FRIDAY, 17TH APRIL
6PM START

WOORAGEE COMMUNITY FAMILY BBQ

Come & enjoy an evening with fellow members of the local community for a family friendly social BBQ & entertainment

Family Friendly Evening with Entertainment, Good Food & Great Company.

Music Entertainment Provided by New Community Member Marisa Quigley

Paddy Dewan to recite his own Poetry. Author of Children’s poetry book “Watermelon On My Plate”

Meat Provided
Please bring your own Drinks, Chairs & Salad to Share

Wooragee Landcare Group
Wooragee Centenary Hall
Beechworth-Wodonga Road
Wooragee

Contact: Karen Bowley
wlc.secretary@landcarevic.net.au
03 57287397

RSVP by April 10th
A rare Spot-tailed quoll has been seen at a Staghorn Flat property, a few kilometers from Baranduda, earlier this week.

The property owners, Russell and Kathy Cohalan, first thought their dogs were barking at a possum until they took a closer look at the animal perched up a tree.

The Spot-tailed quoll is a similar size to a domestic cat, and is easily recognisable by its distinctive white spots on the tail and body.

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Senior Biodiversity Officer, Glen Johnson, attended the property on the night of 3 March to confirm the species.

"This is a hugely significant record as there have been very few recent sightings in the North East," Mr Johnson said.

"Most sightings reported to the department are unfortunately from road kill incidents as the quoll is known to scavenge for dead animals putting themselves at risk."
The Wooragee Landcare Group was successful in securing funding to support the control and management of the noxious weed Gorse. The Victorian Gorse Taskforce Grant was aimed at assisting the Woolshed Area by providing assistance in the identification and management options available. This grant also enables the group to offer rebates to Landcare Group members for expenses incurred in the management of Gorse.

Gorse can be found growing in a wide range of soil types but ideally prefers low fertility, acidic soils. Infestations are generally located along roadsides, creek banks, neglected areas and marginal forests. Gorse competes with young trees and shrubs and hinders the growth of native understorey species. A long-term effect of the plant’s presence is that the soil becomes more acidic and loses nutrients.

Gorse is a major agriculture weed, invading all pasture types and significantly reducing grazing capacity. It has the ability to exclude all other plants and greatly hinders access to stock and waterways. Gorse is highly unpalatable to cattle and sheep and provides significant haven for rabbits, foxes, feral cats and mice.

Another major issue with Gorse is its highly flammable and creates a significant fire hazard. Given the current climatic conditions and fire fuel loads in this area controlling this weed is extremely important.

Through this grant Wooragee Landcare is able to offer support, information, education and facilitation of a control program designed for your property where they can fund up to 50% of necessary control methods.

The Wooragee Landcare is asking for any Landholders who would like assistance with their Gorse control to contact Cathryn Mahon.

If you require any further information or wish to be a part of this program please contact Cathryn Mahon on 0499 004 924 or email at cathryn@southerncrossvermin.com

Rare live quoll recorded near Baranduda continued....... 

The Spot-tailed is the largest of the four quoll species, and is also the largest remaining marsupial carnivore on mainland Australia.

"The Spot-tailed quolls hunt mostly at night being largely nocturnal and solitary, and will feed on medium-sized mammals including gliders, possum and rabbits as well as birds and eggs.

"This quoll was probably scouting around for rabbits or possibly even chooks in the estate.

"We know there are populations in larger forested country in the mountains, but this sighting demonstrates that there is still a small population around the Baranduda Range, Mt Stanley and Mt Pilot area.

"It is terrific that the Cohalans contacted Jo Mitlehner from the Staghorn Wildlife Shelter who recognised the likelihood of the spotted animal being the rare quoll and reported it to us.

"The animal has now moved on from their property."


Spot-tailed quolls are found in a range of forest environments, from rainforest to open woodland. They require forest with suitable den sites such as rock crevices, caves, hollow logs, burrows and tree hollows. They have a large home range and can cover more than six kilometers overnight. The spot-tailed quoll was once common throughout southeastern Australia, including Tasmania. However, since European settlement it has become rare across most of its range

(Source: http://www.environment.gov.au/)
Finally the rush of produce is slowing down after months of picking and preserving – we have had a very prolific summer harvest in our patch this year especially the sweetcorn, cucumbers, eggplants and capsicums! Tomatoes and beans were adequate but rather disappointing this year - I guess you can’t have a bumper crop with every planting. This week I have planted seedlings of broccoli, celery and Brussel sprouts and seeds of broccoli, cabbage (including Bok Choy), carrots (several rows to keep us going through until spring), beetroot, leeks, onions and broad beans, as well as a bed of garlic. Tatsoi, Mibuna, rocket, spinach and red onions will follow soon. Lettuces, parsley, fennel and coriander are self-sowing as well. So we should have plenty of variety to eat over the coming winter.

The key to a successful garden is the soil. This is the time of year to rejuvenate your soil. As each summer crop is removed, a plentiful layer of manure and compost is added and then each bed is covered with a thick layer of mulch – my favourite mulch is lucerne hay and autumn leaves – then and only then, your new crop can be planted.

Always keep in mind the correct rotation of crops when planning what to plant in a particular bed, never plant species from the same family consecutively. When preparing a bed for carrots, remember to use only a moderate amount of very well-rotted manure, too much fresh manure will cause the carrots to fork and split and your crop will be disappointing.

Vegies to Sow In April:

- **Winter Brassicas**
  Kale, cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli can be sown now. Brussels sprout seedlings sown earlier from seed can be transplanted into the vegie patch. Most brassicas take a while to mature, but are well worth the wait. The fastest maturing brassicas include Cabbage Sugarloaf, which can be harvested in 8-12 weeks and baby leaves of kale will be ready for picking in around 7 weeks.

- **Asian Greens**: Quicker to mature than traditional cabbages and cauliflower, there’s Wombok or Chinese cabbage, white stem Bok Choy, tatsoi and quick growing Chinese Broccoli.

- **Peas**: Sow peas directly into damp soil in the garden, then withhold water until you see green seedlings popping up. Peas like an alkaline soil, so apply some Lime prior to sowing. Sugar snap and Snow peas are delicious pod and all and will require a tripod of stakes to climb on.

- **Broad beans**: Sow your broad beans directly in the garden in rows or clumps, and keep them moist but not overly wet.

- **Winter Salads**: Some crisp, dark green slightly bitter salad leaves partner well with warming winter casseroles and pasta. Try tasty serrated leafed Mizuna and narrow dark green Mibuna which can be ready to harvest in just a few weeks from sowing. Repeat harvest regularly, the leaves have a mustardy flavour and taste best when young and tender.

- **Spinach**: This delicious and nutritious leafy green enjoys the cooler weather. The large dark green leaves mature in 8-10 weeks, but can be harvested when young for salads. Sow spinach seeds directly into the garden in clumps around 30cm – 40cm apart, then thin to the strongest seedlings in each group.

- **Leeks and Spring Onion**
  Perfect for warming winter soups, Leeks can be sown directly into the garden in drills or raised in trays and transplanted when 10 cm high. They take around 12-20 weeks to mature, so sow some versatile Spring Onions in between which will be ready around 8 weeks.
April In The Veggie Patch continued...

Tasks for this month

- The most critical task for this month is to collect any fallen fruit and to pick any damaged or mummified fruit from your trees. This is particularly important if you have had a problem with fruit fly or codling moth as it is very important to break the breeding cycle by removing these potential over-wintering harbours for these pests. Also don’t forget to collect any citrus fruits and the fruit from ornamental plants as these are also potential homes for pests if left to rot on the ground or trees.
- Watch young brassicas plants (broccoli, cabbage etc.) for signs of grubs from the cabbage moth – remove and squash regularly, spray with garlic spray if the attack is serious.
- Lift and store potatoes – place in cardboard boxes or cloth sacks in a cool (but frost free), dry area.
- Allow pumpkin stems to dry before picking and storing for future use
- Apply grease bands to apple trees (captures codling moth grubs as they move down into the soil for the winter).

Happy Gardening to all Mary.

Nest Box Checking for Threatened Species

Mar 21/22    Apr 18/19    May 16/17

Volunteers have a lot of fun seeing who’s at home in our 381 nest boxes.
And seeing the animals so close up is a very rewarding experience.
Giant Pumpkin Competition and Harvest Festival is on again! Saturday April 18th 2015

The 3rd Murmungee Giant Pumpkin Competition and Harvest Festival promises larger giant pumpkins, bigger crowds and masses of entertainment in 2015. Now taking its place among the featured events for the region, the festival is being held on Saturday 18th April. “We expect to beat the winning pumpkin of 109 kilos,” said Lyn Brown, a festival organiser.

In addition to the giant pumpkin and the prettiest pumpkin categories, a Pumpkin Pie competition has been added this year including demonstrations scheduled throughout the day in butchery, bike maintenance, plant propagation and horse preparation for show events.

“The upcoming 2015 festival is going to be huge! It really is an all-round family friendly day featuring fresh food, home grown produce, plants, crafts, activities, a silent auction, a local art display as well as a petting zoo, face painting and games for the kids,” says Maureen Rae excitedly, joint festival organiser. “No alcohol will be served or permitted on the day as it is a family friendly event.”

Held at the Bowmans-Murmungee Hall located at the corner of Bowmans Road (off Great Alpine road) and Murmungee Road (off Buckland Gap Road) all funds raised go to the local community including LinX2Home, a unique, intensive short term respite accommodation aimed at preventing young people from becoming homeless or entering care.

The event kicks off at 10.00am but Giant Pumpkins entering need to be delivered from 9am with the weigh in at 10am and judging done in two age groups, under 13 year olds and adults. Always a fun category receiving some creative designs, the Pretty Pumpkins and can be entered from 10am until 12 noon. Pumpkin Pies can be entered from 10am with judging held at 10.30am as slices will be served with morning tea.

So bring your families and your pumpkins along to the Giant Pumpkin Competition and Harvest Festival on the 18th of April, 2015 in Murmungee. It will be a great family day out with children’s activities, competitions and food galore!

For more information contact: Penny Showers 0408 033 344 or pennyshowers@hotmail.com

Recipe of the month
Healthy Snack Balls

1/2 cup honey
1/2 cup tahini
1/2 cup powdered soy milk (or any milk)
1/2 cup shredded coconut
1/2 cup sunflower seeds
1/2 cup chopped raisins

Put the honey and tahini into a saucepan and gently heat. Do not boil. Mix into a bowl the powdered milk, coconut, sunflower seeds and raisins. Pour the heated honey and tahini over the dry ingredients and mix well with a blunt knife. Form into little balls and chill.

They are delicious!

Do you have email available? Please consider getting this newsletter electronically. You will be saving the Landcare Group money and it will be more environmentally friendly. Send your email details to kbowley53@gmail.com
SAKG Menus:

Chinese Summer Salad, Vegie Pasties, Apple Sponge, Vegie Burgers, Parsnip & Ginger Soup, Indian Flat Bread, Tomato and Basil Risotto, Asian Cucumber Salad, Chicken Stir Fry and Fried Rice, Stewed apples, fruit sticks, Old Fashioned Short Crust Plum and Apple pies.

Master Class:

Tomato, Garlic and Basil Sauce Cucumber Relish.

Making Lavender Bags

1. After cutting all the lavender in the garden at the end of Summer, you put it inside a doona cover for a few weeks because a lot of the lavender will drop off the stem.

2. Strip the rest of the lavender.

3. You can shake it through a garden sieve to remove sticks, leaves and insect. (Kalum’s idea!)

4. Lastly, bag up the lavender into organza bags. They smell amazing!

Lavender bags are good for helping you to go to sleep and for keeping bugs away. We are selling them at the Easter Market on Monday April 6th 2015.

By Matilda Year 3

KITCHEN SKILLS

Rolling, kneading, dicing, julienning, chopping, blending, mixing, boiling simmering and baking.

Roll, roll, roll your pastry as nicely as you can!
Gardening Jobs:

Huge Butternut Pumpkin Harvest
We have over 53 butternut pumpkins ready to sell at the Easter Market. We still have lots and lots of butternuts that are not ready for harvesting yet. They are ready when they are yellow and the stems are a bit brown and dry. By Heath Year 3

The bait stations have been catching European wasps and fruit flies. This has saved our tomatoes and fruit crops. By Louis Year 2

Having Fun Thinning Out Carrots
We have been thinning out carrots which is a lot of fun because you get to eat the little ones you pull out. Owen is very patient and he does not eat the thinnings which leaves more for us!

NICE!
By Ned Year 1

Almost out of dirt
We have been planting our potatoes and that takes a lot of soil.
By Matilda & Belle Year 3

We are still harvesting a lot of produce to use in our kitchen program or send home!

Fresh Produce for Sale at Easter Monday Market
Wooragee grown pumpkins, lettuce, tomatoes, limes, silver beet, capsicums, limes, apples and more!
Wooragee Landcare Group Committee

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Vice President:
Graham Missen 03 5728 7262

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Professional legal services throughout the North East.

Do you have email available? Please consider getting this newsletter electronically. You will be saving the Landcare Group money and it will be more environmentally friendly. Send your email details to kbowley53@gmail.com
Membership Form
1st July 2015 to 30th June 2016

Annual Membership Fee:
$22 (GST inclusive) per Wooragee/Woolshed household per financial year: July 2015 – June 2016.
All membership fees are due by the 1st July 2015 due to insurance requirements.
Members must be financial before applying for subsidies or hiring group equipment.
Membership helps pay for the monthly newsletter and insurance against injury while carrying out Landcare related activities. In 2015/16, financial members will be eligible to participate in the free native tree and shrub giveaway.

Fill out the details below and Post to:
The Treasurer
Wooragee Landcare Group
PO Box 368
Beechworth, 3747

Payment can be by:
- Cheque made out to Wooragee Landcare Group
- Any branch of WAW Credit Union - Record your name with the deposit made out to Wooragee Landcare Group
- Direct Transfer to:
  BSB: 803 070
  Account Number: 24867
  Account Name: Wooragee Landcare
  Reference: YOUR SURNAME

You can arrange to make this an annual direct transfer so you never have to remember to pay again!
Receipts will be sent out shortly to all members who have paid.

WOORAGEE LANDCARE GROUP ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP 2015
Please remember to update your contact details if your email address has changed

Name: .................................................................
Address: .................................................................................................................................
Phone/s: .....................................................................................................................................
E-mail: .......................................................................................................................................
Property Name (if applicable): ..................................................................................................
Property location (locality/catchment): ....................................................................................
Amount Payable: $ 22.00

Donations made to the group over $2 are tax deductible
Donation can be made to the Wooragee Landcare Fund

PAYMENT BY:  CHEQUE ☐  WAW CREDIT UNION ☐  DIRECT TRANSFER ☐
Do you have an interesting story, web site or advertisement you would like to place in the Wooragee Landcare Newsletter?

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Due to the rising costs of printing and postage the Wooragee Landcare Community Newsletter will be sent 4 times a year to all Non-Landcare members in Wooragee and Woolshed that currently receive the newsletter via the post.