

WOOTTON VALLEY NEWS

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2015 NO 97

DISTRIBUTION WOOTTON COOLONGOOK
BUNGWAHL BUNYAH BULAHDELAH

Humpback Whale

(*Megaptera Novaeangliae*)

These might creatures migrate past the Great Lakes, travelling north from May to July, returning south from mid-September to late November, many with calves in tow. Adults range in length from 12-16 metres and weigh around 36,000 kilograms. They typically travel up to 25,000 kilometres a year.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sun 2 Aug	Wootton Fire Brigade training at the Fire Shed 9 am
Sat 8 Aug	Light supper & movie night, Brush Turkey Café, 6pm for 7pm \$10
Sat 29 Aug	Community dinner, Sixties Night, Wootton Hall, 6pm
Sun 6 Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wootton Fire Brigade training at the Fire Shed 9 am• Café re-opens. Fathers' Day Big Breakfast 9-11 am, \$12 Baked Lunch 1-2.30 pm, \$20
Sat 12 Sept	Light supper and movie night, Brush Turkey Café, 6pm for 7pm \$10
Mon 21 Sept	Emergency Preparedness and Planning Seminar, Wootton Fire Station
Sat 26 Sept	Community dinner, Wootton Hall, 6pm

Please note that the Brush Turkey Café will be closed on Sundays throughout July and August and will re-open for Fathers' Day on 6 September

Published by Wootton Community Network Inc Editors Carole Robinson 0428 009 952, email:
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and Caro Badcock 49977337 Join our group on Facebook: Wootton Community
brushturkey@live.com.au Visit our website @ www.wootton.org.au

Wootton Community Network

At our last meeting in July, Leanne informed us that we have 53 financial members. This is excellent for a small community such as ours. It only costs \$12.50 to be a member and this covers your insurance if you are helping out at any of our community events. Thanks to Jim, Fran, Pam, Julie, Leanne, Pat, Patrick and Judy for contributing to our bi-monthly meeting.

Thanks to all the helpers who came to our last working bee. The outside of the building was pressure cleaned as well as the office organised. Jobs still to be done include moving the fridges, install the hose mounting and installing new sleepers on the path. Since the working bee, Jim has installed a new overhead fan above the stove and Judy has moved the compost and topped up the garden. Thanks to Judy for looking after the garden.

Wootton Historical Railway Walk 20th Anniversary: Later in the year we will be having a celebration to mark the opening of the Railway Walk. Planning for this has only just begun but will include a working bee beforehand and a morning tea at Sam's Camp with a talk followed by a guided walk along the first part of the walk. Afterwards we hope to have a lunch at the café. Anyone who would like to help with the working bee to clean up the walk please contact Pat on 0422 251 508.

Mobile Phone Photo and Short Video Competition: This will be happening in March next year so start taking photos/videos. The theme is "*People and what they do in Wootton and Surrounding Areas*".

Brush Turkey Café News

Café Closure: A reminder that the café will be closed for Winter – July and August. It will reopen on Sunday 6th September.

Café Revamp: It is over ten years since the café opened and we thought it needed a bit of a new look. So, this year the inside will be getting a repaint, new blinds and the tables and chairs will get a makeover. Hopefully some work will be done whilst the café is closed, depending on volunteers.

Fathers' Day: We will be having a special Fathers' Day Breakfast and Lunch. Book in with Leanne so you don't miss out.

Movie Nights: These are still on – the second Saturday of every month. \$10 gives you a light meal at 6.00 pm and a movie starting at 7.00 pm. The next dates are 8th August and 12th September. Call Pat on 0422 251 508 to book and find out what movie is on.

Volunteer training: The cafe is planning to provide willing volunteers with on-the-job training after it re-opens in September. Why not come along for a try, just an hour or as long as you can spare, to see how enjoyable it is. Phone Jim for details 499 77323.

Brush Turkey Café News (cont.)

Community Dinners: These are held on the last Saturday of every month at the Brush Turkey Café excepting once a quarter when they are held in the hall. The café community dinners start at 7.00 pm. Please book by phoning Pat on 0422 251 508, email brushturkey@live.com.au or leave a message on the Wootton Community Facebook page. The next dinner date is 29th August which is a Sixties Night. If you would like to help in any way please contact Peter Dixon on 0437 655 658.

Thank you to: Sylvie and Patrick who have offered to help clean up on Sunday afternoons when the café is open. Also to our new café helpers – Robyn Hardy and Sue Williams. Thanks to all the volunteers in the café.

Fancy a Big Breakfast for Fathers Day 6th September?

The Brush Turkey Café will re-open for Big Breakfast available 9am to 11am
Bacon, Sausage, eggs, tomato, baked beans, toast & vegetarian option
Cost \$12



Or maybe you would prefer a baked lunch, available from 1pm to 2.30pm:

Soup
Baked vegetables, Roast Lamb & vegetarian option
Dessert
Cost \$20

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL PRIOR TO WEDNESDAY 2ND SEPT

Contact Leanne on 49977201 or 0431546240

Or email woottonguesthouse@gmail.com

Or the café brushturkey@live.com.au

Wootton Volunteer/ Community Groups

Editor's note: Many newcomers to the area have asked about the activities and organisations that feature in this Newsletter. We hope the following overview helps:

Wootton Community Network:

This is an independent, self-managed community group responsible for everything to do with the Wootton Resource Centre, that is, the building including the Brush Turkey Café. This group maintains the centre, organises events in the centre such as the monthly community dinners and movie nights, sources the artists who display their works in the centre and organises the corresponding meet-the-artist events. They also fund the production of the Wootton Valley News and run the website.

Wootton Community Hall Committee:

This group is a Section 355 committee of the Great Lakes Council, made up of local volunteers. It is responsible for everything to do with the Wootton Community Centre that is also called the Wootton Hall or the old school. The committee liaises with Council regarding maintenance of the hall, organises events such as the quarterly bring-a-plate community dinners and the monthly food swaps, hosts and maintains the local community library and manages any booking for the hall for one off or regular use.

Wootton Rural Fire Brigade:

This group is a volunteer brigade that is part of the Great Lakes region. It is here to help protect the community from fire and other emergencies and is based out of the fire shed in Squires Road. It is made up solely of volunteers from the Wootton community and has two response vehicles; one a large category 1, 4-wheel drive, fire-fighting truck with a capacity of 3000L and the other a smaller 4-wheel drive category 9, truck with a capacity of 600L.

Topi Topi Sustainable Farming Group:

This is an informal social group of landholders that meets regularly to share local knowledge and experience about living on the land. Members have a diverse range of holdings and with a wide range of interests. Meetings and field trips cover such topics as building green, emergency preparedness, food forests, holistic management, sustainable farming and gardening.

Contacts for these groups are shown on page 5.

Bulahdelah Waste Facility opening times	
Tuesdays	1—5pm
Fridays	12—4pm
Sundays	10-2pm

<p>Wootton Community Network President: Jim O'Connor (0412963161) Secretary: Fran O'Connor Treasurer: Leanne Wright Email: brushturkey@live.com.au</p>	<p>Wootton Community Hall Committee Chair/ Bookings: Caro Badcock (0408415420) Secretary/Treasurer: Larn Garnett (0427272629)</p>
<p>Wootton Rural Fire Brigade Captain: Mike Badcock (49977337) President: Adam Garnett (0428272629) Senior Deputy Captain: Craig Tate (0431644953) Tuncurry Fire Control: 65397700</p>	<p>Topi Topi Sustainable Farming Group Organiser: Sue Williams (0438433063)</p>

All these groups are always welcoming of new members and would love to hear from you at any time.

Topi Topi Sustainable Farming Group

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the presentation on Dung Beetles scheduled to be held on Monday 24 August has been postponed.

BUT ... you can still get Dung Beetles working for you! Dung beetles improve our pastures and save us money by providing valuable control of fly infestations. Dung beetles are not contained by fence lines; they move, feed and multiply in neighbourhoods where farm practices are not detrimental to their survival.

Some good news is that Kaluah & Great Lakes Landcare (KGL) may be in a position to assist landholders in procuring dung beetle colonies. If you are interested in knowing more about dung beetles or about the KGL assistance scheme, please contact Robyn Lamond, President of KGL, on 0419800896 or email robyn.lamond@gmail.com

Topi Topi Sustainable Farming Group updated program of events

- Mon 21 September **Emergency Preparedness and Planning**, at Wootton Fire Station, hosted by Mike Badcock and Sue Williams
- Mon 19 October **Cheesemaking**, at Bungwahl, hosted by Elena Swegen
- Mon 16 November **Building Green**, at Topi Topi, hosted by Richard Single
- Mon 7 December **End of Year Gathering**, at the Salty Dog Café, Coolongolook

Coolongolook, Wang Wauk and Wallingat Rivers Catchment Communities Group

In 2012, Coolongolook, Wang Wauk and Wallingat Rivers Catchment Communities Group (CWAG) with the assistance of Great Lakes Council and NSW Government Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure & Services, held community meetings and developed a Community Strategic Plan for the Coolongolook, Wang Wauk & Wallingat Rivers Catchment Communities. The Plan's purpose is 'To assist in prioritising action to foster economic growth, social development and enhance community pride in a strategic and proactive way'. The Plan can be viewed on Council's website under 'Community Strategic Plans' and is due to be reviewed in 2016.

The Group does not replace or compete with the many other established groups in the area.

Many of the items in the plan are being addressed with the major achievements being the construction of the Coolongolook Oval /Highway fence and the toilet / amenities building about commence construction and finished before Christmas (2015) and will be open to the public. These two items at a cost to Council of \$213,000.

We have established a good working relationship with Council and its various department representatives and our State and Federal Government members. Two recent Great Lakes Council staff positions that were vacant for a long period have been filled; this will assist us greatly. There is now Community Engagement Officer (Tracey Farrant) and a Tourism Manager we have yet to meet.

Your input to the Community Strategic Plan would be most valued. Please contact any of the Group's officers for any further information.

Brian Parry (Pres) 65591671

Pam Dunne (Sec) 49977156

Jeni Locke (Treas) 4997733

Yoga in Wootton Community Centre

For many years we have had yoga classes running very successfully in the Wootton Community Centre. Community Halls seem to be the ideal fit for yoga, as they are predominantly in quiet, peaceful locations, lacking the glitz and busyness of dedicated fitness centres. A sunny morning in the old school hall, with birds nesting in the eaves and views to infinity is the perfect time to catch up with oneself and focus on proper placement and functioning of muscles and joints that have been neglected or misused in daily life.

Yoga in Wootton Community Centre (cont)

Yet yoga doesn't suit everyone, and not everyone wants to stand on their head or obtain full lotus position, but with an experienced teacher, even the least flexible can learn to move more freely and with fuller consciousness of the body's abilities without feeling a failure if the ultimate position is not achieved.

Unfortunately, the Thursday morning classes longer take place in Wootton. Our current teacher, Christine, has transferred the Thursday morning sessions to Bulahdelah for a number of reasons, but hopes that her Wootton attendees and any potential new students will be willing to travel the extra distance to keep up the lessons. Its not so far, and you do have a choice of sessions, with the advantage of the blankets, cushions and other props which she uses to help her students get into proper positioning without straining the body.

If you wish to get in touch with Christine, her mobile number is 0408154008.

Meanwhile, "back at the ranch" please come forward with any ideas for continuing activities (social, exercise orientated, artistic, other....) at the Community Hall. It's too good, and too close to be left unused.

Editor: Is anyone interested in taking up the Thursday Wootton slot with Pilates? If so, contact Carole by email: ithicawootton@bigpond.com

Library News

***Tall Timbers* - a book by Gladys Hay**

There may be some out there who remember Gladys Hay, her husband Graham and their children who lived and farmed dairy cattle to the north of Kennedy's Gap Road at Coolongolook. Gladys, in this new book *Tall Timbers*, writes of joys and difficulties of local life, farming and raising a family in the area in the days before the new highway intersected their farm, making it no longer viable.

Tall Timbers was a poem selected as the motto for Bulahdelah Central School and tells the story of fighting for survival. Gladys' story is likewise a story of hardship and struggle, but also faith and love.

Gladys has kindly donated her book to the Wootton library but if you would like to own a copy, it will shortly be available at Bulahdelah Newsagent.

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The Dung Beetle



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