

WOOTTON VALLEY NEWS

JUNE - JULY 2009 NO 60

DISTRIBUTION 500 WOOTTON COOLONGOOK
BUNGWAHL BUNYAH BULAHDELAH

White Cedar moth (Hairy Grub) *Leptocneria reducta*

The hairy, grey-brown adult moth lays clusters of greyish eggs on trees, woodpiles or even shade cloth. The dark brown caterpillar has orange feet and a dim yellow line along the back, growing to 4cm. It is covered in bristles, to which some people are allergic. They hide by day in crevices on or near the ground sometimes under a fine web, swarming in the evening in a seething mass of hundreds of hairy brown bodies undulating in an eerie silent flow up the tree trunk and along the branches to



the leaves, which they eat voraciously. The caterpillars feed communally on the foliage, and when a tree becomes defoliated, they wander everywhere forming the common trait of a processional line in search for another tree, invading homes etc. in their search. They seem to have no competent natural predators, birds showing no interest. Native wasps may be their main enemy although not very competent at tracking the caterpillars down. They feed primarily in the White Cedar tree but even if completely defoliated it only cause temporary stress. To get rid of them, it is best to wait until early night, when the hairy grubs ball up. Boiling water is a quick and effective way of killing them if they have become a pest.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Thursday 4th June	Wootton Community Network Meeting 7pm Cafe
Friday 5/12/19/26 June	Men's Group Wootton Hall 5-7pm
Friday 12th June	Movie & Supper Night 7pm Brush Turkey Café (change of night)
Sunday 14th June	Wootton Fire Brigade AGM 9am Fire Shed
Friday 19th June	"Ladies' Night" Brush turkey Café 5-7pm
Saturday 27th June	5th Birthday Dinner 'Black-tie & Pearls' 7pm
Thursday 2nd July	Wootton Community Network meeting 7pm Café
Friday 17th July	"Ladies' Night" Brush Turkey Café 5-7pm
Friday 3/10/17/24/31 July	Men's Group Wootton Hall 5-7pm
Saturday 25th July	Community Dinner "Christmas in July" 7pm Cafe
Saturday 29th August	Community Dinner 'British' 7pm Cafe

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Wootton Community Network

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month, 7pm, at the Brush Turkey Café. Next meeting dates are 4th June, 2nd July, 6th August. Anyone & everyone is welcome to attend these meetings. Fresh ideas and faces would be welcomed. Membership is due as at 30th June 2009. Invoices will be sent soon.

Café News Please support our local community run cafe. Drop in for a cuppa, a delicious cake or a meal. Wootton Community Network members can get a coffee or tea for just \$2. Open 10-4 weekends. Thanks to all our volunteers.

Jean's Mothers Day 'Kevin and I enjoyed a delightful Mothers Day lunch at the café in May. Although quiet when we arrived, the café became extremely busy and the volunteers were certainly put to the test, which they coped with very well.'

Cafe Volunteers Please call Leanne on 49977201 if you would like to volunteer. Full training is given. We are looking for someone who would like to volunteer a couple of hours to help with set up on Fridays and clean up on Mondays. We recently attended a council run food handlers course which was of great benefit. The hand washing exercise was a real eye-opener. The benefits of the proper use of soap and drying was obvious to all. Another coffee and till training evening will be held soon. Contact Fran on 49977323.

Community Dinners Book early, on 49977296. The dinners are a great chance to meet and catch up with friends and neighbours. We had a lovely night last Saturday at our curry night. There were flavours for everyone. Our next dinner on the 27th June will be the Brush Turkey Cafe 5th birthday so dress in '**black-tie and pearls**' and help us celebrate this milestone. There will be great food, music by Peter Kershaw and an assured good time. July Dinner will be "Christmas in July", so be prepared for some Christmas fare and a jolly time.

Cafe Garden Tracey is still doing a wonderful job and has requested someone to help her with edging and pathways. Contact the café if you can help.

Goods for Sale We are selling natural-soaps, lavender products, handcrafted pottery, honey, eggs, potted seedlings and various local seasonal produce. If you would like to sell anything contact the café.

Cafe Closing The Brush Turkey Cafe will be closed for **July** and **August**.

Artwork at the Brush Turkey Café Dulcie & Wolf Joester's collection of Aboriginal art and artefacts has had lots of positive feedback, on display until the end of July. September/ October artist will be Friedel Warmers. Anyone interested in exhibiting in the café next year, please leave your details at the Brush Turkey Cafe.

Creative Furniture Workshop Thanks to all the volunteers that helped with the workshop. Our second outdoor setting will be in use soon, once the oiling has been done. Thanks to Ian Dobson, Peter Auriac, Geoff & Garry Williams, Elizabeth & Karl.

Wootton Signage

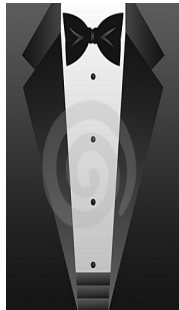
The case of the disappearing Wootton Sign Once again our southern sign has disappeared and we have contacted council to replace it yet again. Is someone out there lining their shed walls with them?

Forestry sign

New signage was needed for the corner of Squires & Possum Pie Rd and after lobbying State Forests they have erected new ones. Thank-you State Forests. The signage is much improved.

You are invited to

Brush Turkey Café's 5th Birthday



Wear your Black Tie & Pearls
Saturday 27th June 7pm
\$20 includes finger food dinner
& music by Peter Kershaw
& 5th birthday cake
& fun party games
Bookings 49977296



MOVIE & SUPPER NIGHT

Friday 12th June

NB: changed this month to Friday as café is booked for Saturday

Brush Turkey Café

Arrive 7pm

\$10 includes supper & nibbles

Bookings 49977296

LADIES' NIGHT

Brush Turkey Cafe

5-7 PM Friday 19th June & 17th July

(3rd Friday of the month)

A social get together!

Rjng Fran on 49977323 for details



Eddie's Story - A life spent in Wootton Edie passed away on Saturday 16th May at Bulahdelah Hospital. She was 85 years old. We spoke with her a few years ago and she was happy to share with us her memories of her life in Wootton. Our sympathies goes out to all her family, Ron & Rosslyn & family, Robyn, Letitia and Samara and her brother Jack Squires.

Edie Mudford, was born Edith Mary Squires on 1st October 1923 at Boolambayte. She was delivered at home by her midwife grandmother, Mary Jane Squires. Edith was named after both grandmothers, Edith Evelyn Sheather and Mary Jane Squires. Her father made his living, at that time, 'in the bush' with his bullock team hauling logs. The family, which then consisted of her parents, John Henry and Attis (Harriet Beatrice Attis) and her older brother Colin, moved to Gloucester where John 'worked the bush'. When Edie was about four the family moved back to Wootton, where they 'selected' a farm adjacent to where the tramway ran, near where now runs Squires Road. In those days there was no road. In fact, Attis, in later years wrote many letters to the then Council at Stroud lobbying to have roads built. The local Councilor Harold C. Higgins who lived in Wootton was of great assistance to Attis. John's parents had already taken up a 'selection' on a farm, where the old mill remnants can still be seen, along Wattle Hill Road. Edie's dad continued to make a living in the bush with his bullock team. In fact, Edie can remember, even as a young girl, helping her dad and brother in the bush. The family expanded, adding a younger sister, Elvie, and a brother, Jack. They lived in a two-bedroom weatherboard farmhouse, which was extended, as the family expanded.

They grew most of their vegetables, raised chickens for eggs and had a house cow. They reared pigs and very occasionally killed a chicken. Chicken was a treat, usually only eaten at Christmas time. Fresh and corned meat was bought from the butcher at Coolongolook who delivered twice a week in his little truck with the back tray closed in. The baker delivered from Bulahdelah. The family made ginger beer and hop beer, but to keep it cool it was kept in the river. They had no refrigeration when Edie was a child. Later on when she married she had her first kerosene fridge and could make ice blocks. So that is how they lived - growing most of their food, no refrigeration, wood stoves for cooking and tank water. "When the water was low in the tank we'd have to wash in the river."

Sounds like an idyllic life!...and Edie would agree. She told us, "they were the best days of my life, when the train ran through Wootton." The railway went through the forest all the way from Boolambayte to where the Trestle Bridge Picnic Area is today. On the Squires' property the railway line forked, one line ran to Mount Gray and the other, called the 'Hauler Line', went for six miles. "The loco would shunt where we lived and the driver would stop and pick us kids up sometimes and give us a lift up to Wootton. There was a driver, a man stoking the fire and 2 men working the brakes on the log carriages. The tram would sway going over the bridge and you would just hope it stayed on the tracks." It did, but there were a few accidents when the train derailed.

Most people, in those early days of Edie's childhood, made a living from bush work or dairying. John and Attis decided to try dairying, constructed their own dairy bales and milked about 30 cows. Milking was done by hand with a bucket between the legs. The kids always helped with the dairy and had their chores to do before and after school. Attis also put together and sold 'soup packs' from her garden and made butter, which she would sell for sixpence, and deliver to the people living in Wootton village. The 'village' of Wootton was a thriving little township consisting of two general stores, a post office, a blacksmith shop and the office of Mr. Smedley the manager for Alan Taylor Sawmills, on the corner of Worth Street. Of course there was the tramway. There were also three tennis courts in Wootton, but only three cars. The grocery shop would give a month's credit to everyone. "No-one never paid their bill." said Edie. Attis would put in an order and the tram would deliver it to their farm.

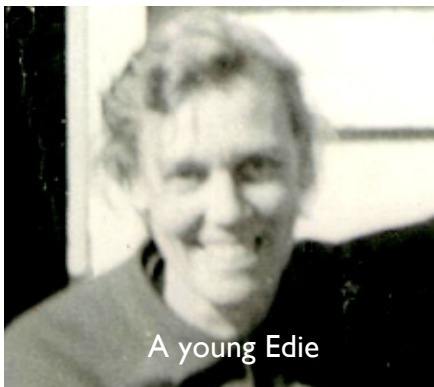
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The only real drawbacks were that there were no telephones and the nearest doctor

The Gilmores family returned to Wootton, Edie and Colin started school where husband and Mr & Mrs Gilmore, taught them. After dairying chores and walking to school all the time their nails inspected showed their clean handkerchief before reciting "I honour my King, I salute my flag" and singing the National Anthem (God save our King). Edie says lots of kids to play with, lots of brothers, sisters, cousins and neighbours. Dances were a major interest and social activity. Attis and John taught their children the aid of a wind-up gramophone. Attis said, "If you can't waltz, you can't dance." Most of the dances in Wootton, held nearly every Saturday night. People came from as far as Markwell, Krambach and Bungwahl. Edie revisited the story that her brother had previously told us. Her story was that a Jersey/Guernsey bull was lying on the railway tracks to the village dance. Edie and her cousin, Olive, ran back to the safety of a house, retreated home where brother Jack rescued them by delivering them to the railway. Apparently that particular bull had been 'playing up' and Dad always said, "Bull!!" Attis and John took over the remaining general store, on the highway, in the area and ran it until 1971. They had hand pumped petrol bowsers out the front. Edie said "I met my husband, Raymond Albert Mudford, when he worked for her parents on his farm (Eric Wilkes' farm today). Raymond was known by everyone as Kay. I'm not sure why he was called Kay, but it rhymes with Ray, and she thinks it may be because he was "so good looking". Anyway, they married the day before she turned 18 in September 1942, in a church in Taree. Kay had enlisted in the army in 1939 and married Edie and then went back to war until 1945, spending time in Victoria, Borneo and Malaya. Edie lived with her parents both whilst Kay was away at war and on the farm home. In 1948 they bought a 285 acre (116 hectares) property where Edie still lives. Edie and Kay dairy and raised a family. Kay later worked for the Department of Agriculture in the Bulahdelah Mountains. They had three children, Norman, Ronald and Edie, and as eight grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

Edie lives in Wootton, and has great memories of her life spent nearly entirely in Wootton. She says she was given 'wonderful parents' and loved having her family and neighbours close. They were always together from going to the dances to helping each other out. "You felt safe in Wootton, you could go out without having to worry about locking doors. Today, people are in too much of a hurry, *the world is all upside down*. People would make time to talk and help one another. Edie lived a quiet life in her later years, choosing to stay in the home she lived in for most of her life. One regret seems to be that she never

had a car which would have given her some independence in her later years. She had a good memory of her life in Wootton, a short daily walk and loved reminiscing about Wootton, despite the changes. It's great to have someone that, not only had clear memories of Wootton's past, but also a great love for Wootton, and called home for most of her life. Many of us have memories of the way about Wootton, even though our memories are short in comparison. The things Edie talks about are the things that make a place special. It's worth living in - the bush, the relative isolation, the support of friends and neighbours. It's not the railway now but we do have a rich



Wootton Rural Fire Service

Thanks to those crew that were able to come out at 1.30 am to fight the house fire in Wattley Hill Rd recently (Garry, Steve, Mike C, Keith, Mike B. and Jim & Craig who answered the ESP call). I rang everyone at 1.30 am, so if you thought it was a crank call, it was me. We were lucky to contain the fire to only half the house and the unburnt part was lucky to receive little water and smoke damage. Bulahdelah & Pacific Palms crews also attended.

AGM Sunday 14th June 9am at the Fire shed in Squires Rd Mike Badcock

Anyone interested in joining the brigade should contact Mike Badcock on 49977337

Fires can accidentally start in the home from cooking, heaters, fireplaces, electric blankets, faulty electrics and children playing with lighters. Every home and workplace should have a fire escape plan.

HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN CHECKLIST (from the RFS website)

- Know two safe ways out of every room
- Draw your escape plan on paper and discuss your escape plan with your family
- As you escape make sure you close internal doors behind you
- Decide on a safe outside meeting place eg. Near the letterbox
- Make sure that your windows and doors can quickly open if and when required
- Install smoke alarms: test them regularly, change the batteries at least every year
- Smoke alarms alert you to a fire, an escape plan can then help get you out alive
- Practise your escape plan regularly with all your family members / householders
- If there is a fire in your home, do not wait, EVERY SECOND COUNTS, escape immediately and then call 000 from a neighbours home
- Once you get out, STAY OUT, never go back inside a burning building
- Remember to consider the special needs of children, the elderly or the disabled when developing your escape plan

SAFETY TIPS

- Remember, smoke from a fire will make you confused and that you cannot see in smoke
- When asleep you will not smell smoke and it will in fact put you into a deeper sleep
- Oil, gas or wood heating units may require a yearly maintenance check
- Only ever use fuses of the recommended rating and install an electrical safety switch
- Home fire safety is important for the whole family and preparation can prevent a tragedy.



Bulahdelah & Myall Lakes Local Health Advisory Committee

Bulahdelah Community Hospital and the Health Centre are both located, opposite each other, in Richmond Street, Bulahdelah. Volunteer Community Transport drivers are desperately needed in the Myall Lakes Area. You can make a difference.

Phone: Amy Oakley (49972266) Julie Richardson (49977130) or John Smith (49977178)

Coolongolook News

Social Tennis Join us for a hit and a giggle, Wednesdays 10am, at the Coolongolook Tennis court \$3. The AGM for the Tennis Club will be held soon.

Coolongolook Hall Nominations are called for the Coolongolook Hall 355 committee. Ring Neryl Gordon, for more information, on 49977157.



Men's Night Out

Every Friday night from 5pm to 7pm in the Community Centre at Wootton, (the old school).

All men, all ages, all welcome.

'Secret Men's Knight' by Warren Richardson

Want some male only company or just want to have a chat, or maybe have a game of cards or throw a dart or two, or even answer some questions in the quiz, or have a drink with your neighbours? Come along Friday nights at the old Wootton school, enjoy our topless waitresses and our pole dancers. Well it is our dreamtime. Contact John Smith 49977178

Another snake encounter... I was sitting on the verandah the other day having a cuppa when I noticed a snake (python) out of the corner of my eye. It was winding itself around the garbage bin, then the gas bottle and over the cement. It was trying to shed it's skin by rubbing itself on these surfaces. I thought how lucky we were to have hands. I think it must have given up and decided to head for the bush with it's skin, half off, rolled in a ball half way along it's body. I walked forward and, with one step, I trod on the tip off the shed snake skin and released it's burden. It was my way of saying thanks for getting rid of the mice that have been pestering me in my house. Bron Little



Your help needed to clean up Wootton Way

After picking up a bag of rubbish from Wootton Way last week. I de-spaired how the road is becoming more and more strewn with rubbish. I thought "Isn't anyone else picking up this rubbish?", and realised that "no, it's obvious, no one is". Most people don't like to see the rubbish in our beautiful area but no one is prepared to pick it up. It seems that if people don't drop it, it's not their concern. It is demoralising when you have to keep picking up after these thoughtless people. The day after I cleaned up a patch there was more dropped just a few metres away. Take a look when you travel the mountain. I read an article the other day where a survey was done on a picnic area. It was observed that some people left their rubbish when they left while others took theirs and disposed of it correctly. People would sit at a table where rubbish was previously left and they picked only theirs up and left the rest. It's not nice to have to clean up others mess, but if no one does it, it won't get done. I thought we could show ownership of the road and show pride in our local area by having a clean up day. I'm proposing if anyone is willing to help, to meet at the northern end of Wootton Way, 9am Monday 22nd June. We expect to do 1-2 hours. Tongs, bags and gloves will be supplied. We envisage having a cleanup a few times a year if needed. Bron Little

DIRECTORY

Accommodation

Too many visitors! **Wootton Guest House**
4 a/c bedrooms with ensuites & balconies,
reasonable rates. www.woottonguesthouse.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**

Church Open House Every Sunday

Arrive at 10am. Share lunch, fun for kids.
Entrance opposite Forest Lodge on Wootton
Way. Dave and Kathy Barker **49974675**

Computer services

Software installation, cleanup, Website de-
sign, Hardware upgrade,
Custom build! New parts warranty.
Peter **49977223**

Earth Moving

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

Electrical Services

RDO Electrical Services
Rob Oxford C/LIC No. 8811C All areas
790 Wattley Hill Rd **0416 090887**

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

Justice of the Peace

Warren Richardson **49977130**

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

Painter

Shaun Clarke Interior/exterior colour
Consulting & feature walls **0411 253500**

Plumber

Richard Green Plumbing All plumbing,
drainage, gas & LPG fitting, domestic, com-
mercial, industrial Lic no. 53903C
0418 618583 65591555

Renewable Energy

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

Real Estate

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**

Transport

G.T. Delivery Service Neil Ede
Daily runs Newcastle to Taree
Same day service **0412496566**

Auto recycler, moving cars, machinery, cara-
vans, yard clean-ups, reasonable rates.
Dodgy Bruvers Transport
65529130 0401880352

For Sale (This service is free)

- ◆ Push Lawn mowers from \$100 Ph
49977404
- ◆ Black soft leather coat mid length size 12
as new \$50 ono 49977185

Wanted

- ◆ Cement mixer for mixing mulch, no
wheels needed as long as it turns.
49977476

Advertising rates for 2009/2010 for the Wootton Valley News Directory are

**\$55 for Non-members,
\$45 Members per 4 line ad space**

Contact the editors for new
advertising or wording changes.

Please send a cheque payable to the Wootton
Community Network at 1633 Wootton Way,
Wootton 2423 Advertising due 30th June. These
businesses support this newsletter. Please support
them wherever possible.