

**WOOTTON
VALLEY
NEWS**
 JUNE - JULY 2012 NO 78
 DISTRIBUTION 450 WOOTTON COOLONGLOOK
 BUNGWAHL BUNYAH BULAHDELAH

**Rose-leaf Bramble,
Native Raspberry *Rubus rosifolius***

This is a common prickly shrub with trailing glandular-hairy stems to 2 m long. Leaves are pinnate, deeply toothed and hairy. The flowers are white and the red, ovoid fruit is edible but insipid. It is widespread on the margins of the rainforest and tall open



forest, flowering most of the year. It is valued for a number of culinary and medicinal purposes. This species has become invasive in Hawaii and French Polynesia, where it is capable of intruding into the understory of rainforests. Prickly stems and an ability to form dense thickets make it undesirable in many areas.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

June/July	Brush Turkey Cafe Closed
Sunday 3rd June	Wootton Fire Brigade Training 10am
Fri 8- Mon 11th June	Mountain Designs Geoquest race
Saturday 9th June	Supper/Movie Night B T Cafe 6pm Food, 7pm Movie
Saturday 16th June	Wootton Sustainable Farming Group 9.30 -12.30pm
Thursday 21st June	C.W.A.G. Meeting Coolonglook Hall 6.30pm
Saturday 30th June	Community Dinner Bring-a-plate Wootton Hall 7pm
Sunday 1st July	Wootton Fire Brigade Training 10am
Saturday 28th July	Community Dinner (Pioneer Food) Brush Turkey Cafe 7pm
Thursday 2nd August	AGM Wootton Community Network B T Cafe 7pm
Sunday 5th August	Brush Turkey Cafe Re-opens 9am-4pm
Sunday 5th August	Wootton Fire Brigade Training 10am

Published by Wootton Community Network Inc
Editors Pat Tate 49977292 and Caro Badcock 49977337
Phone: 49977296 brushturkey@live.com.au Visit our website @ www.wootton.org.au

Wootton Community Network

Working Bee We had a very productive working bee in April.

Thanks to John, Sue, Ella, Ciara, Denis, Marg, Robyn, Stewart, Lyn, Skip, Pat, Craig, Caro, Mike, Paloma, Luis, Ian, Fran and Jim. Much needed maintenance and garden work was completed. Thanks also to Peter and Leanne for putting up some new shelving in the cafe.

Changes to Membership It was passed at our last meeting that membership would now run for the calendar year and that the cost would be \$12.50 for all members. This means that when you join or renew your membership it will now run until the end of 2013 (6 months free).

Newsletter Advertising and Subscriptions will also now run for the calendar year. This is also due 1st July but will run to the end of 2013.

Next meeting will be the AGM, followed by an ordinary meeting, 7pm Thursday 2nd August 2012

Please consider becoming a member and getting involved with the community. New people and new ideas would be welcomed. Members should consider taking positions at the AGM. Help will be given.

Movie Night The Mexican food and movie night was excellent, everyone enjoyed lashings of authentic Mexican food, hand made tortillas and a funny movie to boot. Many thanks to Paloma suggesting the film, organising and preparing the food. Also, thanks to John and Sue's lovely grandchildren, Ella and Ciara, who helped with the tortillas and food preparation on the night.

Community Dinners (Thanks to all the cooks and helpers)

May Dinner Curry Night Saturday 26th May

June Dinner Bring a plate, in hall, Sat 30th June (organised and run by Hall Committee. All proceeds go to the hall.)

July Dinner Pioneer night, old fashioned food and prizes for dressing up. Saturday 28th July

Please book by leaving a message on 49977296, email or ring 49977292

Cafe news

The cafe will be closed for Winter, opening again in August. We are always short on volunteers. Working in the cafe is very social. Young teenagers are very welcome and a great learning experience for them. Thanks to all the helpers. Call Leanne on 49977201 if you would like to volunteer and can spare a day or half a day every 4-6 weeks. The cafe is the main fundraiser for the Wootton Community Network. We fund the continued operation and maintenance of the community facilities, insurances, the publishing of this newsletter, fund the Wootton website, donate to local charities and community projects.

The Brush Turkey Cafe will be closed for June and July and re-opening Sunday 5th August

Supper and Movie Night
Saturday 9th June
6pm Supper, 7pm movie \$10
Brush Turkey Café
Wootton Way Wootton

A FEW BEST MEN
is a hilarious culture clash where
three good friends travel from Eng-
land to
Sydney to be best men at their
friend's wedding... 4 star comedy



Coolongolook and Wootton Action Group

Bunyah, Willina, Coolongolook and Wootton is a unique area with a healthy natural environment "Mothered" by substantial forests which are also important as a catchment area for the Wallis Lake system. We all appreciate this and have a desire to protect and enhance it where possible with a balance of co-existence between community and natural environment. Significant achievements are being made by groups within our community but there are other challenges that can be met by the involvement of the wider combined local communities. The CWAG Inc. group with assistance from NSW Community Trade and Investment and Great Lakes Council representatives have recently held community meetings to develop a Strategic Plan to establish future goals for our combined communities. This document will be valuable particularly when dealing with Local, State and Federal Government agencies. The four areas being targeted are [1] Environment [2]Facilities & Infrastructure[3]Community [4]Tourism. Photographs are invited of business places and significant sites or scenery within our locality for inclusion in The Plan. Please contact us before 15th of June with any contributions. CWAG's activities have included substantial volunteer work at Coolongolook Park and River picnic area. We carry out landscaping and also working bees for maintenance, including the responsibility of mowing the areas. We volunteer work the first and third Tuesdays of each month 10 am until 12.00 and also at times when weather permits for mowing. Our long awaited Community Directory will be delivered soon to every mailbox in the Bunyah, Willina, Coolongolook and Wootton areas. This has entailed collection of information and planning design etc. over the last 12 months. CWAG meetings are held at the Coolongolook Hall 6.30pm on the third Thursday of the month the next being 21st June whereat this meeting Richard Old [Great Lakes Tourism Manager] will conduct a workshop to assist us in tourism potentials and development for our area. Your presence is important. Contacts; Brian Parry 65591671, Jeni Locke 49977334 , Orla Murtagh 49977402

ARTISTS WANTED

If you would like to display your works when the Brush Turkey Cafe re-opens in August, please contact Pam Dunne on 49977156 for details.

Great Lakes Catchment Management (GLCM) Group

The May meeting was held in the Bungwahl Hall. Luckily the day was fine and there was a heater provided so we weren't too cold. Beforehand we visited the Pacific Palms Wetland area next to the Pacific Palms Rec Club. We saw the successes of the weed control work that is being undertaken, the clearing of the tree high lantana allowing a whole new understory to grow. There is no longer a red alert on the Myall Lake system in response to the green algal bloom; being reduced to amber, meaning continued monthly monitoring. The Council has completed acquisition of the 366 ha Bulahdelah Wetland and has been awarded an Environmental Trust Grant for stage I of the rehabilitation including fencing and commencement of revegetation. There is a push for landholders to get rid of their camphor laurel trees as they produce toxins. Website (<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/weeds/profiles/camphor-laurel>).

If you have only a few the current suggestion is to plant a fig in the fork of the tree, then, once the root that runs down the outside of the host tree has reached the ground the camphor is cut down and the fig is allowed to grow around it. Isabel Stratton from the Council may be able to help you with obtaining free figs for these plantings. Caro Badcock, Chair, Community Rep



Wootton Rural Fire Brigade

The fire brigade is experiencing a quiet time as far as fires go, this only means that we are getting closer to a bad season, so please don't become complacent - keep your house and family safe.

At the AGM on May 20, Roger Albans was elected Captain and he can be contacted on 49977166. The brigade is still looking for members to keep it as an effective fire fighting unit. There have been times during the last 12 months that the brigade has not been able to respond as there have not been enough members to form a crew or even drive the truck. If you have any spare time please consider joining the brigade. Contact Roger for more information. On the June long weekend we are holding a fund-raising food stall jointly with the Hall Committee as part of the GeoQuest race. See the Wootton Hall Happenings for more details. Meeting & Training is all at the fire station. Training dates are Sunday 3rd June, Sunday 1st July and Sunday 5th August, all at 10am

WOOTTON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL GROUP

Our next get together will be on **Saturday, June 16.**

Due to the lack of people being available, no meeting was held in April. The next meeting will be held at Caro and Mike's place, 589 Newman's Road, Saturday, June 16 from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Peter Beale will be talking about plants and winter pasture.

If anyone would like to join contact Karen Bee at Council 65917305

Wootton Hall Happenings



The end of March dinner was a wonderful success with 40 locals attending. The hall looked magnificent with floral and embroidered tablecloths, a profusion of flowers in vases around the room and a table groaning

under the weight and variety of food. Thanks to the committee for organizing this dinner. Thanks also to Doris, Mary, Beryl, Dulcie and Judy for donating crockery. Apologies if I have missed anyone.

Our next community dinner will be on Saturday, June 30th at 7pm, still \$5 and bring-a-plate. We hope to have hung some old photos by then. Please let me know if you are coming.

We had our AGM followed by an ordinary meeting on June 6th. We have a new member, Sue Williams from Wattle Hill Rd, Topi Topi. I am continuing as Chair and Larn as Secretary/Treasurer.

The working bee has the tennis courts and the garden next to the hall looking much more cared for. The mould from the courts is still to be removed but all the weeds and rubbish have gone. If you are interested in having a hit please feel free to use the courts, they are not locked.

At present the reserve between the hall and the fire brigade shed is seen as an imminent fire threat to the village but it also contains some fragile and scarcely represented floral species. We are formulating a management plan for the area and need your help. Please contact me by phone or email (caro_badcock@bigpond.com) with any suggestions.

On the June long weekend (8-11 June) the hall will be a transition area for a 48 hr Mountain Designs Geoquest race (www.geoquest.com.au).

This race involves teams of four in 48+ hours of non-stop endurance racing (trekking, mountain biking and kayaking). The peak of the action is expected to be on Sunday. There will be athletes, support crews and officials, so be aware of the extra traffic (cars and bikes) and people, around the village in particular. The hall committee and fire brigade are holding a fund raising food stall. If anyone can help on the day or can donate any cakes, slices, scones etc please let me know. Caro 49977337

What brought YOU to Wootton?

We weren't going to tell our story just yet but since we have been here 10 years this June the timing is probably appropriate. Not locals yet, but hopefully on the way.

Back in 2001 we became empty nesters and were thinking about where we wanted to be in our lives and what we wanted to do. Mike had al-



ways wanted to farm and we thought that it was now or never. We had no commitments except to ourselves so we could afford to take some risks so we started looking.

Although Mike wanted to become a full time farmer, aiming for around 200 acres, we did need to balance that with Caro's ongoing career so we did the usual: started with a radius of a couple of hundred kilometres of Sydney, down to the Southern Highlands, out to Mudgee and Gloucester and up to Taree. It very quickly became clear that we didn't want to go south or west (the drive over the mountains every Friday was not on!). So, north it was. We looked at properties as far out as north west of Gloucester, up on the Comboyne plateau, out to Belbora and all points in between. We were beginning to despair. When we asked to see farming properties we were shown farms with hardly a tree in sight. When we asked for trees we were shown "hobby blocks" with no pastures in sight and usually on the side of mountain! In addition, it very quickly became clear that the Friday night commute was going to be a challenge.

We thought we had found our place several times. First, the owner came back with a counter offer substantially more than the listed price. (Apparently the new boyfriend decided the property had been on the market for so long it was worth more!) On the rebound we saw this property in Newmans Road while the owner was considering if he wanted to sell. We fell in love with it but it was sold to someone else. We were gazumped on a property over on Bucketts Way and were feeling pretty desperate by this time. The week we were moving out of our family home of 22 years Mike was going to make an offer on a property to the south of Bulahdelah and Caro was in Melbourne for business. Mike left Caro a message saying that he had put an offer on a place but not the place she thought he was putting an offer on! Needless to say Caro was very concerned as they hadn't seen any other properties. Lo and behold, the property in Newmans Road had come back on the market after the new owners had been in there 6 weeks and Mike had jumped at the chance to purchase. That weekend we were going to Taree anyway so stopped off on the way, hoping that we had made the right decision. It was one of those fabulous days in March where there are no clouds, the sky is just brilliant blue and the world is wonderful. We knew we had done the right thing, couldn't believe our luck and were very nervous until we actually had the key (to a very old house) in our hands.

Since then, Mike has spent his time learning how to farm, experiencing the highs and lows of breeding animals, attending various workshops and improving the property. He has built kilometers of new fences to protect creeks, create wildlife corridors and make smaller paddocks to assist in pasture improvement and cattle handling. Caro spent the first four and a half years commuting to Sydney on a weekly basis and the last five and a half years working from home in her own consulting business which she continues to do. They have built a new house (but typical of owner builders not completely finished it or the landscaping), can be seen on the roads around Wootton running or riding their mountain bikes or in the café on a Sunday morning recovering from their long ride.

If you would like to tell your story contact Pat or Caro.

Coolonglook Public School

Our Garden Has Arrived!!

Recently we were thrilled to see the arrival of the gardening tanks, free soil, plants, weed mat and mulch. Thanks SO MUCH Manning Valley Industries. Let the garden begin!! All the children were involved in the first stage of our garden, marking out the intended area, placing the tanks, filling them with soil and planting the herbs and vegetables. The borders (sleepers) are still being organised and I will now order the



Our school lizard, Lionel

Bush Tucker Plants. Mrs Platts has offered some old tractor tyres for the planting of climbing veggies, flowers and strawberries. If anyone wishes to donate flower seedlings, it would be much appreciated. Marigolds are useful for companion planting to keep the bugs away. Any ideas will be gratefully accepted. We are all so excited by this new project!

Cathy Walker

My Musings about Wootton

What a glorious place we live in! After Summer being somewhat of a disappointment Mother Nature has given us the warm sunny days we were all craving, tempered by the crisp cold mornings and evenings. The parrots are out and about looking for blossom in the flowering flooded gum and I've noticed the swamp mahogany flowering as well. The lawns have slowed down and we get a break from the mowing. We are lucky to live in an environment where the air is clean, the paddocks are green and the weather is Autumn warm. We are also blessed to have a great variety of people living in our valley, from all backgrounds, ages and occupations. Some are permanent, some are weekenders and some spend long periods in Wootton before heading off to other interesting lives on other parts of the planet. The Wootton area ticks a lot of the boxes when people are looking for a country property, not least the friendly community of people. We have some really interesting people inhabiting Wootton and some wonderful people who find time to give selflessly to the community. Most people who live here love their little 'piece of paradise' and do amazing things on their property, from building dream houses, planting beautiful gardens, growing their own food, planting trees, removing weeds, running businesses from home, breeding animals and improving their paddocks. The list could go on and on. Most people care about improving their land, their environment.



We all lead busy lives but when you stop for a moment you'll notice things. Like how clear our starry skies are in the night time, our fabulous sunrises and sunsets (changing every day), the full moon rising over the horizon, the many brilliant rainbows, the magnificent cloud formations. Every day you could notice a different bird, flower, animal, insect, smell and the quiet.... You just have to stop for a second. Pat

DIRECTORY

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\$55 for Non-members,
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These businesses support this newsletter. Please support them wherever possible.

**New advertisers welcome
contact the editor.**

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