

# WOOTTON VALLEY NEWS

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2026

NO. 160

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WOOTTON COMMUNITY NETWORK INC.

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Arriving in letter boxes every second month.

# WELCOME TO 2026!

## WHAT'S ON?

DATE	TIME	EVENT
LAST SUN MONTHLY	5 PM	WOOTTON SUNDOWNERS In community grounds
TUES 10 FEB	10 AM-1 PM	WCN COMMITTEE MEETING IN COMMUNITY HALL ALL WELCOME
SAT 14 FEB		RFS SAUSAGE SIZZLE AT TAREE BUNNINGS
SAT 14 FEB	12 PM	WOOTTON FOOD SWAP IN SHELTER SHED/HALL PETER DIXON 0478 741 111
FRI 20 FEB	10 AM-12PM	WOOTTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY open in Community Hall.
FRI 20 FEB		PROPOSED RFS LADIES LUNCH HAS BEEN POSTPONED
TUES 10 MAR	10 AM	WCN COMMITTEE MEETING IN COMMUNITY HALL ALL WELCOME
SAT 14 MAR	12 PM	WOOTTON FOOD SWAP IN SHELTER SHED/HALL PETER DIXON 0478 741 111
THUR 15 MAR	10 AM	DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION WVN (161)
FRI 20 MAR	10 AM-12PM	WOOTTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY open in Community Hall
DATE TBC		TRIVIA NIGHT DETAILS WILL BE FORTHCOMING

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

KEEP UP TO DATE @ [WWW.WOOTTON.ORG.AU](http://WWW.WOOTTON.ORG.AU)

# WOOTTON COMMUNITY NETWORK

## WCN CHRISTMAS PARTY

Another great evening was had at the Wootton Community Centre on Saturday 29 November as 54 locals got together for our annual Wootton Christmas Party. Old friends caught up with each other and new friends were made by many. We were lucky to have a beautiful evening out on the grass, enjoying delicious grazing plates before feasting on delicious glazed ham (or salmon), fresh bread rolls and homemade salads. To top it off, desserts consisted of the famous lemon myrtle cheesecake, delicious trifles, pavlovas and traditional mince pies. Our thanks to these fabulous Wootton cooks who kindly supported the WCN in catering for the event: Shelley McIntyre, Cath Muscat, Ally Metcalfe and, of course, Julie Richardson. Simply amazing desserts!

Many lucky people won festive fare prizes, including a ham and turkey breast, in the raffle during the evening. Gabrielle Hartley was the lucky winner of a beautiful print by a new resident artist Leonie Barton, who very kindly donated her artwork as a prize. Thank you Leonie.

Next Christmas we hope to repeat the event with even more friends, more food and more Christmas joy! We look forward to seeing you there! **Join the WCN NOW so you don't miss out on any upcoming events! Memberships are due for 2026. See P7 for details.**



Left: Peter Auriac, Shelley McIntyre and Mike Coventry. Centre: Michael Dertesi, Nicole Hansbro, Linda Chilcote. Right: Ron and Wendy Rapee, Arjen Arnold, and Paul Smith.

FROM THE LIBRARIAN: PLEASE DO NOT TO LEAVE UNWANTED BOOKS OR TOYS AT THE HALL WITHOUT CHECKING FIRST. THEY ENCOURAGE ANIMALS TO NEST AND MAKE A MESS. HARSH CRTICS!

## WATER TANK UPDATE

In case you haven't noticed on your travels past the Community Centre, we now have 2 new fully-functioning water tanks, thanks to our successful 2025 Waterwise grant and network fundraising. The second slimline tank will provide water for the upkeep of the gardens and grounds generally. Thanks to Dave from Wootton Water and Excavation for his generous donation of a load of water! It is much appreciated.



## FUNdraiser

The **Coolongolook Public School P&C** was pleased to host a day at the Brush Turkey Café on Sunday, December 7. It was a great opportunity for the community to come together over a cuppa and cake, and for the P&C to raise some funds to support the school. Many thanks to all who helped out in the kitchen, and to the community for making the day a success.



(from left) Jen, Rebecca, Barbora, Josh, Jessica



(from left) Lily, Eden



Community customers: (from left) Robyn, Bill and Victoria and Peter and Alan



## Vale Beryl Evelyn Ede

WITH PERMISSION OF THE EDE FAMILY.

On 3rd December 2025, many past and present Wootton residents farewelled a prominent and much-loved member of our community, Beryl Ede, following her death on 19th November. It was standing room only at her funeral at Coolongolook Hall, as over 100 friends and relatives paid tribute to her remarkable life.

Beryl lived her life in Coolongolook and then Wootton, spending many years with her family on Wootton Way, on their dairy farm. Over her 95 years she witnessed many changes in lifestyles and world events, but she remained true to good old-fashioned values of love for her family, service to her community and her faith in God. She is survived by her 3 children, 11 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren.

Beryl Evelyn was born on 10th August 1930 in Nabitac to her parents Henry and Eva Gordon. She was one of 9 children, and grew up in Coolongolook, where she attended Coolongolook PS from the age of 9 years. She left school at 15 years to become a carer.

Beryl met and married the love of her life, Joe Ede, when she was 22 while still in Coolongolook, and they made their home in Curreeki, where the first two of their three children Brian and Bettie were born. The family ran a dairy farm and Beryl was very involved in farming and gardening. She particularly loved looking after the calves.

Later the family moved to The Pines, in Wootton, where Neil was born, before building their new red brick home along Wootton Way. Beryl's three kids attended Wootton Public School.

The Edes enjoyed many aspects of country life, and regularly did the circuit of old-time dances at halls in Wootton, Kramback and Coolongolook to name a few. Beryl also supported the family's school bus runs, driving buses which transported local children to Bulahdelah School.

Despite Joe dying in 1999, Beryl continued to actively pursue her favourite pastimes. With a huge community spirit, she supported the Coolongolook school, hall and general

community. She attended numerous bus trips for the ‘oldies’ ensuring they were well catered and cared for.

Beryl became a patron of Coolongolook PS, having taught sewing and cooking to students for over 50 years. Indeed, along with gardening, these were her passions in life, and she excelled in all of them, passing on her knowledge and skills to family and community alike.

At her funeral, Beryl was remembered for her strength of character, creativity, generosity, loyalty, community spirit and love for her family.

Anyone interested in viewing Beryl’s funeral service can do so by clicking this link <https://wthowardfunerals.com.au/live-streaming/client/?nid=2b275a5f-991a-4b07-bb33-22027b5137aa>

You can also read some recollections of Beryl’s life in ‘A chat with Beryl Ede’ on the Wootton website <https://www.wootton.org.au/documents/berylede.pdf>



# AN UPDATE OF ACTIVITY FOR 2025/JAN 2026 FROM RFS WOOTTON BRIGADE

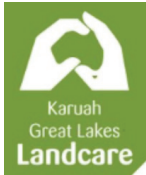
INCIDENT CATEGORY	
Bush/Grass Fire	20
Firecall	7
Not able to respond (members working/unavailable)	39
Motor vehicle accident/fire	20
Boat fire	2
Motor vehicle accident	10
Incident call	6
Structure Fire	4
TOTAL REQUESTS FOR HELP	108
OTHER CALL OUTS	
Taree Floods in May	6
Hazard reduction burns	1
Bulahdelah Fires	8
Nabiac Fires	3
TOTAL OTHER CALL OUTS	18

Many thanks to our volunteers of the Wootton RFS brigade for their efforts for our community over this busy period.

## CREATURE FEATURE:

Tree goanna or lace monitor (*Varanus varius*)

Perhaps you've had a visit during the warmer days of late from one of these goannas. This guy paid Carole Robinson a visit recently. This species is native the forests and coastal tablelands across the eastern Australia, and are often seen scurrying across Wootton Way or basking in the sun. As one of Australia's largest lizard species, they can grow to over 2 metres in length. They are powerful climbers and regularly prey on birds nesting in our familiar flooded gums and other large trees.



### WOOTTON & TOPI TOPI SUSTAINABLE FARMING GROUP

We are currently putting together a program of activities for 2026 that will commence when the weather is cooler. Details will be published in the April/May edition of this newsletter. Meanwhile please check Landcare (Midcoast2Tops) online for information about activities beyond our area. Everyone is welcome to attend. Watch this space! *Carole Robinson*

## DECEASED ESTATE GARAGE SALE

SATURDAY 14th & SUNDAY 15th FEBRUARY  
8AM to 4PM

6 RIVER STREET, BULAHDELAH

BRING YOUR CASH OR CARD TO GRAB A BARGAIN.

ITEMS INCLUDE: Bric-a-brac, kitchen goods,  
tools, fishing items, eskies, furniture, general  
collectables, jigsaws, books, records, gates, wire  
and much more!



# DIRECTORY

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

## WOOTTON COMMUNITY NETWORK

President: Nicole Turnbull  
Secretary: Andrew Holland  
Treasurer: Leanne Wright (02) 4997 7201  
Email: [info@wootton.org.au](mailto:info@wootton.org.au)  
Food Swap: Peter Dixon 0478 741 111  
Library: Carol Bridge on 0427 751 984

## WOOTTON CREATIVE ALLIANCE

[wca@wootton.org.au](mailto:wca@wootton.org.au)

## WOOTTON RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Captain: Adam Garnett 0428 272 629  
[www.facebook.com/woottonrfs](http://www.facebook.com/woottonrfs)

## MIDCOAST FIRE CONTROL

Burnoff notifications 1300 643 262  
(24 hour prior notice)

## KARUAH GREAT LAKES LANDCARE

[greatlakes@midcoast2tops.org.au](mailto:greatlakes@midcoast2tops.org.au)  
Joel Dunn 0401 932 533

## WOOTTON - TOPI TOPI SUSTAINABLE FARMING GROUP

Fred Fetherston 0427 461 101

**MIDCOAST COUNCIL:** (02) 6591 7222

**STATE FORESTS** Wauchope (02) 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, Fr 12-4pm, Sun 10am-2pm

## WOOTTON COMMUNITY HALL GROUNDS AND FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE TO HIRE FOR PRIVATE FUNCTIONS

Bookings—all facilities

Celebrating something special? Running a Course or a Market?

Andrew Holland 0416 002 532

## JOIN THE WOOTTON COMMUNITY NETWORK (WCN) FOR ONLY \$20 ANNUALLY ALL WELCOME!

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.

Visit the Website via the **QR CODE** OR [www.wootton.org.au](http://www.wootton.org.au)  
or Direct Deposit to **Wootton Community Network Inc.**

CBA Forster BSB 062669 Account No 10250496

**PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME**



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**\* PLUMBER**

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Craig Huggett—0410 655 920

**\* GENERAL**

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**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