



Rural killing fields

SHOOTINGS: Marulan road likened to Sydney suburb

By LOUISE THROWER

A DISTRICT resident has compared Winfarthing Rd to a "dysfunctional Sydney suburb," following more shootings in the area.

A vacant house under renovation was destroyed with over 100 shots fired into windows and walls last Friday along with 15 cars parked on the Marulan property, some 2.5km along the road, a resident told the *Post*.

Rear shed contents, including a hot water system were also targeted.

Nicole Smiles, who owns the adjoining property, had two pet sheep shot around the same time - 9.30am to 10am last Friday.

"One would come right up to me. It was beautiful," Ms Smiles said.

"It was shot through the head."

She's struggling to explain to her four children, all under-16, why someone would do such a thing.

Ms Smiles said her children were petrified, could not sleep and only went back to school yesterday.

"The way I feel, they've shot my four children," she told the *Post*.



SOME GOOD NEWS: Samantha, Dylan, Tyler and Matthew Smiles with their new pet lambs Whistler, Cardigan and Timmy, which were donated to them by Crookwell's Donna McCormack after two of their beloved sheep were shot last Friday. Photo: Tom Sebo.

"Whoever is doing it has no brain."

She was at home with her five-year-old son at the time but did not hear the shots above music playing.

Her father made the "gruesome discovery" the following Sunday, after a five-minute walk at the rear of the house.

Ms Smiles suspects the offenders had some guilt as they dragged one sheep into the bush and covered it with sticks and put the other down a wombat

hole. Police have not confirmed either incident.

They came just four days after four horses were shot on Jim Webb's family property, also on Winfarthing Rd, some 20km north of Goulburn.

Inspector John Sheehan told the *Post* two bullets each were fired into a granny flat and a garage on a Winfarthing Rd property in a separate shooting sometime between July 14 and July 31.

The perpetrator/s had unsuccessfully tried to break into the

house beforehand by kicking a door.

The shots struck a metal wall and a window at the side of the granny flat.

No-one was home at the time and unlike previous acts, no horses or other animals were shot.

Inspector Sheehan said police were continuing their investigations and appealed for public help.

However residents said the latest shooting occurred earlier this week while the owner was away.

"One comment made was that the road is becoming like a dysfunctional suburb of Sydney," Mr Webb said.

"The actions that are going on are out of control and whoever is doing it is out of control."

Mr Webb believed the crimes started with his property and was appalled they continued even after articles appeared in the *Goulburn Post*.

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