

WOOTTON VALLEY NEWS

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2016 NO 103

DISTRIBUTION WOOTTON COOLONGOLOOK
BUNGWAHL BUNYAH BULAHDELAH

Crested Shrike Tit (*Falcunculus frontatus*)



While walking around our property with friends we heard a bird tearing bark off trees and banging away. Turned out a crested shrike-tit, the Eastern form, endemic to the east coast of Australia. It is evaluated as being of least concern on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species unlike the northern one considered endangered and the western one considered near threatened, both from loss and fragmentation of habitat! The crested head, robust body and strong bill are features common to all three races. The bill is used to open seed pods or to prise bark off trees to get at larvae. The sound of chunks of bark being ripped away can often be distinctly heard.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Fri 5 Aug | Meet the Artist, Fred Bullen, at the Brush Turkey Cafe 6pm |
| Sat 6 Aug | Working Bee at the Brush Turkey Café 9am |
| Sun 7 Aug | Wootton Fire Brigade training at the Fire Shed, Squires Rd, 9am |
| Sat 13 Aug | Food Preparation and Training Day 12 pm Light Supper and movie Night 6pm supper \$10 pp |
| Sat 20 Aug | Preventive Health Clinic, Community Hall, osteopath, 9 am—12 pm |
| Sat 27 Aug | Preventive Health Clinic, Community Hall, podiatry, 9am—12 pm Community Dinner, Welsh Night at the Brush Turkey Café 7pm \$20pp |
| Sat 3 Sept | Wootton Community Network meeting + AGM, Brush Turkey Café, 3pm |
| Sun 4 Sept | Wootton Fire Brigade training at the Fire Shed, Squires Rd, 9am |
| Sat 10 Sept | Light Supper and Movie Night 6pm supper \$10 pp |
| Sat 17 Sept | Preventive Health Clinic, Community Hall, osteopath, 9 am—12 pm Wootton Community Plan Workshop Community Hall, 2 pm |
| Sat 24 Sept | Preventive Health Clinic, Community Hall, podiatry, 9am—12 pm Community Dinner in Community Hall from 6pm, bring-a-plate, \$5 pp |

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

BRUSH TURKEY CAFÉ RE-OPENING ON SUNDAYS FROM 3rd SEPT.

Wootton Community Network (WCN) News

AGM: Will be held at our next meeting on 3rd Sept. Café meeting from 3, AGM from 4 and Network meeting from 4.30pm.

Volunteers. Thanks to Lucy for offering to look after the café vegie garden now Judy has gone, Richard for taking over the mowing from Geoff Freeman; Peter Auriac for making new table tops and everyone that helped with the catering for the Holistic Management Course, especially Fran, Mary, Fred, Pat and Jim.

Food Handling Course. We are still planning to arrange a free, Council run food handling course in Wootton. Please contact Pat on 0422 251 508 if you are interested.

Food Preparation Training Day. A training day will be held on 13th August from 12 pm. We will practice our food preparation skills for community events and Sundays in the café. Call Jim on 49977 323 if you are interested.

Renovations and repairs to the Resource Centre (aka café) will be undertaken in the near future and the committee has agreed on a budget to do this.

WCN Membership: If you are a WCN member and not receiving regular emails from Wootton Community Network, or if you would like to join please contact Fran.

Wootton Valley News

Like all things in the Wootton valley, The Wootton Valley News can not be created, printed and distributed without the help of volunteers. While the cost of printing is covered by the Wootton Community Network the rest is personal effort. At present the following streets have the newsletters delivered by the volunteer mentioned. As you know, some of these roads are quite long and there may be roads that have been missed. If you would like to help with the delivery please contact Caro.

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Wootton Village | Leanne Wright |
| Wootton Way (all the way) | Leanne Wright |
| Squires Road and Possum Pie Road | Julie Richardson |
| Herivals Road and Ferny Creek Road | Lucy Attkins |
| Wattley Hill Road (all the way) | Jim and Fran O'Connor |
| Hubbards Road North | Jim and Fran O'Connor |
| Newmans Road | Mike Badcock |

Wootton Historical Railway Walk

Thanks to a local bushwalker from Hallidays Point, Ian Campbell, a meeting was arranged with Forest Corp about the maintenance of the walk, safety, signage and road maintenance. Things look promising that some work may get done after a site inspection next month. The Walk is a valuable heritage and tourist asset and has seen great interest from bush walkers. It has held up pretty well in the last 20 years but needs some urgent work to make it both safe and enjoyable for walkers. Anyone interested in being part of any working bees please contact Pat on 0422 251 508.

Council merger update

On the 12th July some Wootton residents attended the meeting in Bulahdelah run by Mid-Coast Council, concerning the forced merger of the Great Lakes, Taree and Gloucester Councils. It was an eye opener! Glen Handford, interim General Manager, ran the meeting and made a presentation explaining what was happening and how they hoped to handle it. He couldn't present accurate financial figures because of the time frame and the fact that Taree's figures were unreliable. Also there were John Turner, the Administrator, and ex Councillor representatives from all three councils. Equity in rates across the whole area is a big issue as well as maintaining roads and bridges. Council are trying to "keep the community fully informed" and will be holding more meetings, probably every two months. These meetings are widely advertised so there's no excuse to be left in the dark about what's happening with the merger.

BRUSH TURKEY CAFÉ RE-OPENING ON SUNDAYS FROM 3rd SEPT.

Wootton Community Hall Committee: Wootton Preventive Health Clinic

We are pleased to announce that Dot Williams (podiatrist) has joined Dr Jenna Norrie (osteopath) in our preventive health clinic. Jenna will hold her clinic on the third Saturday of the month and Dot will hold hers on the last Saturday of the month, 9 to 12.

Jenna can be contacted on 0408 002 810 and Dot on 0406 287 694.

Dot Williams: podiatrist

My mother grew up at Montrose (now 529 Wootton Way) and I have been coming there and to Legge's Lake (as it was) for holidays ever since I can remember. I grew up in Canberra, married a NZer and lived most of my adult life in Auckland where we had 5 sons. We bought the 15 acres at 527 Wootton Way from my uncle in 2001 and have been using it for holidays since then while we lived in Orange, NSW then Auckland and most recently in Sydney - my husband and I moved to live at the property in May this year ... so my connections with this area go way back and I still have quite a few relatives here.

Along the way I took up long distance running and then triathlons, and did some work in aged care- so developed a growing interest in feet and medical conditions.

I went back to Uni when our youngest son was at high school to study Podiatry and since graduating have been working in a busy practice in Sydney's Inner West - doing general clinic podiatry, nursing home work, and home visits.

I see all sorts of feet and foot problems - including those who just find it difficult to reach their feet, or cut their nails, or have ingrowing nails, corns and rough skin but am most interested in aged care work - (keeping older folk mobile, pain free, and less likely to have falls), and in care of people with Diabetes and others who have high risk of foot problems.

I am keen to provide services at the preventative health clinic at Wootton (at discounted prices) - keeping all your feet working and comfortable! Good health from the ground up! .read more on my web site www.dotpod.com.au

New Artist:

As a schoolboy Fred Bullen attended art classes at the weekend and later painted with the Parramatta Art Society. He left art to concentrate on engineering design for the next 40 years.

A few years ago he retired, moved to the Mid North Coast of NSW with his wife Patrice and decided to take up the challenge of starting back into art.

He joined the local art society and participated in workshops run by visiting tutors in quite diverse artistic media and subjects.

He started by painting traditional landscapes on canvas and moved on to large format boards for abstract works, often with very heavily textured surfaces. His works cover a wide range of subjects and many have been created using unusual techniques and materials.

His inspiration comes from the local bush and beach which are then reproduced in one of many styles such as 'abstract realism', '3D' or in a more traditional style. He has won awards for his works which are currently displayed in galleries in Forster, Taree and Port Macquarie as well as local cafes.

Come and **meet the artist** at the Brush Turkey café on 5th August from 6pm. If you would like to see more of his artworks at his gallery/ studio in Tallwoods, give him a call on 6559 3787 or email at talina8@bigpond.com.



BRUSH TURKEY CAFÉ RE-OPENING ON SUNDAYS FROM 3rd SEPT.

Wootton Community Plan

Back in 2008 a community plan was developed for Wootton with input from a lot of local residents and assistance of the council. This plan was filed away by the council and, although the volunteer groups have continued to maintain a vibrant community in Wootton there has been no use of that plan by the community or the council to lobby for local needs.

A good example of how a local community plan can be advantageous is the Coolongolook, Wang Wauk, Wallingat Plan. Among other things, the development and use of this plan has seen Coolongolook obtain fencing around the oval and the erection of a substantial toilet block that is going to be open to the public at all times. A local community information sign is in the pipeline. While Coolongolook would like Wootton to be a part of their plan, a large number of the Wootton community believe we should have our own plan. This actually means we should update our existing plan and then make the best use of it we can to meet our local needs. Tracey Farrant, the Community Engagement Officer from the new, amalgamated, MidCoast Council has been out to visit the region, agrees that Wootton's needs are different to those around Coolongolook and is keen to help.

So, how are we going to go about obtaining input from the community and updating the plan? Well, to start with, please realise that the plan belongs to the whole community – it is not the responsibility of the individual community groups—so we need your help!

First, a community survey has been included in this edition of the Wootton Valley News to help us obtain as much information as we can from as broad a cross section as we can about what it is you like, don't like and worry about in regards to the Wootton area. We would like to collect information from both residents and visitors—be they family visitors, guests of our local accommodation providers or more local visitors from Forster, Bulahdelah and so on. Tracey offered to create the survey for completion on the internet; it can be accessed from the Wootton community website under the Community Plan webpage or <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WoottonSurvey>. For those of you who prefer to complete a paper copy you can use the one included in this newsletter, print a copy from our website or get Tracey to email you a copy. Once completed you can put them in the letterbox at the Brush Turkey Café or mail to Tracey ensuring complete anonymity for your comments. Tracey will then get these results included into the database before providing the data to us.

We will provide the results on the Wootton Community website prior to a community workshop that will be held on the 17th September at 2pm in the hall. At this workshop we will discuss and reflect on the results of the survey and then incorporate them into the updated plan that will be provided to council.

Wootton is a wonderful, diverse community with the village, small and large properties, home-based and tourism-based businesses and tourist attractions. To make sure that your needs are incorporated into the plan please make sure you complete and submit a survey and, if possible join us at the workshop.

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Wootton Bush Dance:



Topi Topi Sustainable Farming Group

Our **next meeting** is with Dr Joel Dunn from Landcare, **10-12 on Monday 8 Aug at 1443 Wattley Hill Rd Bungwahl** to discuss opportunities for future events and the proposed Food Trail linking Bungwahl and Wootton. BYO a plate for morning tea. RSVP to Sue Williams on 0438 433063 no later than 5 August.

Local Holistic Farming TAFE Courses

Holistic Management is a process of decision-making and planning that gives people the insights and management tools needed to understand nature: resulting in better, more informed decisions that balance key social, environmental, and financial considerations. More information about Holistic Management can be sourced at the inspiring TED Talk at http://www.ted.com/speakers/allan_savory and The Savoury Institute at www.savoury.global

Many of our members will soon complete the first locally conducted Holistic Management TAFE Certificate Course, subsidised by TAFE and facilitated by Brian Wehlburg (an Educator in Allan Savory's Holistic Management) with guest instructors from NZ and Queensland. A practical advanced course is also in the planning, which along with the first course, will provide 8 of the 12 units required for the TAFE Diploma in Holistic Management. Most importantly, the courses provide an opportunity to learn more about Holistic Management within the context of our local community. Graduates will have an opportunity to become community leaders and mentors at future local courses and study sessions.

The next certificate course will also be subsidised by TAFE (by \$2200) with attendees only having to cover the cost of the Hall Hire, morning tea and lunch at the Brush Turkey Café. **Expressions of interest** are now being sought for the next certificate Course commencing on the **22 of November** at the Wootton Hall. Please contact Sue Williams on 0438 433063 or sue@williamsonline.com.au if you would like more information or wish to register your expression of interest to attend.

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Spring is here – ask the Lyrebirds.

Friday 15th July, the day frost came to Wootton. Sunrise and all quiet outside, the usual bird chorus was silent—they weren't getting up just yet! How crazy were we, jumping into a car to drive to the Williams river rainforest; it's usually the place to go in mid-summer for a dip in the clear icy waters draining from Barrington Tops.

But this was to be Lyrebird day for us. The Superb Lyrebird, *Menura novaehollandiae*, is usually heard and not seen. Sort of. You're never really sure what you're hearing as the male lyrebird rattles off a currawong's call followed by a flock of black cockatoos, then maybe some magpies and rosellas, and catbirds and whip birds. Sounds like they're all in the one little part of the forest, along with a sort of "chu-chu-chu-chu-chu" sound that nothing else makes. Usually nothing except the lyrebird makes it, anyway. Is it impertinent to answer back with a whistled tune, that he answers with redoubled cascades of song drowning out such amateurish attempts?



Source wired.com

Just over O'Sullivan's Gap was the first sighting. Sort of loping across the highway, tail strung out behind, brisk but not panicked the same as crows knowing just how far and how fast to move as you drive by. Not noticing us of course, just going about the day's business.

In the rainforest above Salisbury we heard them all day, starting around 10am as we walked along blowing "smoke" from our mouths in the still-cold forest air among giant trees dripping with tresses of moss. No lyrebirds to be seen during the morning, not even a shed feather, just lots of scratchings along the track like someone's chooks loose in a giant garden. Were they really finding lots of worms there?



Lyrebird scratchings photo © FF

The calls continued as we ate lunch at Rocky Crossing, hard to hear above the roar of the water tumbling and churning and spilling through the narrow channels above Currawong Creek. It was late afternoon that things started to change, as the earth relaxed and started to inhale the slightly warm air. We were excited to see one lyrebird moving along the track ahead, it headed to the right and let us pass before returning to carry on scratching, and it was silent. Was this a wild-lyrebird-chase? The next one was also silent, both looking like females without the showy tail feathers. We noticed and passed a display mound looking fresh, and also some scratchings with underground mushrooms (native truffles) the birds might have been digging for.

Then just as our feet were telling us the car *had* to be very close or they were going to stop anyway, we rounded a bend and saw movement ahead in a little open area. A male was in full display and singing his head off. The lyre feathers over his head just gorgeous, how could any females resist such a handsome fellow? We stood respectfully (peering through binoculars) and listening with whispered compliments then sadly for him we had to start walking while our feet were willing. And he ruffled, folded his tail and slid into the shadows - how could we be so forward as to interrupt his show! As we moved on we heard him start up again, louder than ever.

Four lyrebirds in one day, one with a full display, what a great way to thaw out from the frost!

Fred and Sue Featherstone

BRUSH TURKEY CAFÉ RE-OPENING ON SUNDAYS FROM 3rd SEPT.

Wootton Rural Fire Brigade

It's been a very quiet winter so far! But remember that August and September are the two months that private land holders tend to lose control of their hazard burns as they try to get them completed before summer. Please take care.

Remember— fire permits are not required until October 1, but you must give Tuncurry Fire Control (6539 7700 9am—4 pm Mon-Fri) and your neighbours at least 24 hours notice for any burning you are planning to undertake. Fines could apply if you don't.

Local Police Update

There have been two break ins in the Kennedy's Gap area in June, and two in the Willina area in July (unoccupied at the time and firearms stolen). It is apparent that someone is aware when locations are not occupied. Over the weekend of 16/17 July a large amount of equipment was stolen from a logging operation in Wang Wauk forest near Wootton. If you have seen an unusual vehicle or one acting strange around your area please contact the police. *Senior Constable Trevor McLeod 4997 4204*

Food Swaps

The Food Swaps held in the grounds of the community hall will not officially happen until later in spring but if you have any surplus winter produce please feel free to bring it to any community event to share.

Wootton Directory contains important local contacts . Please email Caro (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

Wootton Preventive Health Clinic

Osteopath, Jenna Norrie 0408 002 810
Podiatrist, Dot Williams 0406 287 694

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

MidCoast Council: 6591 7222

Police

Senior Constable Trevor McLeod,
Sector Supervisor, Bulahdelah
4997 4204 0427233745

SES 13 2500

Local Land Services (Wild dogs)
Wingham 6553 4233

State Forests Wauchope 6585 3744

National Parks & Wildlife
6591 0300

Bulahdelah Waste Facility opening hours

Tuesdays 1—5pm

Fridays 12—4pm

Sundays 10-2pm

DIRECTORY

Accommodation

Wootton Guest House

Too many visitors? 4 air conditioned bedrooms with en-suites and balconies. Reasonable rates. Contact Peter & Leanne
www.woottonguesthouse.com.au
4997 7201 0407 974 420

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Mon-Fri 9am-5pm and most Sat 9am-12noon
Ph/Fax 4997 4283

Health

Dot Williams

Local podiatrist available for all foot care services: home-visits, weekly clinic
Bulahdelah, last Sat. month Wootton Hall.
0406 287 694 Williams.dot@gmail.com

Podiatrist

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