



WOOTTON VALLEY NEWS



DECEMBER 2015/JANUARY 2016 NO 99

DISTRIBUTION WOOTTON COOLONGLOOK

BUNGWAHL BUNYAH BULAHDELAH

Short-beaked Echidna

(*Tachyglossus aculeatus*)

Named after a half-woman, half snake creature in Greek mythology as it was perceived to have features of both mammals and reptiles, the Echidna is the oldest surviving mammal on the planet today. Found all over Australia, this little chap lives in Wootton. Echidnas are solitary animals and are not territorial. They eat ants and termites, also larvae of other invertebrates such as the Scarab beetle, other adult beetles and earthworms. Their tongue can dart out and extrude up to 18cm to catch its prey, with the help of its very sticky saliva. Female echidnas become sexually active around age 5, they are 'monotremes' meaning that they lay an egg. The baby echidna (called a 'puggle') hatches from the egg by using its egg tooth and pulls its way along the mother's hair into the pouch area. *Photo: Pat Tate - taken near the café, saved from dogs. Seen here burying itself in the ground to try and hide.*



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Fri 4 Dec	"Meet the artist", cheese and wine, 5 pm Brush Turkey Café
Sun 6 Dec	Wootton Fire Brigade training at the Fire Shed, 9 am
Mon 7 Dec	Topi Topi Sustainable Farming Group Christmas Get-together
Sat 12 Dec	Food swap 5 pm at the Wootton Community Centre grounds Light supper & movie night, Brush Turkey Café, 6 pm supper 7 pm movie \$10
Sat 19 Dec	Wootton Community Christmas Party, Bring a plate, 4 pm
Sun 20 Dec	CWAG Community Get-together, Coolongolook Wharf, 5.30 pm
Sun 3 Jan	Wootton Fire Brigade training at the Fire Shed, 9 am
Sat 9 Jan	Food swap 5 pm at the Wootton Community Centre grounds Light supper & movie night, Brush Turkey Café, 6 pm supper 7 pm movie \$10
Sat 30 Jan	Community dinner, Australia Day celebrations, Brush Turkey Café, 7 pm

Brush Turkey Café closed Sundays 27 December 2015 and 3 January 2016

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Join our group on Facebook: [Wootton Community](https://www.facebook.com/WoottonCommunity) or email brushturkey@live.com.au

Visit our website @ www.wootton.org.au

Wootton Community Network

Thanks to everyone who attended our last general meeting in November - Pat, Fran, Jim, Leanne, Judy, Patrick, Sylvie, Caro, Richard, Pam, Danny and Julie. We now have 62 financial members and our finances are looking good, thanks to Leanne and Jim. Thanks also to Leanne for organising our electricity discount for the year (and for all the other things she does that don't go unnoticed).

Art opening and local artists We have various local artists exhibiting at the moment. A cheese and wine evening will be held at the Brush Turkey Café on Friday 4th December, commencing at 5pm, so come along and meet the artists.

The Network's donation for 2015 was made to the Great Lakes Art Society in support of local artists and from which it has recently received a letter of thanks.

Railway Walk 20th anniversary Thanks to all the people who came to the working bee: Arjan Arnold, Caro and Mike Badcock, Kevin Carter, Danny Dunne, Fran and Jim O'Connor, Keith and Lynne Skipper, Richard Stubbins, Craig and Pat Tate, Ray Towers.

New Brush Turkey Café sign Thanks to Pam for painting our new sign and to Danny and Ian for their contribution.

Brush Turkey Café Closed for Christmas and New Year The café will be closed on Sundays 27th December and 3rd January.

New volunteers urgently needed for Sundays at the Café This year has gone really well at the café with the volunteers doing a fantastic job and many locals using the café. It's a lovely place to meet old friends and make new friends. The coffee is good too (members get a \$1 discount!). Unfortunately our Sunday volunteers are limited and if someone is away it makes it very difficult to open. We **urgently** need more helpers. Full training will be given and we will ease you in gently. It's also a great way for teenagers to learn hospitality skills that can lead to employment. So, if you can spare any amount of time (a few hours or a full day each month or 6 weeks) please call Jim on 4997 7323.

Revamp of Café In the coming months we will be having a bit of a revamp – new blinds, tables and shade sails to start with. The café has already been painted inside. Thanks to everyone who is helping with these changes.

Community dinners

Saturday 19th December: Christmas Party, 4pm in the Community Centre grounds.

Saturday 30th January: Australia Day Celebrations, 7pm at the Brush Turkey Café.

Supper and Movie Nights (\$10) are held on the second Saturday of every month. Bookings for community dinners and movie nights may be made by email brushturkey@live.com.au or ring Fran 49977323 or Pat 0422 251 508.

Crown Lands update According to the Government White paper response, there is still the intention to hand local community land back to Council. Council will be discussing the situation with the Crown Lands representative in Taree and Caro and Jim are hoping to meet with them. Thanks to Jim and Caro for keeping on top of this.

Wootton Historical Railway Walk

On 26 November Wootton celebrated the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Wootton Historical Railway Walk. Twenty seven people took part in a bushwalk along the path of the old railway. We arrived at the Brush Turkey Café and had “Woottonshire Tea” – homemade scones, jam and cream – before a short talk. Craig Tate described how the walk was created and Kevin Carter provided a short history of the timber industry in the area. The walk follows the rail line that carried timber out of the Wootton forests and then onto Mayers Point.

Twenty years ago the Wootton Coolongolook Progress Association put forward a proposal to find the old railway which ran through State Forests in Wootton and turn it in to a walking track. With the support of a New Work Opportunity Programme, 15 locals, the Forestry Commission and the Dept of Employment Education and Training, the project came to fruition. Six months of hard work, surveying, clearing lantana and fallen trees, building bridges, steps, stairs, seats, picnic tables and toilets saw the completion of a 6 km heritage walking track. As a bonus most of the participants gained valuable work skills that would set them up in permanent work.

Unfortunately State Forests do not have the resources to maintain the walk but Conservation Volunteers Australia and local volunteers regularly keep the track maintained, although it is now only a 3 km walk and the old Trestle Bridge, which was originally at the end of the walk, collapsed quite a few years ago.

Kevin and Craig took a group each, swapping over on the way back. The weather was perfect and it was great to have guides so knowledgeable about the history, flora and fauna and relics to be seen along the walk, including bridge timbers, railway track and sleepers. We walked through old railway cuttings and over bridges next to timbers now covered in a green moss. While walking along you could imagine where the trestle bridges spanned the gorges and you could almost hear the clicketty-clack of the train’s wheels and the steam hissing from its funnels. Upon returning to the Café we were treated to a barbecue lunch and afterwards Kevin showed some old film of the logging industry in the area.

It’s a relatively easy walk with many species of trees and other flora as well as being a bird and wildlife haven. For a short bushwalk or if you are interested in railway or timber history, now is a good time to visit.

To get there, turn west from Wootton Way and continue along Squires Road for 6 km to arrive at the start of the walk. If it’s a Sunday, don’t forget to visit the Brush Turkey Café and sample the home-made food, coffee or the famous lemon myrtle cheesecake.

The Wootton Community Network organised and financed this event.



Wootton Community Food Swap

Yes, the Food Swap in Wootton is back. Sue Williams hosted the first swap back in October when we shared homemade bread and buns, native flowers, lemons, fresh green vegetable, chicken and duck eggs and an array of aromatic herbs. The November swap, hosted by Peter Dixon on a horribly wet weekend, was held in the hall. Numbers attending and the selection of produce was excellent with a range of plants, pumpkin, beans, lettuce, eggs, homemade tabbouli and bread.

Just a reminder as to what the food swap is. It is an event where anyone can bring anything that is homemade or home grown. For example, fruit and vegetables, pickles, jams and preserves, eggs, cordials, bread, cakes, slices, seedlings, bulbs, seeds and so on. There is no limit to how many items you might want to bring. All items to swap are put out on tables and after a cup of tea, a chat and a sticky beak, everyone takes what they think is a fair exchange for the swappables they brought.

Over the summer it will be held on the second Saturday of the month from 5pm prior to the supper and movie nights in the café. The community library in the hall will also be open during this event. The next one will be held on 12 December.

For more information contact Peter Dixon on 0437 655 658

Wootton Rural Fire Brigade

You will have seen on the community notice board that **fire permits** are required until 31st March 2016. If you require a permit, contact Fire Control in Tuncurry on 6539 7700 to arrange for a member of the Wootton Brigade to visit you and issue a permit.

Training is on the first Sunday of every month from 9am at the fire station in Squires Road, Wootton: 6 December and then 3 January, 7 February, 6 March.

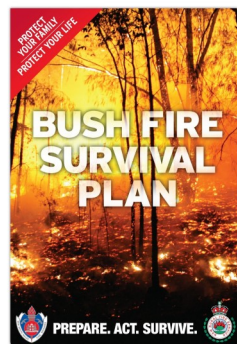
The Wootton Brigade currently has only two heavy vehicle truck drivers available to drive our large fire truck on week days. Both of these people work so there will be many occasions where the local brigade will not be able to respond to emergency situations in our valley. If you have a heavy vehicle driver's license and wish to help your local community, please contact Mike Badcock about joining the brigade.

Important

We are now moving into what is expected to be a long and dangerous fire season.

So, it is essential that everyone in the Wootton Valley has a fire plan in place and that all their equipment is serviceable. If you would like assistance to develop your fire plan, contact the Wootton Bushfire Brigade.

(See page 7 for details)



Coolongolook, Wang Wauk and Wallingat Rivers Catchment Communities Group (CWAG)

At its August AGM, the following committee members were appointed:

President Brian Parry ph: 6779 1671 0409 761 116

Vice president Alison Curnow ph: 0401 594 357

Treasurer Jeni Locke ph: 4997 7334

Secretary Pam Dunne ph: 4997 7156

Committee members are: Jason Tindal, Rob Gough, Darryl Buchanan, Lyn Skipper, Keith Skipper and Ian Hawkins.

Many of the items in the Strategic Plan are being pursued, including: Wootton Way as a Tourist Route, Coolongolook as a designated Recreational Vehicle friendly area with a Tourist Information Guide on Coolongolook Oval. Also improvements to Coolongolook boat ramp and picnic area.

Grants have made possible the construction of fencing of the Coolongolook Oval from the highway and the toilet amenities building is about to commence, for completion by April.

We hope to hold some fundraising activities over the next 12 months in the way of a trivia evening, a Christmas party and a Q&A evening with key Great Lakes Council representatives.

We will be reviewing our Strategic Plan in 2016 and your input would be most valued.

Merry Christmas, thanks for your interest and support and we look forward to achieving more for the community during 2016.

CWAG Community Get-together and Sausage Sizzle



Sunday 20 December at 5.30 pm
Coolongolook Wharf Picnic Area
BYO drinks and nibbles, chair or picnic rug.



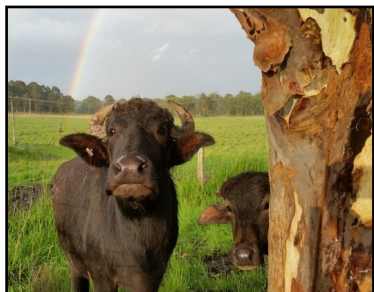
Former Wootton Resident Reaches the ripe old age of 100 years.

Congratulations to John Hansen Smith, known as Jack Smith, a former resident of Newmans Rd Wootton, who reached 100 years of age on 25 August 2015. John/Jack attended the Wootton school in his early years and revisited for the **Wootton 101** . His wife Grace passed away two years ago. John/Jack has 124 direct descendants.

How do I know this? One of his son's, Uncle John Smith, married one of my mum's sisters, Auntie Shirley.

Leanne Wright

Topi Topi Sustainable Farming Group



On Monday 19 October the Sustainable Farming Group was fortunate enough to meet the Buffalos and observe them enjoying a swim at Burraduc Farm. We were also given the opportunity to taste freshly made organic mozzarella, creamy ricotta and several other cheeses (all made traditionally without chemical agents). The Group learnt that Buffalo milk has half the cholesterol and twice the protein of cow's milk, which is why it's known as liquid gold throughout Europe. Our host, Elena Swegen was recently

awarded the prestigious Churchill Fellowship to research best practice buffalo farming in Europe and share her experiences back in Australia. Elena and Andrei Swegen are committed to protecting the environment and producing low volume, high quality organic dairy products for our local community.

We are now all eagerly awaiting the Council to give the green light for a small artisan cheese room to be fitted out in the dairy so we can access fresh ethically produced milk, cheese and yogurt.

Our final event for the year and Christmas Get Together will be held on Monday, 7 December at the Salty Dog Café, Highway, Coolongolook. RSVP Sue.

Also contact Sue re draft 2016 event calendar.



Wootton Hall Happenings

The Wootton Hall committee would like to thank Chris Kennedy for donating 90 metres of red and white checked fabric for new tablecloths for the hall and Jan Garnett for hemming these. They have already provided a fresh look to our community dinners as seen in September.

Thanks also to Jim Garnett for loaning a TV and DVD player to the hall. These will be wall mounted and used for more informal yoga or other classes that the community may want to run. If you are interested in organising a class please give Caro a call (0408 415 420). See the local sign, Wootton facebook page or email for the start of any classes.



The library is going great guns. More bookcases have been installed and a good selection of books is available. The library is open every Sunday while the café is open and whenever any other community event is on, such as the food swaps, supper and movie nights and the community dinners.



WOOTTON COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

4 pm, Saturday, 19 December, Wootton Community Centre Grounds

Santa will arrive in the fire truck!

Please bring a plate to share (nibblies, salads, deserts)

There will be barbeque chickens, fruit platters and lolly bags for the kids.

Everyone Welcome!!!

Police latest news

On the 9 November police from Taree, Forster and Bulahdelah executed two search warrants at two addresses in Wootton. As a result of these actions two men aged 47 and 39 years were arrested and taken into custody. These men face various charges including break, enter and steal, possession of stolen goods and other offences. One of the men has been held in custody with bail refused until his next court appearance on the 5 January 2016, with the other released with bail restrictions applied.

As a result of the action a large quantity of previously stolen property was recovered from the locations. Any person who believes the property may be theirs is asked to contact Taree Detectives or Bulahdelah police with their inquiry.

Any suspicious activity – let police know

Senior Constable Trevor McLeod, Sector Supervisor

Police Station, 12 Meade Street, Bulahdelah, N.S.W. 2423

Ph: (02) 4997 4204 Fax: (02) 4997 4377 Mobile: 0427 233 745

Email: mcle1tre@police.nsw.gov.au

Wootton Community Network

President: Jim O'Connor (0412963161)

Secretary: Fran O'Connor

Treasurer: Leanne Wright

Email: brushturkey@live.com.au

Wootton Community Hall Committee

Chair/Bookings: Caro Badcock
(0408415420)

Secretary/Treasurer: Larn Garnett
(0427272629)

Wootton Rural Fire Brigade

Captain: Mike Badcock (49977337)

President: Adam Garnett
(0428272629)

Sen Dep Captain: Craig Tate
(0431644953)

Tuncurry Fire Control: 65397700

Topi Topi Sustainable Farming Group

Convenor: Sue Williams (0438433063)

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Keep your chooks safe. Goannas have been seen in Wootton prowling around, stealing eggs from bird's nests.

Bulahdelah Waste Facility opening times

Tuesdays 1—5pm

Fridays 12—4pm

Sundays 10-2pm

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