

WOOTTON VALLEY NEWS

JUNE - JULY 2014 NO 90
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BUNGWAHL BUNYAH BULAHDELAH

Interpreting the Sky At a recent dinner in Wootton David Roser mentioned that the "Emu in the sky" is visible around Wootton at present towards the south-west. Indigenous groups tell stories about a great emu, whose head is the 'Coalsack' – the famous dark cloud next to the Southern Cross – and whose neck, body and legs are formed from dust lanes stretching across the Milky Way. This emu, engraved in rocks at Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park in Sydney, is reflected in the Emu in the Sky constellation every autumn. Aboriginal artists oriented the engraving to line up with the constellation to mark when earth-bound emus began to lay their eggs. David will be contributing articles about the night sky in future newsletters for "Woottonites, as along with the farms and forest and river and quiet it has a pretty special night sky. Once upon a time our ancestors knew much about the stars and basic celestial mechanics and conjectured about their significance. Nowadays we have instant access to vastly more knowledge about the stars and tools to look at them and yet paradoxically we are vastly more ignorant on average of our riches." We look forward to his articles.



(Photograph owned by Barnaby and Ray Norris)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Sun 1 June | Wootton Fire Brigade training at the Fire Shed 10-12am |
| Sat 7 June | Wootton Community Network meeting at the café 3pm All welcome |
| Sun 8 June | Music at the Winery - Pop, rock and blues from the '70s Circus Mule 1-4pm |
| Sat 14 June | Supper and Movie Night Brush Turkey Café 6pm |
| Sat 28 June | Community Dinner Bring-a-plate Wootton Community Hall 6pm |
| Sun 6 July | Wootton Fire Brigade training at the Fire Shed 10-12am |
| Sun 20 July | Wootton Fire Brigade working bee at the Fire Shed 10am All Welcome |
| Sat 26 July | Community Dinner at the Brush Turkey Café - Christmas in July 7pm |
| Sat 2 August | Wootton Community Network meeting at the café 3pm All welcome |
| Sun 3 August | Wootton Fire Brigade training at the Fire Shed 10-12am |

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Wootton Community Network

Meetings: are held on the first Saturday of every second month, 3pm at the Brush Turkey Cafe. Next dates are 7th June and 2nd August. All are invited.

Community Dinners are held on the last Saturday of every month. June's is the bring-a-plate dinner in the hall. July 26 is "Christmas in July" in the café. \$20 per person, bookings essential!

Supper/Movie Nights: These are held on the second Saturday of every month, 6pm light meal, 7pm movie, cost is \$10. Next dates are 14 June, 12 July and 9 August. In June we had a special dinner and showing of the Forster Film Festival. This was especially successful and we hope to do the same next year. Bookings essential: 49977323 49977292

Thanks to:

- Daphne for organising the Italian Georgio Loccatelli dinner.
- Jim and Fran for organising the Forster Film Festival movie and dinner night.
- Tom for folding and stapling the last WVN.
- Joe for mowing the centre.
- Thanks to Julie and Geoff for taking the rubbish to the tip (as pictured in the last WVN).



Tom, Daphne and Jim after making the huge polenta (in the background)

Training Day for volunteers in September: The café is always looking for volunteers to help on Sundays. If you would like to help we are having a training day in September. Contact Fran on 49977323 for more details.

**The Brush Turkey Café will be closed
Sunday 29th June and on Sundays for July and August.
Dinners and Movie Nights will still be held**

Wootton Hall

Bring-a-plate dinner The main event for the Wootton Hall is the community dinner on June 28. Don't forget, 6 pm, bring-a-plate and \$5 per head. Children are free.

Hall Management At this stage there is no further communication as to what the Council plan regarding transitioning the management of the hall to the Department of Lands. So, at this stage it is business as usual.

Library The library is working well. Remember we receive a box of books from Great Lakes Library every month so there is always something new being added. The range is very impressive for such a venture.

Yoga continues to be very popular. Classes are every Thursday from 9.30am to 11am.

Wootton Community Food Swap



We live in one of the most fertile and well watered parts of the State, and we know from conversations at the Wootton Community Dinners or movie nights that a lot of folk in the area are expert at growing one thing or other, or even better, making one thing or other with their produce. Because of this, and to add in another opportunity for our community to come together, we held the inaugural Wootton Community Food swap on Saturday May 10.

We didn't know what to expect... we spread the word widely, but didn't know until the day who would turn up and with what.

In all, about 20 people turned up (admittedly, this included a few spouses who sat in the background having tea and cake while the swapping was going on), and a good array of veg was brought along. Our horror scenario of everyone only bringing beans to swap did not come to fruition (get it?) and we ended up with lots of herbs, citrus, chillies, pumpkin, eggs and chokos. We even had homemade bread and chilli jam in the mix.

For this first event, we decided to be fairly informal, with everything laid out on a table, having a cup of tea and cake and then diving in to take what we thought was a fair exchange for what we brought. Oddly, most people said they thought they got more than they brought... which was impossible, as there was quite a bit left on the table at the end to distribute.

Most of the people who came were Woottonians, but one lady came down from Nabitac for a look... hopefully in the future we can get folk participating from Nabitac, Coolongolook and Bulahdelah and surrounds as well.

We discussed whether we should make this a regular event and the answer was an overwhelming yes. We decided that we will have the next one in September for the end of the winter crop and then monthly over Summer on the second Saturday of the month before the movie night. Other ideas are to explore how to coordinate on the growing side so that we can maximise the variety of swappables and maybe link up with the local seed savers to swap seeds as well.

If you would like more information or would like to help organise the swaps, please contact Peter Dixon on 0437 655 658 or at bushregenerator@gmail.com



More good stuff to share!!!

Living in Wootton, sometimes it is hard to get trades people out to do jobs. So when you find a great one it is good to share them around. This makes it easier for them to come to Wootton more regularly and maybe tie appointments together, which is hopefully good for all of us.

Coming into 'cuddling up to the fire place' season, nanna rug on knees... unless the fire place blows out smoke !!!! in that case you need the fab

Jamo's Clean Sweep.... super friendly, fast and does a great job at a reasonable price, and yes his mobile phone ring is ...chim, chimminy!!!!

Graham Jamieson 16 Cornwall Street, North Taree, N.S.W., 2430

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Mentges Master Meatswho would have thought in the Taree heartland

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Daphne

Winter warmers It is officially nanna rug time! Great thing about winter is you can light your fires and enjoy a glass of wine and put your feet up early as it is dark outside, so at least for us gardeners you can have a shorter work day. Great time to make a bio dynamic compost heap, read the books you have been meaning to and cook inside! And time to indulge in great winter food. This is where my new best friend the crock pot comes in!! Thought of as a 70's relic, how great is it to come inside, or home from work and smell something delicious cooking and know it is ready for you, just like nanna has cooked for you. I like to throw a few things in before heading out for the day or into the garden to do battle with the lantana. Here's a fav! Daphne

Basque Chicken Serves 4

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1.8 kg/4lb chicken pieces | 80g/2 ¾ oz tomato paste |
| 1 onion cut into 2cm dice | 90g/3,1/4 oz black olives [pitted] |
| 1 red and 1 green capsicum cut into 2 cm dice | ¼ preserved lemon |
| 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped | 2 tablespoons chopped basil |
| 200g chorizo sausage, sliced | 2 tablespoons flat leaf parsley |
| 150 ml/5 fl oz] white wine | |

Combine the chicken pieces, onion, red and green pepper, garlic, chorizo, wine tomato paste and olives in the slow cooker. Rinse the preserved lemons well, remove and discard the pulp and membrane and finely chop the rind, (if can't get preserved lemons just add fresh grated lemon rind). Cook on low for 8 hours. Before serving stir through the basil and sprinkle top with parsley. Serve with rice or creamy mash...or if dog tired just add tin of chick peas to cook with the chicken! COME HOME AND EAT.....and the best bit, only 1 pot to wash!!

New Police Officer at the Bulahdelah Police Station

Senior Constable Trevor McLeod contacted us recently to introduce himself. He said that "I appreciate that sometimes Wootton may get forgotten in the big scheme of things so thought it would be nice if you have a vehicle to get in touch with police should you so need for day to day things (anything really). If this arises please feel free to email me should you need anything at all for the community out that way." This is the first of what Trevor hopes will be regular newsletters reaching out to rural people. It is designed to let everyone know what is happening in the rural areas out of Bulahdelah itself.



From Trevor:

If you have any information for police and don't come to town that often just email me and I'll get back to you if you want. I am very good at not telling people where I get my info from so don't worry about 'dobbing' in someone.

Crime April/May

Between 2 and 21 May 2014 person/s unknown have entered a Squires Rd, Wootton address by unknown means. These person/s have stolen a television from the lounge area. The property was vacant at the time of the incident.

Between 8am on Friday 16 May and about 5pm Tuesday 20 May 2014 person/s unknown have accessed a farm fuel tank on a property off Kestevens Rd Bulahdelah. They have cut the nozzle from the locked hose on the tank of diesel and drained the tank, a total of about 1500 litres.

On Thursday 15 May 2014 Police were contacted by the key holder for a property on Squires Road, the owner currently away overseas. A quad-bike, trailer and irrigation items had been stolen from a machinery shed on that property. Property recovered after the offenders came unstuck near the property of a near neighbour (see story elsewhere in newsletter).

Between 5pm 9 April 2014 and 3:30pm Friday 18 April 2014 a property on Barbies Rd Topi Topi has been broken into and a computer and monitor have been taken from here, possibly as a result of an attempt to prevent CCTV being obtained. No other items apparently disturbed inside the house. Entry has then been gained by unknown means to the machinery shed. Property consisting of a Kubota commercial ride-on lawnmower, trail bike, outboard motor, 3 x chainsaws, water pump, air compressor and miscellaneous other items removed.

Between Monday 7th and Saturday 12th April 2014 person/s unknown have stolen 2 x farm gates from a Booral Road, Bulahdelah property. They were removed by unbolting the top saddle and lifting the gates from their hinges.

TIP: Lock your sheds if you are away

Senior Constable Trevor McLeod / Lockup Keeper/ Bulahdelah Police, 12 Meade Street, Bulahdelah, N.S.W. 2423

Ph: (02) 4997 4204 / F: (02) 4997 4377 Email: mcle1tre@police.nsw.gov.au

Wootton Rural Fire Brigade

Call Outs: Mike and Craig attended a grass fire in Coolongolook that had escaped. John and Mike attended a serious car accident in Willina Road, Coolongolook. Just to remind everyone that large, clear street numbers in a prominent position next to your entry gate will help us (and every other service) find you quickly!

Members: The brigade would like to extend their thanks and best wishes to Susan Mayo who has vacated the office of Brigade Secretary at the recent AGM. This position has been taken up by Stewart Lamond, who is also the Treasurer.

Training: Tuncurry Fire Control has proposed that the Wootton Brigade undertakes training with the newly revitalised Markwell Brigade and our Group Leader, Nathan Birchell. This will allow all members to hone up on the various skills required on the fire ground when working in groups and individually.

Property Inspections: If you would like an inspection or assistance with your Bush Fire Plan for the coming season, call Mike Badcock on 0409 448 330.

Community Assistance Required: At present, we attend to call outs on a 24/7 basis as well as maintain the trucks, all the gear, the fire station, and the grounds. The Brigade is a community asset that needs to be nurtured and it has been proposed that local residents may like to join the brigade as inactive members to help out. This would include helping at working bees, mowing lawns, painting, cleaning the trucks inside and out, washing fire hoses, restocking fridges and first aid kits, etc. Everybody has something to offer and we would certainly appreciate the help. If you can help, are interested in seeing how we operate, would like some advice or help on pumps/ extinguishers/etc, or would like to discuss fire related matters in a group atmosphere, please call Mike Badcock the next Working Bee is on Sunday 20 July.

- clean and check your smoke alarms are working correctly
- check your gas bottles - relief valve must be pointing **AWAY** from the house

Adam Garnett - President

Mike Badcock - Captain 0409 448 330

Congratulations to:

Megan Kessler on being awarded her Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) for her research into the efficacy of the whaling legislation in Australia and Tonga.

Mike Badcock for getting 4th place overall in the Manning Valley Cycle Club inaugural Lyn Mathiske Memoriam Race. This was a handicap race held out on the road to Upper Lansdowne on Saturday, 24 May. Mike is a C-Grade rider who was only beaten by two B-Grade riders (one of which should have been in A-Grade) and an A-Grade rider. The rest of the top 10 places were A-Grade riders! So, 'Farmer Mike' from Wootton was able to show them that you can be an ex-triathlete on a 20 year old bike and still be competitive - all it takes is the legs, the engine and the little monkey that sits on the shoulder!



Wild Dogs in Wootton

Six sheep were taken by wild dogs in Hubbards Road North last week. Three month old plus calves had their tails bitten off down on Mayer's Flat and dogs have been seen mating in Schindler's Creek Road. Land holders down there have had Laurie Mullen, Field Officer and Ranger come out from the LLS at Wingham, to train them and licence them in the use of 1080. They plan to bait from there up the escarpment including properties at the end of Newman's Road. Everyone should be on the alert and anyone interested in obtaining 1080 must be licensed. Purchasing and licensing can be obtained through Laurie, who can be contacted on 65534233 or 0407785007.

Burglars escape in Squires Road

Thieves took a quad bike and trailer one night recently from a property in Squires Road. They made their escape through the forest past the mill in Possum Pie Road. Unfortunately for them the trailer tipped when they were negotiating the bridge. A nearby resident went out in the night to investigate the noise and found the trailer. The culprits escaped. Around the same time nearby residents were approached by two Irish guys asking if they wanted their driveway sealed. They thought it was a scam and that they were just 'casing the joint'. There apparently are warnings out for these guys up and down the coast so be on the alert.

If you would like to participate in a survey studying crime on farms in New South Wales and Queensland please see (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WZJ9PJS>) It is being conducted by Elaine Barclay, a researcher at the University of New England.

Camp Quality Benefit Day at Taree Winter Festival

As part of Taree's winter festival, Nabic artist Leonie Bell is offering exhibition and sale (at your pricing) of her accumulation of life drawings to benefit Taree's Camp Quality on Friday 20th June at Ormsby House from 9am to 4pm. She is also offering a free charcoal workshop from 10 am to 12 midday at the same venue with gold coin contribution to cover materials. Book with Leonie on 0400 968 486. Refreshments will be available with proceeds to go to Camp Quality.



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YOGA
Yoga Wootton Hall Thur 9:30am
Bulahdelah Tue 5:30pm/Fri 9:30am
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This fungi was photographed by Caro on her mobile phone at her property in Newmans Road, Wootton. Can you identify it? The general rule in nature is that red is a sign of danger so I would assume this one is poisonous and would definitely not be edible. Pat

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