



WOOTTON VALLEY NEWS



DECEMBER 2021/JANUARY 2022 NO 135

DISTRIBUTION WOOTTON COOLONGLOOK
BUNGWAHL BUNYAH BULAHDELAH

WELCOME SWALLOW (*Hirundo neoxena*)

According to [Birdlife Australia](#), the name 'Welcome' swallow comes from sailors who knew that the sight of a swallow meant that land was not far away. These small birds live up to the name "swallow" by eating hundreds of flying insects each day. They are amazing to watch flying and have short rictal bristles bordering their bill which guide insects into the bird's wide, open mouth. They are very content to live and nest around people, often building their muddy nests on house walls and under verandahs.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The details of all Events will be confirmed on Social Media and conducted in accordance with Public Health Orders. Wootton Community facebook group	
Sat 4 Dec	Check Wootton Community facebook for details of Christmas party .
Sat 11 Dec	• Shelter shed: Food Swap 5pm (next to Brush Turkey Café)
Sun 12 Dec	• Wootton Fire Brigade Shed: training, Squires Rd 8am
Tues 14 Dec	• Brush Turkey Café: WCN committee meeting all welcome 10.00am
Fri 17 Dec	• Wootton Library: community hall, 10am to midday.
Sat 18 Dec	<i>School Holidays through to Sunday 27 Jan</i>
<i>Wishing Wootton Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year</i>	
Sun 9 Jan	• Wootton Fire Brigade Shed: training, Squires Rd 8am
Tues 11 Jan	• Brush Turkey Café: WCN committee meeting all welcome 10.00am
Sat 15 Jan	**Copy deadline for February March Wootton Valley News**
Fri 21 Jan	• Wootton Library: community hall, 10am to midday.

The Wootton Valley News is usually delivered before the 1st day of each *second* month.

Published by Wootton Community Network Inc , created by Fred Fetherston & Arjen Arnold
Visit our website www.wootton.org.au and [Wootton Community](#) facebook public group



WOOTTON COMMUNITY NETWORK NEWS

Your committee is working hard to improve our communication strategies, social events and facilities. We are embarking on refreshing our website as well as undertaking repairs to our facilities such as the school masters cottage, hall, cafe and toilets. We are continuing to apply for state improvement grants and are investigating ways and means to upgrade and renew our facilities. Maintenance has been recognised as being sorely needed and a range of strategies are being formed to facilitate new works. We hope that you have enjoyed our recent social events including Meet the Artist, the October BBQ and Food Swap and the Community Market where the Brush Turkey Café served breakfast and brunch. Many thanks to **Sylvie** for coordinating the Library for many years, and to **Carol** who is re-opening the library post covid on 17 December. Our Christmas Party this year will be held on the 4 December from 3pm at The Great Lakes Paddocks. *Sue Williams WCN President*

Wootton Community Dinner dates for 2022:-

Autumn Equinox Dinner Saturday 30 March 6.30pm

Winter Christmas in June Dinner Saturday 25 June 6.00pm

Spring Equinox Dinner Saturday 24 September 6.30pm

Summer Christmas Dinner Saturday 3 December 6.30pm

Committee meetings are held on the **2nd Tuesday of each month from 10.00am to 12 noon** and are **open to the community to attend**.

October Meet the Artist was a very successful first post covid event for the Wootton Community Network. There were many new friends and old, catching up with each other. The local food was supplied generously by Farm to Fridge and it complimented local wines from The Great Lakes Winery.

The Brush Turkey Cafe has a new and very easy to use hanging system that made it quick and efficient to put up a professional looking exhibition. Thanks to *Jo Lyons and the committee* for organising that.

Thanks to *Leanne and Peter* for making the grounds look neat and tidy again.

As a new member to this community I was very impressed with the welcoming comradery that I encountered. It has been a strange and difficult year for me and it was life affirming to be able to show my recent work. Much of my work reflects the change my husband Paul and I have made in moving to this beautiful place.



Landscapes of mists and mystery, vistas to distant horizons. I look forward to seeing other creatives share their work in this great space.

Tracy Smith



Wootton Food Swap

Second Saturday each month

We have started up the monthly swaps again. There have been a few changes and new additions which we hope will make the events more interesting and appeal to



more people in the community. First up, we will be having a Seed Savers event every month from now on along with the Food Swap, in conjunction with Wallamba Seedsavers. Bring any seeds of interesting fruit and veg that you have saved and swap with others. Information on seed saving can be found at <https://seedsavers.net/>.

We will also be having a ***Giveaway table at the Swap***. Bring any unwanted but still working items along so that others can give them a second life. We will be asking for a gold coin (or better if you can) donation for the items on the Giveaway table, and funds raised will go to Wootton community events.

In 2022, we will also be trialing ***Clothes Swaps and general goods swaps***. We have also begun discussions with the Coolongolook Wootton Action Group about the potential of holding swaps at Coolongolook in addition to the Wootton swaps, and are exploring if we can have a few swaps at people's properties, in conjunction with tours of their fruit and veg gardens. We will also be holding more ***cooking classes and demonstrations*** to highlight what to do with seasonal produce (can't wait for the "What to do with 500 lemons" workshop!!).

At the December swap, we will be having a demonstration on ***how to make a range of Arabic dips... hommous, baba ganoush and beetroot dip***. There will be a small charge to cover the cost of ingredients and everyone will go home with some dips. Keep an eye out on the [Food Swap](#) and [Wootton Community](#) facebook pages for info, or call Peter Dixon. If anyone is interested in helping with the swaps, running a cooking demo or workshop, or in more information, call Peter Dixon on 0478741111.

All events are compliant with the current COVID rules, but as these are regularly changing, details will be included on the facebook announcements before each swap.



Wootton Library re-opening

Drop in to the community hall on the 3rd Friday each month from 10-12am, meet Wootton's new library coordinator Carol Bridge, find out what new books are in and have a browse.

HELPERS NEEDED!

Some of the volunteers who deliver your Wootton Valley News will be unavailable in 2022. Can you help?

Willina Road is one area, and could maybe be shared. Please contact Fred or Arjen

Installing a Composting Toilet – Or, how do we talk about poo?

I won't lie to you and say that a composting toilet is a set and forget option for your bathroom, or that it doesn't require an amount of work to install and maintain. Having a composting toilet does require commitment.

However if you have commitment to the environment, to lowering your footprint and to living sustainably, the effort is only a small price to pay.

Composting toilets are also called waterless toilets, which they are and are **perfect if water is an issue**.

Wootton has good rainfall generally but it is not immune to drought.

An out of date model came with the house and so an upgrade was essential for me. I opted to **update rather than spend money on a septic system**, not just because of the cost, which was far less at \$2,399, but for the commitments I mentioned earlier. The fact it came with a soft close seat and a single roll of toilet paper were incidental incentives. I contacted the [Australian Eco Shop at Maitland](#). Joe is super friendly and he came out to help choose the right one, and advise on installation.

I chose a Clivus Multrum™ Low Profile (CM LP) with a porcelain toilet. This is a split system, which was essential as I had experience of carrying a full bucket of you know what through the house, and is something I could never repeat. My under floor space wasn't big enough and so I **employed a local handyman** to dig out enough room to hold two chambers. One is connected to the toilet up above and is called the "in service" chamber and the other is the out of service chamber, resting and composting before distribution onto the garden.

The Clivus Multrum™ is an engineered toilet with a 2020 Good Design Award and has built in features, which bring the functions of the unit into the 21st Century. One of the main foci at installation is what to do with the wee. The system offers two alternatives and I had the benefit of an already installed holding tank for all my grey water and a pump to distribute it up to a purpose built reed bed. I was half way there; all I needed was a trench that took advantage of the gravity feed down to the holding tank. Paul, my builder, and I spent a few days with a datum laser line working out the fall. **Every situation offers its own solution**. Thought and preparation is needed to work out how a system will work in a given locale. An absorption trench is another solution. The CM LP was installed into a full renovation of an existing bathroom and the contemporary design of the toilet fits beautifully with the clean lines of my new bath. Upstairs it is all **clean, hygienic, and designer décor** and downstairs it's all business, muscle and grunt. The CM LP works for two people full time or four people part time and is changed over every two to three months.

I had a few issues at the beginning. Within three days, to my horror, a foul smell began to emanate from the bathroom. I was appalled and wanted to dis-install the whole thing. But upon investigation I discovered the ventilation pipes, designed to direct the gases away from the unit had become dislodged from the fan. I pushed them back in and the smell dissipated within ten minutes, proving the effectiveness of the unit. Weekly maintenance is needed to rotate the pile, however gears within the chambers and a lever make it easy. The new model is **gorgeous and trouble free** so far and is keeping me fit doing "dunny yoga" as I crouch down to unhook the chamber from its stable. My flowers and fruit trees also love it. I know it's not for everyone, but there is something strangely satisfying and definitely resilient in not being afraid to take responsibility for one's own s**t.

© Kristin

© Kristin



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Do you like mending things?

Would you like to share ideas with other menders? Now there's a place where you can crowdsource the answers to your mending questions and

share mendspiration. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/modernmendingclub/>

Did you know you can Eat your Christmas Tree? Spiced fish, pickles or icecream!

Julia Georgallis has written a book to help you do it. Here is her ice-cream recipe:-

I like to use blue spruce, as I think it is the champion of conifers (it tastes a little like vanilla), but, as with all these recipes, you can interchange the type of Christmas tree you use depending on what you have access to.

Makes: 950 g (2 lb 2 oz) of ice cream

Preparation Time: 2 hours with an ice-cream maker, 4 hours without one

Ingredients:

-300 g (10 1/2 oz) blue spruce needles or 400 g (14 oz) any other type of Christmas tree needles

-510 ml (17 fl oz/2 cups) double (heavy) cream

-170 ml (6 fl oz/3/4 cup) whole (full-fat) milk (ideally Jersey milk)

-170 g (6 oz/3/4 cup) caster (superfine) sugar

-8 egg yolks

-5 pieces stem ginger, chopped

Method:

Prepare the needles (see first cured fish recipe for this info).

In a heavy-bottomed saucepan whisk the cream, milk, sugar and egg yolks until well combined.

Add the needles to the cream mixture and heat gently, stirring continuously so that the mixture doesn't catch on the bottom or sides of the pan.

After 15 minutes, turn the heat up to medium. When bubbles begin to appear around the edge of the pan, the custard is ready and can be removed from the heat.

Sieve the mixture two or three times through a fine sieve (fine mesh strainer) so that none of the needles end up in the final ice cream mixture.

If using an ice-cream maker, add the sieved mixture to the churning pot and begin the churning process. Before it freezes, add the chopped stem ginger and continue churning until it is frozen. Transfer the frozen ice cream to the freezer.

If you don't own an ice-cream maker, transfer the mixture to a tub or dish and leave to cool completely. Once cooled, transfer to the freezer. Stir the mixture every hour and when it is beginning to freeze (about 2 hours) but not completely solid, add the chopped stem ginger and mix well. Continue stirring each hour until the ice cream is completely frozen. This will take about 4 hours. Once it is frozen, keep it in the freezer until ready to serve. [How to Eat Your Christmas Tree Delicious, Innovative Recipes for Cooking with Trees Julia Georgallis](#)





WOOTTON RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

www.facebook.com/woottonrfs/

Wouldn't it be great for Wootton to have remote-controlled signs like this along Wootton Way?

Meanwhile, plans for our shed extension are still with Council. Once again, I thank the local & wider community for their past & ongoing support on this and wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

BEFORE BURNING OFF YOU MUST CONTACT RFS AND YOUR NEIGHBOURS

For more info visit - www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fdr-and-tobans

Permit Officers: Michael Coventry 0407 458 167

Renee Spiteri 4997 7149

Captain: Adam Garnett 0428 272 629

[MyFirePlan | How Fireproof is Your Plan](#)

Even if you have a permit...**When there is a FIRE BAN you must not burn**, and you must **notify neighbours and RFS at least 24 hours before burning.**

RFS Fire control 1300 643 262

MidCoast Council draft Rural Strategy submissions extended to 28 January 2022.

Have your say about what services, businesses, infrastructure, activities and planning rules our community needs.

<https://haveyoursay.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/know-your-rural-zone>



Karuah Great Lakes Landcare have started field days again, and so far carried out over 20 **drone surveys** for members including 5 on Wootton Topi Topi Sustainable Farming Group properties, to help with property planning and management. On **Friday 3rd December at Nabiac**, Dr Steve Lucas and local landholders will discuss **soil testing methods and results.** www.facebook.com/karuahgreatlakeslandcare/

New members are always welcome, contact *Fred* 0427 461 101 or *Joël* 0401 932 533



Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) is an insect pest that was first detected in NSW in 2020. It has since been detected in all key summer cropping regions of NSW, including our LLS region.



[DPI Alert Fall Army Worm](#)

NEW NEW BANKING DETAILS FOR WOOTTON COMMUNITY NETWORK
(changed since last newsletter)

Annual membership \$12.50 pp is due in JANUARY, please direct deposit to:-

Wootton Community Network Inc.

CBA Forster BSB 062669 Account No 10250496

Reference = your name

Please email when paid to notify the Treasurer woottonquesthouse@gmail.com

Same banking details apply for all MEMBERSHIPS and EVENT BOOKINGS

Wootton Directory contains important local contacts. **Always dial 000 for Emergency.**



Wootton Community Network

President: Sue Williams 0438 433 063

Secretary: Robyn Piper

Treasurer: Leanne Wright 4997 7201

Email: secwootton@gmail.com

Bookings—all facilities

Celebrating something special? Running a Course or a Market?

Getting people together?

Sue Williams 0438 433 063

Wootton Rural Fire Brigade

Captain: Adam Garnett 0428 272 629

Sen Dep Capt: Bernard Carran 0409684177

www.facebook.com/woottonrfs

Midcoast Fire Control

Burnoff notifications 1300 643 262
(24hour prior notice)

Karuah Great Lakes Landcare

joel.kgl.landcare@gmail.com

Joël Dunn 0401 932 533

Wootton - Topi Topi Sustainable Farming Group

Fred Fetherston 0427 461 101

MidCoast Council: 6591 7222

State Forests Wauchope 6585 3744

Police: Sector Supervisor,
Senior Constable Trevor McLeod,
4940 7470, 0438 140 370
mcle1tre@police.nsw.gov.au

State Emergency Service 132 500

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

Electricity Essential Energy 13 20 80

Bulahdelah Waste Facility
opening hours
Tues 1-5pm, Fri 12-4, Sun 10-2

DIRECTORY

New advertisers Welcome, contact Leanne at woottonguesthouse@gmail.com.



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 0407 974 420

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Neil Ede, Wootton Livestock Transport

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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

Tim McDonnell Lic no. 14660

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Binna Burra construction Lic no. 299434C

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

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

B&H Rural Contracting

Variety of agriculture & farming services, Machine operator, Animal husbandry, Vertebrate pest control, Fire mitigation and much more. Phone: 0401 312 877 email: info@bhruralcontracting.com.au

Liarne's Hair and Beauty

A private home salon. All ladies and mens 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–Nabiac, Approved DVA Provider Domestic violence, Marriage counselling, Grief, Carers support, Family Issues 65541535 0429 190 142 lynette.arnoldus@bigpond.com

Yoga Classes with Naomi Patton

Wootton Hall. Mondays 9-10am we unwind with a gentle yin/restorative class, suitable for everyone, even those nursing injuries. Wednesdays from 9.15-10.45am it's an active Hatha class where we get moving. All welcome. 0414 387 008

Earth Elemental Massage

Hawaiian Lomi Massage; Earth elemental massage (Hot stones, Herbal Compress, Sound Healing); Remedial Massage (health fund rebates available) By Appointment Only 0466 881 030 Charmaine Nielsen, Willina

MEMBERSHIP 2022

Join or Renew!

<http://wootton.org.au/wcn.shtml>

Accommodation

Real Estate & Legal

Wootton Transport

Building - Plumbing

Pest Control & Farm Services

Health and Beauty