

WOOTTON VALLEY NEWS

DECEMBER - JANUARY 2012 NO 75

DISTRIBUTION 450 WOOTTON COOLONGOOK
BUNGWAHL BUNYAH BULAHDELAH

White's Thrush *Zoothera dauma*

White's Thrush is named after the English naturalist Gilbert White. It is a quiet and unobtrusive ground forager on the floor of cool, damp forests, both under rainforest and tall eucalypt, where ever leaf litter is dense and moist. It hops silently along stop-start pausing here and there to watch and bill probe the leaf litter for prey. Earth-worms molluscs and fallen fruit form it's



diet. If alerted, it often freezes, it's mottled plumage blending with it's background; and if flushed, it flies off quickly and silently through the undergrowth. It's face and upper parts are coppery brown, the feathers edged black in scaly crescents. Breeds July to December. It's nest is a rounded cup built of bark strips, leaves and grasses decorated on the outside with green moss and line with rootlets. It lays two or three eggs of pale green flecked with red-brown. (In 23 years of living here this is the first time I have seen it. Bron)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday 26th November	Spanish Dinner Brush Turkey community café 7pm
Saturday 3rd December	Farewell party for Bron 7pm
Saturday 17th December	Christmas Party Brush Turkey community café 7pm
Sunday 25th December	Café closed
Sunday 1st January	Café closed
Sunday 8th January	Café re-opens
Wednesday 8th February	GL Catchment Management Group Wootton Hall

Published by Wootton Community Network Inc

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Wootton Community Network

Community Dinners

Thanks to Ella, Pam and her helpers for a fantastic Polish dinner. We were fully booked and everyone raved about the authentic food.

The Spanish dinner is on this Saturday 26th November 7pm.

The next dinner will be our Christmas party on Saturday 17th December 7pm. So bring some food to share.

January's dinner will be an Australian theme.

Bookings phone 49977296

Cafe news

The café will be closed Sunday 25th December and Sunday 1st January 2012 and will reopen Sunday 8th January.

Thankyou to the café helpers: Leanne, Pat, Fran, Jim, Bron, Wayne, Pam, Danny, Anna, Judy, Sue, John, Ella, Sue, Ian, Linda, Lyn, Peter, Jan and Anne.

Movie Night

The next movie night will be held Saturday 11th February

Farewell

A farewell party, for Bron, will be held on Saturday 3rd December at 7pm. Food provided BYO drink

Come along and look at the art at the Brush Turkey Community Café

This month we have two artists exhibiting, Bob Berriman and Pam Dunne. Bob has found time to pursue his passion for painting after retiring from work and stepping down from captain of the Fire Service. He is a realist painter and tries to produce reality as seen from his eyes. He paints any scene that captures his interest regardless of the subject. Pam, (our art co-ordinator) has exhibited before selling many of her works. She is a lover of the Australian bushland and the rural settings around the Great Lakes. She is an active member of the Great Lakes Art Society.



**Next Wootton Valley News Deadline is
23rd January, 2012**

Hi All,

Goodbye to all my Wootton Valley News readers. I leave the area in the next 2 weeks, so this will be my last time as co-editor of the WVN. I'm leaving the area after 23 years and heading north about 2 hours away onto a property half way between Port Macquarie and Crescent head.

Over the past 13 years co-writing this newsletter with Pat I've had a wonderful time. The WVN is such a worthwhile community newsletter. Feedback has always been encouraging.

I will miss the times Pat and I have together nutting out what we will put in the newsletter and generally having a laugh. I'm always amazed that we find a new plant or animal for the front page and I'm sure there'll be lots more still to come. We've barely touched on insects.

It's been a privilege living in Wootton. I've had so many experiences, met so many good people and my kids have had a wonderful rich upbringing in the area. I hope to keep in touch and maybe add a few stories to the WVN of my new life.

I'd like to thank Pat so much for her friendship over the years, we were a good team: from fundraising for Coolongolook School, the Sustainability Fairs and our biggest project: to be part of a team of enthusiastic people who realized the need for the community to have a meeting place (the Brush Turkey community café). It's been a great ride so far, I wonder what my new life will bring? Bron

“Come and have a look at this”

It's funny how, in the country, when your partner calls out to you to come and have a look. You know by the way they ask and the fact that you have to follow them that it's something you haven't seen before. The other day he calls out “Come and have a look at this”. As you follow, you start guessing. Is it a koala? I did see one the other day. Is it a snake? I see plenty of them and if it is one it must be doing something pretty weird. It's no use guessing, they're not going to tell you. They want to see your face when you see it. As I got to the top of the hill he's pointing to the pile of grass clippings. There on top was a pile of pythons as seen -in the photo below. There were 5 in all, 2 large 3 small, all writhing about together. It may have been a family. I watched for a while and the smaller ones became curious and started sticking their heads out to look at me. They moved to less than a metre away and lifted their heads about 30 cm into the air and strangely enough the corners of their mouth were up as though smiling at me. They then turned back and re-positioned themselves and settled down quite contentedly. Each night they would hide under the grass clippings and come out again the next day. It went on like that for about 4 days then they were gone. How lucky I am to live in the country. Bron



Coolongolook/Wootton Action Group are currently putting together an information pamphlet and website. They would like to include as many local businesses and community groups as possible. Contact Brian Parry on 65591669

Great Lakes Catchment Management (GLCM) Group

The November meeting was held at the Nabic Showground Hall. The day started with a tour of the Bullock Wharf reserve hosted by the Nabic Land-care group. These dedicated volunteers have been looking after the reserve for at least 15 years battling with all the usual weeds we also experience along with those introduced by people dumping rubbish such as garden waste (in particular roses and gladioli) and rubble. I recommend a visit to the reserve to see what has been achieved or even just to enjoy the vista by the river. After our field trip we adjourned to the hall for morning tea with local rural landholders from Nabic, Minimbah, Dyers Crossing and Possum Brush areas followed by an open session with these landholders where they were welcome to raise any issues. Issues included wild dogs, weeds, wildlife corridors and water quality particularly related to the new Great Lakes Landfill. Agency members on the GLCM were able to provide advice or information in response to all concerns eg contact LHPA for wild dog problems as they coordinate with National Parks and Forestry for baiting plans; if you are interested in wildlife corridors you can go to:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/nature/landholderNotes15WildlifeCorridors.pdf>

If you have trouble with obtaining the document, don't have internet and want to see a copy then contact the National Parks office. The water quality concerns for the landfill were addressed by a representative from the Council. He assured us that the organics were being taken out to the system to reduce leachates and that water in the sediment pond will be irrigated back through the landfill so there should be no overflows.

The afternoon session was the usual closed meeting part of the day where agencies provided updates of their activities and any matters for joint action. The next meeting will be held in the Wootton Hall, February 8. Anyone is welcome to the open forum for landholders so please put the date in your diaries and I look forward to seeing you all there.

Caro Badcock Chair, Community Representative GLCM Group

Wootton Hall Happenings

Since the flurry of events in the middle of the year the hall has been quite quiet. Most recently it came alive with the community meeting hosted by the Wootton RFS. How lucky we are to be able to hold these types of events in our own local hall. It is a wonderful venue for any types of get-togethers so keep it in mind.

The main topic of discussion for the November meeting of the committee is the tennis courts. Watch this space for any updates.

Bookings contact Caro Badcock 49977337, carobadcock@bigpond.com

News from Coolongolook Public School

Firstly, I compliment those who put the Wootton Valley News together! What a lovely way to share community ideas and get to know what is going on! Coolongolook Public School – our Caring , Polite and Safe school continues to explore and achieve great educational and social outcomes.



Term 4 has started in lively fashion! This Term we have welcomed our 5 new Kindergarten students, and are getting ready to farewell our Year 6 students. This Years theme is an Hawaiian Night!

The Hon. Bob Baldwin, MP for Paterson , Stephen Bromhead, MLA for Myall Lakes and Bulahdelah C.S. Principal, Mr. Don Hudson, joined our school Community for our BER Library Recognition Ceremony early this Term. Our distinguished guests gave generously of their time, and shared Morning Tea with parents and students! Mr. Baldwin even tuned up his handball skills! ...and School Captains' Chelsea and Cody S. did a terrific job officiating the Assembly!

We gained second place in Pool A (for very small schools!) for our Stockland Star! The school received a \$1,000 prize...monies being currently spent on Recipe, Craft and Science books for the Library! Thanks for your votes everyone!

We welcome enrolment enquiries during Term time, and will willingly discuss school learning programs to enhance your child's future education.

Coles Sports for Schools Vouchers finished totalling over 11,000! A mighty effort! Sincere thanks to those who dropped off vouchers from the wider Community, and of course, our school community! Equipment including skipping ropes, a Touch Footy Kit, Hi Bounce balls, Swimming Goggles and Relay Batons are heading our way.

Students from Year 1 – 6 are currently enjoying Keyboard Lessons. Keyboard skills are moving forward at a pace - there are a number of Christmas Carols being learnt...and our school play "Two Elves Meet Ten Loopy Caterpillars" - to be performed on Presentation Day , 30th November - is sounding wonderful! Community members are very welcome to come and join us on the day!

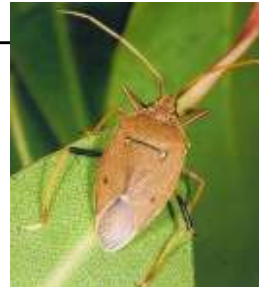
For the past two years Coolongolook has performed impressively in the NAPLAN Tests - results are above State and Regional levels. The local school is indeed a vital asset in this Community. At present we are completing a Whole School Situational Analysis and formulating programs to be undertaken in our next 3 Year learning cycle 2012-2014 (inclusive). We welcome enrolment enquiries during Term time, and will willingly discuss school learning programs to enhance your child's future education.

Remember, if you need to catch up on school news or what is happening, and have internet access go to our school website

www.coolongolo-p.schools@nsw.edu.au .

The Dreaded Stink Bug

I suppose everything living has a purpose and has a right to live but recently we discovered some pretty ugly bugs on our lime tree. We've seen them before but only a few, this time they are in profusion. They're the 'citrus bug' or 'stink bug', so named because they squirt a vile smelling liquid when disturbed that is very caustic and can burn the skin and eyes. Craig discovered them when he was sprayed in the face, very painful. The shield shape bug appears in October/November. The young ones are greenish, the colour of young citrus leaves, and turning orange then black as they mature. They are sap suckers and can do a lot of damage to any citrus tree. They usually attack a tree that has either not had enough water or nutrition or a tree that has been over watered. I think our lime was over watered with all the rain we've had.



The internet has supplied the following remedies:

Nicotine: Soak an ounce of tobacco in water, mix it with a pure soap mixture so you can spray it.

The soap sticks the solution to the bug/plant and the nicotine kills the bug. If you don't want to use nicotine, a poison, the soap mixture on its own will work because insects 'breathe' through their carapace (outer covering) through little holes and the soap clogs the holes up and they die.

Spiders: Introduce spiders to the tree, which multiply rapidly, and eat the bugs.

Goggles and Long rubber gloves: Put on protection and manually pick off the bugs and drop into a bucket with methylated spirit. (Soapy or hot water works too). You can use a long stick to knock them off or long tongs.

Vacuum Cleaner: Use an old vacuum cleaner with a bag to suck them up and dispose of the sealed bag. The smell will linger in the vacuum cleaner.

Plastic Bottle: Hang an empty plastic bottle in their vicinity. When the sun shines on the plastic it gives off a vapour that repels the beetles. (If it does that to Stink Bugs, what does it do to us?)

Prevention: In summer, have a look under citrus leaves for stinkbug eggs. Water, mulch and fertilize. The bugs will die off in hot, dry weather but by then they will have done a lot of damage. Citrus trees need well-drained soil and constant 'wet feet' causes them stress which makes them susceptible to pest and disease attack. See if you can find a way to improve drainage around the trees, or grow something like nasturtiums under the trees to help soak up excess water in that area. Pat

Watch out for Myrtle Rust on your farm!!

There have been recent sightings in the Wootton area!

These rusts are serious pathogens which affect plants belonging to the family Myrtaceae including Australian natives like bottle brush (*Callistemon* spp.), tea tree (*Melaleuca* spp.) and eucalypts (*Eucalyptus* spp.).

Myrtle Rust is distinctive in that it produces masses of powdery bright yellow or orange-yellow spores on infected plant parts. It infects leaves of susceptible plants producing spore-filled lesions on young actively growing leaves, shoots, flower buds and fruits. Leaves may become buckled or twisted and may die as a result of infection. Sometimes these infected spots are surrounded by a purple ring. Older lesions may contain dark brown spores. Infection on highly susceptible plants may result in plant death.

Myrtle rust outbreaks should be reported to the land holder (e.g. local council, National Parks, Forests NSW etc). New hosts of Myrtle rust, and any detections in inland NSW should be reported to NSW DPI by sending photos to biosecurity@industry.nsw.gov.au

Weed Day in Wootton

10th November, 2011



Andrew Paget from the CMA demonstrating the 'gas gun' technique (large droplets of glyphosate) for treating large areas of lantana.

WOOTTON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL GROUP

(12th November, 2011) The Wootton Sustainable Farming Group met again recently at Michael & Joanne's property to talk about erosion control. We also were given the results from our soil tests. If anyone would like to join contact Karen Bee at Great Lakes Council 65917305



What's in your farm dam? Landholders workshop 22/10/11

The main interest for me was the abundance of creatures we found living in the dam, from tadpoles to dragonfly larvae. We did other water tests such as salinity, pH and turbidity. Peter and Meghan also talked about their plans for their farm. Pat



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who won the award for *Excellence in Primary Industries* and were also one of the four finalists in the *Business of the Year Award* for 2011



STS Services Pty Ltd

who received the *Highly Commended Award* in the closely contested *Excellence in Environmental Sustainability* category as well as being nominated as a finalist in the *Business of the Year Award* for 2011