



WOOTTON VALLEY NEWS

DECEMBER 2023/JANUARY 2024 NO 147
DISTRIBUTION WOOTTON BULAHDELAH



Mistletoes (*Loranthaceae* and *Viscaceae* species)

Kissing under the mistletoe is a romantic Christmas tradition. Hang a sprig of mistletoe on your Christmas tree or, more traditionally, in your doorway, and it supposedly gives you permission to plant a kiss on a loved one. There are over 90 species of Australian mistletoes and they "...kill trees as often as fleas kill dogs," according to Dr David Watson, a plant biologist at Charles Sturt University. "They flower and fruit when most other stuff doesn't, so they are often the only source of tucker for insects and animals during hard times. Mistletoes are a bird beacon but they also provide for sugar gliders, koalas, possums and butterflies." Mistletoes drop their leaves more than gum trees and those leaves contain more nutrients, so mistletoes feed the soil under the host tree and keep it moist.



The mistletoebird (*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*) eats the delicious fruits and in return distributes the sticky mistletoe seeds far and wide.

www.abc.net.au/everyday/the-misunderstood-magical-mistletoes-of-australia/11505510
www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/science-environment/2018/11/australia-is-the-real-home-of-mistletoe/

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Subscribe to Wootton Community events to update your calendar automatically and read updates on the Wootton Community facebook group	
Sat 9 Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wootton Hall/shelter shed: Foodswap midday. <i>Peter D 0478 741 111</i> 5pm Wootton Community Christmas Party details page 3
Sun 10 Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wootton Fire Brigade Shed: training, Squires Rd 8am
Fri 15 Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wootton Library: Community Hall, 10am to midday
Sun 17 Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wootton Fire Brigade Shed: training, Squires Rd 8am
Sun 14 Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wootton Fire Brigade Shed: training, Squires Rd 8am
Mon 15 Jan	**Copy deadline for Wootton Valley News**
Fri 17 Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wootton Library: Community Hall, 10am to midday

Published by Wootton Community Network Inc . Contact Fred Fetherston & Arjen Arnold
Visit our website www.wootton.org.au and [Wootton Community](#) facebook public group
[Use this link to send us a story and photos](#)

As part of the Great Lakes Food Trail, the WCN offered Devonshire Teas on Sunday 1 October 10am until 3pm.



Delicious homemade scones were generously donated by super scone makers *Neryl Gordon* and *Beryl Ede*, *Shelley McIntyre* and *Mary Lee*, and were ably prepared and served by *Victoria Norman* and *Cath Muscat*, who also contributed some attractive floral decorations to add to the outside country ambience.

Thanks also to *Victoria* for the use of her coffee machine!!

While the attendance was not as great as in previous years, possibly due to outside temperatures reaching 35 degrees, **we received lots of positive feedback from happy, satisfied customers.** Thanks to the Loyal locals, their families and friends, who braved the heat to sample our wares and support our fundraiser!

We were able to raise \$250 from sales of the teas, which will go directly towards the cost of repainting the community hall.

Carol Bridge,
WCN Event organizer



Thanks also need to go to the Wootton Community Network for buying a painting hanging system for the hall which means more exhibitions for the future. The hall itself looked its best having had the mould cleaned of the roof and a fresh coat of paint—thanks to everyone who helped. The timing was tight with the installation of the hanging system happening the same day as hanging the exhibition. Special thanks to *Ian Dobson* and *Paul Smith* who worked tirelessly putting up the hanging system. All the volunteer help was much appreciated. *Kristin C*

Wootton Library open 3rd Friday each month 10am to midday

**GREAT NEWS—there will be a new café
commencing at Wootton called
'Bites & Brew' (at the Brush Turkey Café).**

The proprietor will be **Jamie** and
we welcome him to the Wootton Community.

**Bites and Brew will be open from Thursday 14th December
and its operating hours will be Thursday - Sunday, 8am – 3pm.**

Free Wootton Christmas Party



**Jingle &
Mingle**

**BYO Drinks, Rug & Food
to share with family,
friends and neighbours**



9 DEC @ 5PM

**5.30pm SANTA arrives
6PM Live Music from
Kelly Hope**

RAFFLE
Wheelbarrow
FULL of goodies
3 for \$10





[AABRFest 2023.](#) [What a great time](#)

Amongst the rolling hills of Topi Topi, Mid-North-Coast NSW, on Worimi Country, a unique winter gathering transpired from the 18-20 August 2023.

Around 300 bush regenerators and people in

ecological restoration joined with each other and learned on the land.

AABRFest is an opportunity to connect with the wider bush regeneration community, rekindle old friendships and forge new ones.

The true essence of AABRFest lay in the connections made. The festival's emphasis on community connection underscored its success as a platform for forging meaningful relationships. The community's enthusiasm and engagement were inspirational, showing the potential for future gathering of this type to continue to aid in knowledge and community building.

A big thank you to the property owners and dedicated organisers, Scott Meier and Mandy Martin. Their commitment and visionary approach were evident in every aspect of the festival, underlining their unwavering commitment to ecological restoration. <https://aabr.org.au/> Sally Aildis



MidCoast Council wants to hear from you about how they operate seven outdoor swimming pools. Consultations close on Sunday 4 February 2024, visit one of the pools or website <https://haveyoursay.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/swimming-pool-operations-review>

How could FIRE affect you or help you manage your land?

Find out at the Landscape and Fire Engagement workshop Friday 8 December at Wootton 8.30 to 1.30 ...www.eventbrite.com.au/e/workshop-3-field-day-planning-to-use-fire-in-bungwahl-area-tickets-745840327497

[Landscape and Fire Engagement workshops](#) are for rural communities reducing bush-fire risk on their property while protecting biodiversity. This field day will help you to

understand and prepare for a "prescribed burn" including:-

- a walk-through burn plan areas
- fire and fuel behaviours, and what impacts them
- PPE and equipment

Olivia Eglin 0437 883 995

olivia@midcoast2topslandcare.org



“A feast for the eyes” This year’s participation in the Great Lakes Food Trail included an art exhibition hosted by the Wootton Creative Alliance, held in the old school community hall. **The call out to artists in the Great Lakes area, combined with Wootton artists, made a terrific show.** It certainly was a feast for the eyes and included artisan ceramics, plates, bowls and jars; salt dishes and milk jugs. Kids’ art, sculpture, drawing, paintings and watercolours as well as printmaking; there was something for everyone, even hand printed Wootton tea towels. Congratulation to *Amanda Bicknell* and *Kristin Coburn* for all their hard work organising the exhibition, assisted by



many volunteers who manned the exhibition and helped put it up and take it down. It was a great community effort with too many people to name. Thank you all. *Kristin C*

Wootton Rural Fire Brigade



Several Wootton families **visited the Open Day.** The **shed extension** is making good progress, and will soon be **ready for more helpers to put up the walls.**

Follow the [facebook page](#) for updates or contact Captain **Adam Garnett** 0428 272 629

PERMITS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL FIRES

Permit Officers

Mike Coventry 0407 458 167; **Renee Spiteri** 4997 7149

**YOU MUST CONTACT YOUR NEIGHBOURS AT
LEAST 24 hrs BEFORE LIGHTING UP**

[USE THE ONLINE NOTIFICATION FORM](#)



The World Has a New Hottest Chilli.
Pepper X is three times spicier than the previous record-holder, the Carolina Reaper. Ed Currie also developed the Carolina Reaper in 2013
[Watch the announcement on Youtube](#)



Over **30 people from Wootton and surrounding areas** attended the **Koala information day**, and there is a small group working with help from MidCoast Council to **remove weeds from the bush around the Community grounds.**

You can join other medium sized properties finding where Koalas are living by [joining the NSW DPE Koala Survey](#)

Local Land Services is **Measuring What Matters**, and encourage you to sign up for the a 15-minute survey, each year for 5 years. Findings will give landholders better information and services to support them into the future.
www.lls.nsw.gov.au/what-we-do/our-major-projects/measuring-what-matters



Hunter Region Landcare Network has produced a 3-part video series about Peter Dreyer, Gresford Landcare member and farmer who is putting soil health and ecology first in his production, and shares how he's handling drought and rising costs while improving stock health, carrying capacity and soil health. www.youtube.com/watch?v=nr-rCQtcMYs&t=111s

To find out more, contact Joël Dunn 0401 932 533
joel.kgl.landcare@gmail.com

Do you know what a Total Fire Ban Day is?

Now that our bushfire season is in full swing this Spring, we are experiencing varying days of fire danger and Total Fire Ban Days. Common rules applying on Total Fire Ban (TFB) Days to reduce the potential of fires starting and occurring include:

- ◆ All Fire permits are suspended
- ◆ Don't light, maintain or use fire out in the open
- ◆ General purpose hot works (including grinding, welding and gas cutting) can't be done out in the open
- ◆ You can't use a BBQ or pizza oven that uses wood, charcoal or heat beads
- ◆ It's recommended that you reconsider using a tractor or doing slashing to prevent a potential fire starting.

The NSW RFS releases information on a daily basis regarding fire danger ratings and TFBs for the state. To see this, or find out more about TFBs, click here:

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fdr-and-tobans/total-fire-ban-rules

Highway blackspot bypassed

By Andrew Stavro

HOLIDAYMAKERS travelling between Bulahdelah and Coolesook north of Newcastle will no longer have to negotiate the notorious stretch of the Pacific Highway from this week.

The highway blackspot that has claimed 22 lives in the past decade has been bypassed with a multi-million dollar stretch of dual highway.

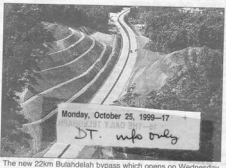
The bypass will open to traffic on Wednesday after the completion of safety fencing, landscaping and line marking work.

Over the past 10 years, the stretch between Bulahdelah and Coolesook reported 200 accidents in which 22 people died and 492 others suffered serious injuries.

In the past six weeks alone, police have reported seven serious accidents in the area.

The Bulahdelah and Coolesook bypass replaces a stretch of the Pacific Highway known for years as an accident hotspot, including the blackspot of Wootton Bend and O'Sullivan Gap.

The new freeway provides



The new 22km Bulahdelah bypass which opens on Wednesday

New section of freeway



of two-lane dual carriageway, providing more than 60 vehicles a day.

The 22km bypass replaces a stretch of the Pacific Highway known for years as an accident hotspot, including the blackspot of Wootton Bend and O'Sullivan Gap.

The preservation of local flora and fauna was a factor in the building of the bypass with the creation of 18 underpasses.

Full-time signposting over 30km will ensure drivers do not access the highway by encouraging them into these underpasses. Roads Minister Carl Scully said:

The area around the bypass will progressively be landscaped with 80,000 native trees and shrubs including double gums, blacktops, white and banksia to be planted.

The bypass is funded by the NSW and Federal Governments as part of the Pacific Highway Upgrading Program.

24 October, 1999 Wootton Bypass Opens!

Once upon a time everyone driving up or down the coast went over through Wootton, and patiently followed trucks up the hills at O'Sullivan's Gap. Roads Minister Carl Scully opened the \$128million bypass, with 22km of new road carrying 11,000 vehicles per day. In the preceding 10 years, 35 people died on what is now Wootton Way.

Please use the Wootton Website if possible

for memberships and events payments/bookings.

Otherwise, direct deposit for all **MEMBERSHIPS** (\$20pp) and **EVENTS PAYMENTS**, to **Wootton Community Network Inc.**

- CBA Forster BSB 062669 Account No 10250496
- Reference = Name and Reason eg "Joe Blow mship" or "Jill Doe Feb dinner"
- Please email when paid to notify the Treasurer treasurer@wootton.org.au

Wootton Directory contains important local contacts. Always dial 000 for Emergency.



Wootton Community Network

President: TBA

Vice President: Nicole Turnbull

Secretary: Andrew Holland

Treasurer: Leanne Wright 4997 7201

Email: info@wootton.org.au

FoodSwap: Peter Dixon 0478741111

Bookings—all facilities

Celebrating something special? Running a Course or a Market?

Andrew Holland 0416 002 532

Wootton Creative Alliance:

wca@wootton.org.au

Wootton Rural Fire Brigade

Captain: Adam Garnett 0428 272 629

Sen Dep Capt: Bernard Carran 0409684177

www.facebook.com/woottonrfs

Midcoast Fire Control

Burnoff notifications 1300 643 262

(24hour prior notice)

Karuah Great Lakes Landcare

joel.kgl.landcare@gmail.com

Joël Dunn 0401 932 533

Wootton - Topi Topi Sustainable

Farming Group

Fred Fetherston 0427 461 101

MidCoast Council: 6591 7222

State Forests Wauchope 6585 3744

Bulahdelah Police: 4940-7470

State Emergency Service 132 500

Local Land Services

Wild dogs Laurie Mullen 0407 785 007

Rural Resilience Group

Peter Brown 0437 671 459

National Parks & Wildlife 6591 0300

[Fawna Wildlife Rescue](#) 6581-4141

Electricity Essential Energy 13 20 80

Wootton Justices of the Peace (JPs)

Warren Richardson 0407 146 373

Paul Spiteri 0407 298 954

Renee Spiteri 0407 516 089

Gary Cross 0418 251 090

Bulahdelah Waste Facility

opening hours

Tues 1-5pm, Fri 12-4, Sun 10-2

DIRECTORY

New advertisers Welcome, contact Leanne at treasurer@wootton.org.au.



Accommodation

Wootton Guest House

Too many visitors? 4 air conditioned bedrooms with en-suites and balconies. Reasonable rates. Contact Peter & Leanne 4997 7201 0407 974 420

Real Estate

Ede's Real Estate Pty Ltd since 1956

For all your Real Estate needs in Wootton, Bulahdelah and surrounding areas. Agent/Agency Award Winners 2018 to 2023. Local Agent 49974566 0408492883 *Remember choosing Ede's is choosing success* edes@edes.com.au www.edes.com.au

Transport

RPS Enterprises - "Bulahdelah Buses"

You require the transport we do the driving. Luxury Air conditioned seat belted buses available for wedding guest transport, winery trips, concerts, sporting events. Call Paul and Renee Spiteri to discuss your transport needs. 4997 7149 or 0407 298 954

Plumber

Tim McDonnell

Lic no. 14660

Plumbing, Draining, Roofing Guttering Water tanks, Gas fitting Wootton & all areas – 0418 682 199

Bulahdelah Post Office Mon-Fri 9am-5pm.

Bank@Post personal and business banking, passports, gift cards, phones, variety of gifts, now in store lotto & instant scratchies. 4997 4283

Farm Services

C & E Mobile Mechanical

Log book & general service, brakes, steering, suspension, electrical repairs, welding, breakdown assist. MVRL58530. Craig Huggett—0410 655 920

Farm Services

B&H Rural Contracting

Variety of agriculture & farming services, Machine operator, Animal husbandry, Vertebrate pest control, Fire mitigation and much more. Phone: 0401 312 877 email: info@bhruralcontracting.com.au

Jo Lyons Photography

Professional Photographer for People Whose Kids Have Four Legs. Dog and Family photography. Purpose built studio in Wootton offering the ultimate studio/outdoor experience. 0412 617 928 www.jolyonsphotography.com

Lifestyle, Health and Beauty

Liarne's Hair and Beauty

A private home salon. All ladies and mens hairdressing. Waxing, relaxation facials, lash and brow tinting. Air conditioning, eftpos facilities. Tuesday to Friday 9am to 5pm 0412 833 700

Yoga Classes with Naomi Patton

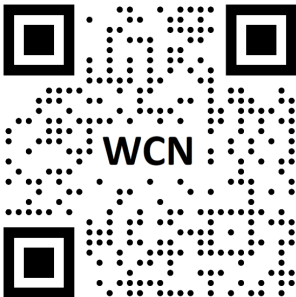
Wootton Hall. Mondays 9-10am we unwind with a gentle yin/restorative class, suitable for everyone, even those nursing injuries. Wednesdays from 9.15-10.45am it's an active Hatha class where we get moving. All welcome. 0414 387 008

Celebrant—Karen George

Specialising in weddings, renewal of wedding vows and commitment ceremonies. Contact— caringcelebrancy@hotmail.com 0422 867 572

Minibrae Dogstayz - Minibrae GroomDayz

All-breeds Dog Grooming/Clipping is now available to non boarding clients, professional 30+ years experience, appointment essential. Luxury Dogstayz, non kennelling dog boarding, the best of care in the best of comfort. www.minibrae.com



Scan the QR code to go to the Wootton website, and share it with your friends

[Use this link to send us a story and photos](#)



MOON PHASES

FULL MOON
27 Dec & 26 Jan

NEW MOON
13 Dec & 11 Jan