

WOOTTON VALLEY NEWS

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2008 NO 52

DISTRIBUTION 400 WOOTTON COOLONGOOK
BUNGWAHL BUNYAH BULAHDELAH

Meat Ant/Gravel Ant *ridomyrmex purpureus*

Meat Ants are members of the genus *Iridomyrmex*, which is the most abundant, conspicuous and ecologically important group of ants in Australia. In the same way that eucalypts dominate the tree flora of Australia, *Iridomyrmex* dominates the continent's ant fauna.

Meat Ants, also known as Gravel Ants, build large nests underground and often place sand, gravel, pebbles or even bits of dead vegetation on the upper (mounded) surface of the nest. Large nests are common along some of Sydney's country roadsides and a single nest may contain 64,000 ants. Sometimes a number of nests will be part of one colony and can be spread over a wide area connected by numerous ant paths and trails. These super-nests are known to stretch up to 650 m. Workers of the colony are equipped with powerful jaws and communicate with each other using chemical cues. They are aggressive towards intruders, attacking other invertebrates, which they may eat, and driving off much larger animals by sheer weight of numbers. Meat Ants, are omnivores (eat plants and animals) and forage during the day while other species of ants in the area may be restricted to foraging at night. Border disputes may occur between rival colonies and are resolved by ritual fighting. Meat Ants and other *Iridomyrmex* species are often involved in mutually beneficial (symbiotic) relationships with caterpillars of different butterflies. The caterpillars supply sugary fluids to the ants, which in turn protect the caterpillars from predators. In rural Australia farmers may use these ants to remove animal carcasses from their land. A dead animal placed on a nest would be reduced to bones over a period of weeks. These ants do not sting, but they bite and can discharge a defensive chemical. This is usually enough to drive off other invertebrates.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday 9th February Movie & Supper Night 7pm Brush Turkey Cafe
Saturday 23rd February Wootton Community Dinner Asian 7pm Brush Turkey Café
Saturday 15th March Auction Brush Turkey Café 9am
Saturday 29th March Wootton Community Dinner 7pm Brush Turkey Café
Sunday 30th March Daylight Saving ends

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Visit our website @ www.wootton.org.au

Wootton Community Network News

Network News

At our last dinner for 2007 Jean Price was presented with a certificate of recognition for all her hard work she has done voluntarily. Her efforts have included Wootton Community Network, Lions Club, Country Women's Assoc, Businesswomen's Assoc., Meal on Wheels and many more voluntary groups. Thanks to both Jean and Kevin for being such hard workers for our community.

Thanks to Council for repairing the driveway to the Brush Turkey Café.

Council has also promised to refurbish the soft fall area under the playground equipment. We have received a \$400 grant for the playground area which we can now spend on shade.

Thanks also to Steve Mooney for oiling our floor at the café whilst we were closed.

Thanks to Elizabeth for co-ordinating the workshop on the future directions of Wootton. Elizabeth is compiling a report which will be available at the café. She hopes to run another workshop so we can put together a final "vision" for Wootton. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Senior Citizens Week We will be putting together a day in April for all senior citizens in our area, including lunch and entertainment and the local school. Anyone wishing to be involved or would like to help please let us know.

Auction Start collecting stuff for our next auction to be held on Saturday 15th March 2008 at 9pm. Drop off stuff during the week for donations or ring Bron on 49977185 or Pat on 49977292 for consignments.

Trestle Bridge Picnic Area

We were recently contacted by State Forests to advise us that they have organised a Community Volunteers Australia group to come to our area and work on clearing and upgrading the Wootton Historical Railway Walk. The group, from the Hunter area, will be here two days a week and camp overnight on Bron Little's nearby property. The work is due to commence in February and conclude in June. This action by State Forest goes somewhere to compensate the community for the destruction and removal of facilities at the Trestle Bridge Picnic Area. We still intend to lobby with regard to the replacement of those facilities. It is hoped that locals will come and meet these volunteers and maybe spend a day or two helping with the upgrade of our beautiful walk. Anyone wanting to know more info should contact Bron Little on 49977185.

Sydney Morning Herald exposure

You may have noticed an article called "A Moveable Feast" in an issue of the Sydney Morning Herald on 15th January 2008. We have a copy pinned up at the café. The article written by Sally Hammond favourably mentions the Brush Turkey Café along with other cafes she visited on her journey to Coffs Harbour. We have noticed, through conversation, that quite a few of our new customers have read the article.

Café News

We are calling out for more volunteers for the café. The regular bunch of dedicated workers are working tirelessly but as people find work or move out of the area we need others to take their place. So if you have one day a month or even every two months we would like your help. It's a lovely friendly place to work and all training will be given to those that are inexperienced. The garden is also needing some work. Since our diligent gardener Tracey has moved from the area our garden has become a bit overgrown. We are endeavouring to keep it under control but need a regular green thumb person to help out.

Dinners

Our Xmas Dinner was well attended. Thanks to everyone that brought food to share. Our Australia Day Dinner was attended by a small bunch of happy people. A lot were still on holidays. Hope to see everyone back for the February Dinner which will be held on 23rd February and the theme is Asian. A very popular dinner night, so book early.

Art at the Brush Turkey Café

Our new artists for February/March are mother and daughter Linda and Tessa Chudy. Linda feels her works are a response to daily life, objects and ideas that are encountered on a day to day basis which form as a platform for ongoing exploration of colour, form, technique and media both in painting and printmaking and also for negotiation of Zen ideas in her art practices. Tessa is interested in creating a sense of internality in her works, a kind of other world with it's own internal logic and narrative. Her work tends to be on the small scale because she is drawn to the intimacy of smaller works. She finds the smaller the work the greater the sense of complexity and mystery. The subject matter ranges from landscapes to teddy bears.



Worth having a look. Some lovely works at affordable prices.

Movie & Supper Night

This will be held at the café, 7pm Saturday 9th February. Cost is \$10 which includes food, so come along and join us for an entertaining evening close to home.

Membership for the Wootton Community Network is due. Volunteering members only pay \$5.50.

Advertising for the Wootton Valley News is also due. See page 6.

Pizza & Music Jam Night

Due to lack of interest the Music & Pizza Nights have been cancelled until further notice. Future nights will be dependent upon demand.

Thanks Nick Marshall for your kind donation of two tables and a church pew. The tables were made from the doors of the original slab hut on Hicks' property and the pew came from the Wootton Church.

MOVIE AND SUPPER NIGHT



Saturday 9th February 7pm
Brush Turkey Café Wootton
\$10 includes pre-dinner
nibbles , delicious supper & trivia

Congratulations to the following Higher School Certificate achievers:

- Calum Tate of Wootton
- Melissa Hessing of Wootton
- Michael Buchanan of Coolongolook
- Katie Ellis of Forster (volunteer in the café)



Bulahdelah Tennis Club

Bulahdelah Tennis Club is calling for new members for night mixed competitions, ladies day competitions and junior competitions. All players are graded and chosen by the committee. They are currently looking for new members. Membership fees are Adults \$18, Students and concession holders \$8 and Primary students \$4. The next mixed night comp is due to start February 19th and teams will be chosen by 11th February. If you would like to play contact Thora-Lou Smith on 49974356.

Wootton Tennis Club

The new 2008 competition is due to start soon. Phone Alison on 49977126 to register your interest to play.

Wootton Hall News

It's pleasing to see the hall being used more regularly. The hall is available for hire at reasonable rates. Ring Garry Williams on 49977167 to book your next function. Arrangement can be made for catering through the Brush Turkey Café.

YOGA

Yoga at Wootton & Bulahdelah is starting again
this week .
Call Peter Auriac on 49977201 for more information.



Wootton Fire Brigade News

Fire Permits

Are in force until the 31st March 2008.

Fire Permits are issued on Thursdays. To book an inspection phone Mike Badcock on 4997 7337.

New Members

The Wootton Brigade is still desperately in need of new members.

Country Driving – Take Care

The recent accident on Wattley Hill Road on New Years Eve highlights the need for advanced driving skills on our roads. Conditions vary from day to day and are very dependent on weather conditions. Council has since rectified the rise in the road that caused the accident. Fiona Kennedy is recovering well after a helicopter dash for medical assistance. Thanks to the Garnetts and Marshalls who rendered assistance at the scene.

Squires Road Update

Since we last gave an update on Squires Road we are pleased to inform you that Squires Road **has** been graded. The road is a pleasure to drive along and has handled the wet weather well. I have been making a special effort to keep the drains clear so no erosion can take place. After all the letters, emails, meeting with councillors and representations to Council they finally listened. Although they say it is only a one off and that they would address it again at the next budget meeting. Thanks to all the following people for their efforts in making this possible: John & Sue Smith, Pat & Craig Tate, Garry Williams, Geoff Williams, Warren & Julie Richardson, Wayne Ellis, Peter Auriac & Jim Ballantine. Thanks also to the councillors.

Bron Little

Tips for cutting back on Greenhouse Gases

Every little bit helps. The following energy saving tips are worth doing.

- Take shorter showers
- Wash clothes in cold water
- Turn off standby modes on appliances
- Use energy saver lights
- Keep the fridge clean and well ventilated
- Use heaters and cleaners effectively
- Control the ventilation in the house
- Keep the sun out during Summer
- Protect your windows to keep heat in Winter and out in Summer
- Use appropriate cooking methods - Gas, microwave

More information from the Alternative Technology Assoc website.

Coolongolook School News

Welcome Lance Sharp, the new principal, to our school. Lance has a wide experience teaching at numerous schools. He has worked in the Northern Territory and outback NSW teaching aboriginals. His interests are soccer and travelling.

The Life Education Van arrives Monday 11th Feb to educate the children on healthy living.

SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS

Lombard Street Coolongolook 2423

Phone: 4997 7183

Fax: 4997 7232

Email: coolongolo-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Lance Sharp (Principal) & Jan Oxford



Photos of yesteryear In Wootton

On left, the Wootton General Store, now Mark Addison's property.
On right, a young Jack Squires with a forest giant.



For Sale (This service is free)

- ◆ Lemon Myrtle Cheesecake \$25 only made to order. To order in advance Ph Bronwyn 49977185
- ◆ Push Lawn mowers from \$100 Ph 49977404

Freebies

Advertising rates for 2008 for the Wootton Valley News Directory are \$55 for Non-members, \$45 Members - per 4 line ad space

Please contact the editors for new advertisers or wording changes.

Please send a cheque payable to the Wootton Community Network at 1633 Wootton Way, Wootton 2423

These businesses support this newsletter.

Boolambayte Creek Church Open House Every Sunday

Get to know God in a simple way! Arrive from 10am onwards to enjoy a relaxed and informal day. Share lunch, fun for kids. Entrance opposite Forest Lodge on the Wootton Way. Dave and Kathy Barker 49974675



This plant, commonly known as corkwood, put on such an amazing flower show of creamy white panicles in November, that we thought we would include it in this issue as it will be 12 months until we see it again. A rainforest plant which can attain a height of 40 metres, it also has a striking fissured vertical bark, pink with cream flecks. The timber is pinkish brown suitable for cabinet work. This photo, showing the pink berries, was taken along Wootton Way recently.

DIRECTORY

Accommodation

Too many visitors! Send them to **Wootton Guest House** 4 a/c bedrooms with ensuites & balconies, reasonable rates.
www.woottinguesthouse.com.au
Peter & Leanne **49977201 0407974420**

Air Conditioning

Repairs, sales, installation. Domestic and commercial. Mark Tidbury Lic no 123069C
0427500329 49977308

Building & Maintenance Contractor

Solutions to building problems Lic 631C
Rob McDougall **0427 955958 49977335**

Building

Ecocollective, architecture, construction, landscapes. Specialising in unique energy efficient homes Lic no. 7089 Call Ian
49879184

Limestone, one of the greatest building products ever! Also made to order furniture - tables & fireplace surrounds a speciality.
Paul Shipton **49977256**

Conveyancing (Local)

Buying/Selling rural, residential, strata property; small businesses; retail & commercial leases. Lesley Cameron
6557 5263 0405 265 341

Dog Grooming

'Paws of Wootton' Professional dog grooming salon, all breeds, clipping/grooming
49977330

Earth Moving

Excavation, demolition, auger, rock hammer, grab bucket, tipper truck hire
David Knezevic **49977402 0410 441428**

Earthmoving, tilt tray hire & scrap metal services A-CRO-TOW Transport P/L Call Rob
49977431 0438606479

Electrical Contractor

STS Services P/L Solutions toward Sustainability, Solar systems Grid connect or Stand alone Lic 27928C Accredited F524
49977167 0417369670

Entertainment

Singer/songwriter/pianist, Aust' Institute of Music. Available for your next function. CD available, Singing & piano lessons for any age. Elisa Barker **49974675 0402274116**

DIRECTORY CONTINUED

Handyman

Carpenter/painter/handyman/mechanic own tools, van & trailer. Prompt & reliable service Good rates. Charles **49976005**

Horses Gembiras Docs Onyx dual sire registered stallion AQHA-A17174 ASH-SM133207 Standing at stud: progeny usually for sale. Gembira Horses **49977335 0419201913**

Ice Cream Roscoe's Ice Cream Trade enquires welcome **49977351**

Motor Repairs (small) & Equipment Hire Geoff Lawn mowers and chainsaws etc. Mower hire all sizes and Trench digger **49977404 0418482099**

Massage Trigger point, therapeutic & remedial massage. Day Spa body treatments & facials using 100% natural & organic hand-made products. www.lotusretreat.com.au Kerry Bromage **49977320**

AcuEnergetics Treating a wide range of health problems Healing sessions complement traditional medical treatments. www.lotusretreat.com.au Dave Flakelar **49977320**

Naturopath/Nutritionist/Herbalist ATMS Improve your health naturally Judy Harland **49974472 0415 788356**

Paving Down to Earth Paving - Patios, paths, driveways, brick edging Lic no 37348CWalter Hacene **49977344**

Plumber Richard Green Plumbing All plumbing, drainage, gas fitting, LPG gas fitting, domestic, commercial, industrial Lic no 53903C **0418 618583 65591555**

Real Estate

Rural Valley Realty - Your local real estate agent servicing Bulahdelah to Nahiack

Steve Devries **49977214**

Edes Real Estate Pty Ltd - Stock & Station Agent & Property Management Brian Ede www.edes.com.au **49974566 49977180(A/H) 0408492883**

Removals

Dave Barker Removals "Moving with Care" **49974675**

Signs Hand painted signs and vinyl lettering, shopfronts, vehicles, boats, windows, light boxes, 3D models, promotional displays Bruce Peachey **0438235057**

Slashing & Noxious Weed Spraying

Local area, reasonable rates. Scott Gordon **49977401 0408259183**

Tree Climber/lopper-experienced

Cut and leave jobs required, firewood split Reasonable rates Garth J Muxlow **49977314**

Trencher & Mobile Crane/Borer Hire

MRM Specializing in trenching for underground services & power pole replacement Mick **0408669105**

Water

Brown's Water Carrier Domestic, rural & all your water requirements Pete & Smiley

0429 802 282 6550 2282

