



WHAT'S ON?

TUES 10 DEC	10 AM	WCN COMMITTEE MEETING in Community Hall. All welcome.
FRI 13 DEC	5.30 PM	RFS TRAINING at Wootton Fire Brigade Shed, Squires Rd.
SAT 14 DEC	12 PM	WOOTTON FOOD SWAP in shelter shed/hall. Peter D 0478 741 111
SUN 15 DEC	5 PM	 WOOTTON COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY IN COMMUNITY GROUNDS
FRI 20 DEC	10 AM- 12 PM	WOOTTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY open in Community Hall
SAT 11 JAN	12 PM	WOOTTON FOOD SWAP in shelter shed/hall. Peter D 0478 741 111
SUN 12 JAN	10 AM	RFS training at Wootton Fire Brigade Shed, Squires Rd.
TUE 14 JAN	10 AM	WCN COMMITTEE MEETING in Community Hall. All welcome
WED 15 JAN		February copy deadline for next edition WVN (154)
FRI 17 JAN	10 AM- 12 PM	WOOTTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY open in Community Hall
THUR 23 JAN		'PLACE' exhibition opens Manning Valley Regional Art Gallery (see page 5)

THE DETAILS OF ALL EVENTS WILL BE CONFIRMED ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS

BRUSH TURKEY CAFE M: 0413 236 929 (ORDERS)

OPEN FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS - 8.30-2PM

KEEP UP TO DATE @ WWW.WOOTTON.ORG.AU

WOOTTON COMMUNITY NETWORK

A LOT HAS BEEN HAPPENING IN OUR PART OF THE WOODS!

The Trivia Night held on 21st September had 40 locals attend and we ate a yummy dinner (lasagne, fried rice and delicious salads) catered by Knowla from Brush Turkey Café. The raffle was won by Wendy and Ron Rapee, and over \$500 was raised which will contribute to the cost of the recently purchased stove in the hall kitchen. The Winning team this year was the Warranulla Wizards (PICTURED BELOW), whose name will be engraved on the Trivia plaque.



Thank you to Peter Dixon and Megan Kessler, who, despite not being able to attend on the night, left everything prepared to ensure that the event ran smoothly and successfully. Nicole did a great job standing in for Peter as emcee for the night, and the committee donated generously to create the raffle prize.

On **October 28 our AGM** was held and the office bearers and committee remain the same diligent volunteers. Our sincere gratitude.

WCN Committee for 2025 are ...

President: Nicole Turnbull

Vice President: Gary Cross

Treasurer: Leanne Wright

Secretary: Andrew Holland

Public Officer: Carol Bridge

Other members: Susanne Kennedy, Victoria Norman.



Working Bee Tuesday 5 and Saturday 9

November: A supervised burn-off of 3 piles of garden debris was conducted on Tuesday 5 November to tidy up the area surrounding the rear carpark. Thanks to Mike Coventry and Paul Smith from the Wootton RFS, and to Alan Bridge for his tractor work.

On the following **Saturday 14 generous volunteers** made significant improvements to the Wootton hall, facilities and grounds. This included weeding gardens, trimming overhead branches along driveways, pruning shrubs, whipper-snipping long grass, removal of hazards on pathway, pressure cleaning the old concrete water



tank and outdoor setting, repairing bookshelves in the library, clearing out and repacking the tennis shed, removing old wire, installing a new floodlight to rear car park, and installing the new first aid kit!!! The result was a huge improvement to the appearance and safety of the community space. Workers were subsequently rewarded for their efforts with a free sausage sizzle, courtesy of the WCN and prepared by Knowla at Brush Turkey café, who also contributed a free cake to volunteers. Community spirit was clearly alive and well. Many thanks to those 14 volunteers!



Wootton Garage Sale Sunday 17 November 9am-2pm As part of the Garage Sale Trail weekend, several amazing stall holders set up their goods and wares in the rear car park of the Wootton Community grounds. Check out our Facebook page!

****CONGRATULATIONS** to 'our very own Woottonite **Nicole Turnbull** who was elected as a Councillor on the **MidCoast Council in September** and is excited to support the community for the next four years.



Local artist, Paul Smith's awesome Forest Creature sculpture, stood proudly in the Gizmos exhibition last month in Bulahdelah.

New doors have been installed at both front and back entrances of the Brush Turkey Café, adding better security to the premises, and blending in beautifully with the country vibe of the café. A great job completed thanks to Peter Auriac!



HO! HO! HO! THE WOOTTON COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY will be held this year in the community grounds on Sunday evening, **15 December, 5pm**. Tickets for the event cost \$30 pp, and include entertainment and a dinner prepared by Knowla at the Brush Turkey Café. Please BYOG. <https://wootton.org.au/event/2024-christmas-party/> for tickets. All welcome!

MEET YOUR COMMUNITY

Meet one of our special Wootton residents. Local community members. Adrienne and Walt Hacene are the caretakers of the land on which this wonderful resident male Koala lives. They first noticed a Koala on their place about eight years ago...



Adrienne and Walt have lived in Wootton for 29 years, drawn here by the stunning Seal Rocks coast, this was the most suitable acreage with their two young kids in tow. "It is such a beautiful place to live. We raised our children, built a house and now have more time to put back into our patch of paradise. We like to think that we are here for a short time on earth and to leave it better than we found it is a privilege," says Adrienne.

Their property was clear felled 45 years ago. It has a lot of weeds like lantana and wild tobacco bush, which are slowly being removed. They feel lucky though to have plenty of natural bush for all the wildlife. Their passion project, the Koalas, are an umbrella species, meaning they live in the same habitat as other species, if we preserve them, we manage to help the preservation of other species.

Adrienne didn't really go trekking around her backyard until last year, when they cleared a track through the very overgrown lantana patches. She was walking early one morning when she heard a grunting sound. It was a koala sitting just above her in a rather small

Grey Gum, their favourite sitting trees. Tallowood trees are a favourite food tree, along with a few others like swamp mahogany.

Information about Koala habit can be found at the rescue organisation KIC's website, or from Mid Coast Council www.koalaincare.org.au/habitat/

Adrienne and Walt became part of the Koala

Safe Spaces program last year. With some state government funding, they are having bush regeneration works carried out at their place. Lantana removal and suitable native species are being planted to help restore the safe koala corridor. Neighbours on three sides have also signed up for the project, which will all help connect existing habitat in the Wootton area.

Express interest here if you would like to find out more:

midcoast2tops.org.au/latest-news/

Adrienne spotted a koala again this week in the same spot, and there have been a couple of sightings by friends in three spots along or near Ferny Creek Road.

Currently the males are moving around on the ground to search for females for mating season, so, it is especially important to restrain our dogs. Cattle have also been known to trample them. Planting some trees in our paddocks can both provide shelter for cattle and help koalas move safely through

the landscape. The bush fires of 5 or so years ago killed so much of our wildlife, protecting native forests has an immense flow on effect for the survival of all wildlife.

- Report any sightings of koalas here using this form:

<https://au.openforms.com/Form/e85dc7e7-2bc2-439d-8f55-969ca28b1539>

- Or download the iSpy Koala app from your app store.
- Contact Taree rescue service at www.koalasincare.org.au/

TRIBUTE TO LOCAL WOOTTON RESIDENT, JULIE (ERICA) WILLIAMS BY HER DAUGHTER, JENNIFER

I'd like to pay tribute to a wonderful woman and Wootton local of 26 years, Julie Williams. Julie and her devoted partner, Geoff live on the Avondale farm and held many a social gathering where all and sundry were welcome. My mother was a generous and caring woman who dedicated her life to her children, Jennifer and Eric, and her soulmate, Geoff. Julie absolutely doted on her 3 grandchildren, Jade, Adam and Cooper. Most of all, she loved the life she had with Geoff, and their countless pet rescues, dinners and laughs they shared together. What a blessing to share such a long union! Now my mum is at her eternal rest, laughing and loving once more with her beloved grandparents. Bless you mum for everything.



Works in progress for the **Wootton Creative Alliance's** show in Taree at the Manning Regional Art Gallery **23 January — 8 March, 2025**. The works from approximately 15 local artists will celebrate our community in the exhibition; 'PLACE'.

Pictured here top Paul Smith's woodcut painting looking north from his place, Kristin Coburn's 'Flooded Gums' painting, and Sylvie Artoon's 'Wootton Autumn Leaves' epoxy work.

SNEAK PEAK...



THE WOOTTON FIRE SERVICE

and surrounding brigades are all small country fire brigades. The members are well-trained and ready and willing to respond in the event of fires, however if we have a bad season the resources will be stretched and we will not be able to respond to every property with a tanker.

We are in the midst of the fire season. The spring has been very kind to us which has brought us mild conditions, considerable rain and a lot of new growth. This doesn't mean though the summer months will be equally kind.

It is therefore extremely important both your property and the people that either reside at or visit your property are well prepared.

The RFS website contains some brilliant resources including checklists to help you ensure your property and person are as well prepared for an approaching fire.

The main RFS website is www.rfs.nsw.gov.au which contains great information like Fire Danger rating, Fires in your area and application for Fire permits. There are two different plans and checklists in the event of a Bushfire, one for a bushfire survival and the other specific to a farm or rural property. They are as follows:

•BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL PLAN:

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/bush-fire-survival-plan

•FARM FIRE SAFETY:

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/farm-fire-safety

For information, or hard copies of the Bushfire safety plans, reach out to myself or any of the members at the Wootton RFS. We are all here to help and there is no substitute for diligent planning.

Both Plans are similar and have **3 simple steps**. They have some overlap so we will just drill down on the **FARM SAFETY PLAN**.

1. PREPARE YOUR PROPERTY AND TAKE ACTION

- a. Clear/ Slash
- b. Burn – at the correct time and with a Permit of course
- c. Plough
- d. Rotate your livestock to keep the vegetation down
- e. Prepare and maintain Fire Fighting equipment.

2. DISCUSS

- a. **When** will you leave – If you decide to stay only do so if you are well prepared.
- b. **Where** will you go – different Fire approach may require different locations
- c. **What** will you take.
- d. It's not in the checklist but important you decide **what you will do with your livestock**.

3. KNOW THE CONDITIONS

- a. Know and understand the **Fire Danger ratings**;
Moderate — Plan and prepare
High — Be ready to act
Extreme — Take action now to protect your life and property
Catastrophic — For your survival, leave bush fire risk areas
- b. **Harvest safety alerts** - Get your Grain Harvester Guide from your local Fire Control Centre.
- c. **Total Fire Bans** - Check the NSW Rural Fire Service website to stay up-to-date.
- d. Know the **Bush Fire alert** levels,

All the above information is on the RFS website including some detailed checklists which can be downloaded.

Mark Chilcote, Wootton RFS, 0447681831

DIRECTORY

WOOTTON DIRECTORY CONTAINS IMPORTANT LOCAL CONTACTS.
ALWAYS DIAL 000 FOR EMERGENCY

WOOTTON COMMUNITY NETWORK

President: Nicole Turnbull
Secretary: Andrew Holland
Treasurer: Leanne Wright 4997 7201
Email: info@wootton.org.au
Food Swap: Peter Dixon 047 8741111

WOOTTON CREATIVE ALLIANCE

wca@wootton.org.au

WOOTTON RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Captain: Adam Garnett 0428 272 629
Sen Dep Capt: Bernard Carran 0409 684177
www.facebook.com/woottonrfs

MIDCOAST FIRE CONTROL

Burnoff notifications 1300 643 262
(24hour prior notice)

KARUAH GREAT LAKES LANDCARE

greatlakes@midcoast2tops.org.au
Joel 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

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Andrew Holland 0416 002 532

JOIN THE WOOTTON COMMUNITY NETWORK

FOR ONLY \$20 ANNUALLY

As we are a not-for-profit organisation, your membership helps to maintain and improve facilities and services in the community.

Members also get **discounted access** to events throughout the year

ALL WELCOME! Visit the Website

www.wootton.org.au

or Direct Deposit to **Wootton Community Network Inc.** CBA Forster BSB 062669

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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

NEW ADVERTISERS WELCOME Contact Leanne @
treasurer@wootton.org.au