

WOOTTON VALLEY NEWS

OCTOBER- NOVEMBER 2012 NO 80

DISTRIBUTION 450 WOOTTON COOLONGLOOK
BUNGWAHL BUNYAH BULAHDELAH

Poison Peach or Native Peach *Trema tomentosa*

A tall spreading shrub, leaves are alternate, simple, 3-veined at base, margins serrated. The unisexual flowers are greenish to yellowish, 5-petalled, small and in clusters in the leaf axils. The fruits are ovoid, fleshy, 2-6 mm diameter and black. Widespread, it is often found in dryer forest, rainforest margins, regrowth and in eucalypt woodland, in most states of Australia.

The fruit is eaten by many birds including the brown cuckoo dove, Lewin's honeyeater, figbird and olive-backed Oriole. It is also eaten by the caterpillar of the speckled line-blue butterfly and the ghost moth. Young *Trema tomentosa* plants may be confused with lantana, however the two can be distinguished from each other by the smell of the crushed up leaves (Poison Peach lacks the distinctive smell of lantana) and by taking note of the leaf arrangement (Poison Peach has alternate leaves, lantana has opposite leaves). This plant is toxic to stock. Poison Peach is just starting to flower in Wootton now.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Tuesday 9th October	Yoga starts every Tues in the Wootton Hall 9-11am
Saturday 13th October	Movie and Supper night 6pm Brush Turkey Cafe
Thursday 18th October	CWAG Meeting 6.30pm Coolongolook Hall
Saturday 20th October	Nabiac Campdraft Showground from 6.30am
Saturday 20th October	Bulahdelah Rock Rattle'n'Roll Classic Autofest 10am
Saturday 27th October	Nabiac Farmers Market Showground 8am-12noon
Saturday 27th October	Community Dinner "Octoberfest" B.T. Cafe 7pm
Saturday 3rd November	Wootton Community Network Meeting 4pm at the Cafe
Saturday 3rd November	Bulahdelah Markets Visitors Info Centre
Sunday 4th November	Wootton Fire Brigade Training 10am
Saturday 10th November	Movie and Supper night 6pm Brush Turkey Cafe
Thursday 15th November	CWAG Meeting 6.30pm Coolongolook Hall
Fri.16th/Sat.17th Nov	Bulahdelah Show
Saturday 24th November	Nabiac Farmers Market Showground 8am-12noon
Saturday 24th November	Community Dinner "Pizza & Lasagne" B.T. Cafe 7pm
Saturday 1st December	Wootton Sustainable Farming Group meets

Published by Wootton Community Network Inc

Editors Pat Tate 49977292 and Caro Badcock 49977337

brushturkey@live.com.au Visit our website @ www.wootton.org.au

Wootton Valley News Turns 80

This is our 80th edition of the Wootton Valley News. Congratulations to us!! We've been going for 13 years beginning in September 1999!

The Wootton Community Network have prioritised funding of the newsletter as it is felt it is a valuable community asset and should be provided free to all residents. It is also available at www.wootton.org.au Please support the Wootton Community Network and it's fundraising efforts so this newsletter can continue to be produced.

Wootton Community Network

At the AGM in August the President gave his report:

"This has been a fairly tough year for the Wootton Community Network with the loss of several key active volunteers. Over the year we made a trading loss of around \$1500, although our position is still financially relatively secure. The main change causing this has been a decline in the average number of people attending dinners. The introduction of quarterly dinners at the hall has had an impact, but not all that significant, since we were already having quarterly "bring a plate" dinners ourselves.

We have been able to make small donations to local charities and other local activities in accordance with our role as a local community organization. No major improvements were undertaken to the Cafe premises (fortunately there was no need) which helped to keep finances stable. Maintenance has been carried out at a working bee in April. We have had some excellent art on view at the cafe, and some works were sold this year. The cafe has also been used for some community events. The Wootton Valley News is going strong and is now in colour.

The committee has rearranged subscription dates as the previous arrangement was causing some confusion. As of this year, a member paying in July 2012 (now \$12.50) will remain a paid-up member until 31st December 2013. Similarly for advertising and subscriptions (effectively a six-month bonus).

The major issue facing us is finding sufficient volunteers to keep the café open on Sundays. Other options are possible but until we have a solution, we cannot reopen the café on Sundays.

We could not have done all that we have achieved this year without our committed volunteers, all those who appear on working bees or other occasions when special jobs need to be done and the paid up members who keep the network viable."

Jim O'Connor 4th August 2012

The committee for 2012/13 are - President: Jim O'Connor, Vice-President: Peter Auriac, Secretary: Fran O'Connor, Treasurer: Leanne Wright, Public Officer: Craig Tate, Committee Members: Pam Dunne, Patrick Riviere, Pat Tate

Please note that meetings will now be held quarterly on Saturday afternoons preceded by afternoon tea. Next meeting is 3rd November, 4pm at the Brush Turkey Cafe.

Community Dinners The last community dinners held in the cafe were again well attended and everyone enjoyed some delicious food. Old fashioned food was a welcome change in July and the Italian food in August was especially delicious. October dinner will be an "Octoberfest", 7pm, Saturday, 27th October. November will be Pizza & Lasagne 7pm, Saturday, 24th November. \$20 per person Bookings: 49977323, 49977292 The September community dinner was a 'bring a plate' dinner in the Wootton Hall, well attended and lots of delicious food. Thanks to the hall committee.

Please note the phone at the Wootton Community Centre (Brush Turkey Cafe) has been cancelled. You can call Jim & Fran O'Connor on 49977323, Leanne Wright on 49977201 or Pat Tate on 49977292 if you want to make an enquiry or book a dinner, movie night or other event.

Thankyou to:

Eric Wilkes for the donation of timber to repair the retaining wall at the Wootton Community Centre.

Dennis Dobson, Stuart Lamond, Jim & Fran O'Connor and Craig Tate for repairing the retaining wall. (pictured right)

Pam Dunne for printing the membership cards

Joe for mowing the lawn in front of the cafe.



Farewell to...

Dulcie Joester...has been a quiet helper in the Wootton community and the cafe for many years. We have all enjoyed her wonderful cooking and will miss her greatly. Best of luck for the future!

Sue and John Smith...have been involved in the community for the many years they have owned and lived in Squires Road. The many organizations they belonged to and their friends will miss them. Best wishes to them for the future.



Welcome to Richard and Lucy, new residents.

Congratulations to Calum Tate (pictured left) in graduating from Southern Cross University in Environmental Tourism Management.

Please note: The community get together in October, to discuss the community facilities in Wootton has been cancelled. This will probably be held early next year. Please contact Caro on 49977337 if you have any suggestions or would like to help. organize this meeting.



Supper and Movie Nights
6pm Supper, 7pm movie \$10
Brush Turkey Café
Wootton Way Wootton



Sat 13th October "The Descendants"



A land baron tries to re-connect with his two daughters after his wife is seriously injured in a boating accident. Starring George Clooney

Sat 10th November "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel"



British retirees travel to India to take up residence in what they believe is a newly restored hotel. Less luxurious than its advertisements, the Marigold Hotel nevertheless slowly begins to charm in unexpected ways. Starring Judy Dench, Bill Nighy and Maggie Smith

Please book (for catering purposes) Call 49977323 or 49977292

Coolongolook Wootton Action Group (C.W.A.G.)

The Coolongolook, Wang Wauk & Wallangat Rivers Catchment Communities' Strategic Plan includes areas of Bunyah, Willina, Coolongolook and Wootton. It was presented to the GLC meeting on 24 July and "Noted by Council". The Plan can be viewed on GLC website and copies are available from council on request. Many items in the Plan are already 'works in progress' some being; Public transport information is being compiled to include information of interest to the local community on connections to bus, taxi, rail and air services and will, when completed, be on the Wootton website. Two workshops have been held with Richard Old (GLC Tourism Manager) the outcome being the offer for a page on the GLC Tourism website. Suggestion is for us to provide a map to include named villages, roads, rivers and businesses catering for tourists, scenic places of interest, historic places of interest, interesting drives including the forests, walks and picnic spots, water activities and access points for boating, fishing, kayaking, canoeing, sailing, water skiing, Forests and National Parks camping areas, areas suitable for sporting activities and competitions, people, cars, cycles, horses, photography, bird watching. GLC is also addressing a priority item on the Plan being to "Improve our telecommunication services especially broadband". I believe this is a problem, particularly of interest to many Wootton residents, and we expect a progress report from Council late October. Our Coolongolook Oval/ River picnic, boat access mowing and maintenance volunteers (with GLC provided equipment) meet the first and third Tuesday from 10 am. There is a large area to mow and the crew are to be complemented for their efforts. Our CWAG meetings are held the third Thursday of the month, 6.30 Coolongolook Hall. Advancement of the Community Strategic Plan is dependent on community support.

Contacts ; Brian Parry 65591671 email brian.g.parry@gmail.com
Jeni Locke (sec) 49977334 Orla Murtagh (treas) 49977402

WOOTTON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL GROUP

Doris and Alex hosted the last field day where the topic was 'Animals'. The speaker was a vet, Rob, from Forster who passed on some very useful information for any animal owners. We also looked at Alex's cows and his pastures. At each field day we share and swap information freely, learning from each other. It's a great way to learn and meet your neighbours. The next get together is on Saturday 1st December at the Tates. Contact Karen Bee at Council 65917305 for more info.

Alex, (pictured right) showing the group his pasture



Doris Carrall shares some memories of her life in Wootton

Doris Squires was born in 1940 at Nabitac Hospital and has lived in Newmans Road, Wootton all her life. There were five or six dairies in Newmans Road alone, where she lived with her parents, Charles and Minnie Squires, her three sisters, Alma, Thelma, Joan and her brother, Ken.

Doris' parents were Charles Albert Squires and Minnie Lambourn.

Charles had come with his family from Boolambayte, where he was born, to settle in Wattley Hill Road in a house next to the mill. His father had the timber mill in Wattley Hill Road. Minnie's parents had come from Minimbah to live in Wattley Hill Road where they dairied and share farmed. They would visit each others' families and finally Charles and Minnie married in the Anglican Church at Nabitac. They moved to Newmans Road and built a two room house with a verandah, helped by Minnie's father. The house was added on to as the family expanded. Colin Macallum lives there today. Charles had a dairy, working occasionally in the forest, timber cutting, when he wanted to earn some extra money.

Doris was the second born of the five children. Doris and her sisters and brother had their chores. From about the age of six Doris and her siblings routine was to rise at about 5.30am, take turns at lighting the fire, boil the kettle and sit down to a cup of tea and biscuit. Then it was off to help in the dairy, hand milking, picking up the cow manure, washing the bails out to keep the milking shed clean. After that her mum would have a big breakfast ready, eggs, chops, left over vegetables and toast. This was all before going off to school. After school the children also helped cut feed for the cows. They would sharpen their own knives and cut oats, her father had grown, ready to feed the cows. Doris' Dad also used to grow corn and "we kids would sit around in the evenings shelling the corn which was in big tubs. It was feed for the animals and chooks and Dad would sometimes sell it. One year we had it ground (a neighbour had a grinder) and ate it like porridge."

"We grew most of our own vegetables. We had chooks and ducks and he'd rear



Charles and Minnie Squires with Alma, Thelma, Joan and Doris (far right)

pigs. Mum had a big boiler to cook the scraps up for the pigs after dinner at night."

"You never had break-ins in those days. My Dad never locked anything up in the house. The only time something was stolen, was when we had water melons growing and he thought he'd leave one for an extra day to ripen and someone came and stole it, the only thing he ever had stolen."

Doris did schooling by correspondence lessons for the first couple of years as the road was bad and her Dad never had a car. Eventually they were given a lift to school, travelling on makeshift seats in the back of a ute (not covered in or anything) about a dozen kids travelling along the 'goat track of a road' that was Newmans Road. (Later on Doris did it, taking twelve kids in the car, including



Doris' wedding, pictured here with her Mum and Dad, sisters and brother.

her own three kids. She got 40 cents per child per day. (No seat belts or anything.) The school had 2 big classrooms and about 80 children but Doris said that she never appeared in the photographs as she always seemed to be away sick on the days the photographs were taken. She liked school but was "the sickly one of the family", suffering with childhood eczema and asthma. She was a regular visitor to the hospital in Bulahdelah looking forward

to getting "the needle" that would make her breathing easier. There was no bus to the high school at Bulahdelah when she finished primary school so she left school to help her parents on the farm or worked at Aunty Attis' shop in Wootton.

The Carrall family also had a dairy in Newmans Road and at just 17 in 1957 she married Cecil Carrall at the Wootton Church, the reception being held in the Wootton Hall. Three daughters, Janice, Roslyn and Leanne, followed and they all grew up in Wootton. Doris and her husband moved in with Cecil's parents when they first got married before they built a house next door, where she still lives today (53 years). After they married, Cecil continued dairying with his brother, had a milk run where he would cart milk from the dairies in Newmans Road to Wootton, did some timber cutting and raised beef cattle. Later on he bought a truck and carted beef cattle to the sales. Cecil also did a postal run and

later in the sixties, Doris delivered the mail after she dropped the kids off at school. Newmans Road was still only a “bush track”. Cecil would have to put chains on the tyres of the truck, in bad weather, when taking the milk out. “You’d have to take the chains on and off to get up the hills.” Unfortunately, Cecil had heart problems and died in 1986, three years after celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary. Their three daughters had moved to Newcastle and Doris was encouraged to move - to Newcastle or Forster – but Doris said she “couldn’t imagine living anywhere else, especially to the city” so she decided to stay put. Alex helped her look after the farm, making it easier for her stay.



Doris and Cecil celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary in 1982 with their daughters Janice, Roslyn and Leanne

When Doris was a young girl, Wootton was a far different place than it is today. There were two shops, where you could buy most things and fuel, a post office, a community hall, a primary school and a church. The Post Office, on the highway, was run by Bill and Edie McDean. Everyone called them Uncle Bill and Auntie Edie. She had a room for the post office and they lived in the back of the house. Bill worked in the Forestry. They closed it when they retired. Auntie Edie fell and broke her hip outside the Post Office. The shop on the highway was owned by Bill Newman, then the Dobsons before her Auntie Attis. The other shop, in Worth Street, was owned by the Irelands and then the Maybery’s.

A man called Madeley lived in Newmans Road, where Badcocks live today. He worked in the mill at Boolambayte. He would carry his big wooden box with food and supplies to the mill on Mondays and carry a piece of timber back on Wednesday, to build his house. On Thursday he would walk there again and come home on the weekend with another piece of timber to continue building his house. That’s how he got his house built.

Wootton Hall (which was on the highway then) was the venue for regular dances (“the hall had a beautiful dance floor, best around”) and great balls. They would have to open the exit door at the side and put up a big marquee, there were that many people. Bands would come from Taree and everyone would go, they would come from everywhere. Signs, advertising the dances, would go up in Bunyah, Willina, Bungwahl and Coolongolook and people would buy tickets. Supper would be

sandwiches and cakes, homemade of course. Doris would arrive at the hall in the back of a ute, with others that were picked up along Newmans Road. They even had movies a few times in the hall. Doris and her sister arrived on horseback, leaving the horses tied up at Aunty Attis' shop. The hall was run by a committee, fundraising for any improvements and they would have working bees. Later on Bingo was held monthly in the hall. She said that she was sorry to see the hall go.

When she was younger services were held in the church about once a month and Doris took her girls to the services.

Doris is renowned for her cooking. Whenever there is a requirement for home baked sponges, cakes and scones Doris is usually asked to contribute.

She gladly obliges, which has helped fundraise for local organizations such as the Fire Brigade, the Wootton Hall and the Wootton Community Network. She learnt to cook with her mother. Every Saturday morning in an old Bakerlite stove, they would cook up enough cakes and slices for the whole week to feed family and any friends that would drop by. The pantry would be empty by Friday and Saturday morning they would do it all again. Her Mum was a good cook.

She has witnessed many changes and seen a lot of people come and go. She is never bored and keeps busy on the farm and the house is often full of visitors, family and friends.

What have been the things that have changed the community of Wootton? Firstly, Doris reckons, is television. "Television doesn't appeal to me. When television came on the scene that was the end of a lot of things. Before television there were lots of 'house parties'. There were no clubs then."

The farms were much bigger when she was younger, 5 or 6 in Newmans Road. Now they've all been divided up. When the shops and post office closed everyone had to go elsewhere to shop.

The highway has moved closer to the house now and it can be quite noisy on a still night. A lot of relatives have left Wootton to be closer to work.

Doris keeps busy growing vegetables. Her daughters visit regularly and her grandchildren, who are all grown up now.

She finally commented, "It's never boring, living in Wootton".



The Wootton Hall before it was demolished in the 1980s

Wootton Hall Happenings

Hall Dinner What a wonderful turnout we had for the September dinner! 50 people enjoyed lively discussion, fantastic food in a party atmosphere and it was great to see a healthy mix of long time residents and new faces. We are looking forward to continuing these dinners next year on the last Saturday in March, June and September.

Yoga in the hall Now the weather is warming up October 9 sees the resumption of the Wootton community yoga group where we get together and take a yoga session using DVDs. Anyone is welcome so please join us, 9 to 11 am each Tuesday, \$20 for 5 weeks or \$5 per session on a casual basis to cover hall hire. For further information contact Fran (4997 7323).

Wootton Xmas Party

You and your families are invited to a community Christmas party in the grounds of the hall and resource centre, to be held within 2 weeks of Christmas (date and format to be confirmed in the next newsletter). Members of all Wootton community groups (Hall Committee, Network Committee, local fire brigade, Wootton Weeders) are looking forward to celebrating Christmas with you.



Snakes Alive!!

John Hammond took this picture recently on their property in Wootton, of two red bellies doing what snakes do in Spring.



Coolongolook Public School News



Hello All!

Congratulations on the retirement of Mrs Oxford. What a wonderful career has ended. Jan's dedication to the students and community of Coolongolook over past 18 years has been outstanding. Whilst I know that she

has many projects lined up 'to do' already, we will all miss her very much.

I was invited to the Hall last Tuesday to the Sewing and Craft Group meeting....gosh they are a talented group of people! These wonderful ladies have offered us extra money for book prizes! We really appreciate this community support afforded to us!

Clarendon Day Out

Recently we enjoyed a lovely Reward Day at Clarendon!Thank you to all parents who helped out with transport and spent the day with us....it made for a very special day for the students.

Students enjoyed their horse ride immensely. A very big THANKS to our trail ride leaders – Dana, Ken and Kylie.

We also enjoyed tennis and other fun activities. Next Reward Day has been booked, we are off to BIG BUZZ for the day!

Finally, time again to acknowledge the great staff team that we have here at Coolongolook, it has been an extra busy Term and I applaud everyone's conscientiousness and professionalism!

Have a happy and safe holiday everyone – see you all - staff and students - on Monday 8th October.

Thanks everyone for your continued help, support and friendship,

Pam Everingham (Principal)

Wootton Rural Fire Brigade

Fire Permits and the Bush Fire Danger Period are now active in the Great Lakes Council Zone! If you are planning to light a fire in the open you will need a permit.

Permits will be issued on Thursdays by Mike (4997 7337) so you can give Fire Control and your neighbours the required 24 hrs notice. If Mike is not available contact Keith on 4997 7336.

The Wootton Brigade has already been busy this fire season with uncontained and unsupervised fires so please remain vigilant at all times.

Roger Albans (Captain, 49977166)

Wootton Weeders

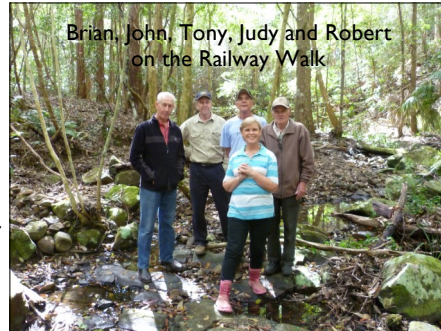
We recently worked again on the second corner in Wattley Hill Road, removing privet and other weeds. Our main aim here is to clear for better vision when driving. We will next be working on the Possum Pie corner and later clearing some more privet on Squires Road. We work for 2 hours once a month followed by morning tea. It's a very friendly group trying to tackle weeds in public areas. Call Judy on 49977272 if you would like to join us. It's

amazing how much we achieve in a couple of hours with a few extra hands.

We were also invited to join the Conservation Volunteers working on the Wootton Historical Railway Walk for morning tea and a barbeque. They have done a fantastic



Jenna (CVA team leader) & John (Forestry) with overseas volunteers Temlie, Jessica, Melanie, Ryo, Marc & Max



Brian, John, Tony, Judy and Robert on the Railway Walk

job and State Forests are in the process of erecting new signs, marking distances. It is still a beautiful walk and State Forests are doing a good job keeping it cleared on a very small budget (one man looks after a very large area!) The walk runs along the old tramway that ran from Horses Creek to Mayers Point transporting timber. In 1995 the then Wootton and Coolongolook Progress Association secured a grant to build the Historical Railway Walk with 12 very dedicated local long-term unemployed. They all learnt new skills and many have been in constant work ever since.

Unfortunately the Council non-maintained Squires Road is only suitable for a 4-wheel drive. If you can get out there it is well worth the walk.

Pat

For Sale 90cc 2 stroke scooter, new battery, new rear brakes, good condition, runs well. Unregistered. \$500.00 ONO.

Ph: 0407974420 49977201

Sympathies to:

The family and friends of Robert Rhodes-White who passed away recently...a real gentleman.

The family and friends of Grahame Ratcliffe who tragically died on his farm. He will be missed greatly.

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**

Building & Maintenance Contractor

Solutions to building problems Lic 631C

Rob McDougall **0427 955958 49977335**

Bulahdelah Post office Bill pay, banking, phones & gifts. HCCU banking, Business and Private Mon-Fri 9am-5pm Sat 9am-12noon Ph/Fax **0249974283**

Computer services

Software installation, cleanup, Website design, 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**

Health

Take charge of your health with alternative medicine, nutrition and herbs.

Karen Carran **0427 177 172**

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

49977335 0419201913

Plumber

Richard Green Plumbing All plumbing, drainage, gas & LPG fitting, metal roofing domestic, commercial, industrial Lic no.

53903C **0418 618583 65591555**

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

Renewable Energy

STS Services P/L Solutions toward Sustainability, Solar systems Grid connect or Stand alone Lic 27928C Accredited F524

49977167 0417369670

Tractor Work

Slashing and tidying up.

Paul and Hazel

49977150

Advertising is due 1st July 2012 for the Wootton Valley News Directory.

We are changing from financial year to calendar year so when you pay you are paid up to 30.12 2013

(6 months free!)

\$50 for Non-members,

\$40 Members - per 4 line ad space

(Please note we are no longer registered for GST)

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

**New advertisers welcome
contact the editor.**

Calum Tate recently took
this photograph.

