



White-winged Chough [Corcorax melanorhamphos](#)

This large, almost completely black bird, has a curved beak, a red eye and a large white wing patch, seen when the bird is in flight. They are found throughout most of eastern and south-eastern Australia, extremely sociable, almost always seen in groups of up to 10, raking through the grass and ground litter. Food consists of insects and some seeds. They walk with a



distinctive swagger, calling softly to one another every few seconds. Large feeding territories are kept, which are often up to 1000 ha in size. They do not reach sexual maturity until four years of age and, during this time, the eye changes from brown to orange and then to red, and the plumage darkens. The groups normally consist of only one breeding pair, the other birds being offspring from previous years. The offspring stay with the parents until maturity, helping with nest building, incubation and feeding of chicks. The nest is a large bowl of mud, which is built on a horizontal branch within 15 m of the ground. The eggs are cream-coloured, with large brown spots. When the chicks first leave the nest, they are not able to fly strongly until after 28 days, and are easy prey for feral cats and foxes. They will defend their nest territory during the breeding season with 'wing-waving' displays to deter unwanted intruders. Larger families have a better chance of breeding success so choughs will often kidnap the youngsters of neighbouring families in order to recruit them. Groups have been seen 'waddling' in Wootton recently where this photo was taken.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sun 1 Dec	Chainsaw operation and maintenance workshop Wootton Community Hall 10am
Sat 7 Dec	Wootton Community Network Meeting 3pm Brush Turkey Cafe All welcome
Fri 13 Dec	Coolongolook Christmas community gathering at the School 5.30 to 8.30
Sat 14 Dec	Supper/Movie Night <i>The Lone Ranger</i> Brush Turkey Cafe 6pm
Sat 21 Dec	Wootton Community Christmas Party Wootton Hall from 4pm
Sun 29 Dec	Brush Turkey Cafe closed (for only one day)
Sat 11 Jan	Supper/Movie Night <i>Behind the Candelabra</i> Brush Turkey Cafe 6pm
Sat 26 Jan	Australia Day Dinner - a community event Brush Turkey Cafe 7pm
Sat 1 Feb	Wootton Community Network Meeting 3pm Brush Turkey Cafe All welcome

Published by Wootton Community Network Inc
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brushturkey@live.com.au Visit our website @ www.wootton.org.au

Wootton Community Network

Meetings: will now be held on the first Saturday of every second month, 3pm at the Brush Turkey Cafe. Next dates are 7th December and 1st February. All are invited to attend.

Wootton Community Network Membership, Advertising in the Wootton Valley News and Subscription for the Wootton Valley News are all due on 31st December 2013.

Community Dinners are held on the last Saturday of every month

26 January 2014: Australia Day Dinner 7pm Brush Turkey Cafe \$20

Supper/Movie Nights: These are held on the second Saturday of every month, 6pm Supper, 7pm movie \$10

14 December: *The Lone Ranger*

11 January 2014: *Behind the Candelabra*

We now have a new screen for our viewing enjoyment!

Bookings essential: 49977323 49977292

Brush Turkey Cafe

Thanks to all the volunteers who have helped with the running of the cafe on a Sunday. Anyone wishing to help next year (serving, cooking, shopping, cleaning, general maintenance, garden...) contact Jim on 49977323

The cafe will be closed on Sunday the 29th December 2013

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
from the Wootton Community Network*

Coolongolook Wootton Action Group (CWAG)

Presently we are working to establishing a suitable date for a community meeting with Great Lakes Council representatives to review progress on the Coolongolook, Wang Wauk and Wallingat Rivers Catchment Communities Strategic Plan. This Plan covers items of interest involving the Community, Tourism, Economic Development and the Local Environment. The meeting will be held at Coolongolook Hall and a meeting notice with further details will be delivered to all mailboxes in the area. This year we are holding our Christmas community gathering at Coolongolook School on Friday 13th December 5-30 until 8-30. Everyone welcome. Barbecue and soft drink sales will be available. Lolly bags will be given to all children. Santa will be attending and parents can wrap a present with their child's name attached (valued at \$10 or less) for Santa to give to them. Admission \$2 per child and a request for no alcohol. The committee would like to thank everyone for their support during the past year and have a Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year. Brian Parry (Pres CWAG) 65591671 Pam Dunne (Sec) 49977156 Jeni Locke (Treas) 49977334 email brian.g.parry@gmail.com



Wootton Community Christmas Party

21st December from 4pm

*Bring a plate of food to share
The Wootton Hall Committee
and The Wootton Community Network
will be supplying barbecue chickens.
Ice creams and cold drinks for the kids!*

*Venue: The Wootton Hall and outside
Music, dancing, games, raffles
Santa Claus will arrive in the fire truck!
Come and make this a real family and community event,
in the Christmas spirit.*



Wootton Sustainable Land Managers Group

Thanks to John Wright for his informative talk on bee keeping. There was a crowded Wootton Hall with people asking lots of questions and checking out all the bee keeping paraphernalia. If you are interested in joining the group please contact either Mike Badcock on 49977337 or Mike Coventry on 49977155 for details of future get togethers and events.



Supper and Movie Nights
2nd Saturday of every month
6pm Supper, 7pm movie \$10
Brush Turkey Café Wootton
Bookings 49977292



Saturday 14 December:

The Lone Ranger starring Johnny Depp and Armie Hammer

A thrilling adventure infused with action and humour. Native American spirit warrior Tonto recounts the untold tales that transformed John Reid, a man of the law, into a legend of justice, taking the audience on a runaway train of epic surprises and humorous friction as the two unlikely heroes must learn to work together and fight against greed and corruption.

Saturday 11 January:

Behind the Candelabra starring Michael Douglas and Matt Damon

Before Elvis, Elton John, Madonna and Lady Gaga, there was Liberace: virtuoso pianist, outrageous entertainer and flamboyant star of stage and television. Liberace lived lavishly and embraced a lifestyle of excess both on and off stage. In summer 1977, handsome young stranger Scott Thorson walked into his dressing room and, despite their age difference and seemingly different worlds, the two embarked on a secretive five-year love affair.

Fire Risk

I was appalled recently when out for my morning walk. It was just after 6 am and the dog was keen. It was going to be another *stinker* of a day and had been declared a *total fire ban and catastrophic fire conditions*. The fires in the Blue Mountains were still raging. Our own Wootton fire brigade had been called out on numerous occasions, the winds whipping up smouldering fires or blowing down power lines and causing fires.

There on the side of the road, about 30cm from dry grass, was a cigarette end, still alight! I couldn't believe that in those conditions, with fires being reported every day on the news, that someone would be so thoughtless as to throw a lit cigarette out of their car window, so near potential fuel.

Recently, *"fire investigators say a cigarette butt may have sparked a fire that destroyed 47 cars at Homebush Bay in Sydney's inner-west . Commissioner Mullins says if anyone is found responsible for throwing the cigarette, they could face severe penalties. "(It's) just irresponsible. Stupid. It's just stupid," he said. "If you're a smoker, put it out, don't throw it out the window, because things like this can happen."*

www.abc.net.au/news

The Fire & Rescue NSW website details a university study proving the potential for roadside fires from cigarettes dropped from cars. Also from their "Don't be a Firebug" campaign on their website: "It's enough to make your blood boil - the sight of someone throwing a cigarette butt out of a car window. Every year the Fire & Rescue NSW (FRNSW) is called to hundreds of roadside fires believed to be caused by discarded butts As well as the environmental cost associated with littering, there is also the potential for fires from dropped cigarette butts, particularly during bushfire season," he says. "A careless act by one person may have dire consequences for others, including the firefighters who risk their lives at fires." www.fire.nsw.gov.au From all accounts the potential for serious fires is increasing (hotter and drier) so hopefully this *cigarette risk* in Wootton is a one-off.

Pat



Wootton RFS

Fire permits are required until April next year. Call Mike (49977337)

CHAINSAW OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP

When: Sunday 1st December at 10am

Where: Wootton Community Hall

Members of your rural fire brigade have noticed alarming dangerous tree falling techniques when visiting some local properties. Your brigade is inviting you to this workshop to discuss the appropriate maintenance and operation of a chainsaw, in the interest of community safety. While no statistics are available,



Manning Base Hospital casualty department agree that chainsaws cause the majority of farm based accidents. Chainsaws come a close second to tractors in causing actual fatalities. Don't think you know everything about chainsaws and their use. Come and be a part of the discussion. It could save your life.

Craig Tate Senior Deputy Captain

Forster Aboriginal Land Council seeks land claim over the Wootton Way Reserve

This was lodged on September 15, 2009 but has only recently come to the attention of local community groups. The Council has formally objected to the claim. A report was tabled at the September 2013 council meeting outlining the recommendation to formally object. The reasoning is that the reserve has a community hall and other facilities which are lawfully used and occupied for recreation. The Council have submitted their report to the NSW Lands and Property Management Authority who will make the final decision about whether the claim is approved or rejected. We do not know when the decision will be made. However, if the claim is rejected the Forster Aboriginal Land Council will be able to make an appeal. I have asked Council if there is anything we can do at a local level to assist their submission and at this stage the feedback is that, no, we don't need to do anything. The Council submission should be sufficient.

Wootton Halls News

- We are all still recovering from our Wootton 101 day so there is nothing much to report.
- The termite situation is being addressed by Council, so now it is a waiting game before we get the all clear that they have gone.
- In December I will be meeting with Council to discuss our plans for the land behind the hall. I will include an update in the next Wootton Valley News.
- Our next event will be the joint Christmas party with the Wootton Community Network so, see you there.
- In January we will be having our next committee meeting - if anyone is interested in joining us please let me know and I will give you the details.

Caro Badcock (49977337)

Congratulations

Caro and Mike Badcock, Scott and Paloma on the birth of their new son and grandson, a brother to Louis.



Farewell

Herbie Guesmer

Sympathies to Anna and their family.

Rosa Formosa

Sympathies to Joe and their family

Hazel Downs Sells

The renowned Hereford stud in Wootton Way has been sold, by Edes Real Estate, to new owners. The property had been in the same family for over 30 years. Early morning walkers were used to the familiar sight of Frank Schultz driving in his truck along Wootton Way to his property every morning, sometimes accompanied by his wife Shirley. Wootton residents wish Frank and Shirley the best for the future.



Wootton Wildlife

What have you seen lately?

- A *pygmy possum* in a palm tree watching the humans.
- *Eastern Bearded Dragon* eggs. These soft shelled oval eggs the size of a large marble, were accidentally uncovered whilst planting a tree. Laid in a shallow hole in the ground, they were re-covered and left alone
- A *common snake-necked tortoise* crossing Wattle Hill Road. When it feels threatened, this turtle will emit an offensive smelling fluid from its [musk glands](#). This trait gives the turtle one of its other common names, "stinker", so think twice before picking it up.
- An *antechinus* (native mouse-sized marsupial carnivore) caught in the house and released. They do not gnaw on cables etc like mouse and are unlikely to eat stored food as they are carnivores and prefer insects and small lizards.

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- Have you noticed the bright red of the *Illawarra Flame Trees* in flower on Mount Mistake and Mount Telararee in Wootton (Did you know that extreme caution must be taken with the dangerous, irritating hairs inside the seed pod. The hairs irritate the skin, are easily inhaled and have been known to cause blindness - Royal Botanic Gardens website)
- Lots of birds, including the grey backed cuckoo shrike, the fig bird, dollar birds, King parrots,....
- The *red-bellied black snake* is out and about and has been seen often. (Let the editors know if you see something unusual or have a story to tell)

Etiquette for Wootton roads

It has been observed over time that an increased number of drivers are showing a lack of courtesy while driving on the roads in the Wootton area. You may like to consider the following:



Dust

- Especially during dry times dust is an issue, particularly for those houses close to the road or down-wind so please drive slowly
- Passing people walking, cycling, riding horses, working – please drive slowly to minimize the dust going into their lungs!

Passing

- It is common courtesy to slow down and pull over to the left at the approach of an oncoming vehicle.
- Given the deep gutters on some roads it is courtesy for the 4 wheel drives and SUVs to allow more room for the 2 wheel drive vehicles
- If the road is narrow pull over where possible and stop
- If someone stops for you then at least acknowledge them with a wave!
- Stay on the correct side of the road
- On the steep and narrow downhills, where practicable the vehicle travelling up the hill should give way

Rubbish

- Don't throw rubbish out of your car windows. Take it home
- MacDonalds containers and beer bottles seem to be a particular problem. Again, take them home.
- Don't throw your cigarette butts out of your car window. It is litter and a potential fire hazard.
- It is illegal to litter.

Disclaimer: These are not the RTA rules, they are suggestions put forward by the local residents to make our lives safer and happier.

DIRECTORY

Accommodation

Too many visitors! **Wootton Guest House** 4 a/c bedrooms with ensuites & balconies, reasonable rates.
www.woottonguesthouse.com.au
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12 tonne tipper with driver, fully insured, Min 3 hrs \$75 PH + GST
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Health
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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**

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49977167 0417369670

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Paul and Hazel **49977150**

YOGA
Yoga with Janine Wootton Hall Thur 9:30am
Bulahdelah Tue 5:30pm/Fri 9:30am
janinesyoga@bigpond.com **0413 596543**



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