**Event Calendar**

**Wednesday 17th February 2016**, Neighbourhood Watch meeting, Wooragee Centenary Hall, 7.00pm.


**Tuesday 12th April 2016**, Wooragee Landcare Meeting, Wooragee Hall, Wooragee, 7.30pm

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**6TH MARCH 2016**

**REID'S WAY RESERVE**

Reid's Way Wooragee - Follow the signs

**Time: 10am to 11am**

Followed by morning tea

**What to bring:** Gloves, covered shoes, water bottle

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Do you have email available? Please consider getting this newsletter electronically. You will be more environmentally friendly
GORSE CONTROL REBATE AVAILABLE - The Wooragee Landcare Group was successful in securing funding to support the control and management of the noxious weed Gorse. This grant enables the group to offer rebates to Landcare Group members for expenses incurred in the management of Gorse. 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. Wooragee Landcare is asking for any Landholders who would like assistance with 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 cathryn@southerncrossvermin.com

RABBIT CONTROL - PHOSTOXIN AVAILABLE

The group has some canisters of Phostoxin available to group members FREE for the control of rabbits and fox dens. Now is the ideal time to fumigate rabbit warrens with numbers starting to increase again. I have been seeing many young rabbits around lately and it will not be long before these are producing litters as well.

To arrange collection of the Phostoxin contact Cathryn Mahon on 0499 004 924 or email cathryn@southerncrossvermin.com

* All fumigants are Schedule 7 poisons therefore an Agricultural Chemical Users Permit (ACUP) is required to purchase them. Schedule 7 poisons can only be used by holder of an ACUP or under the direct supervision of an ACUP holder.

Wooragee Landcare Group Committee

President: Cathryn Mahon 0499 004 924
Vice President: Terry Shipway 0427 251 910
Secretary: Karen Bowley 03 5728 7397
wlc.secretary@landcarevic.net.au
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Ray Henderson 03 5728 7222
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Mary Prowse 03 5728 7313
Jerry Alexander 0427 352 837
Maureen Cooper 03 5728 1311
Sue Brunskill 0427 287 285
Terry Hayes 03 5728 2228
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Collecting firewood locally

Adapted from Albury Wodonga Parklands Association with permission—Posted: 15 October 2015

It’ll soon be time to sharpen up the chainsaw and go hunting for your winter's firewood supply! Firewood collecting can be a great family recreation activity, and many people feel they are doing a good service by 'cleaning up' the bush and reducing the fire hazard. However, our local councils all have strict rules about when, where and under what circumstances you can collect your own firewood:

- The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) allows firewood collection, from designated areas only, during two statewide firewood seasons: autumn season (1 March to 30 June), spring season (1 September to 30 November) Go to www.delwp.vic.gov.au/firewood to find out where wood can be taken from this season.
- Indigo Shire Council requires a permit for roadside firewood collection, depending on the safety and conservation aspects of each location — there are no "blanket collection areas" on local roads. Phone Jenny Pena 03 5728 8000
- Wodonga Council may allow collection of fallen timber, but you must apply for a permit specifying exactly which timber you will be taking. Phone 02 6022 9300
- Vicroads currently does not allow firewood collection from any major roadsides.

So why has firewood collection become so strictly controlled?

Simply put, people collecting firewood means birds and animals losing their food and homes, and around towns and cities in rural Victoria this is causing major problems for our wildlife. Currently, at least 17 animals and 20 bird species are are threatened by firewood collection from roadsides, native forests and woodlands.

In one way or another, removing fallen or standing timber also removes habitat. Fallen timber would normally rot where it lies, and many insect species depend on this wood for their survival. They in turn are part of complex food webs for reptiles, birds and animals. A number of small mammal species rely on fallen wood for shelter, with the associated cracks and crevices and adjacent leaf litter providing a rich source of insect food. Fallen wood provides shelter and basking sites for snakes and lizards and refuge sites for frogs.

Standing dead trees, especially those with hollows, are vital to healthy ecosystems, providing perching roosts and often the only suitable places for birds and animals like possums and gliders to nest.

Adding insult to injury for wildlife, firewood collection can actually increase the damage caused by bushfire, by creating concentrations of small fuel while removing the larger logs which would act as shelter in a bushfire.

So, before you get out that chainsaw, check that your planned outing is legal, and share a thought for those others also relying on the wood!
February in the Vegie Patch by Mary Prowse

January was certainly kind to the garden – such lovely rain! We are currently enjoying a bonus crop from our strawberries and raspberries, thanks to the weatherman for that! Even the most time-poor gardeners should consider planting some strawberries and raspberry plants – that amazing, incomparable burst of flavour that you get from a freshly picked berry is the greatest incentive to growing your own fruit and vegetables. This is the time of year to begin planning and preparing for new plantings of berries and fruit trees.

- Careful choice of a sunny, well drained area of your garden is the first step to successful cultivation of these plants. If planning for raspberries, some consideration needs to be given to limiting the spread of these enthusiastic plants!
- Begin by digging the area carefully and then adding plenty of compost and well-rotted manure to improve the soil. As these plants will be in the same position for years, initial removal of perennial weeds such as couch, kikuyu and sorrel is critical for long term success. Solarising the area by covering with black plastic or corrugated iron for 2-3 weeks is an effective, labour-saving method of achieving this.
- Keep your new bed well-covered with mulch until you are ready to plant out your new plants. This will ensure that the soil stays cool, moist and free of weeds.
- Always check the pH requirements of these plants and test your soil for a match – adjust as necessary. Soil pH testing kits are available at most nurseries and hardware shops and are an important tool when establishing a new garden.
- Strawberry runners and raspberry canes can be planted out in May whilst bare-rooted fruit trees are generally planted in July and August in our area. Blue berries, blackberries (the cultivated types), loganberries and young berries can be treated the same way as raspberries.

This month plant seeds of: beans*, beetroot*, broccoli, Brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, carrot*, kohlrabi, leek*, lettuce, spring onions*, early white onions, parsnip*, radish*, shallots, silver beet, spinach, swede*, rocket*, turnip* as well as the Chinese green*s such as bok choi, mizuna, mizuna. *These seeds are best planted directly into the garden, others should be sown in containers for transplanting later or use purchased seedlings.

Plant seedlings of: broccoli, Brussel sprouts, cauliflower, celery, leek, lettuce, spring onions, silver beet.

The to-do list

- Water and weed your garden as required. Pick crops regularly
- Enrich soils with lime and organic matter before sowing broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and Brussel sprout seedlings. It is always important to replenish your soil before planting new crops, especially gross feeders such as these type of plants.
- Lettuces must be grown quickly to stay crisp and juicy. Feed with liquid manure every 10-14 days.
- Pick silver beet regularly leaving 4-5 leaves at the centre for quick regrowth.
- Pinch out the growing tips of runner beans once they reach the top of their support. Pick beans regularly.
- Thin vegetables sown earlier before they are large enough to compete with each other.
- When planting beetroot seeds water them in with a solution of 1 dessertspoon of Borax (available from most grocers and hardware shops) to 5 litres of water. This provides the emerging seedling with an essential dose of boron – something that is in very short supply in the soils around Wooragee – and will result in bigger, better and sweeter beetroot globes. My favourite variety of beetroot is Bull’s blood.
- Continue to tie up tomatoes to their stakes as they grow. Harvest regularly.

Continued page 5
Harvest herbs regularly and keep trimming off flowers as they appear. Don’t let the leaves get too old. Excess leaves of basil, coriander etc. can be chopped, placed in ice-cube trays, covered with water, frozen and then transferred to plastic bags or other containers for a ready supply over winter,

Lift shallots, onions etc. and hang to dry out of the sunlight before storing.

Thin apples, persimmons and pears

Tidy up summer-flowering strawberries that have finished fruiting. Cut off old leaves and unwanted runners, control weeds, feed and top up mulch

Top up existing mulches that have rotted down over the past months.

Happy gardening Mary

MONTHLY DATA FOR WOORAGE

Total Monthly Precipitation (mm)

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Average in all years from 2014

| 44.9 | 41.0 | 53.4 | 55.7 | 76.3 | 90.8 | 95.8 | 90.6 | 77.7 | 78.1 | 55.8 | 51.9 | 812.0 |
Next Gathering: Wednesday 17th February 2016
Venue: Wooragee Centenary Hall
Time: 7.00pm
Contacts: Tess Lucas (03)5728-7257 or Pauline Carson (03)5728-7264

As usual we will be having our BYO BBQ meal which is a great opportunity to get together with your neighbours in a relaxed, social gathering. The arrangements are BYO meat, something to drink and a salad &/or dessert to share.

Police Report

Once again there is no crime to report for Wooragee but of course there has been quite a lot of drama in Beechworth with the arson attack on the IGA Supermarket in mid January. This has been a real challenge for the community including Wooragee but the latest news is that a “pop-up” Supermarket will soon be up and running in the plumbing supplies store in Harper Avenue and a liquor outlet nearby in the old Library. Construction of a new supermarket

North East Local Produce Guide – Register now!
Local farmers and retailers of fresh produce grown in North East Victoria and the Albury area are invited to register their business for inclusion in the upcoming 2nd edition of the North East Local Produce Guide. The first edition of the Guide, launched by ABC’s Costa Geogiadis in October 2014, has been so popular it is almost out of print!

The Guide aims to make it easy for local people to source locally-grown food – thus supporting our local farmers, boosting our local economy, reducing carbon emissions and nurturing community connections.

The Guide is supported with funding from the Australian Government’s National Landcare Programme, hence business listings in the Guide are FREE.

Find out all the details and register online by 14th March 2016 at: www.nelocalproduce.com.au
We are back!

Although it was only the second day of school we ran our world famous kitchen program and everyone was excited to be back in the kitchen creating delicious meals from our garden. Everyone remembered their jobs and lunch was delicious!

Aren’t Summer Crops Fantastic?

We learnt how delicious our home grown produce is including; our big beautiful tomatoes, crunchy lettuces, sweet apple cucumbers, and perfect carrots. The herbs are growing well and we use a variety of them to make different salad dressings. We love guessing what the salad makers have put in the dressing!

We hand grated eight huge zucchinis and lots of brown onions to make our zucchini slice. The onions were very strong and a lot of people had tears even though they were not doing the grating. We think we will buy an attachment for our Kitchenaid to do the big grating jobs!

Our Menu

Zucchini Slice, Rissoles, Wooragee Salad Fruit & Veg Platters

and to celebrate Australia Day—Lamingtons
WOORAGEE PRIMARY SCHOOL
JUNIOR LANDCARE GARDEN Report February 2016

Bubbles Comes to School
Rosie and Daisy’s pet piglet Bubbles came to school for the day. She loved being in our chicken coop and even had a swim in her bath. Bubbles ate all the vegie and fruit scraps with no problem at all. Now we are thinking of a way we can get a pig for the school.

Sunny Sun Flowers
We are happy to see the sun flower seeds we planted before Christmas have grown into beautiful plants while we have been on holidays. Our olives and grapes have developed fruit too. Lots of the trees in the orchard have fruit and the pumpkins are growing nicely too.

We have had a lot of summer rain and it has been the coldest start to the school year since Chris started teaching last century! We got 30mm of rain on the first day of school and 28 mm of rain on February 1st.

Our carrots have grown a lot since we replanted them (due to rabbits eating them!). They are ready for thinning out and eating now the netting has kept the bunnies away.
To celebrate the beauty of North East Victoria and Wooragee in particular Wooragee Landcare would like to invite adults, primary and secondary students to participate in a photographic competition.

Separate sections for primary school, secondary school and adult competitors

- Landscape  •  Biodiversity (Flora and Fauna)  •  Human Interest
  
  Human Interest: Photos of farming, people enjoying the outdoors etc

A SPECIAL PRIZE FOR PHOTOS TAKEN IN THE Wooragee VALLEY

PRIZE MONEY EACH SECTION
  First $100.00  Second $75.00  Third $50.00

Entries close 15th August 2016  -  Entry Fee $2.00 per photo
  Winners announced September 2016

For further information contact Maureen Cooper
Email: brigadoon.99@bigpond.com Ph 03 5728 1311
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.