



Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus*

This bird is more common than people usually think, with its call the first indication of the presence of this brightly coloured little bird. It measures 8-10 cm and weighs 11g. This one pictured here, seen recently nesting in Wootton, has white eyebrows with a yellow spot in front of the eye, olive-grey back and a red spot and white stripe in the wing. It's black crown has fine white stripes. They are found in almost any habitat with trees or shrubs. They feed in the foliage in the tops of trees, occasionally coming close to the ground in low shrubs. They eat a wide variety of insects, maintaining contact with soft trills. During breeding season (June to January), they form pairs or small groups of up to six birds. Their nest is constructed close to the ground, usually in a tree hollow or tunnel, excavated in an earthen bank; small openings in human-made objects are frequently used. The birds display regularly at the entrance to the nesting chamber, and vigorously guard the vicinity against other pardalotes. Both sexes incubate and care for the young birds.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- Friday 10th December Carols by Torchlight Coola Oval 6pm
- Saturday 11th December Movie/Supper Night 7pm Brush Turkey Café
- Wed 15th December Carols at Bulahdelah Nursing Home 6.30pm
- Saturday 18th December Wootton Christmas Party 7pm Cafe

Published by Wootton Community Network Inc
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Wootton Community Network

Wootton Community Network and the Brush Turkey Café has seen another successful year. Thanks to all the efforts of the volunteers to keep everything running. New members joining has kept the enthusiasm alive and we look forward to new people and new ideas in 2011.

Community Dinners Bookings essential on 49977296

Our last two dinners have been booked out! Thanks to Peter Dixon for organizing the October Moroccan/North African dinner and the many helpers. We enjoyed a cacophony of flavours. Thanks to Pam Dunne, Ella Szpindler, Kay Desmond, Fran Fagan and partners, who cooked up an Italian storm. Dinners are a great way to meet new and old friends, share a great meal and have a little fun.

Our Christmas Party on Saturday 18th December at 7pm will be a “bring a plate to share” affair. The pizza oven will be operating so feel free to bring along pizzas, breads, anything that can be cooked in an oven. We will be playing some 60’s,70’s & 80’s music so come along and sing or dance or just listen to everyone and have a good time. There will be a Christmas raffle and trivia with prizes.

January’s Dinner on Saturday the 29th will be an Australian theme to coincide with Australia Day. It will be an al fresco barbecue with seafood, steaks, salads, crusty breads and pavlova and seasonal fruit for dessert. We will entertain ourselves with an Australian trivia and feel free to bring along any stories or poems to share. Book early.

Membership and Advertising renewal invoices have been sent out recently. Anyone who has not yet paid (renewals were due 30th June) will be removed. Please note back page. All payments should be sent to the Brush Turkey Café at 1633 Wootton Way Wootton 2423. Please contact Leanne Wright on 49977201 for any queries

Working Bee Last Wednesday a few members got together to clean up the garden and spring clean the office and cupboards. The garden is producing salad vegies and herbs prolifically for the café. The office and storage cupboards are much better organised.

We still do need someone willing to garden and a few handyman jobs still need doing.

Art at the Brush Turkey Cafe

The artist exhibiting at present is Maya. The paintings on display are a small sample of her work. Maya has a passion for realism and wants her paintings to capture the emotion of the moment. Maya paints what she loves best.... her family, including the many animals that she shares her farm with. She loves flowers.

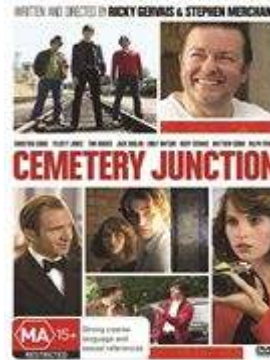




Volunteers from the Pacific Palms Tourist Office. They enjoyed morning tea at the Brush Turkey Cafe before heading off to the Great Lakes Winery.

**Supper and Movie Night
“Cemetery Junction”
Saturday 11th December at 7pm**
A 1970s-set English comedy centred on three upstart professional men working at an insurance company.

\$10 includes pre-movie light meal and supper after the movie.



Newsletter delivery: Thanks to Kerry and Craig Swinbourne for delivering the WVN over recent years. It was delivered far and wide at a very reasonable cost. We now have a different arrangement through Australia Post at a greater cost and less area. If you do not get the WVN delivered to your post box you can pick a copy up at the Brush Turkey Cafe on Sundays or alternatively subscribe at a cost of \$11 for 1 year and we will post it out to you. Also, the latest newsletter is on our website along with old newsletters.



Carols by Torchlight at Coolongolook Oval

Friday 10th December at 6pm BBQ provided. Presents to the value of \$10 to be left at the BP Coolongolook

Membership, advertising and subscriptions are now overdue for this year.

- Membership is \$22.00 or \$5.50 (active volunteers, students, juniors)
- Wootton Valley News Subscriptions is \$11.00

**Next Wootton Valley News Deadline is
24th January 2011**

The following was contributed by Jan and Kevin Bishop

Class of '58... You are requested to commence duty.

Graduates from Armidale Teachers College signed a bond promising to teach wherever they were posted and waited anxiously for their first Department appointment. This is one of their stories.

Bruce Proudfoot, Wootton Public School: Having survived the “onerous” general primary course at ATC, I was appointed, with no infants training, to lower division Wootton Public School—a two teacher school located on the Pacific Highway between Nabiac and Bulahdelah.

The newly appointed principal had come direct from the Junction Demonstration School in Newcastle. To both of us, the culture shock of being placed in a little isolated town with no electricity or any services was a shock. This was not helped when we were invited to a welcome at the nearby dairy farm of the P&C president. The men adjourned to the bales, where we had beer and sausages cooked on a square-mouth shovel (I'll leave it to your imagination what it is usually used for).

Kath, the principal's wife, dressed in her best frock, was ushered to the front veranda after numerous chooks were sent away and was given half a slice of watermelon to nibble on while she met the locals.

However, it was the boredom and loneliness that I initially found difficult. The school was on top of a steep hill on the Pacific Highway and I always had lunch with the kids in the playground while the boss went over to the residence for lunch. Not having enough money yet to buy a car, I used to watch the interstate Pioneer bus come over the hill on its way north.

I used to dream of being on it heading to my home on the Tweed. Often the driver would blow his horn and passengers would wave to the kids.

At last, the May holidays arrived and I went south to Bulahdelah to catch the Pioneer bus to the Gold Coast. We headed north and I settled in for the long drive...

Shortly after, the driver announced: “Folks, we're shortly passing through a little town called Wootton. There's absolutely nothing there but on top of the hill is a school and there's always a teacher sitting on a chair having lunch with the children. He looks so lonely and forlorn, we give him a wave to cheer him up.”

As I slid down my seat I vowed never to wave at a Pioneer bus again!

This is an edited extract from a collection of stories written by members of the class of '58 compiled by Anne and Michael Egan.



Wootton General Store in the 1950's showing the unsealed highway out the front.

Wootton Fire Brigade News

Due to the recent wet weather Wootton Brigade has had a quiet couple of months for call outs.

We have had a prescribed burn planned for Annabel Pekic's property in the pipeline for the whole of November. Since Annabel's husband Jack died in 2007 this large property has got away from the owner and the dead whisky grass was posing a serious threat to their house and out-buildings as well as neighbouring properties. The brigade determined that this burn was an imperative before we got into the summer heat.

A window in the weather opened last weekend and 3 Brigades, Wootton, Bungwahl and Bulahdelah started the control burn at 10.30. As with any plan nature's unpredictability reared its head and ½ an hour into the burn, the wind picked up and accelerated the fire spread beyond the resources available to contain it. Fortunately Coomba Park and Pacific Palms were able to assist by lunch time. A well executed back burn and a moist gully meant that the fire was contained predominantly within the planned burn area.

The lessons we learnt were that, at this time of year, even 1 week out from heavy consistent rains a grass paddock will cure and become a severe fire hazard. If not for the back-up resources this fire could have moved into some heavily timbered neighbouring properties and probably taken many days to contain. Also the Bureau of Meteorology reports, that are specifically targeted on a grid reference are still only estimated guesses of what the weather may do. The forecast was for light north-easterly's picking up to stronger gusts by 2.00pm with showers coming, later on in the evening. What transpired was the strong gusts arrived at 11.00am and we are, at the time of writing, still waiting on the showers. Finally, the onus is upon the property owner to maintain clear, preferably trafficable boundary and access tracks.

Should a fire, even a well intentioned control burn, escape into a neighbour's property, the property owner from where the fire started, is liable for any damages and costs incurred to contain the fire. For example if a bulldozer is needed to clear an overgrown boundary or access track to get fire fighting resources close enough to attack the fire, that cost is born by the owner.

In the fire at the Pekic property slashed containment lines and the reliance on green pick paddocks were, as it turned out, an inadequate containment.

I hope the description of this burn and what happened, even though a considerable amount of fire brigade resource was in attendance, alerts landholders that this wet run up to the fire season should not excuse fire complacency.

Craig Tate
Acting Wootton Captain

For next meeting, training dates and permits contact Mike Badcock on 49977337.

New members are always desperately needed.



Wootton Guest House News

The Wootton Guest House has had many people through the door, more dirt bike riders, more obedient dogs and the girls from Newcastle for their scrap booking weekend. Anyone interested on how scrap booking is done or maybe start a new, creative hobby can join an organised trip to one of Jo's classes in Newcastle. Scrap booking has become very popular. All you need is 6 to 8 photos and \$5. Please contact Leanne on 49977201 for a possible date in February.

Congratulations to...

☼ Maureen Guthrie on her recent wedding.
☼ Nicole Wright and Anthony Wrigley (wriggles), pictured below, celebrated their marriage on Saturday 10th October at the Great Lakes Winery, a perfect location for a beautiful, elegant wedding. Family and friends continued celebrating at the Wootton Guest House. Also, best wishes for the birth of their first baby due early December. It will be the 4th living generation on Anthony's side and the 5th living generation on Nicole's. Is it a boy or a girl? Wait for the next issue of the newsletter.



☼ Suzanne and Chris Kennedy's daughter for the next wedding in Wootton on the 11th December.

Happy Birthday to...

- ☼ Peter Auriac for the 4th December (21 again!)
- ☼ Bronwyn Little on 20th October
- ☼ Wayne Ellis on 25th November

Wootton Tennis Club

For anyone interested in playing tennis, a new competition will be starting next year. So get your names to Alison on 49977126 for a fun, social night.

A country experience

Upon walking on my verandah the other day I stopped to see two lizards exhibiting strange behaviour. One lizard was chasing the other lizard around and around. The second lizard finally caught the first lizard by the tail. They stopped motionless for about 20 seconds. Then the first lizard attempted to escape the second, a tussle then ensued, again stopping like statues. This time the second lizard was in an arched position, making me think it might be trying to mate. Another 20 or so seconds go by. All the while I'm standing motionless watching the show. Then more movement the first took off with the second still attached by the tail. After much scrambling over shoes, buckets etc the second was shaken loose. The first dived off the verandah with the second only millimetres behind. They sped along the ground and then into the undergrowth. No more movement or sound was heard.

Another experience was sitting on the verandah having a cuppa when a Paddy melon (wallaby) hopped by. I stayed motionless getting prime viewing of the beautiful animal. I sat like a statue both of us looking intently at each other. I must have sat still for 5 minutes admiring it's lovely features. If the mosquitoes hadn't be biting so hard I could have sat there for ages. My first flinch at swatting a mozzie and it was off. The things you see in the country that enrich your life.



Image of a rare albino brush turkey.
Photo supplied by Julie Williams
(taken from That's Life magazine)

ART SALE
GREAT LAKES ART SOCIETY
25% OFF SALE
for 3 days only
Dec. 3, 4 & 5
34 Lake St. Forster
10am to 4pm
Fri, Sat & Sun
6557 2880

Best of luck to our local vigneron, **Steve Atkins**, who is jumping into the political world, contesting the **State election** next year, as an independent.

For Sale
(This service is free)

Mudbrick press \$100
Phone Bron
49977185

Honda 750 SHADOW Excellent condition, new rear tyre, new battery, long rego, 20,000 kms \$7,500

12 foot catamaran on a registered gal trailer with gear box, new tramps, main & jib, trapeze & harness \$2,000 Phone Peter 49977201

1998 EL Falcon station wagon Dual Fuel LPG/Unleaded Good Condition Reg 4/11 \$3,200 ono VBZ 419

Phone
49977292

Pie oven, 2 x bamboo blinds, electric calculator, high chair, assorted computer games. Make an offer at the Brush Turkey Café Ph 49977196 or 49977185

Portable cattle ramp treated timber \$1,000
Cattle trough 250 litre Rapid

Advertising rates for 2011 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.

Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year



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
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Computer services

Software installation, cleanup, Website design, Hardware upgrade, Custom build! New parts warranty.
Peter **49977223**

Earth Moving

Excavation, demolition, auger, rock hammer, grab bucket, tipper truck hire
David Knezevic **49977402 0410 441428**

Horses Gembiras Docs Onyx dual sire registered stallion AQHA-A17174 ASH-SM133207 Standing at stud: progeny usually for sale. Gembira Horses
49977335 0419201913

Plumber

Richard Green Plumbing All plumbing, drainage, gas & LPG fitting, metal roofing domestic, commercial, industrial Lic no. 53903C **0418 618583 65591555**

Real Estate

Edes Real Estate Pty Ltd - Stock & Station Agent & Property Management Brian Ede www.edes.com.au **49974566 49977180(A/H) 0408492883**

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