

DIRECTORY

Air Conditioning

Repairs, Sales, installation. Domestic & Commercial
Mark Tidbury Lic no 123069C 0427500329 49977308

Bricklayer/Block layer

Adam Jones 49977125

Building

Pyramid Limestone, the extraordinary building material.
Thermally efficient. Stylish, sleek & smart.
Paul Shipton 49977256

Cleaning

5-Star Home Grooming.
Quality & attention to detail assured.
Phone Jenni B.H. 49977330

Electrical Contractor

STS Services P/L Lic 27928C
Garry Williams 49977167 0417369670

Excavations Dwelling sites prepared, road constructions, property drainage & dams, light clearing, tipper & grader hire, sand & gravel supplies
Pete 49977327 0427740990

Hairdresser

Lee Jones 49977125

Horses

At Stud-GEMBIRAS DOCS ONYX
ASH SM-133207 AQHA A-2966
Young stock for sale-come and see!
Gembira Horses 49977335 0419201913

Ice-Cream Cakes

For that special occasion!
Roscoes 49977351

Massage

Bowen Technique.
For relief of pain, back, neck, shoulders & head. Registered practitioner/instructor. Home visits. \$35 Barbara Leslie 49977339

Healing Hands Therapy

Energetic Healing. Relief of physical & emotional pain.
David Flakelar 0418407750 49977320

Therapeutic & remedial massage, qualified & registered
ATMS - relieve your pain/stress
Kerry Bromage 0422977977 49977320

Motor Repairs-Small and Equipment Hire

Lawnmowers and chainsaws etc Mower hire all sizes and
Trench Digger
Geoff Williams 49977404 041848209

Mobile Mechanic-(Lic No. 38287) Specializing in repairs

of farm tractors, earth moving equipment, irrigation pumps,
diesel & hydraulics. Machining and welding. John Spall
49977154 0418623318

Music- Guitar Lessons Professional Tuition

Beginners to Advanced Budget Rates
Ricky Bell 49977474

Painter

ABN No. 13415438589 Painting your house or a
door? For a free quote call
Mike Coventry 49977155 or 0407458167

Paving

Down to Earth Paving - Patios, Paths,
Driveways, Brick edging Lic No. 37348C
Walter Macene 49977344

Plumber & Metal Roofing Specialist

John Hessing 49977427

Real Estate

Rural Valley Realty -Your local Real Estate Agent servicing
Bulahdelah to Nabadac
Steve Devries 49977214

Edes Real Estate Pty Ltd Stock & Station Agent & Property
Management. Brian Ede www.edes.com.au
49974566, 49977180(A/H), 0408492883

Sculpting-Wood

Old stumps and trees into garden sculptures, fence posts
into works of art. Garden seats,
tables etc. John Startin 65591553

Signs

Hand painted signs and vinyl lettering, shopfronts,
vehicles, boats, windows, light boxes, 3D models, promotional
displays. Bruce Peachey 0438235057

Trencher & Mobile Crane/Borer Hire

MRM - Specializing in trenching for underground services
and power pole replacement
Mick 0408669105

Water

Sam the Waterman-Local Water Delivery
49974710 or 0408652110

Winery

Great Lakes Wines 115 Herivals Rd Wootton
Semillon Chardonnay, Mellow White, Shiraz and Tawny Port
Steve and Robyn 49977255

WOOTTON VALLEY NEWS

APRIL 2004 NO 29

DISTRIBUTION 350 WOOTTON COOLONGOLOOK
BUNGWAHL BUNYAH BULAHDELAH

Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus*

The tonsured (bald) head of this big honeyeater gives this bird it's name. It's other striking features are it's knobbed bill and it's day long chuckling cackle. The birds move north in groups of 30-40 in March and April and return south in ones and twos in late August-September. Head and upper neck is bare black skin, with fawn brown, grey and white feathering, red eyes and black bill.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Friday 30th April

Saturday 1st May

Sunday 2nd May

Thursday 6th May

Thursday 13/27 May

Saturday 15th May

Saturday 15th May

Sunday 16th May

Thursday 27th May

Friday 28th May

Friday 28th May

Sunday 13th June

Wednesday 30th June

Monthly Wootton Dinner 6:30

Trash and Treasure Coolongolook Oval 9am

Coolongolook Fishing competition

Wootton Community Network meeting 7pm

Bingo Coolongolook Hall

Food Handlers Course-Brush Turkey Café 9am

Muso's Jam Night 6pm Wootton Hall

Music Jazz Day Great Lakes Winery 11:30

AGM Wootton Fire Brigade 6pm

Monthly Wootton Dinner

Air Force Band Great Lakes Winery 7pm

Music Day Great Lakes Winery 11:30

NLIS Briefing 10am to 12pm

PUBLISHED BY WOOTTON COMMUNITY NETWORK INC

EDITORS: BRONWYN LITTLE 49977185 AND PAT TATE 49977292

EMAIL ADDRESS: RIBERRY@TSN.CC AND PATRICIA.TATE@TSN.CC

WOOTTON COMMUNITY NETWORK NEWS

Community Resource Centre Update

We are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel. It's been a long road and a lot of hard work by a relatively small band of people who have donated thousands of hours of time, equipment and money to see this project through to its fruition. Along the way we have had a lot of support from community members in various ways which we have tried to thank either personally or through this newsletter. If we've forgotten anyone, our apologies and a general thank you. Thank you to Eric Wilkes who has donated timber to build a post and rail entrance, Mike Coventry, who used his tractor to dig holes for fencing etc, Jenny Bromage for cleaning, Norm and Bev Brunton who donated a stereo and to Steve Panos from Roscoes who has donated icecream. Also, a thankyou to our regular volunteers, Bronwyn, Paul, Jean, Kevin, Garry, Peter, Lillian, Calum, Neal, Nanette, Pat and Craig who worked with his backhoe.

Many things have been happening. We have concreted a new entrance which has made driving in a lot easier. We had Bob Baldwin, our federal MP, visit us to announce the success of our grant application. This has been a great boost to our morale and means that we can fully equip the kitchen and train people to run the café and get it going. If you would like to be involved with the Brush Turkey Café, we are still asking for volunteers to assist in the café for the initial three months, four hours per week. An accredited Food Handlers Course will be run on Saturday 15th May for all the volunteers. The cost is free to volunteers. Anyone else can join the course but the cost will be \$95. We will also be running an accredited Food Services Course which will run for one day per week for 10 weeks. This course will also be free to volunteers and members. The course will be run by David Freeman who promises it will be a lot of fun and there are no exams! Details of this course will be in a separate flyer. The course will be open to anyone else at a minimal cost. Contact 49977185

"Tell me, and I'll forget. Show me, and I may not remember. Involve me and I'll understand." Native American Saying

Monthly Dinners

Our Gourmet Dinner at Great Lakes Winery was enjoyed by 47 people. Thanks to Steve and Robyn for the use of their facilities. The April dinner will be on this Friday as usual. The May dinner will be held in the Brush Turkey Café.

Auction

Thanks to everyone who donated goods. We raised over \$600 which will go towards stocking the kitchen, part of our grant obligations.

Community Technology Centre (CTC)

Funding has been received at Nabiac for the Wootton Outreach which will enable us to purchase computers, a multi-function fax/copier/scanner, office equipment etc. This

Are you interested in arts and crafts?

Drawing/art classes to begin at the Wootton Hall. Adults and children. Please call Alison on 49977246

Paper making-Linda 49977263 Bread Making Judy 49976055

Anyone interested in holding a class at the Wootton Hall should contact Linda Ph 49977263

WOOTTON ART COMPETITION

Open age, any medium, any ability Phone Alison on 49977246

Entries close June 30th

- *Exhibition Venue: Wootton Hall*
- *Prizes! Entry Fee \$2*
- *Subject - 'Depict the essence of Wootton'*



Coolongolook Fishing Competition

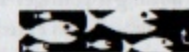
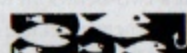
Proceeds go towards Coolongolook Country Fair to help pay for insurance.

Please help your community by supporting this event.

Where: Cedar Wharf Coolongolook

When: Sunday 2nd May

Registration time: 6.30am till 10.00am
at Cedar Wharf.



You can fish anywhere in the area (beach,

river etc) as long as you are back at the Cedar Wharf by 3.00pm for weigh in.
Cost: Juniors 12 years and under - \$2.00 Seniors 13 years and up - \$5.00

MUSIC DAYS in the back paddock

At GREAT LAKES WINERY 115 Herivals Road, Wootton Ph: 49977255

Sunday May 16th

5-piece Jazz Band 11.30 to 4.00

Friday May 28th

Airforce Band 7pm (Proceeds to Westpac Rescue Helicopter)

Sunday June 13th

A feast of 3 local bands 11.30 to 4.00

\$5.00 gate fee per adult/kids 15 & under FREE

Bring a rug and all weather protection

Bottled wine, soft drinks,

cheese plates & bbq steaks

available on the day or byo picnic



Muso's Jam Night

If you have a band, play an instrument or sing, come along to

Wootton Hall at 6pm on Saturday 15th May

Let's come out of the woodwork and have some fun

Acoustic preferred. Donation to cover hall hire.

Ring Mick Legge on 49978145 -all ages

Light meals will be available at the

Brush Turkey Café



Edie's Story - A life spent in Wootton



Edie Mudford, was born Edith Mary Squires on 1st October 1923 at Boolambayte. She was delivered at home by her midwife grandmother, Mary Jane Squires. Edith was named after both grandmothers, Edith Evelyn Sheather and Mary Jane Squires. Her father made his living, at that time, 'in the bush' with his bullock team hauling logs. The family, which then consisted of her parents, Jack (John Henry) and Attis (Harriet Beatrice Attis Sheather) and her older brother Colin, moved to Gloucester where John 'worked the bush'. When Edie was about four the family moved back to Wootton, where they 'selected' a farm adjacent to

where the tramway ran, near where now runs Squires Road. In those days there was no road. In fact, Attis, in later years wrote many letters to the then Council at Stroud lobbying to have roads built. The local Councillor Harold C. Higgins who lived in Wootton was of great assistance to Attis. Jack's parents had already taken up a 'selection' on a farm, where the old mill remnants can still be seen, along Watley Hill Road. Edie's dad continued to make a living in the bush with his bullock team. In fact, Edie can remember, even as a young girl, helping her dad and brother in the bush. The family expanded, adding a younger sister, Elvie, and a brother, Jack. They lived in a two-bedroom weatherboard farmhouse, which was extended, as the family expanded. They grew most of their vegetables, raised chickens for eggs and had a house cow. They reared pigs and very occasionally killed a chicken. Chicken was a treat, usually only eaten at Christmas time. Fresh and corned meat was bought from the butcher at Coolongolook

who delivered twice a week in his little truck with the back tray closed in. The

"...they were the best days of my life, when the train ran through Wootton"

baker delivered from Bulahdelah. The family made ginger beer and hop beer, but to keep it cool it was kept in the river. They had no refrigeration when Edie was a child. Later on when she married she had her first kerosene fridge and could make ice blocks. So that is how they lived - growing most of their food, no refrigeration, wood stoves for cooking and tank water. "When the water was low in the tank we'd have to wash our clothes in the creek." Sounds like an idyllic life!...and Edie would agree. She told us, "they were the best days of my life, when the train ran through Wootton." The railway went through the forest all the way from Boolambayte to where the Trestle Bridge Picnic Area is today. On the Squires' property the railway line forked, one line ran to Mount Gray and the other, called the 'Hauler Line', went for six miles. "The loco would shunt where we lived and the driver would stop and pick us kids up sometimes and give us a lift up to Wootton. There was a driver, a man stoking the fire and 2 men working the brakes on the log carriages. The tram would sway going over the bridge and you would just hope it stayed on the tracks." It did, but there were a few accidents when the train derailed.

Most people, in those early days of Edie's childhood, made a living from bushwork or dairying. Jack and Attis decided to try dairying, constructed their own dairy and bails and milked about 30 cows. Milking was done by hand with a bucket between the legs. The kids always helped with the dairy and had their chores to do before and after school. Attis also put together and sold 'soup packs' from her garden and made butter, which she would sell for sixpence, and deliver to the people living in Wootton village. The 'village' of Wootton was a thriving little township consisting of two general stores, a post office, a blacksmith shop, the office of Mr Smedley, the manager for Alan Taylor Sawmills on the corner of Worth Street, a school, church and hall. Of course there was the tramway. There were also three tennis courts in Wootton, but only three cars. The grocery shop would give a month's credit to everyone. "No-one never paid their bill," said Edie. Attis would put in an order and the tram would deliver it to their farm. It seems like the only real drawbacks were that there were no telephones and the nearest doctor was in Taree.

When the Squires family returned to Wootton, Edie and Colin started school where husband and wife teachers, Mr & Mrs Gilmore, taught them. After dairying chores and walking to school all the children had their nails inspected showed their clean handkerchief before reciting "I honour my God, I serve my King, I salute my flag" and singing the National Anthem (God save our King). There was always lots of kids to play with, lots of brothers, sisters, cousins and neighbours. Dancing and dances were a major interest and social activity. Attis and Jack taught their children to dance with the aid of a wind-up gramophone. Attis said, "If you can't waltz, you can't dance." Edie went to most of the dances in Wootton, held nearly every Saturday night. People came from as far away as Markwell, Krambach and Bungwahl. Edie revisited the story that her brother Jack Squires previously told us. Her story was that a Jersey/Guernsey bull was lying on the rail track, their route to the village dance. Edie and her cousin, Olive, ran back to the safety of a tramway bridge, retreated home where brother Jack rescued them by delivering them to the dance on horseback. Apparently that particular bull had been 'playing up' and Dad always said, "Never trust a bull!"

Attis and Jack took over the remaining general store, on the highway, in the early fifties and ran it until 1971. They had hand pumped petrol bowsers out the front. Edie said "I loved that shop."

Edie met her husband, Raymond Albert Mudford, when he worked for her Uncle Sam Squires on his farm (Eric Wilkes' farm today). Raymond was known by everyone as "Kay". Edie wasn't sure why he was called Kay, but it rhymes with Ray, and she thinks it may have been because he was "so good looking". Anyway, they married the day before she turned 20, on 30th September 1942, in a church in Taree. Kay had enlisted in the army in 1939 and came home, married Edie and then went back to war until 1945, spending time in Victoria, Queensland, Borneo and Malaya. Edie lived with her parents both whilst Kay was away at war and on his return home. In 1948 they bought a 285 acre (116 hectares) property where Edie still lives today. Kay and Edie dairied and raised a family. Kay later worked for the Department of Main Roads on the Bulahdelah Mountains. They had three children, Norman, Ronald and Robyn. Edie has eight grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. Robyn still lives in Wootton with her two daughters Letitia and Samara. Edie loves Wootton, and has great memories of her life spent nearly entirely in

Wootton. She remembers having 'wonderful parents'

"Today, people are in too much of a hurry, the world is all upside down."

and loved having her family and neighbours close. They did everything together from going to the dances to helping each other out. "You felt safe in Wootton, you could go out without having to worry about locking doors. Today, people are in too much of a hurry, the world is all upside down. People would make time to talk and help one another out."

Edie now lives a quiet life, choosing to stay in the home she has lived in for 56 years. Her one regret seems to be that she never learnt to drive, which would have given her some independence in her later years. She has a good memory and gets in a short daily walk and loves reminiscing and still loves Wootton, despite the changes. The things Edie remembers fondly are the things that make a place like Wootton worth living in - the bush, the relative safety, clean air and the support of friends and neighbours. We haven't got the railway now but we do have a rich history.



Coolongolook Tennis & Sports Club Inc

Fundraising

Bingo is still being run fortnightly - Thursday 13th and 27th May

Trash & Treasure is on again, Saturday 1st May and will be held quarterly, the next day being 7th August. 9am-2pm \$10 per site

Fishing Competition Sunday 2nd May (details in this newsletter)

Tennis Court Update

The first major step has started with the removal of topsoil from the site. The next step will be putting the gravel base down and drainage.

Coolongolook Country Fair

Preparations are already underway. If you have any new ideas or would like to help in any way contact Sue Gordon on 49977170.

Coolongolook/Wootton Progress Association

Due to poor numbers, meetings are now being held quarterly. The next date will be in July. The secretary was asked to write a letter to Council concerning the Rural Living Strategy and building permits for Coolongolook town blocks. Council's reply was that there would be no change in the policy as sewerage would be too costly and envirocycle systems would not be encouraged. For more information contact the secretary, Kerran Duncan on 49977297.

Wootton Rural Fire Services

All vehicles have been returned and repaired. The brigade has had the equipment refurbished, new uniforms, first aid etc. Our next meeting is an AGM and will be held on Thursday 27th May at 6pm at the Brigade shed in Squires Road. Contact the secretary Adrienne Hacene on 49977344 for more details.

Welcome to

Pat and Carol Conneely of Curreeki Creek Road Coolongolook

Gabrielle and Rick Harley of Wattley Hill Rd Wootton

Leonie and John Carter of Wattley Hill Rd Wootton

The Hilgendorf, Cox, Barkey and Oak families of Wattley Hill Road.

Farewell to

Helen and Brian Polson of Squires Rd relocating to Gosford

Congratulations to

Linda Gill on her election as councillor to the Great Lakes Council

Belated Congratulations to

Grace Harding on becoming captain at Bulahdelah Primary School.

Thankyou to

Jack Squires for improving the really bad sections of Squires Road. After repeated requests for Council to grade the road, Jack took it into his own hands and did as best he could to improve the state of the road. I thank you on behalf of all users of the road.

Bronwyn Little

WVN CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

- **Fuel stove** old \$150 ono
Ph Bron 49977185
- **Buggy** single seater 6 hp Honda
motor good condition
Ph Warren on 49974872
- **Limestone** blocks for carving \$28
Ph Paul 49977256
- **Commercial 8 burner stove** \$700
ono Ph 49977292

POSITIONS VACANT

WANTED someone to set up bookwork for small business Phone Paul on 49977256

WANTED

Artwork and sculpture for display in the Brush Turkey Café.

No Name Bridge → Hoppys Bridge → Stamps Bridge

The once un-named bridge on Squires Road has not only undergone rebuilding in the last year but also two name changes. After lobbying by locals, the Council accepted the historical argument that the bridge was situated on what was originally Stamp's property and should be named accordingly. Long time residents Jack Squires and his sister Edie Mudford were pleased with the outcome.

NLIS BRIEFING

The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) for cattle will be introduced on 1 July 2004. There will be a briefing by the Taree Dept Agriculture Beef Cattle Officer, Mac Elliott, the Gloucester RLPB Vet, Alan Glassop and a representative of Webb Bros (Stock and Station Agents, Gloucester) -

Wednesday 30 June 2004

10am to 12 noon

698 Wattley Hill Road, Wootton (Nick and Prue Marshall).

Refreshments will be available - proceeds to the Rural Fire Service. Please contact Nick or Prue on 4997 7253 if attending.



May Planting Guide

Artichokes, broad beans, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, carrots, garlic, onions, parsnips, peas, radish, shallots, silver beet

WVN late this issue Due to overwhelming commitments, with regards to meeting deadlines with the building of the Resource Centre, this edition of the WVN is later than normal. Next issue will be in June. Any contributions, please submit by end of May. Due to limited space in this issue, the continuous 'short story' and 'more amazing country stories', will be included next time.