

WOOTTON VALLEY NEWS

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2011 NO 73

DISTRIBUTION 500 WOOTTON COOLONGOOK
BUNGWAHL BUNYAH BULAHDELAH

Crested Shrike-tit *Falcunculus frontatus*

It is characterised by its striking black and white head and bright yellow underside, its bold plumage, large crested head, and stout powerful bill. This species specialises in prising peeling bark from large branches or tree-trunks and extracting prey from underneath. It is active at all forest strata, but is typically found in the sub-canopy or canopy. This species also gleans insects from foliage and can use its powerful bill to open woody galls of insects. Despite its bill, the Crested Shrike-tit prefers to forage on gums, stringybarks, and other trees with flaky ribbon-like bark, rather than those with rough bark, from which it is more difficult to extract prey items. Breeding occurs from August through January and 2-3 eggs are laid. The nest is a cone woven from grass, bark, lined with fine strips of bark and grass and covered outside with filaments of spider webs. Seen lately in Wootton.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

July/August	Brush Turkey Café closed for Winter
Thursday 4th August	AGM Wootton Community Network 7pm Brush Turkey café
Saturday 6th August	Wootton Fire Brigade training at the fire shed 8am
Saturday 13th August	Supper/Movie Night Brush Turkey Café 6pm Pizza, 7pm Movie
Sunday 21st August	Wootton Fire Brigade Training 8am & Meeting 10am
Saturday 27th August	Community Dinner Brush Turkey Café 7pm
Sunday 4th Sept	Brush Turkey Café re-opens for Fathers' Day
Sat 3/17 Sept	Wootton Fire Brigade training at the fire shed 8am
Saturday 17th Sept	Wootton Sustainable Agricultural Group 9.30am
Saturday 24th Sept	Community Dinner Brush Turkey Café 7pm

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Wootton Community Network

AGM will be held Thursday 4th August at 7pm. Come along and have your say and consider taking on a job.

Working Bee

During the café closure we have held one working bee: affixing new shelving, cleaning gutters, cleaning windows and fans, gardening, resorting cupboards, maintenance on stove and coffee machine and office work. There is still work to be done in the garden and re-oiling the weatherboards. If anyone has time to help please contact Jim on 49977323.

Community Dinners

Our last dinners were French and Fancy Foods/Fancy dress . Those that attended enjoyed great food and company.

Next dinners will be Xmas in July and August will possibly be Polish.

Cafe news The café has been closed for July and will also be closed for August, opening again on Fathers Day 4th September. We still need more volunteers to help out in the cafe. Please consider helping in some way to keep this worthwhile project going. A good way to meet people and contribute to a friendly community.

Cooking Day Sunday 28th August 9am Prior to re-opening of the café we will be holding a cooking day to stock the freezer with cakes etc. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Thankyou to.... Danny Dunne for working on the Wootton website. Take a look at wootton.org.au



Jo and Graham
won best dressed at the
Fancy Foods/Fancy dress dinner

Supper and Movie Night
Saturday 13th August
6pm Pizza
for 7pm movie \$10
“The Adjustment Bureau”

Do we control our destiny, or do unseen forces manipulate us? Matt Damon stars in this thriller as a man who glimpses the future.



New Artist at the Brush Turkey Café

Barbara O'Donnell works mostly in oils but recently has used mixed media and watercolour. She enjoys painting the hot, dry land which is the Australian outback and tries to paint what she feels rather than what she sees. She lives in Hallidays Point and is a member of Taree Artists and Great Lakes Arts Society. She paints five days a week.



Choices Gallery proudly presents

Here, There & Everywhere
An exciting and progressive exhibition of
PAINTINGS and SCULPTURES by six Great Lakes artists:
Stella Rawson Fred Bullen Mary McEnallay
Vicki Bullard Lorraine Campbell Pam Dunne

Exhibition Dates

Saturday 30 July through to Sunday 4 September

Free Admission

Mon to Fri - 9am to 4pm Saturday - 9am to 2pm Sunday - 10am to 1pm

Venue Choices Gallery, Unit 1/6 Enterprise Court, Forster

Official Opening Saturday 30 July at 2.30pm by the Mayor of Great Lakes Council, Councillor Jan McWilliams.

Afternoon tea will be served and all proceeds will be donated to the Westpac Helicopter Rescue Service. All welcome

This is your chance to see over 150 paintings - framed and unframed - and sculptures showing a wide range of subjects, sizes and prices.

Upcoming Community Engagement Program

You are invited to attend an upcoming community meeting about the outcome of Council's special rate variation application.

Council will be holding community information sessions during August, to explain the future impact of the IPART determination on the community and the services Council provides. Sessions will be held at

Great Lakes Council Chambers Thursday 11th August at 7pm and
Bulahdelah School of Arts on Wednesday 31st August at 6pm.

**Next Wootton Valley News Deadline is
26th September, 2011**

WOOTTON SCHOOL HALL

Since the new committee's first meeting in May the repairs or maintenance tasks identified by the previous committee have been completed along with additional activities. Major activities include the blinds that have been sitting around for 5 years being installed, the condemned playground equipment removed, the tennis shed cleaned out, 2 of the 3 missing windows replaced, the broken external wall panel replaced and new doors and padlocks installed. The gutters of the hall have been cleaned out, soap dispensers installed in the toilets, the tree obscuring the hall sign on Wootton Way has been trimmed back, the storeroom has been cleaned out and the fire extinguishers have been inspected. All in all a wonderful achievement. During this time bookings have been steady with training sessions and a party. Unfortunately due to the weather and personal circumstances two bookings have been postponed to later in the year. **So don't forget, if you need a venue, Wootton Hall is the place to be.** For bookings contact Caro Badcock on cbadcock@bordnet.com.au 49977337 or 0408415420.

Wootton Fire Brigade News

The Wootton Brigade was called out during July to attend to a house that was on fire. This is the second house that has caught fire in a little over 2 years during the winter months. The winter months are the danger months for fires in houses so please check chimneys, fireboxes, electric blankets, electric heaters etc.

Next Meeting Sunday 21st August 10am (after training)

Training dates are Saturday 6th August 8am, Sunday 21st August 8am, Saturday 3rd September 8am, Saturday 17th September 8am, Saturday 1st October 8am.

New Members Welcome

Mike Badcock 49977337

Letters to the Editors

Hi, I regularly read the Wootton Valley News and I am wondering if anyone who reads your publication can tell me what the red weed/fungus is I have growing in one of our dams – it is very unsightly and has only started growing about 1 year ago but is multiplying – perhaps some readers have some advice. We live in Bungwahl and it is a smallish dam and no livestock visit this dam only the local ducks. I would appreciate if you could ask your readers? Thank you



Regards Cate Marshall, Yarramin Park, Racecourse Road, Bungwahl, 4997 6198

Wootton “the place to grow trees”

In May and June the Wootton Community Centre was the venue for a Dept of Primary Industries information day on Private Native Forestry run by Tocal Agriculture College, a Hunter Farm Forestry field day and an Office of the Environment and Heritage sponsored Master Tree Growers' Course.

As any local knows, it's not a case of 'can you grow trees in Wootton', it's 'how do you stop them from growing where you don't want them to grow' and 'if you're not on the ball you'll have a full sized gum tree in no time'.

Many participants were very impressed with Steve Atkins' plantation which was visited by HFFN and The Master Tree Growers. Steve explained how State Forests consider his plantation to be one of the fastest growing under their joint venture scheme. Rowan Reid from Melbourne University and the presenter of the Master Tree Growers course was full of praise and suggestions for growing and managing trees in Wootton.

All the courses inspected Mike and Caro Badcock's impressive re-growth forest in Newman's Road. Mike has recently registered for a Private Native Forestry property Vegetation Plan with the State Government. Mike's experiences with the bureaucracy and the viability of managing a forest in accordance with the forestry codes was of immense interest to those also considering farm forestry.

The DPI field day was oversubscribed with a second day organised to cater for the numbers. The second day had to be postponed due to the appalling weather over the last month. DPI have now organised the second PNF info day for this Saturday 30th July commencing at 9.00am. These info days are free and lunch is provided, hence their popularity. However, bookings are essential to manage the catering. Anyone wishing to attend please ring Craig on 49977292.



WOOTTON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL GROUP

The first meeting was held and attended by 20 local property owners. A demonstration on how to take a soil test was given and since then samples from properties have been sent for analysis. The participants enjoyed the sharing of information, meeting their neighbours and look forward to more property owners in Wootton joining in the future.

Next Meeting is at the Kennedy's property at 1537 Wootton Way on 17th September 9.30am. Kirsty Hughes from North Coast Water will be the guest speaker.



Wootton Guest House Musings

The Guest House has had it's usual mix of guests lately. The "Wootton" family from Hamilton in Victoria stayed recently. Their understanding of "Wootton" means 'woodcutter' in olde times. We were closed for a few weeks to attend the Finke desert race in Central Australia with family, Anthony finishing mid field in the race.



We had some interesting and talented guests stay who attended the Farm Forestry courses held in Wootton.

The scrapbook girls were back again in May and will return in October. If anyone would like to look at any of their work pop down on the weekend of the 29th & 30th.

Enough with the rain! The flood brought the river the highest we have ever seen into the backyard. Bring on Spring.

Peter Auriac

WOOTTON HISTORICAL RAILWAY WALK REJUVENATION!!

State Forests and Conservation Volunteers Australia returned to continue working on the Wootton Historical Railway Walk over the period 17th to 21st July. The 8 young volunteers were students from the U.K. and the U.S.A. Members of the Wootton Weeders shared a barbeque at Sam's Camp prior to the start of work. It's wonderful to see the railway walk being maintained, keeping Wootton's history alive. It is well worth a walk in any season. After rain the creeks are full, the palms are dripping with rain drops, and the bush looks lush. The moss covered logs are like a green living carpet and the sounds of birdlife are ringing clear in the gullies. If you take time to look around you will notice remnants of the old logging tramline of the early 1900's. More volunteers will be back later in the year. Thanks to Judy Hammond for organising outings for the group.



Wootton Wild Winter Weather

This winter has been particularly cold, wet and windy.

Temperatures have been recorded as low as -3°

Rainfall has been recorded for the period Jan-July 2011 of 1144mm, June's total was 216mm and July's total was 234mm. Highest rainfall days were Wednesday 15th June, 93mm and Friday 22nd July, 88mm. Stamps Bridge on Squires Rd went under a number of times marooning the western residents. Normally dry creeks have been roaring with torrents of water. At least all our tanks are full to the brim.

Wild winds have seen many trees uprooted and many branches falling to the ground.

A couple of good frosts has seen our usually green paddocks turn to brown.

How good to be a human snuggled up in a warm cosy bed at night, while the native wildlife endure the extreme conditions.

DIRECTORY

Accommodation

Too many visitors! **Wootton Guest House** 4 a/c bedrooms with ensuites & balconies, reasonable rates.
www.woottonguesthouse.com.au
Peter & Leanne **49977201 0407974420**

Building & Maintenance Contractor
Solutions to building problems Lic 631C
Rob McDougall **0427 955958 49977335**

Bulahdelah Post office Bill pay, banking, phones & gifts. HCCU banking, Business and Private Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
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Advertising rates for 2011/2012 for the Wootton Valley News Directory are

\$55 for Non-members, \$45 Members - per 4 line ad space

These businesses support this newsletter. Please support them wherever possible.

NB Advertising is due as at 30th June 2011. Please send a cheque payable to Wootton Community Network 1633 Wootton Way Wootton 2423 or contact Leanne on 49977201 to make a direct payment

For Sale

(This service is free)

For Sale: 1 Chef electric stove \$150, 2 reverse cycle air conditioning units, reasonable offers considered.

Mike Badcock 49977337



Platypus sighted in Coolongolook River in Wootton