sailboards, surf ski ...;

Electrical goods: clothes dryer, bread makers, overlocker, Braun multistick, Philips iron ...;

Furniture: vintage hospital bed, bunks, TV cabinet, double bed frame, large office desk ...;

Children/Baby goods: portable cot, high chair, potty, step, books, games ...; and a huge range of **general household goods** and **clothing**.



Properties taking part on the day will be clearly marked. So why not take the opportunity to visit Wootton, enjoy the savings and stop for a cuppa at the Brush Turkey Café on Wootton Way once you are done.

Please SMS us on any mobile: 0408415420, 0408861051 or 0401877803 (voice line can be bad but SMS always good). Visit us on **facebook**: Wootton Community See you!

Wootton Directory: *Readers have commented on the value of finding important local contacts in this Newsletter. Please ring or email Carole (ed) if you know of an important contact that we should include here. Thanks.*



Wootton Community Network

President: Jim O'Connor 0412963161

Secretary: Fran O'Connor

Treasurer: Leanne Wright 4997 7201

Email: brushturkey@live.com.au

Wootton Community Hall Committee

Chair/Bookings: Caro Badcock

0408 415 420

Topi Topi Sustainable Farming Group

Chair: Sue Williams 0438 433 063

Wootton Rural Fire Brigade

Captain: Mike Badcock 0409 448 330

President: Adam Garnett 0428272629

Sen Dep Captain: Craig Tate

0431644953

Tuncurry Fire Control: 6539 7700

Great Lakes Council: 6591 7222

Police

Senior Constable Trevor McLeod,

Sector Supervisor, Bulahdelah

4997 4204 0427233745

SES 13 2500

Local Land Services

Wingham 6553 4233

State Forests Wauchope 6585 3744

Bulahdelah Waste Facility

opening hours

Tuesdays 1—5pm

Fridays 12—4pm

Sundays 10-2pm

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Bush Dance Saturday 25 June, Community Hall
Live music by The Waterbombers, Newcastle bush band. Bookings Megan 0418 420 608.

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