WOOTTON VALLEY NEWS

AUTUMN EDITION

APRIL/MAY 2026
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Arriving in letter boxes every second month.

PHOTO BY CHRIS LAWTON ON UNSPLASH

SEASONAL CHANGE

'Autumn is a second spring where every leaf is a flower.' *Albert Camus*

Unlike the Western calendar of four seasons to a year, the Worimi, like other Aboriginal nations, followed a seasonal calendar based on the movement of animals and the blooming of plants.

April is the first month where a noticeable temperature change is observed.

The Worimi people utilise a cultural calendar based on direct observation of environmental cues - wind, sea/air temperature, stars and flora/fauna lifecycles - rather than fixed dates. Key indicators include the Gymea Lily flowering for whale migration, hairy grubs (Balay) signalling mullet (Biiwa) migration and specific winds guiding fishing.

However you delineate seasons, this is some information we have found for planting at this time of year. Plant your sweet peas in March/April for early blooms. They thrive in cool sunny and temperate conditions, requiring well drained fertile soil. Sow seeds directly in the garden or in pots.

For the Mid North Coast, autumn is ideal for planting heat-loving annuals and cool season flowers. Key choices include Pansies, Violas, Marigolds, Snapdragons, Dianthus and Petunias for bright colour. Also plant Salvia, Cosmos, Cineraria and Alyssum to establish before winter, ensuring vibrant, long lasting displays in the mild climate.

Autumn is the ideal time to plant native flowers as the soil remains warm from summer, allowing roots to establish before winter while be benefitting from reliable (humph!!! - not so much this year!!) seasonal rains! (cont'd page 3)

WHAT'S ON?

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS REMINDER: SET CLOCKS BACK AT 3AM ON SUNDAY 5 APRIL.

DATE	TIME	EVENT
SAT 11 APR	12 PM	WOOTTON FOOD SWAP IN SHELTER SHED/HALL PETER DIXON 0478 741 111
SAT 11 APR	1 - 3 PM	** NEW REGULAR EVENT: WOOTTON SOCIAL COMMUNITY HALL & GROUNDS SEE ARTICLE PAGE 5
TUES 14 APR	10 AM	WCN COMMITTEE MEETING IN COMMUNITY HALL ALL WELCOME
FRI 17 APR	10 AM- 12 PM	WOOTTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY OPEN IN COMMUNITY HALL
SUN 26 APR	5 PM	WOOTTON SUNDOWNERS IN COMMUNITY GROUNDS SEE WOOTTON FACEBOOK PAGES FOR UPDATES
FRI 1 MAY	8 PM	DEADLINE FOR GRAPHIC DESIGN SUBMISSIONS SEE ARTICLE PAGE 4
SAT 9 MAY	12 PM	WOOTTON FOOD SWAP IN SHELTER SHED/HALL PETER DIXON 0478 741 111
SAT 9 MAY	1-3 PM	WOOTTON SOCIAL COMMUNITY HALL & GROUNDS
TUES 12 MAY	10 AM	WCN COMMITTEE MEETING IN COMMUNITY HALL ALL WELCOME
FRI 15 MAY		DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION WVN (162)
FRI 15 MAY	10 AM	WOOTTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY OPEN IN COMMUNITY HALL
SAT 30 MAY	10 AM	** SPECIAL EVENT**WOOTTON'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA in Brush Turkey Café. All welcome!
SUN 31 MAY	5 PM	WOOTTON SUNDOWNERS IN COMMUNITY GROUNDS SEE WOOTTON FACEBOOK PAGES FOR UPDATES

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

(Cont'd from page 1) Here are top native flowers and plants to dig in for this time of year: Kangaroo paw, Grevillea, Banksia, Acacia, Native Fuchsia, Bottlebrush, Boronia.

Wildflowers and small plants: Paper daisies, Flannel Flowers, Native Violet, Bluebells, Waxflower

Vegetables to plant: Leafy greens (lettuce, spinach, kale), brassicas (broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage) and root vegetables (carrots, garlic, beetroot). Peas, broad beans and herbs like coriander and parsley also thrive.

STOCK UP ON FIREWOOD
AND ENJOY THE COOLER NIGHTS.
HAPPY AUTUMN

SATURDAY 14 MARCH TRIVIA NIGHT

32 people from Wootton and surrounds attended our first Trivia night for 2026. A fun night, which included nibbles, freshly carved leg ham, bread rolls, salads, and ice-creams, was had by all. Megan Kessler and Peter Dixon did their usual fabulous job of running the event. Over $500 was raised and will go towards the purchase of an updated stove for the café.

WINNING TABLE (Wootton Warriors) photo (below right) features Meg and Steve South, Pete Norman, Chris Kennedy, Nicolette Moore and Victoria Norman.

CAFÉ STAIRS FACELIFT

We would like to thank Mike Coventry and Ian Dobson for the restoration of the Kookaburras and replacing the posts at the front of the stairs. Mike put a lot of time and research into these wooden birds and, as with any wood work, Ian spent two days preparing and installing the posts made and donated by Eric Wilkes. So once again thanks to all of you for donating your time and expertise, and thanks to all the volunteers past and present who have given your time and energy to help maintain this beautiful space of ours.

SAVE THE DATE

Our **NEXT WORKING BEE** will be on **Sunday 19 July** from 9am, concluding with morning tea for our volunteers!
Further details regarding tasks to be completed will be in the June newsletter, and emailed to WCN members.

NEW 'WELCOME TO WOOTTON COMMUNITY CENTRE' SIGN (Expression of Interest)

We have removed the old Wootton Community Centre sign as it was in a terrible state of disrepair, and will be replacing it. As there are many artists in the area, we thought to put it out to the community for a potential graphic design for this sign. If you're interested in looking into this, please contact Victoria Norman for more information on 0416283318.

WVN Proof readers wanted!

If you have a keen eye for details, can spell competently and know your grammar, you're just what we need! The newsletter is in need of more proof readers to cast their eyes over the publication before it goes to print. If you're interested, please message Carol Bridge on 0427751984 or email cbridge2805@gmail.com for further information.

WOTTON RFS

As we move into Autumn our seasons are no longer predictable and unfortunately the threat of fires can escalate quickly. If your home / property isn't prepared, it can take as little as five minutes to make a plan.

Here are some basic maintenance tips to prepare your property:

- Clean your gutters of leaves and twigs
- Install metal gutter guards
- Repair damaged or missing tiles on the roof
- Install fine metal mesh screens on windows and doors

More useful tips can be accessed on the RFS NSW Website
https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/prepare-your-property

UPCOMING EVENTS

WOOTTON SOCIAL

A friendly monthly meetup at Wootton Community Hall. All ages, all welcome, whether or not you live in Wootton!

When: 2nd Saturday monthly, following Food Swap. First gathering: April 11, from 1.00 to 3pm

Bring a game, an activity, food to share, something you need help with or just yourself! Look out for our first Facebook post. We'd love to see you there.

Message Ged Crowley **0409 904 629**

WOOTTON'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA

This important event will be held this year at the Brush Turkey Café on **Saturday 30 May** from 10am. We're hoping that our generous community will again support this worthwhile fundraising cause. If you're a local artist, crafts person, gardener, cook or business owner who can donate an item to auction or raffle, we'd love to hear from you.

None of the above? Why not just grab some friends and come along to join in the fun with games, auctions and raffles (and enjoy a delicious morning tea) to help us reach our target of $4100 for the Cancer Council.

To donate, or book a table, please message Carol Bridge on 0427751984 or email cbridge2805@gmail.com. Further details will be emailed to WCN members in May, and posted on Wootton's Facebook pages. EVERYONE IS WELCOME – your invitation is in this newsletter! If you're unable to attend in person, use the QR code on the invitation on page 6 to donate directly to our Wootton event.

Australia's

Biggest Morning Tea

Every dollar raised helps support those impacted by cancer.

When: Saturday 30 May 2026

Where: Brush Turkey Cafe, 1633 Wootton Way, WOOTTON

Time: from 10am -12.30pm

Details: Join us for a fun-filled morning with raffles, games, auctions & lots of bargains, not to mention delicious morning tea treats!

To donate items or to book a table, please message Carol on 0427751984

Everyone is welcome. Hope to see you there!

biggestmorningtea.com.au

Cancer Council

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
Food Swap: Peter Dixon 0478 741 111
Library: Carol Bridge on 0427 751 984

WOOTTON RURAL FIRE BRIGADE
Captain: Adam Garnett 0428 272 629
www.facebook.com/woottonrfs

MIDCOAST FIRE CONTROL
Burnoff notifications 1300 643 262
(24 hour 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: (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

WCN

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
or Direct Deposit to **Wootton Community Network Inc.**
CBA Forster BSB 062669 Account No 10250496
PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK WOOTTON COMMUNITY AUSTRALIA

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DEBRA THOMSON PROPERTY

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✷ PLUMBER

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✷ TRANSPORT

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Craig Huggett—**0410 655 920**

✷ GENERAL

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Call Ryan Parker **0431 042 221**

BULAHDELAH POST OFFICE
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Bank@Post personal and business banking, passports, gift cards, phones, lotto and instant scratchies. **4997 4283**

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Website: https://woottonwande.com.au/

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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**