

WOOTTON VALLEY NEWS

JUNE - JULY 2011 NO 72

DISTRIBUTION 500 WOOTTON COOLONGOOK
BUNGWAHL BUNYAH BULAHDELAH

Gould's wattled bat *Chalinolobus gouldii*

The micro bats (also known as insectivorous bats), are small to medium-sized bats, weighing from 3g to 150g, and with wingspans of around 25cm. Micro bats are nocturnal, and rely on *echolocation* and, to a lesser extent, eyesight, to find their way and locate insects at night. Micro bats use an array of roost sites for sleeping during the day. The majority of micro bats roost in tree hollows or caves, although



some sleep under bark or under dead fronds of tree ferns, or even in the discarded nests of some birds! Some species will sleep in human structures such as in mines, tunnels, buildings, under bridges and in rooftops, especially if their natural roosts are in short supply in the area. They are the only flying mammals - and this is how they got to Australia. Australia's original mammals were only marsupials. Bats are placental animals, but because they came to Australia by themselves (i. e. they were not brought here by humans), they are considered to be Australian native animals. Microbats need a lot of energy to fly and to replace the body heat that goes out through the large wing and ear surfaces. A microbat can eat 50% of its bodyweight every night. But during the winter food is scarce and some species of microbats migrate, others hibernate

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- Sunday 5th June Wootton RFS meeting Fire Shed 10am
- Sunday 12th June Music Day Great Lakes Winery 11:30am
- Saturday 18th June Wootton Sustainable Agricultural Group first meeting 9:30am
- Sat/Sun 18/19 June Farm Forestry Field Days
- Saturday 25th June Community Dinner "Fancy Foods/Fancy Dress" bring a plate to share
- Sunday 26th June Introduction to Master Tree Growers' Course
- Saturday 30th July Community Dinner "Xmas in July" Brush Turkey Café 7pm

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Wootton Community Network

Community Dinners Bookings essential on 49977296

WINTER CAFÉ CLOSURE

The Brush Turkey Café will be closed July and August for our annual Winter break and working bees. Reopening on Fathers' Day, Sunday 4th September. Bring Dad along for a hearty breakfast.

NEW!!

Peppertree Hill Preserves are now for sale at the café @ \$3 per jar

Community Dinners

Our last Persian dinner was another great success with unusual flavours, great trivia and a happy bunch of people.

The French Dinner was Magnifique'. Thanks to all the cooks & helpers.

Next Dinners

Junes dinner will be "Fancy Foods Fancy Dress". Bring a plate of Fancy Food to share.

July's dinner will be Xmas in July so put on your Santa hat and come along for some good nosh. (\$25 a head this time for this special meal)

The Wootton Community Network needs community support. One of it's main activities is funding and publishing the Wootton Valley News. The Brush Turkey Café is a great meeting place on Sundays for locals as well as the main fundraiser for the Wootton Community Network. Funds also assist in local activities. (We recently donated funds to the Ironstone Community Action Group's appeal against Duralie Coal's mining)

You can support this worthy organisation by participating in meetings, coming to and helping at dinners, volunteering at the café, joining working bees or as simple as enjoying a cup of coffee/tea or a meal on Sundays. Wootton needs everyone's support to exist as a community. Feedback from outside Wootton is often said, such as "What an active community" etc., when in reality it is a few long term dedicated people. New people are needed to add fresh ideas and enthusiasm.

What can you do to help?

Art at the Brush Turkey cafe

This months artist is Fred Bullen. Fred attended art classes since the age of twelve, and at 21 abandoned art for a career, taking up art again in his retirement when he moved to the mid north coast. He is a member of the Great Lakes Art Society participating in workshops in quite diverse artistic media and subjects.



Wootton School Hall *Is open for business*

The new committee had its first meeting in May and is really excited about working with the community to bring more activities to the Wootton School Hall. Outstanding repairs or maintenance tasks identified by the previous committee have been resubmitted to the Council and acknowledgement received that they will be actioned in the near future. The playground equipment has been condemned and by the time this newsletter is distributed the removal of the equipment may have already occurred. The committee will be seeking a grant to replace this equipment. Any suggestions as to the type of activities for the equipment to fulfil that would best suit the children in the local area would be appreciated (contact Caro). Chair and Booking officer, Caro Badcock can be contacted on cbadcock@bordnet.com.au or 49977337, Treasurer/ Secretary is Larn Garnett and the other members of the committee are Michael Kiprioti, Peter Dixon, Megan Kessler, Susanne Kennedy and Deborah McDonnell. Please feel free to contact any of these members with suggestions.

Supper and Movie Night
Saturday 11th June
6:30 supper for 7pm movie
\$10

“Wild Target”

Starring **BILL NIGHY & EMILY BLUNT**
A hitman tries to retire but a beautiful thief may change his plans.
An action comedy



What else is on?

- Pacific Palms Art Festival Friday 10th-Sunday 12th June Pacific Palms community Centre Lakes Way Pacific Palms
- Bulahdelah Markets 4th June & 2nd July
- Nabiac Farmers Market 25th June
- Stroud Brick and rolling pin throwing 16th July
- Pacific Palms markets Sunday 31st July

Next Wootton Valley News Deadline is
25th July, 2011

Our sympathies to the family of Russell Mahar (Rose, Jim and Michael) who passed away on Friday 13th May, 2011. Russell and his wife Rose used to live in Newman's Road, Wootton and moved to Pacific Palms. They regularly attended Wootton community dinners. Russell was 57 years young.

Choko pickle

- 3kg (6lb) chokoes (after peeling)
- 1kg (2lb) onions
- 1 cup cooking salt
- water
- 1 ½ litres (3 pints) dark malt vinegar
- 5 tablespoons plain flour
- 1 ½ level tablespoons curry powder
- 1 tablespoon turmeric
- 1 tablespoon dried mustard
- 1 kg (2lb) brown sugar



Method:

Cut up the chokos and onions, add the salt, then cover with cold water. Next day scoop off the excess water, then boil the choko and onion mixture for 15 minutes. In a large pot mix together the plain flour (mixed to a paste with a little of the vinegar first), then the rest of the vinegar, curry powder, turmeric and mustard. Bring to the boil, stirring. Add 1kg (2lb) brown sugar and stir to dissolve. Add the cooked chokos and onions to the vinegar mixture and bring back to the boil. Cook 10 minutes more, stirring or until desired consistency is reached

What a great time to be in the country. We've seen our best season for quite a long time. The pastures are green, the trees are fruiting, the animals are reproducing. Weeds are in abundance and nature is exploding everywhere. Flooded Gum and Tallowwoods have been flowering for an extended period which has resulted in masses of parrots and Wattle birds in the day and flying foxes at night. Citrus and natives are fruiting profusely. The good rains have meant we don't have to water our vege gardens. Our water tanks are full to overflowing. We look forward to sitting in front of our warm winter fires eating our own produce (creamy pumpkin soup) and sipping local wines. It doesn't get much better than this. What a pleasure to live in the country!

Music in the back paddock at
Great Lakes Winery

MATT ZARB and MINNIE MARKS

barefoot, guitar playing, rascals...

Sunday 12th June, 2011 from 11.30am

Gate fee Adults \$15.00 Kids under 15 FREE

Food & Drinks available (or bring a picnic)

Great Lakes Winery

115 Herivels Road, Wootton

ph 49977255

Turn off the highway to Wootton between

Coolongolook & Bulahdelah

www.greatlakeswines.com.au

*Bring a rug or a chair, take your place in the
paddock, sample some refreshingly
delicious Great Lakes Wines, kick back
with tasty Comboyne Culture cheese plate
and have a great day!!*



Great Lakes
WINES

WOOTTON N.S.W



Wootton Fire Brigade News

New Members

Wootton RFS Brigade is looking for new members especially anyone that has a truck licence. Contact Mike Badcock on 49977337, if you are able to help

Street Numbers

The Wootton RFS Brigade has found it difficult to find properties as many properties do not have street numbers. It would be appreciated if all property owners would ensure that their properties were correctly numbered. Please do not use your lot numbers, use your street address. In an emergency having an easily identifiable street number could be the difference in saving a life or a property.

Meetings

The next meeting will be held at the fire station on Sunday 5 June 2011 at 10.00am.

Did you know

That fire travels faster up hill than down, and that the speed of the fire will double for every 10 degree increase in slope, (most of us live on slopes)

WOOTTON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL GROUP

On Saturday 18 June 2011, 9.30am at the Brush Turkey Cafe the first meeting of the Wootton Sustainable Agricultural Group will be held. The aim of the group is to share information on improving your property, The initial meeting will advise on how to access free soil tests, information on pasture trials & property maps.

Please RSVP by Friday 10th June to Karen Bee at Great Lakes Council 6591 7305, with your property details, to receive a free laminated aerial A3 photo of your property.

Farm Forestry Field Days

Wootton recently hosted a farm forestry field day run by Tocal Agricultural College, in conjunction with the Hunter Farm Forestry Network. 27 people from Sydney to Port Macquarie attended with field inspections of Steve Atkins' and Robyn Piper's plantation and Mike



and Caro Badcock's diverse cattle, forestry and conservation reserve property.

The first introductory day to Private Native Forestry was so successful that Tocal is running a second field day on Saturday 18th June, 2011. HFFN is going to conduct a more detailed field discussion day for advanced Private Forestry people on Sunday 19th

June. Following this an introduction day to the Master Tree Growers course will be held by Rowan Reid on Sunday, 26th June. The Tocal and Master Tree Growers' days are funded by the NSW State Government. Wootton has proven the ideal location for these Forestry field days. To book for any of these days please contact Phil Anderson secretary@hffn.org.au or ring Craig on 49977292 Craig Tate

Yoga Classes contact Anne Lewis on 0409976075 for info@anahahayoga.net

FOUND

Mechanics Power Tool found at the intersection of Wattley Hill Road and Wootton Way. Call 49977277 or 0409654858

WOOTTON HISTORICAL RAILWAY WALK REJUVENATION!!

During the week of 16-20th May 2011 two groups of volunteers worked on the picnic area at Sam's Camp and the walking trail of the Historic Railway Walk. The Australian Conservation Volunteers and the Wootton Weeders joined forces to make huge improvements to this beautiful spot. John Berry, from the Forestry Department, not only worked hard brush cutting and mending, but also provided paint, equipment and replacement parts for the picnic area as well as new sign posts and interpretive plaques to explain a little about the history of the place.



The Australian Conservation Volunteers, led by Raquel Ryan was made up of two students from Korea and 4 students from Hong Kong and a volunteer trainee. These students pruned, raked and cleared the picnic area, then scrubbed the car park fence before painting it and the picnic tables. The walking trail was raked, pruned and brush-cut making a lovely wide path. The bridges were swept clean and surrounding weeds removed. The Wootton Weeders cleared a large area of lantana along the edge of the trail.

Craig Tate brought along memorabilia including written history and old photos of workmen and trains and talked about the opening up of this area to logging and then the subsequent working party which rediscovered the rail line, or what was left of it. This working party made an historic walking trail along the rail line where the old hand-cut sleepers for the railway can still be seen today.

Many thanks to Raquel and her overseas volunteers, John Berry, Craig Tate and the trusty band of Wootton Weeders for their valuable contributions to this project.

Sams Camp and the Historic Railway Walk are worth visiting for a picnic and a walk down memory lane.

Many thanks to Eric Wilkes for allowing the volunteers to visit his mill.

Judy Hammond - Wootton Weeders

Conservation
Volunteers at Eric
Wilkes' Mill



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Advertising rates for 2011 for the Wootton Valley News Directory are \$55 for Non-members, \$45 Members - per 4 line ad space

These businesses support this newsletter. Please support them wherever possible.

For Sale

(This service is free)

3 sq. m of slate and sealant \$20
Antique woodwork tools, 2 x jack planes, 2 x brace and bits, assortments \$20
A bucket of lead and 3 fishing sinker moulds, bean and snapper \$20
Heavy duty vice, mass 52 kg, screw diam. 43mm, opens to 150mm and with fixing plate \$20
Professional draftsman's board (Bieffe 2, Italian) 1000mmx900mm, adjusts through height and inclination \$50
Commercial galvanized aviary, w:d:h of 2400mm:1400mm:1800mm, in 5 sections \$50
Ph John Smith 49977178 or 0438261077.

Chiswell Teak Expandable dining table and 6 chairs plus matching buffet \$160 ono
Adjustable Computer Table \$25, Large antique wardrobes and dressing tables best offer Ph Pat 49977292