

WOOTTON VALLEY NEWS

JUNE/JULY 2015 NO 96

DISTRIBUTION WOOTTON COOLONGLOOK
BUNGWAHL BUNYAH BULAHDELAH

Pheasant Coucal

(*Centropus phasianinus*)

Large long-tailed cuckoo with black or golden brown body. May be seen locally in long grass in open woodland (eg, opposite Brush Turkey Café). Unusual among Australian cuckoos in that it (the male) incubates and raises its own young instead of laying its eggs in the nest of another species.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sat 6 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wootton Fire Brigade training at the Fire Shed 9 am• Music Day at Great Lakes Winery 1-4pm
Sat 13 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seminar "Farming Cattle Profitably on a Small Scale", Wootton, hosted by Richard Stubbins• Light supper & movie night, Brush Turkey Café, 6pm for 7pm \$10
Sat 27 June	Community dinner, Bring a plate, Wootton Hall, 6pm, \$5
Sat 4 July	Wootton Community Network Meeting, 3.00pm Brush Turkey Cafe
Sun 5 July	Wootton Fire Brigade training at the Fire Shed 9 am
Sat 11 July	Light supper and movie night, Brush Turkey Café, 6pm for 7pm \$10
Sat 25 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grants Workshop (how to write an application), hosted by Peter Dixon at The Brush Turkey Cafe• Community dinner, Brush Turkey Café, theme: Curry , 7.00 pm, \$20
Sun 2 August	Wootton Fire Brigade training at the Fire Shed 9 am

Please note that the Brush Turkey Café will be closed on Sundays throughout July and August and will re-open for Fathers' Day on 6 September

Published by Wootton Community Network Inc Editors Carole Robinson 0428 009 952
and Caro Badcock 49977337 Join our group on Facebook: Wootton Community
brushturkey@live.com.au Visit our website @ www.wootton.org.au

Wootton Community Network

Thanks to everyone who attends our bi-monthly meetings. The next meeting will be on **Saturday 4 July, 3.00 pm** at the Brush Turkey Café. Some of the items discussed at our May meeting included new flyscreens, blackout blinds for movie nights, Brush Turkey Café Facebook page, the Crown Land situation, supporting a grant application for solar panels on the hall roof, donations to the Dungog Flood Relief and the Nepal Earthquake Fund, suggestions on how best to use our fundraising, working bee, the Wootton Historical Railway Walk 20th anniversary and a mobile phone photo competition. At the café meeting we discussed a 'café revamp', dinners, movie nights, menu changes and the July/August closure.

Membership: We have 53 financial members. Anyone is welcome to come to our meetings and to join up and have a say. We welcome recent newcomers to the Valley. The \$12.50 annual fee helps support all our community activities, as well as this publication. As a bonus you will get discounted coffees at the café and go into a members' draw at our dinners. All membership, renewing and new, should be paid to the Treasurer, Leanne Wright, 49977201.

Brush Turkey Café Happenings

The cafe is planning to provide willing volunteers with on-the-job training after it re-opens in September. Why not come along for a try, just an hour or as long as you can spare, to see how enjoyable it is. Phone Jim for details 499 77323.

A real thank you to the volunteers who turned out for the Café working bee on a cold, wet Saturday morning in May.

Recent Dinners

The **keep-it-local** dinner held on 25 April, combined with Anzac Day, proved an interesting experiment in sourcing as much produce as possible from named local sources, including home grown and commercially available produce. Examples included beef and wine from Great Lakes Winery; butter from Kings Creek Creamery, Cundletown; fish from Tuncurry Co-op; prawns from Pacific Palms; cheeses from Comboyne and Manning Valley and bread baked from flour sourced from Gunnedah. Locally grown produce included figs, chokos, chillies, pumpkins, herbs, apples and eggs from Sue Williams much loved hens. We look forward to repeating this next year and expanding our repertoire.

Upcoming Dinners

June: Bring-a-plate dinner in the hall - Bookings: Caro 49977337

July: Curry Night at The Brush Turkey Café. If anyone would like to make a curry please contact Pat on 0422 251 508.

August: Peter Dixon is coordinating a *Sixties* night. If you would like to help Peter, contact him on 0437 655 658. (Dig out your tie dyed, flares and caftans!!)

Dinner bookings: Ring 49977323 (Fran and Jim) or 0422 251 508 (Pat)

Dinners are held on the last Saturday of every month, 7pm start. (Hall dinners, 6pm)

In Memory of Helen Towers



Passed away 7th May 2015

Helen was the first of nine daughters born to Roy and Eileen Godwin. In the 1940s the family moved about 5 miles out of Bulahdelah to what is now known as the Wootton Way where she did correspondence study, attended schools in Markwell, Wootton and Bulahdelah.

Helen met Ray Towers and married in 1961. For the first few years they lived out at "the Crawford" until they built their own home in River Street Bulahdelah.

Helen held many jobs including cooking, catering, home care services and 10 years of being the *postie* from Bulahdelah to Wootton, Coolongolook, Nabic, Dyers Crossing and all roads in-between. Nothing was too much trouble for Helen. She delivered groceries, newspapers, bread, medical supplies and what ever else the RMB (roadside mail box) asked for.

Ray, Leanne, Kevin (known as Wally), Sandra and their families would like to express their thanks for the comfort and support given to them. Helen will be missed and will always be part of us.

Contributed by Helen's daughter, Leanne.

The **French** dinner held on 30 May was a great success. Lots of berets and striped tops. This croquembouche (or French wedding cake) proved to be a most delicious "piece de resistance" .



Supper and Movie Nights

These are held on the second Saturday of every month. We provide a light supper at 6.00pm and start a movie at 7.00pm. The cost is \$10. The next dates are Saturday 13 June and 11th July. Ring Pat on 0422 251 508 or Fran on 49977323 to book and to find out what movie we will be showing.

Wootton Hall Happenings

The **AGM** was held in March. Caro and Larn have resigned from the committee and hence their positions as Chair and Secretary/Treasurer are vacant. However, as no other members of the committee have volunteered to fill these roles, Caro and Larn have agreed to continue in caretaker roles. Anyone interested in joining the committee can call Dianne on 6591 7279 or email Dianne.denton@greatlakes.gov.au.

The **March dinner** saw a reduced number of people attending with quite a few locals overseas or away for various reasons. However those who attended still had a great time. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the **June dinner** – to be held on June 27. Bring a plate of food to share, \$5 per head, kids free, starting at 6 for 6.30 meal. We have a small pool table donated by Adam and Larn Garnett so come along, have dinner and a game of pool or browse the library.

The **Working Bee** saw members of the hall working over a few days rather than just attending on the planned working bee date. Thanks to Larn and Suzanne for cleaning the entire outside of the hall. I think you will all agree that the front wall in particular (facing the Brush Turkey café car park) looks fantastic. Thanks also to Peter and Megan for cleaning the insides of the windows.

Games night

Our first Games Night was held on the 18 April at the Hall to celebrate the 1st birthday of our community library. Those who attended enjoyed a light supper of freshly made sandwiches and pumpkin soup (sourced from the food swap). We then divided into four games tables where those who brought games taught others the rules to play Carcassonne, Ticket to Ride, Cashflow and 20 Questions. The entry fee of \$5.00 covered the costs for the evening and a good time was had by all. There are plans to run a similar night for all ages during school holidays with a family BBQ theme.

Wootton Community Library

The library is looking great with the new bookshelves in place. Thanks to Great Lakes Council for the grant to purchase the bookshelves. Thanks also to Larn for picking the bookshelves up from IKEA in Homebush, bringing them up to Wootton and then helping put them together.

Anyone interested in donating books should contact Sue Williams on 0438 433 063 to arrange for collection.

Remember, the library is **open** whenever there is an event on in the hall or the Brush Turkey café, including movie nights, community dinners, Sundays when the café is open and after yoga on Thursdays.

Crown Land Site

The last meeting of the working group was held on 11th April. The Council provided the financial details we had asked for, Jim put them in his financial model and it would appear that the community managing the whole crown land site could be viable but

would, of course, still be relying on volunteers and locally elected members. At the next meeting (date to be decided) the group will discuss various governance options. Any suggestions for activities that could be hosted in the hall or on the grounds would be appreciated. They can be dropped in at the café or via email/phone to Caro.

Caro Badcock (on behalf of the Working Group)

Wootton Community Food Swap

The 11 April Food Swap was the last for this season, with the first one for next season to be held in October. Even though we were not expecting very much produce given the time of year, we were totally surprised at the range and amounts! We had everything from macadamia nuts, various tomatoes, tomatillos, an array of chillies including ghost chillies – the second hottest in the world, eggs, rosemary, curry leaves, purple leaved Chinese spinach, pumpkins, bananas, rhubarb and even pomegranates.

After such a successful season of food swaps, please make sure they are in your diary for next season. If you want more information please contact Peter Dixon on 0437655658.

Wootton Fire Brigade News

During the colder months your local brigade is usually quiet, BUT our two biggest reasons for being called out are :

1. Motor vehicle accidents
2. House fires.

House fires in winter are caused by many things, usually they are preventable.

Have you cleaned your chimneys lately?

Do you ensure that all candles are out when you go to bed?

Have you left anything close to your heaters and fires?

Have you a fire extinguisher and fire blanket in your house?

Remember it takes just 30 seconds from the first flame to a room being completely on fire.

Permits

Permits are not required if you wish to light a fire during winter. But, you still must give 24hrs notice to Fire Control at Tuncurry (65397700) and to all your neighbours. Please note that there are significant fines if you do not give the 24hrs notice.

RFS Training

Sessions will be held at the Wootton Fire Station, Squires Rd, Wootton on the following days:

Saturday, 6 June 2015

Sunday, 5 July 2015,

Sunday, 2 August 2015

New members are very welcome.

Topi Topi Sustainable Farming Group

Our Sustainable Farming Group met for the third time this year in April to attend a holistic management workshop at Tocal College entitled Practical Grazing , facilitated by Hunter Local Land Services. Guest speakers included Brian Wehlburg and Dick Richardson, both of whom are qualified holistic management educators with significant experience. The Workshop covered many topics including grazing to improve soil organic matter, drought proofing, reducing weed impact, paddock planning and optimising pasture yields. A huge thanks to Richard Brown and Richard Stubbins for providing car pools from Bungwahl and Wootton for the day. More information about holistic management can be sourced at <http://savory.global/> and www.insideoutsidemgt.com.au

The fourth meeting for the year was a fantastic field trip to a Permaculture Farm at Minimbah, hosted by Dale Bowes, the Coordinator of the Manning Valley and Great Lakes Seed Savers Group. The tour was extremely informative, showcasing the different factors required to develop a Permaculture system containing a wide variety of herbs, vegetables and trees that, with the right techniques, can be successfully grown in our area. Dale explained the holistic management and organic principles that he had applied with great success, despite the geographic challenges such as poor soil, weeds, pests and the climatic conditions. The group was given an opportunity to tour the Food Forests, Annual gardens, Berry gardens, Rainforest Regen Area (with lots of bush tucker) and the Bamboo forest, all of which were yielding a lot of produce despite only being under development for two years. Some of the more unusual plants growing included Japanese Raisin Trees (see photo below), Pigeon Peas, Tagasaste, Cassava, Peanut trees, Malabar Chestnuts, Kei Applies, Native Mint Bush, Jaboticaba, Panama Berry, Golden Andes fruit (see back page), Babaco, Jakfruit (see photo below), Grumachama and many more. A huge thanks to Fred Fetherston and Craig Tate for providing several trays of Bunya Tree seedlings to the Group on the day. Anyone interested in more information about Seed Savers can contact Dale at glseed@yahoo.com



Japanese Raisin Tree



Jakfruit

2015

Topi Topi Sustainable Farming Group updated program of events

- Sat 13 June **Farming Cattle Profitably on a Small Scale**, at Wootton, hosted by Richard Stubbins
- Sat 25 July **Grants Workshop** (How to write an application), at the Brush Turkey Café, hosted by Peter Dixon,
- Mon 24 August **Dung Beetles**, at Wootton Hall, hosted by the Karuah Great Lakes Landcare with guest speaker Dr John Feehan
- Mon 21 September **Emergency Preparedness and Planning**, at Wootton Fire Station, hosted by Mike Badcock and Sue Williams
- Mon 19 October **Cheesemaking**, at Bungwahl, hosted by Elena Swegen
- Mon 16 November **Building Green**, at Topi Topi, hosted by Richard Single
- Mon 7 December **End of Year Gathering**, at the Salty Dog Café, Coolongolook

Please contact Sue Williams on 0438 433063 for more information about any of our events or if you are interested in joining our social sustainable farming group.



Music Day
at the Great Lakes Winery
Saturday 6th June - 1 to 4 pm

"Caravana Sun" with support band "Harry's Lookout"

Tickets at the gate 16 & over \$25
Under 16 \$5 Family pass \$60
Save with pre-purchased tickets

available from Great Lakes Winery, Great Lakes Visitor Information Centre
Food and Drinks available or pre order your Back Paddock Picnic Box
info@greatlakeswines.com.au or call 4997 7255

Bulahdelah Waste Facility

For those who may have missed last week's footpath waste collection by council, and for future reference, here are the opening times for Bulahdelah Waste Facility:

Tuesdays 1—5pm
Fridays 12—4pm
Sundays 10-2pm

DIRECTORY

Accommodation

Wootton Guest House

Too many visitors!! 4 air conditioned bedrooms with ensuites and balconies, reasonable rates. Contact Peter & Leanne www.woottonguesthouse.com.au

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