

DIRECTORY

Bricklayer/Block layer

Adam Jones 49977125

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

Chequers Hair Design-Coolongolook
Lee Jones 49977125

Hire

Mower hire all sizes and Ditchwitch
Geoff Williams 49977404

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

Motor Repairs-Small

Lawnmowers and chainsaws etc
Geoff Williams 49977404 0418482099

Mobile Mechanic-(Lic No. 38287) Specializing in repairs of farm tractors, earth moving equipment, irrigation pumps, diesel & hydraulics. Machining and welding. John Spali 49977154 0418623318

Permaculture Design

Garry Williams 49977167

Real Estate

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

Edes Farm Sales Stock & Station Agent & Property Management. Brian Ede www.edes.com.au
49974566, 49977180(A/H),0408492883

Recycled Timber Furniture

Turn that timber under your house into a nice piece of furniture/table/bookcase etc.
Paul Shipton 49977256

Sculpting-Wood

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

Trencher & Mobile Crane/Borer Hire

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

Wine

Great Lakes Wines -Herivals Road Wootton
Open 7 days 49977255

Water

Sam the Waterman-Local Water Delivery
49974710 or 0408652110

Wootton Community Network Inc

"A community working together"



Monthly Dinners- Community Resource Centre~ Annual Sustainability Fair~ Wootton Valley News (Bi-Monthly)
Contact: Garry Williams 49977167

Wootton Valley

News



December 2002 No 20

Distribution 350 - Wootton, Coolongolook
Bungwahl, Bungah, Bulahdelah

SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS

The Echidna along with the Platypus are the only members of the monotreme family which are mammals that lay eggs and produces milk for its young. The Echidna has a pointy snout and an extremely long sticky tongue to catch ants and termites and are mostly nocturnal. An Echidna's body is covered with two types of hair. A "normal" short coarse hair to keep them warm and long sharp spines each being a single hair but hard. There have been sightings on our local roads lately. One of the biggest threats to the echidna is the car, so take care and be aware.



Community Calendar

This Saturday 7th December Coolongolook Country Fair
Saturday 14th December Open day-Wootton Resource Centre
Friday 20 Dec Wootton Network Christmas Party 6:30
Saturday 21st Dec Coola Community Christmas Party
Sunday 26th January Australia Day Breakfast 8am
Friday 31st January Wootton Network Dinner 6:30
Thursday 6th February Wootton Network Meeting 7:00
Thursday 30th January Wootton Fire Brigade 6:30

INSIDE THIS SPECIAL 12 PAGE ISSUE: Jack Squires-his life in Wootton

Published by Wootton Community Network Inc
Editors: Bronwyn Little 49977185 and Pat Tate 49977292
Email address: riberry@tsn.cc and PatriciaTate@tsn.cc



Wootton Community Network Inc

Resource Centre: The interior painting is nearing completion and final fit out work is being done on the kitchen. Geoff Williams and a few friends have done a great job completely reconditioning the gas stove we bought at auction from Tudor House.

Everyone is invited to an Open Day at the Centre on Saturday 14th December. Come along and check out the building, ask questions and find out more about our future plans for the building and other projects. Sausage sandwiches and drinks will be available throughout the day.

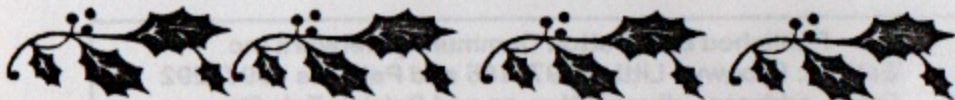
Christmas Dinner: This will be a "Bring a Plate to Share" dinner on Friday 20th December. Book with Pat so we can co-ordinate catering. There will be a minimal charge (\$2) to cover hall hire, tea coffee etc. Non-plate bringers will be charged normal price.

Community Dinners for 2003: Our monthly dinners have been very popular this year, great food and a great social gathering. Everyone is welcome. They are advertised in the WVN and posters at the Coolongolook shop. They are on the last Friday of every month at the Wootton Community Centre at 6.30pm. The menu is always different. Anyone who would like to help with cooking is extremely welcome. If you would like to contribute or have any ideas please let us know early. Bookings are essential as we are limited to 50. Call Pat on 49977292. Don't forget the Christmas Dinner on the 20th. See you there!!

We will be holding a food stall at the Coolongolook Country Fair this Saturday 7th Dec. So come and buy a Felafel or Chicken Kebab and say hello.

Subscriptions for Wootton Valley News

A number of people have asked us to post them a copy of our newsletter, and we have been doing this. If you would like this service in 2003 a charge of \$5 to cover postage etc. is required. Please contact Bronwyn on 49977185 so you don't miss out next year. Unfortunately, email is not available until our office is running with a faster internet access. (The graphics take a long time to transmit).



COOLONGOLOOK COUNTRY FAIR

This Saturday 7th December

10am to 4pm

Coolongolook Oval

Entertainment

Stalls, Food, Rural Displays,

Fishing Clinic,

Santa

Phone Rob on 65541870



Coolongolook Community

Christmas Party

21st December

Coolongolook Hall



AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST

An Australia Day Celebration Breakfast will be held at the Wootton Community Hall at 8.00am on Sunday, 26th January 2003. To assist with catering it would be helpful if those wishing to attend could advise Phil and Vonne Calvert on 49977113 by Wednesday 15th January, 2003.

JACK SQUIRES' STORY

Jack was born in 1928 at Bulahdelah Hospital to John Henry 'Jack' and Harriet Beatrice 'Attis' Squires, one of four children. Jack's parents had balloted for land, along with many others, back in the '20's. The leases were for 33 or 99 years. Most people took out a 33 year lease after which they owned it.

Jack's story starts at the "old house" along the tramway about half way along where Squires Rd is now. He, along with everyone else, was very fit because of the distances you had to walk or ride. Cars were rare. The people whom they depended on to get to the district dances in cars were Stan French and Jimmy Muxlow. Other people who owned cars in the 1930's were Sam and Tom Mudford, Sam Spooner, Tom Metcalf, Arch and Bert Worth, Bob Newman, Shop keeper Earl Maybury and the manager of Allen Taylor and Co tramline, Bill Smedley. He remembers attending Wootton School along with well-known families such as the Stamps, Munroes, Newtons, Fennings, Worth, Squires, French and Cheers with 17 children!! All school children learnt to swim early at the local 'swimming holes'. The infants learnt at the "The Flat Bottom" and Primary at "Cheer's Hole", both were upstream of what is now called Hoppy's Bridge (also known as Stamps Bridge). As one of the 47 small dairies in Wootton, Jack had to deliver the cream in a 6 gallon can on horseback to Arch Worth's Depot, 4 kms along the tramway. He would balance the can on a corn bag draped over the pommel of the saddle. Sometimes if the can was full to the brim his trousers would be coated with cream. A rough ride could result in it nearly turning to butter. Blackberries and Wild Passionfruit grew wild along the tramway which was a delight to eat with the fresh cream. He fondly remembers the sounds in the bush - the ring of the axes, the bullock teams, the crack of the whip and the daily loco rattling and puffing along the line.

To reduce walking distances, people would take the shortcut along the tramway line. This shortcut entailed risks. All dairies had bulls and Jersey bulls could not be trusted. Many a time people were bailed up in the only safe haven along the tram line - "the tramline bridges". They had to wait their time until the bull had lost interest and then run to the next bridge.

A tragic tale of a bull's temperament was when a surveyor had set up camp near a water hole in the creekline. Jack and his two sisters were returning from Wootton where they had collected a parcel from the "service car" and noticed the bull "going mad". When they arrived home they found that the surveyor was missing. Jack's father, Max Roberts and all available local men spent all night searching for him. He was found the next day over the fence, dead, gored by the bull, who had also rampaged through the camp site. The bull was subsequently sent to the abattoirs.



Another story was when his sister Edie and her cousin were held up on the way to a dance by a bull and they had to come home and go the long way around. Dances were the main social event. Everyone went to dances either to dance or just to have a 'yak'. Entry was 2/- (two shillings) and not everyone wanted to pay. Wings were constructed around the doorway so people couldn't get a free view. One memorable night Gordon Cater refused to pay his 2/- and was turned away only to return with the toilet tin balanced on his shoulder and threatened to throw it in the hall. "Now will you let me in" he said. He was given a wide berth and free entry. He paraded around the dance floor with the can on his shoulder much to everyone's astonishment. Lighting in the hall was supplied by 3 "Gloria Lights" which were fuelled by "Shellite" (petrol/kerosene mix). They had 300 - 500 candle power. Air tanks were housed under the hall and each light had to be pumped to 80 pounds pressure to last the night. Jack worked up a sweat doing this. Max Newton, well-known for his larrikanism, couldn't resist the temptation to crawl under the hall and release the pressure causing the lights to gradually extinguish. To beat the troublemakers they moved the gas and air tank to the tea rooms, but they still managed at times to sneak in and have their fun. The Weismantel Band from Krumbach was known to be the best band around with a saxophone, trumpet, piano and drums. There were many other bands as well. Jack's mother, a wonderful dancer, taught him to dance at an early age as she did many others in her home. On a Saturday night, if there were no dances, she would wind up the gramophone, Dad would get out his mouth organ, and everyone would come and dance such dances as the Silver Bell's Quickstep, Barn Dance, Canadian Three Step, The Schottize and The Jolly Miller Mix-Up. Jack was also proud of the fact that his mother corresponded with Council, instigating the surveying and construction of Squires Road. No mean feat by a woman of that time.

After practicing for a concert at the hall, Jack, a mate and two girls decided it would be a lark to pinch the tramway trike (which was used by the three fettlers for track maintenance) to get home. They rode it to the top of the hill and then let it freewheel back down the hill to wherever it may rest. He still wonders what the fettlers thought when they came to work the next day and had to go looking for it.

In 1944 when the war was on they closed the tramline and Jack went working for Forestry up the Crawford River. He was 16. Only the young and the old men were left, most were called up for war. He was given a water bag, crosscut saw and an axe and from Monday to Friday he camped in the forest falling trees. (Anything above a four foot girth was allowed)



Basic accommodation was a "cubicle" which was a hut for four with a fireplace, a small kitchen and four bunks. They existed on corn meat and vegetables, kept in a meat safe, which often ran out by Thursday. It was dangerous work and Jack recalls a number of incidents.

Fred Inchy, a surveyor, was killed when a small oak tree fell on his head. He was dead before he hit the ground. Claude Shultz was squashed between two logs and they weren't small logs! Roy Cheers sliced the side of his ankle with an axe. They wrapped it in a flour bag whilst Jack ran the 2 miles to camp to ring the ambulance at Stroud. Roy survived his ordeal. The boss's beautiful Palomino horse was killed when it walked under a falling tree. On a lighter note, Joe Cheers, a log cutter, climbed 20 odd boards high up a tree, chopped the top off and did a show-off dance on top for all to see. Jack said "He was a much better cutter than most". Jack's time working in the forest was mostly enjoyable, only for the leeches.

Tennis, Football and Cricket were the main sports played in Wootton and surrounding areas - Bulahdelah, Coolongolook, and Bungwahl. The Under 18's played for a "cup" donated by Bill Newman, one of the shop owners in Wootton. Earl Mayberry owned the other shop. Mrs Leedham ran the Post Office/Phone Exchange, followed by Mrs McDean (Edie). You could often hear her husband Bill's breathing on the phone line as he listened in to telephone conversations.

Horse racing was another sport and days were held which included "flag races" and "bending races". People would prepare their horses for these days by feeding them up and training. Jack's anecdote relating to this was when a professional race horse was brought to Wootton to "rest a spell" at Bob Newman's property. Max Newton "borrowed" the horse for the day and entered it in the races at Bungwahl and won easily over the other local horses, a bridle as his prize. The horse was returned to its paddock before anyone was the wiser. The owner never knew! Another of Max's exploits, along with Keith McDean, was to whitewash George Woodward's bay horse, "Mickey", leading George to think that it wasn't his horse when he called it to go milking in the early hours. George was heard to say "Get away you *****, you don't belong here, get the buggery out!!" He always blamed someone else and it wasn't until years later did he find out who the culprits were.

We asked about bushfires and droughts. He remembered the grass fire during the drought of '68/'69 which got away when Bill Hardy (the best bulldozer driver of the day) was clearing Wilkes' property. It swept through all the way to the mill on Wattley Hill Road in no time flat and onto Ferney Creek. Derry Willis lost his house and everything in it which is where Buitenhuis live today and Beryl Ede lost a shed. It could have been worse, if not for the help of the mill workers and the Fire Brigade. He said Wootton seems to have always survived droughts better than other surrounding places.

Jack started his own dairy in 1953 handmilking 13 cows. His children helped in the dairy, milking, and the little ones were kept safe in their playpen which was a large tea box. In later years Jack worked for the Department of Main Roads, crushing rocks for the road with a napping hammer, before advancing to driving the bulldozer and then onto the grader. He left the DMR to go sawmilling at Coolongolook. He always worked hard, dairying whilst working for the DMR or the sawmill. He went dairying fulltime when he finished at the sawmill.

Some interesting facts Jack told us were:

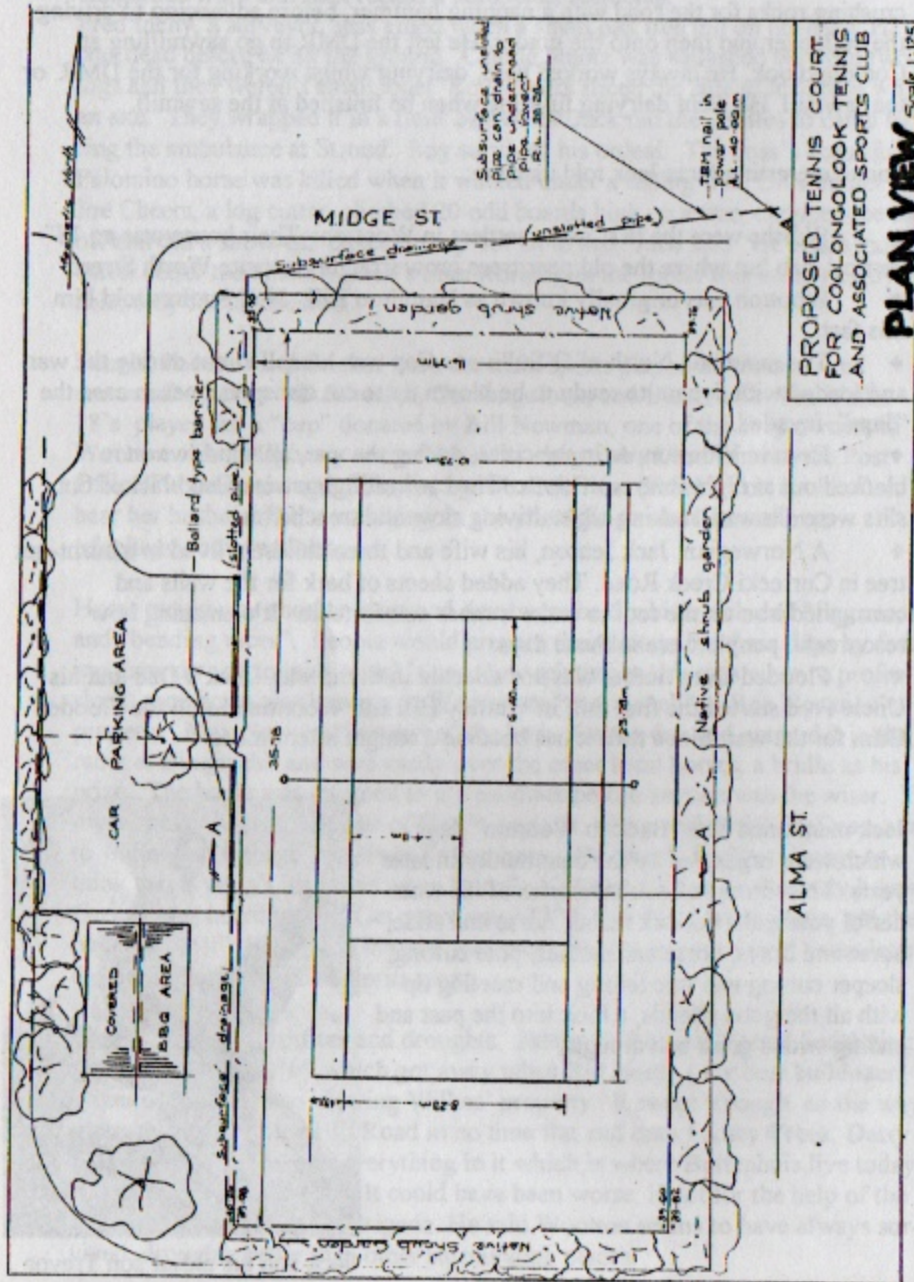
- ◆ Wootton were the first white settlers in Wootton. Their house was an 18" vertical slab hut where the old pear trees grow straight opposite Worth Street.
- ◆ Wootton was originally known as Hamilton Hill. Nell Squires told him this fact.
- ◆ The mountain North of O'Sullivan's Gap was tunnelled out during the war and loaded with dynamite ready to be blown up to cut transport lines in case the "Japs" invaded.
- ◆ Even in Wootton, as in the cities, during the war, all windows were blacked out at night time with cloth. The car headlights were also blacked out, slits were allowed, making night driving slow and treacherous.
- ◆ A Norwegian, Jack Jenson, his wife and three children, lived in a burnt-out tree in Curreeki Creek Road. They added sheets of bark for the walls and corrugated iron on the roof to make it more comfortable. It's amazing how resourceful people were in those days.
- ◆ Flooded Gum timber was not saleable until the war. Jack's Dad and his Uncle Fred started the first mill in Wattley Hill Rd, Wootton to mill the Flooded Gum for the war. Since then it has become a sought after timber.

Jack mentioned The "Back to Wootton" days, which were organised by the community in later years. This brought back memories of his wonderful youth, the bullock teams, horse and slide, horse and drays, horse and sulkies, pole cutting, sleeper cutting and tree felling and meeting up with all the good friends, a look into the past and ending with a great ball at night."



Jack and his eldest son Trevor

PLAN OF FUTURE TENNIS COURTS AT COOLONGLOOK



Letter to the Editor



THE SIGNS ARE THERE-BUT HAVE YOU NOTICED

No, this is not a religious pitch about the end being near, it's about how observant we Woottonites are.


The signs referred to are on the OLD PACIFIC HIGHWAY on the north and south approaches to the WATTLEY HILL/SQUIRES ROAD intersections. The road lane line markings at these intersections have been changed several times since Wootton was by-passed several years ago but the RTA road signs have yet to be removed or relocated to advise of the present conditions. You may notice a particularly dangerous dual sign at the southern approach <'LEFT LANE ENDS' 'MERGE RIGHT'>. There is no right lane to merge to and there is the possibility of non local drivers ending up on the wrong side of the road. Similarly, travelling south you will note that all of the RTA lane change signs occur about 100 metres after the event. Fortunately we locals ignore the signs and stay safe. Other signs advise of the availability of a toilet at the car park, which is now boarded up. Have you noticed this council road name spelling difference? WATTLEY HILL ROAD at Old Pacific Hwy.....WATLEY HILL ROAD at Lakes Way.

Dear Editor: I submit this little bit of trivia for your consideration. The council has been advised of the above problem several weeks ago. They're looking into it. They might even fix the problem if they read it in your NEWSLETTER.

Norman Brunton

Note from editor: I don't think our little newsletter has that much influence, but you never know!

Welcome- More Newcomers to Wootton
Matt, Marie and Luke Andrews from
Squires Road
Congratulations to the Dinnan family on the birth
of their daughter and sister, India



BULAHDELAH TIP HOURS
TUESDAY 1PM TO 5PM
FRIDAY 12 NOON TO 4PM
SUNDAY 8AM TO 12NOON

Wootton Rural Fire Brigade

During the serious fires we were unable to crew a fire, so the tanker was loaned to Fire Patrol so that other crews could use it. Wootton's tanker will be returned at the end of this week. Next meeting Thursday January 30th, 6:30pm
Points to consider:

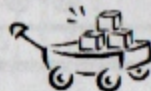
- It is your responsibility to prepare your property for the fire season.
- If you have to evacuate wear correct clothing, take blankets, have personal papers, photos at the ready.
- Be aware that the Fire Brigade might not be able to get to your place.
- Put your family pet in a box if able and label with your name and address.
- Once you leave you must not go back for anything.
- If you evacuate, evacuate early. Don't get caught on the roads with smoke and fire.
- If you evacuate leave a note on the house to inform fire fighters and neighbours of your whereabouts
Wendy Grahame Secretary 49977336
For more information go to www.bushfire.gov.au



Wootton Tennis and Community Club

At the moment we are in the middle of a big competition with three divisions. Finals will be played around March and all games will be played over the Christmas period. More players are always welcome. We will be holding a lollie stall at the Coolongolook Fair on Saturday. Contact Colleen Wright 49977159

Is anyone out there interested in forming a
PLAYGROUP in Wootton?



I'm interested in getting together with other
Mums/Dads with
preschool age children with the view of forming a
Playgroup next year - early 2003.

Give me a call if you are interested. Anna Albans 49977166



Norman Richards
Passed away Wednesday 20th November.
Our heartfelt thoughts go out to Margaret,
Wendy, Bob, Nicky, Sam and family.

Karuah-Great Lakes Landcare Field Trips and Forum
Soil Biology, Pasture Assessment, Weeds, Tree Planting,
Off-Stream Watering Design,
Managing native vegetation for Timber production
At Krambach Hall
Sat 14th December 9am - 4:30pm
Lunch and Morning tea provided
Book by 10th December
Phone Col Freeman 65545795 / Les Roberts 65502220

FOR SALE

- KTX Computer Scanner \$20
- Small Metters Upright Freezer \$50
- Canopy bed, single, with curtains good condition \$100
- High Chair good condition \$40 Baby Bouncer \$10 Phone Colleen 49977159
- Hay bales for mulch Phone Geoff 49977408
- Guided Yoga Relaxation tape (25minutes) \$18 Phone Peter Auriac 49974274
- Clean-skin wine. Anyone interested in buying unlabelled quality wine in quantity. Phone Paul Shipton for more info 49977256
- Antique sewing machine \$100 Bronwyn 49977185



Wanted

700 ml spirit bottles with lids, drop off at Resource Centre.
Thanks Bronwyn