

WOOTTON VALLEY NEWS

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BUNGWAHL BUNYAH BULAHDELAH

The Tiger Quoll, Spot-tailed Quoll or Spotted-tailed Quoll

Dasyurus maculatus is the largest marsupial carnivore surviving on mainland Australia. Tiger Quolls are more than 50% larger than other quolls and, unlike the other species, have white spots that extend along their tail. Tiger Quolls have bright eyes, a moist pink nose and sharp teeth. They have a pointed snout and a long tail. Their fur has a coarse texture and is red-brown to dark brown with white spots of varying size above and pale below. Tiger Quolls hunt mostly at night. Their diet appears to consist primarily of medium-sized mammals (up to 70%) including gliders, possums, rabbits, and even small wallabies. Tiger Quolls live for approximately five years.



They require forest with suitable den sites such as rock crevices, caves, hollow logs, burrows and tree hollows. The Tiger Quoll has a large home range and can cover considerable distances (more than 6km) overnight. It is largely nocturnal and solitary. The Tiger Quoll was once common throughout south-eastern Australia, including Tasmania. However, since European settlement it has become rare across most of its range. Captain Cook collected quolls along the east coast in 1770, and recorded 'quoll' as an Aboriginal name for these animals. Wootton volunteer fire fighters, Adam and Jim, saw a Tiger Quoll on a recent fire call out, 2.30am, in the Wootton Bends www.ozanimals.com www.environment.gov.au

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Sat 1 Feb | Wootton Community Network Meeting 3pm Brush Turkey Cafe All welcome |
| Sun 2 Feb | Wootton Fire Brigade training at the Fire Station 10am |
| Sat 8 Feb | Supper 6pm and Movie 7pm at the Brush Turkey Cafe |
| Sun 16 Feb | Wootton Fire Brigade meeting at the Fire Station 10am |
| Sat 22 Feb | Wootton Community Dinner Al Fresco BYO \$5 Brush Turkey Cafe 7pm |
| Sat 1 March | Wootton Community Library Opening - Wootton Hall 3pm |
| Sat 8 March | Supper 6pm and Movie 7pm at the Brush Turkey Cafe |
| Sat 29 March | Wootton Hall Committee AGM 5.30pm All welcome |
| Sat 29 March | Wootton Community Dinner - Wootton Hall 6pm |
| Sat 26 April | Food Swap - Wootton Hall 5.30pm |
| Sun 18 May | Wootton Fire Brigade AGM at the Fire Station 10am |

Published by Wootton Community Network Inc
Editors Pat Tate 49977292 and Caro Badcock 49977337
brushturkey@live.com.au Visit our website @ www.wootton.org.au

Wootton Community Network

"Another highly successful working bee was carried out in January. Many thanks to Karen and Richard for doing the tables and chairs, Craig for the paving around the pizza oven, Pat and Judy for the gardening, Fran and Sylvie for cleaning the kitchen and steam mopping the floors, Leanne for clearing out and organising the two storage rooms and Ian, Patrick and Jim for pressure cleaning and oiling the outside walls. Further work is planned shortly to upgrade the fans and lighting, and to screen the gutters.

All our community activities are being well attended, thanks to our volunteers who contribute to all the work involved. See you at the next dinner! Jim"

Plans for 2014

The main projects for this coming year will be to install new gutter guards, flyscreens for the windows, ceiling fans and lights. We will also be celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the opening of the centre (Brush Turkey Cafe) in November.

Meetings: are held on the first Saturday of every second month, 3pm at the Brush Turkey Cafe. Next dates are 1st February and 5th April. All are invited to attend.

Wootton Community Network Membership, Advertising in the Wootton Valley News and Subscription for the Wootton Valley News were all due on 31st December 2013. Thanks to all that have rejoined and joined for the first time.

Community Dinners are held on the last Saturday of every month

22 February Al Fresco BYO 7pm Brush Turkey Cafe \$5

29 March - Bring a plate dinner in the Wootton Community Hall \$5

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

Next dates are **8 February and 8 March**

Wootton Sustainable Land Managers Group

Raising and Keeping Chooks in a Domestic Environment

The district vet, Jim Kerr, has agreed to run an information session for us at the hall. He will cover, among other things, diseases, housing, feed and breeding. He will be happy to answer any questions so come prepared. It will run on a Saturday morning in March 10am to approximately midday, date still to be confirmed. Watch the community blackboard for the date!

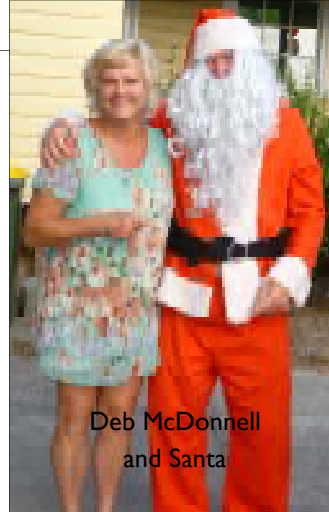
At the end of this workshop please allow time to stay and discuss possible future topics and workshops.

If you are interested in joining the group contact Mike Badcock on 49977337 or Mike Coventry on 49977155 for details of future get togethers and events.

Wootton Community Christmas Party

Another lovely community Christmas party was held on the last Saturday before Christmas. The children's ears and eyes perked up when they heard the wail of the large fire truck siren as it delivered Santa safely to the party. Given the heat of the afternoon, Santa provided timely drinks and ice creams as part of his bags of goodies for the youngsters. There were even some left over for those adults who were quite happy sharing their Christmas cheer.

The kids and any interested adults were able to test their strength and accuracy by trying to hit witches hats with water out of the fire hose off the back of



Deb McDonnell
and Santa



the truck.

Others were able to test their memories and dexterity by trying to recall how to make the witch's hat, cat's whiskers, cup and saucer and other string figures and play jacks and pick-up sticks. Lots of frustration, laughter and memories were shared around.

Coolongolook Wootton Action Group (CWAG)

We wish a *Happy, Healthy and Prosperous* 2014 to all in our communities. Our group have been pursuing priorities established in The Communities Strategic Plan and, amongst other pursuits, are anticipating this year to achieve positive outcomes with Wootton Way as an designated tourist route. Also toilet facilities, tourism signage and Pacific Highway safety fence at Coolongolook Oval. There are many items on the "Coolongolook, Wang Wauk & Wallingat Rivers Catchment Communities" Strategic Plan that will benefit our local communities. (view on GLC website for Community Strategic Plans) The GLC Council and the State and Federal members of Parliament are aware and assist us in our endeavours of achievement. Achieving these goals depends on the interest and resolve of our community members. We will be holding four community meetings, that will be advertised, during this year and wish for your continued attendance, support and involvement .

Brian Parry (Pres CWAG) 65591671 Pam Dunne (Sec) 49977156 Jeni Locke (Treas) 49977334 email brian.g.parry@gmail.com

Wootton Fire Brigade

We were lucky to have our big fire truck returned in time to ferry Santa to the community Christmas party at the hall much to the delight of all the children.

Over Christmas and New Year, the Wootton Brigade was called out to two house fires, a car accident and a few fires including a large fire (still burning) north west of Gloucester. Thanks in particular to Adam and Jim Garnett for going out twice and giving up most of their Christmas Day.

Permits have been suspended until the Wootton area receives substantial rain. Please be careful when using slashers, welders and grinders etc near combustible materials.

The Wootton Brigade has commenced Bush Fire Risk Property Assessments for individual land holders. If you wish to have a risk assessment undertaken and/or assistance with the development of your Bush Fire Survival Plan please contact Mike Badcock (49977337).

Training is held on the 1st Sunday of each month at 10:00 am and new members are always welcome.

1. Next Training Sunday 2 February 10.am at the Fire Station
2. Next Meeting Sunday 16 February 10 am at the Fire Station
3. Next AGM Sunday 18 May 10 am at the Fire Station

Mike Badcock (49977337)

Food Swap Event

We are planning to host our first food swap event before the community dinner on April 26. So please hold this date.

What is a food swap you ask? Well, 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 and even cordials etc. 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 bought.

The event will open from 5.30 pm for setting-up the tables either outside or inside the Wootton Hall depending on the weather. Tables of items can be assessed as soon as all tables are set-up and the swapping undertaken.

The community dinner will then be held in the Brush Turkey cafe from 7 pm.

For information, call Peter Dixon on 0437 655 658

“The sound of the bullock team on a Friday night...” Growing up in Wootton in the 1930’s

Connie Burdekin lives in Bulahdelah now but she was born in Wootton in 1932 and spent the first 12 years of her life there. She has strong memories and her story creates a picture of what it was like growing up in the bustling little timber town of Wootton.



Connie’s Dad was Alf Gregory and her mother was Ada Bunt. They met and married in Wootton. Alf was born in Coolongolook and Ada was born in Wootton. They had seven children, only the last two being born at hospital, the rest were born at home. They were Lionel (the eldest), Ilma, Austie, Constance, Lloyd, Owen and Margaret. “We never knew when our Mum was having a baby. You’d get up in the morning and someone else would be there to look after you. She’d have gone off to have a baby (that was only the last two). I think she went to Taree.” Connie was born in an ‘old shack’ in Wootton, behind Mayberry’s shop, in 1932. Later the family lived near the school and then settled in the house below the post office. (Mayberry’s shop was in what is now Worth Street and the post office was in what is now Wootton Way)

She remembers that they must have been poor but everybody was the same. “When you have nothing you appreciate what you have. Mum used to wallpaper the house with newspaper every Christmas, to make it look nice. We only had cornbags down on the floor but we were happy. We washed in big round tubs.” Connie liked to knit and her Dad would take the skewer out of the roast and file it and they would knit with the skewers. Sometimes they would knit with a big 6 inch nail. For Christmas they would get a packet of nuts and a bottle of cordial for Christmas. That was usually all they got. One year she got a pair of knitting needles and thought she was made.

“We played with the mud when it was raining, blocked up the drains. Or we’d go and pick mushrooms; Wootton was a great place for mushrooms. We made our own fun.”

Connie enjoyed school. At lunchtime the kids danced. They had an old record player and knew all the dances. “The barn dance, all us kids danced in the weather shed. We loved it. We were beautiful dancers. We taught ourselves.” Once she went to Coola she had a teacher (Mrs Maguire) that taught her sewing, smocking and crocheting. Connie left Coola school when she was 15. “Mum and Dad didn’t teach us much, Dad couldn’t read or write as his Dad had died and he never went to school because they had to stop at home and work

in the dairy. I could hear Mum reading the paper to him at night. But he could add up logs!"

Kids would walk to school barefooted. Some kids didn't get to school until 10am. When it was cold they would put their feet in the fresh cow poo to keep them warm. (This was in Coola) We had no shoes. A lot of kids walked a long way. A lot of kids rode their horses to school. Coola had a special horse yard at school. Wootton lunch was just 2 or 3 biscuits they'd take. At Coola they'd walk home for lunch. "We'd love the days Mum would make the pickles as we'd go back to school with our fresh pickle sandwiches." The kids walked to school rain, hail or shine. At school they had pen and ink and books and a uniform. They were lucky they lived closed to the school. By the time some kids got to school it was nearly break time. "My Grandma (Dad's Mum) had a dairy at Coomba Park. As kids we used to visit her. We would catch the cream boat from Coolongolook and visit all the dairies along the way, sitting on the cream tins."

"They used to bring pictures to the old hall in Wootton. We couldn't afford it so we'd lay in the grass across the road and watch the pictures. We were happy. What do you have to have to be happy? Nothing."

Where the guesthouse is now was where the logs were brought down and dumped. That's where the loco was stationed. "We used to climb all over it on the weekend. Everyone called it the *loco*. The trike was used by the men to go down and check on the line and take them to work. With other kids, we used to pinch that on the weekend and go for a ride. We spent a lot of time playing on the loco and amongst the logs. We had nothing else to play with. No-one got hurt. The logs were big - huge."

"Mrs Corrigan lived next door to us. Alan Taylor's office was in the house below us (the house on the corner of Worth St opposite the Guesthouse now). Old Mrs Corrigan was a midwife. She kind of looked after everybody when they were sick. She was a big, lovely lady. Old Mrs Newman had the other shop up the front. She had ice blocks which was a treat. We were very poor. Mum, when Dad was away, would cook up onions and we'd have onion gravy for tea and we were happy with that. We never complained."

"There were fruit trees everywhere in Wootton, everyone had fruit trees. Some of the houses you couldn't see for fruit trees. Everyone did preserving. There were no insects around the fruit trees then. We didn't have any, but we'd go, on a Sunday afternoon, to Squires and get some (maybe we'd buy them). There were a lot of pear trees, persimmon and pomello trees.

They'd have bazaars in the hall with stalls. They had a lot of functions, dances and reunions in the old hall. To go to the dances people would just walk up the line to the hall and after they'd walk back down the line. When the women went out they were always well dressed. And the men too! Every weekend we'd get all the shoes

out and polish them and Dad said to make sure the back was as good as the front.”

“I used to go to church with my Dad. Dad was a warden of the church of Wootton. He would take the plate around and collect the money. He went to church every Sunday. I got an award, a prayer book, for attending church. We were all christened at the church.”

There was no butcher shop in Wootton. A wagon (an old truck) would come out once or twice a week and go to the houses. He'd just open up the back door.

“I never saw my Dad on a Monday morning, they were gone before daylight. Then I didn't see my Dad until Friday. They camped out in the bush at Bunts Creek all week, done it rough. All the blokes did it rough and slept in old corn beds with a pole on either side. To keep things cool they would tie it to a rope and put it in the creek. They had it rough and tough. This is what all the men did that worked for Alan Taylor. My Dad drove the bullock team. They brought the logs to the loco because the loco could only go so far. My Dad was a log cutter and bullock driver. You would hear him bring in the bullock team on a Friday night. They would be over there at Smedleys (where Julie and Geoff live across the bridge), Albert McDean, Bill McDean, Tom Mackaway, George Newton and Alfred, my Dad. They were all cutters working for Alan Taylor. The bullock teams brought the logs out of the bush at Bunts Creek and loaded onto the loco and then into the dump at the bridge at Wootton. The line went across the road and down to the lake, then onto the boats down at the lake. Newmans Road would be nearly parallel to where the line used to go to the lake. I can remember the accident when the man got burnt to death on the loco. I remember him. Someone in the village had a car and drove him to Taree. I was about seven. Dad worked pretty hard. My Dad was very special to us, a very quiet reserved man who looked after his children and helped one another.”

“Old Mr Smedley was the boss. Smedley's lived across the creek. That house was a *big mansion* then. Earl Mayberry married Mr Smedley's daughter. They had 2 daughters, Doris and Audrey. Audrey and Doris went to school at Wootton. (Doris married Vic Shultz, Frank Shultz's brother.)”

“The war was on when we were in Wootton. It was pretty bad. They dug trenches in the school grounds. We'd hear the planes at night and Mum would have to cover up the windows. Mum would get the blankets and cover up the windows so they wouldn't know there was a town here. We'd keep the lights all out. It come pretty close that we were going to be evacuated, all the kids. Dad and a lot of the men would go around Wootton to check that there was no lights shining.”

“The women looked after the men and made sure they had plenty of food to take out for the whole week. They bought food from the shops but we had a garden

and chickens. We'd only have a rooster at Christmas, that was the only time we'd have chook. The men would go over to Smedley's on a Sunday afternoon and set up all the washing lines with a pole (this was when we were short of water) and the men would set up the coppers (actually kerosene tins) to wash in, in the paddock. The men set it up on a Sunday afternoon for the women. The women would go over on Monday morning and light the fires and get the water out of the creek. And we kids would swim in the creek near where the bridge is. You would then see the washing flying on the clotheslines in Smedley's paddock."

"My main memories of Wootton are the bullock teams and Dad's work. I can remember him sharpening all the saws. The men would bring their axes to him on a Sunday morning. One day he cut his knee and I'll never forget he went and got the needle and thread and sewed it up himself."

"My Mum was given away when she was 6 weeks old! Her Mum had a boarding house in Wootton, behind Maybery's shop, and had married a Bunt. After her husband died she couldn't look after her daughter Ada, and run the boarding house, so she gave her to Granny Mayers (no relation) in Neranie when she was 6 weeks old. Ada had a good life and loved Granny Mayer but when she was about 13 her mother took her back to Wootton where she worked in the boarding house. She was a bit of an outcast because by then there were other children in the family. Her mother had married again to a Kator. Mum's mother was a McDean from Coola. The McDeans all worked for Allen Taylors."

"Mum died suddenly when she was 79. Dad died when he was 81."

Connie married Laurence Tom Burdekin and he was a timber worker too.

"Burdekins Gap was named after the family, that's where all the Burdekin boys worked." They had four children, Kenny, Janice, Kerry and Sheree. Lenny now lives in Maitland, Kerry and Sheree live in Bulahdelah and Janice lives in Wootton. Jan's property had a tennis court when Connie was a child and she remembers the adults playing there (just past the old truck/bus stop in Wootton Way today). Connie has 10 grandchildren (9 boys and 1 girl) and 6 great grandchildren (3 boys and 3 girls). Connie lost her husband in 2011.

"The most important people in my life were my husband and my Mum and Dad. I'm 81 and in a few years time I won't know how to do anything, things have changed so much." Connie enjoyed reminiscing about her childhood in Wootton and the more we talked the more she remembered. She still leads a full life with friends and family close by.



Alf and Ada Gregory

Wootton Community Library

The Wootton Community Library is situated in the Wootton Community Hall, Wootton Way, Wootton.

Opening Hours will be one hour before and during any community event held in or on the community facilities in Wootton. In particular this includes but is not limited to:

- 2nd Saturday of every month from 5 pm
- Last Saturday of every month from 6 pm when the community dinner is held in the Brush Turkey Café and from 5 pm when the dinner is held in the Wootton Community Hall
- Sunday's when the Brush Turkey Café is open. Please ask the café for the hall key.

Borrowing process

The aim is to keep the use of the facility as simple as possible. Hence you may borrow books, CDs and DVDs with no formal borrowing process. These books, CDs and DVDs can be returned at your convenience.

Donations

Additional books, CDs and DVDs that are appropriate for a community library can be donated at any time.

Opening Event

Come and celebrate the formal opening of the library with afternoon tea to be held on Saturday 1st March from 3 pm.

Naming Competition

We are looking for a catchy name for our library. A prize will be awarded at the opening event for the winning name. Suggestions can be submitted to Caro (49977337, caro_badcock@bigpond.com) by February 26.



We all love our dogs but...

"Dogs must be under effective control at all times when off private property - your dog must wear a collar and identification tag and be controlled on a leash held by a competent person (as defined under the Act), except in Council off leash areas. Your dog should be well socialised and trained so it isn't aggressive and doesn't bark continually.

Nuisance Orders: Council may issue a nuisance order if your dog is repeatedly:-

- Habitually roaming the neighbourhood
- Making a noise through barking
- Defecating on other people's property
- Chasing a person, animal or vehicle
- Causing damage to property

The order will require you to prevent the behaviours causing the problem. You may be fined up to \$880 for non compliance." (Great Lakes Council Website)

Wootton Hall Happenings

With such a successful year last year culminating in our Wootton 101 Day and the joint community Christmas party what can we achieve this year?

Well, we have a few things in mind.

- . The community library will be opened – see article elsewhere
- . The first Food Swap event will be held – see article elsewhere
- . The community bring-a-plate dinners in the hall will continue from 6 pm, \$5 per head. Children very welcome.
 - . 29 March
 - . 28 June
 - . 27 September
- . Everyone is welcome to come and attend the Annual General Meeting of the Hall Committee that will be held at 5.30 pm prior to the dinner on the 29th March.

The Chair's and Treasurer's Reports summarizing what was achieved in 2013 and plans for 2014 will be presented along with an introduction of the members of the 2014 committee.

If anyone is interested in joining the committee please contact Caro.
- . The walking tracks through the Wootton bush at the back of the hall will continue to be developed.
- . The Committee is continuing to work with Council to resolve the Aboriginal Land Claim in place over all the area with the Wootton community facilities.
- . We plan to hold impromptu games nights/afternoons including table tennis and other games. These events will be advertised on the 'What's on in Wootton' sign on Wootton Way so keep your eyes open.

Tennis Courts

The tennis courts are not the responsibility of either the Wootton Community Network or the Wootton Hall Committee. They are technically the responsibility of the Wootton Tennis Club that has not been active for a few years. In the interim, the Hall Committee has been keeping the courts neat and tidy so that they can be used for casual use. However, Council is planning to undertake a detailed inspection of the state of the courts early this year for safety and operational purposes. They plan to document the levels of work needed to provide various options of use including safe tennis courts, whether resealing is sufficient and a free area not specifically for tennis.

We will keep you informed of the outcomes of this review.

Caro Badcock (49977337)

Wootton Community “What’s On” Blackboard Sign

This new sign was erected by community volunteers and funded by a grant provided by Great Lakes Council. So, if you want to know what’s happening in Wootton keep an eye out for the sign situated opposite Wat-tley Hill Road on Wootton Way.



Sympathies:

- to the family of Colleen Wilson who sadly passed away in January.



Congratulations:

- to Leanne and Peter on becoming grandparents again. To Nicole and Anthony and Leo on their new son and brother, Samuel Wrigley, born 8th January 2014.
- to Frank Shultz on his recent 80th Birthday
- to Caro and Mike Badcock on their 40th wedding anniversary.

YOGA RESUMES IN THE HALL

After a really successful year of yoga in the hall, our teacher, Janine has unfortunately moved to Port Macquarie. Fortuitously Christine (de Fresne) has just made a permanent move from Sydney up to her house in Markwell – the straw bale house she built with her daughter and a number of very professional locals. She says it’s a move she’s dreamt about for years. Having closed her yoga school in Sydney, she’s very happy to be able to offer classes in the area, and most grateful to Janine for allowing her an easeful transition to take the classes she has established here.



Christine has been teaching yoga classes for twenty five years, and teaches yoga therapy for a range of medical issues, on a one-to-one basis. She also draws and paints, has made a film and written a book, and has begun a teaching programme incorporating drawing and yoga in workshops and retreats.

Everyone is welcome from beginners to experts and all levels in between. So, come and join us at 9.30am on Thursdays in the Wootton Hall, Wootton Way, Wootton. \$10 for 1.5 hour class.

See: <http://www.facebook.com/RupakalaaArtandYoga> or contact her on 0408 154 008 or cduf47@gmail.com

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YOGA
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Bulahdelah Tue 5:30pm/Fri 9:30am

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