

WOOTTON VALLEY NEWS

DECEMBER 2019 JANUARY 2020 No 123

DISTRIBUTION WOOTTON COOLONGLOOK
BUNGWAHL BUNYAH BULAHDELAH



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sun 8 Dec	<input type="checkbox"/> Wootton Fire Brigade Shed: training, Squires Rd 8am
Sat 14 Dec	<input type="checkbox"/> Wootton Hall: Food Swap 5pm <input type="checkbox"/> Brush Turkey Café: Supper night 6pm, \$10pp *RSVP
Sat 21 Dec	Wootton Community Christmas Party Hall/café grounds from 4.30pm, bring a plate of food to share 6pm dinner
<p><i>Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!</i></p>	
Sat 11 Jan	<input type="checkbox"/> Working Bee: 7.30-10.30am <input type="checkbox"/> Wootton Hall: Food Swap 5pm <input type="checkbox"/> Brush Turkey Café: Supper night 6pm, \$10pp *RSVP
Sun 12 Jan	<input type="checkbox"/> Wootton Fire Brigade Shed: training, Squires Rd 8am
Sat 25 Jan	<input type="checkbox"/> Brush Turkey Café: Community dinner 6pm, \$20pp/\$10 kids *RSVP
<p>The Wootton Valley News is usually delivered before the 1st day of each second month.</p> <p>* - RSVP details in the newsletter and online www.wootton.org.au</p>	
<p>Published by Wootton Community Network Inc. Editors: Fred Fetherston Sylvie Riviere Kristin Coburn</p>	
<p>Contact us by email brushturkey@live.com.au</p>	
<p>Visit our website wootton.org.au and "Wootton Community" facebook public group</p>	



All creatures great and small

Livestock are hungry and thirsty and so are the wildlife. You can help them by putting out bowls with clean water and contacting **FAWNA** if you find any in distress.

Many birds are being seen in Wootton that are not usually here, like the bright gold and black **Regent Bowerbird** (*Sericulus chrysocephalus*).

The drought, fires and windy weather are bringing many birds and animals into contact with human Woottonites. They are in gardens looking for grass and water, and in sheds and woodpiles looking for homes to live and raise their young.



Photo: Pat



Photo: Leanne

Leanne found a family of **Grey Shrike-thrush** (*Colluricincla harmonica*) nesting in her garage.

A baby **Tawny Frogmouth** (*Podargus strigoides*)

"came out of the garden when I was raking leaves for fire cleanup. I tried to put him back in the bushes in the garden however he kept wondering out into the open...I contacted **FAWNA** and they had a woman from their group meet us. She said she already had another baby Tawny and



Photo: Bill

said it would be great to have two so they could be released together when they were old enough. We are glad to know he is in good company and with someone who knows how to look after him" - Bill

Wootton Community Network News

MEET THE NEW COMMITTEE GATHERING The Wootton Community Network held a gathering on 19th October for the community to meet the newly elected WCN Committee. Those attending were also asked for suggestions about the operation and future activities of the committee.

Bill Buckland the new president described the activities of the committee since taking office on 14th September. He talked about the Strategic Plan Revision passed by the council on 25th October, the intention to update the Website, the creation of a new office in the cafe for the storing of the WCN and Crown Lands Trust documents and recent meetings he had with the Mid Coast Council and the Crown Lands Office.

Suggestion/Comment forms were provided to those attending and in response 19 suggestions/comments were received. *Megan Kessler* helped with developing the suggestions. The full list of suggestions and some extras provided by two people unable to attend will be issued to the community by email. Action taken by the committee will be added to the suggestion list as actions develop. Among the suggestions received were requests for a new dishwasher in the hall kitchen, upgrading of the fences and signage for the community centre, improvements to the Tennis courts and surrounds including some provision for youngsters. The possibility of doing more to let the community and visitors know about local businesses was discussed. A request was received to provide more information about "Code of Conduct" and "Conflict of Interest" documents as they apply to the Wootton Community Network activities. An email to those on the WCN mailing list has already been issued by the Committee on the matter of "Code of Conduct" and "Conflict of Interest".

Thanks goes out to all those who attended and gave worthwhile suggestions making this a successful gathering - *Bill*.

Special dates: Saturday 11 January – **Working Bee** at the community area, more details after New Year.

Mark your tools and
bring your rake and
garden tools

Working Turkey

Sat. 11 January

7.30-10.30am



Wootton Fire Brigade

November has been extremely busy for the Brigade with 14 call-outs logged from 8-19 November alone. A lot of time has been spent attending the fires around Failford, Minimbah, Tuncurry, Old Bar, and further afield at Wherrol Flat, Johns River, Pappin- burra, Telegraph Pt, etc. We have been

stretched far & wide. Wootton, however, has been lucky so far with only 1 fire recently in Herivals Rd that was dealt with quickly, so let's all keep it that way. **What should you do:-**

Be extremely vigilant as the current dry weather patterns will be allowing fires to take hold quickly. Ensure you think twice and have a water sprayer and a phone with you before undertaking works in paddocks, using a quad, a rideon or mowing dry lawns around the house, having BBQ's, even lighting a mozzie coil, etc because a spark is all it takes.

Make sure your Bushfire Plan is ready to activate, check with **Fire Control Tuncurry 1300 643 262** if you are concerned. Listen to the radio for updates (ABC local FM 95.5MHz), keep your mobile on you for RFS Fire Alerts in your area. Keep an eye on the Fire Danger Level.

The following apps are useful tools ..

Fires Near Me (monitor current fires, updates) www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fires-near-me

My Fire Plan (create your own plan) www.myfireplan.com.au/

RFS Buddy (pin points your location) <http://rfsbuddy.com/>

With some care, forethought, and planning we can all be prepared for the coming Summer. *"Please don't stick your head in the sand and think it won't happen !"* Adam Garnett, Captain. Wootton RFS



For current incidents or major fire updates visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

Total Fire Ban rules

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fdr-and-tobans/total-fire-ban-rules

No fires during a Total Fire Ban A total fire ban means no fires out in the open. A total fire ban helps limit the potential of fires developing.

During a Total Fire Ban you cannot light, maintain or use a fire in the open, or to carry out any activity in the open that causes, or is likely to cause, a fire.

General purpose hot works (such as welding, grinding or gas cutting or any activity that produces a spark or flame) are not to be done in the open.

The NSW RFS strongly recommends you **reconsider activities such as using a tractor or slashing**, to help reduce the chance of a fire starting on your property. Under certain conditions, the NSW RFS may issue a Harvest Safety Alert www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/farm-fire-safety/grain-harvesting-guide



Total Fire Ban precautions

Have you turned your **electric fence** down or off?

Is your **generator** working for when there's a blackout?

Have you cleaned all the dry grass and leaves away from your **dam pump exhaust**?



Clearing around the power poles



Local fires over the last few weeks

Here's some photos showing fire scenes where Wootton brigade have responded, and some preparation that Woottonites are doing to protect their properties and neighbours. Some of the photos are on the previous pages.



Thanks to everyone for sharing, Adam, Bernard, Len, Fred and Leanne, Karen, Linda, Bill....



Injured wildlife needs help, but unless you have been trained the best way to help on the Mid North Coast is to contact FAWNA on 6581 4141.

Emergency First Aid:- Cover it with a towel or blanket to minimise stress and firmly but gently place it in a cardboard box, or natural fibre bag if available. Try to make it as comfortable as possible. Keep it in a warm and quiet place away from domestic pets and children and resist the temptation to peek at it.



Then call FAWNA on 6581 4141 who will advise the best course of immediate action. Alternatively you can take the animal to a vet who will contact FAWNA to arrange collection. There will be no charge to you.

**RFS always needs new members
contact Fire Control 1300 643 262 for your local brigade**

Fire retardants and/or foam will probably be used on your property if RFS crews are protecting it. You can read about them here.

www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/Documents/factsheets/information-about-the-use-of-firefight-



Many popular holiday areas will be closed at times due to bushfires. Check alerts and weather forecasts before going to a National Park, State Forest or Picnic Area.

National Parks alerts www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/alerts/alerts-list

State Forests alerts www.forestrycorporation.com.au/visit/closures



Weather warnings <http://www.bom.gov.au/nsw/?ref=hdr>

EMERGENCY FODDER AVAILABLE NOW FOR FIRE AFFECTED LIVESTOCK

LLS Hunter have established Emergency Fodder depots for fire affected livestock, register via the **Agriculture and Animal Services Hotline on 1800 814 647**. Immediate assistance is available, to help give landholders time to assess their situation and make plans for their stock.



The river bed bathed in smoke, and completely dry. The first time in 35 years. Photo Linda G



The Coolongolook River

For LOCAL DROUGHT SUPPORT INFORMATION Contact these LLS staff:

Community Engagement Officer,
Daniel Trudgeon 0419 436185

District Vet, Lyndell Stone 0429 532855

Ag Extension Officer, Albert Mullen
0428 670524

Agronomy, Peter Beale 0427 007468

Biosecurity, Laurie Mullen 0407 785007
& Kirstin Bisley 0438 593875

Regional Drought Support Officer,
Maria Cameron 0409 636765

Drought Administration Officer,
Anne Lantry 0428 394668

LLS Offices at Taree 6551 8994
Wingham 6553 4233

Rural Financial Counsellor in Taree
Michael Ramstadius 6551 5879

FOR Mental Health Support Services
contact your local GP or

Lifeline 13 11 14 or text to
0477 13 11 14

NSW Mental Health Line 1800 011511

Hunter New England Health, drought
support program 0477 322 851

The **Every Bit Counts** project recognises all small farms and lifestyle blocks (2 to 20ha) play an important role in managing our natural resource and agricultural environments. Whether you are a hobby or small-scale professional farmer or own a rural lifestyle property Hunter LLS are keen to hear from you.

**DO YOU HAVE A SMALL FARM
OR SEMI-RURAL BLOCK?**



Daniel Trudgeon 0419 436 185

Virtual Psychologist - If it's too hard to talk just TEXT 0488 807 266

www.virtualpsychologist.com.au/rural-remote/

Community Events



**Wootton Bush
Dance with the
"Waterbombers"**



**2019 Wootton Cup
run on a very dry
track with many
punters absent due
to bushfires**

Despite the low numbers, \$295 was raised for our local RFS which includes a very generous donation by a weekender local *Anderson Transport*. Thanks for a huge effort from one of our craft groups. Big thank you to Bulahdelah Newsagency for their generous donation on several raffle prizes & Geoff for being the Bookie. A fun filled afternoon had by all. *Leanne & Peter (Wootton Guest House)*

WOOTTON COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY 2019

SATURDAY 21ST DECEMBER

LOCATION: HALL/CAFÉ GROUNDS

TIME: 4.30PM, SANTA ARRIVING AROUND 5PM,

DINNER 6PM

PLEASE BRING A PLATE TO SHARE



RAFFLES \$2 PER TICKET

**SPREAD THE WORD TO FAMILY & FRIENDS TO THIS
FREE EVENT**

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

Thank you
Thank you
Thank you
Thank you
THANK
YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU

A great big THANKYOU to everyone who's been in touch during the year with stories, photos, and helpful suggestions; plus our local advertisers, and the delivery people who make sure the newsletter reaches so many letterboxes.

New and long-term readers tell us how much they enjoy reading it and seeing the photos, which is only possible with your input. *Fred & Sylvie*

<http://wootton.org.au/wvn.php>

Bulahdelah Police Report – Holidays and Firearms safety

Many crimes occur during the **holiday season**. Here are a few simple tips if you are planning a holiday.

- Check that everything is locked and secured before leaving.
- Ask a friend or neighbour to park in your driveway.
- Ask trusted friends or neighbours to clear your mailbox and check on your home while you are away.
- Make sure that the lawn does not become overgrown.
- Stop all deliveries that you are expecting.
- If valuable items are left in the home ensure that your property inventory is up-to-date.
- Lock the electricity meter box to prevent thieves interfering with your power supply or security lighting.

With smaller rural allotments becoming increasingly popular the **use of firearms** can be an issue. There is no restriction on the size of a property for use of a firearm as long as it is used in accordance with the regulations. If there are **concerns about the use of firearms** at any time don't hesitate to **call police**. *Senior Constable Trevor McLeod*

Be safe - Be GunSmart

GunSmart is an initiative of the DPI Game Licensing Unit in partnership with the NSW Police Force.

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting/safety/be-safe-be-gun-smart>

How GunSmart are you

A NSW POLICE FORCE AND DPI PARTNERSHIP

Coolongolook News and Christmas BBQ Friday 6 December 6pm

- The Coolongolook Wootton Action Group (CWAG) have been busy with grants. On
- Coolongolook Oval a new playground with
- shade cover is being installed. An adult
- exercise equipment walking area is to
- follow.

- You are invited to a Community Christmas
- BBQ on Coolongolook Oval near the new
- playground, BYO drinks, nibbles and chair.
- Pam



All donations are gratefully received. Mark brought items on behalf of some of the many donors, and a list will be published next issue

Wootton Directory and important local contacts

Always dial 000 for Emergency.

Please email brushturkey@live.com.au with any other contacts

Wootton Community Network:

President: Bill Buckland

Secretary: Kate Hosey 0402 776 376

Treasurer: Leanne Wright 4997 7201

Email: brushturkey@live.com.au

Bookings—all facilities:

Celebrating something special?

Running a Course or a Market?

Getting people together?

Kate Hosey 0402 776 376

Wootton - Topi Topi Sustainable

Farming Group:

Chair: Carole Robinson 0428 009 952

Wootton Rural Fire Brigade:

Captain: Adam Garnett 0428272629

Sen Dep Capt: Bernard Carran 0409684177

Deputy Capt: Jim Garnett 0422916002

President: Adam Garnett 0428272629

Midcoast Fire Control:

Burnoff notifications 1300 643 262

(24hour prior notice)

Karuah Great Lakes Landcare:

Joël.Dunn@glcr.org.au 0401932533

Bulahdelah Waste Facility:

opening hours Tuesdays 1 - 5pm,

Fridays 12 - 4pm, Sundays 10-2pm

MidCoast Council:

6591 7222

State Forests Wauchope:

6585 3744

Police:

Sector Supervisor, 12 Meade St

Bulahdelah, Senior Constable

Trevor McLeod,

4997 4204 - 0438 140 370

mcle1tre@police.nsw.gov.au

State Emergency Service:

13 2500

Local Land Services:

Wild dogs: Laurie Mullen

0407 785 007

Rural Resilience Group:

Peter Brown 0437 671 459

National Parks & Wildlife:

6591 0300

Fawna Wildlife Rescue:

6581 4141

Essential Energy:

electricity problems 13 20 80

[www.essentialenergy.com.au/
outages-and-faults/power-out-
ages](http://www.essentialenergy.com.au/outages-and-faults/power-outages)

Advertising for Wootton Valley News Directory

\$50 per four lines, \$5 per extra line (6 issues)

Renewals from 1st July

These businesses support this newsletter.

Please support them wherever possible.

New advertisers welcome, contact Leanne at

woottonguesthouse.com.au

Guest editor Special thanks
to Kristin Coburn for helping
us bring you this issue.

Services 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 or 0407 974 420

Building - Plumbing

Tim McDonnell Lic no. 14660

Plumbing, Drawing, Roofing Guttering, Water

tanks, Gas fitting Wootton & all areas – **0418 682 199**

Binna Burra construction Lic no.299434C

Custom building and carpentry, servicing Smiths Lake, Pacific Palms, Wootton, Nabitac, Forster and surrounds.

www.Binnaburraconstruction.com.au **0421245197**

Bulahdelah Post Office

Bank@Post personal and business banking needs, passports, travel and computer need, phones, gifts and more. Bendigo bank. Mon-Fri 9am-5pm **4997 4283**

Health and Beauty

Liarne's Hair and Beauty

A private home salon. All ladies and men's hairdressing. Waxing, relaxation facials, lash and brow tinting. Air conditioning, eftpos facilities.

Tuesday to Friday 9am to 5pm **0412 833 700**

Dr Lynette Arnoldus-Lewis

Psychologist–Nabitac, Approved DVA Provider
Domestic violence, Marriage counselling, Grief, Carers support, Family Issues....

65541535 or 0429 190 142

lynette.arnoldus@bigpond.com

Pest Control

Bugs Or Us Pest Control

General pest and termite control. Specialising in termite detection with our termite detection dog.

Pre-purchase inspections - **0490 454 644**

Photography Services

Jo Lyons Photography

Down-to-earth lifestyle pet photography by AIPP Accredited Professional Photographer. Outdoor-studio sessions available in Wootton and surrounds. I also offer pro-bono services to local animal rescue organisations.

0412 617 928 www.jolyonsphotography.com

Real Estate

Ede's Real Estate Pty Ltd

For all your Real Estate needs in Wootton, Bulahdelah and surrounding Areas. *Agent & Agency Award Winners 2018 & 2019*

Your LOCAL AGENT **49974566 or 0408492883**

Remember Choosing Ede's is choosing

success. edes@edes.com.au www.edes.com.au

Wootton Transport

Neil Ede, Wootton Livestock Transport

For any livestock handling needs.

30 years experience. **0407 787 920**

RPS Enterprises - "Bulahdelah Buses"

You require the transport we do the driving. Luxury Air conditioned seat belted buses available for wedding guest transport, winery trips, concerts, sporting events. Call Paul and Renee Spiteri to discuss your transport needs.

4997 7149 or 0407 298 954

Yoga

Classes at Wootton with Naomi Patton

Join us **9.15-10.45am Wednesdays** for an active Hatha class where we get moving.

Fridays 9-10am unwind with a gentle yin/restorative class, suitable for everyone, even those nursing injuries. Come join our Wootton yoga community, all welcome no matter what your fitness level **0414 387 008**