



WOLLOMBI SCHOOL NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2024

JOHN NEWCOMBE AO OBE PATRON WSCC

John David Newcombe AO OBE is a longtime resident of the Wollombi Valley and has been a fantastic supporter of the Wollombi School since 2014

John and Angie Newcombe have also been generous supporters of the Wollombi Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade over many years

John has graciously accepted the invitation to be Patron of the Wollombi School Community Centre Inc.

- John is an Australian former professional tennis player. He is one of the few men to have attained a world No.1 ranking both singles and doubles. At the majors, he won seven singles titles, a former record 17 men's doubles titles, and two mixed doubles titles. He also contributed to five Davis Cup titles for Australia
- John Newcombe served as chairman of the International Tennis Players Association which formed in 1969. He served as president of the Association of Tennis Professionals in 1977 and 1978. John was captain of the Australian Davis Cup Team from 1995 until 2000.
- John Newcombe was appointed Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in "for service to the community, particularly to youth and to those with physical disabilities".
- John has been appointed an Australian Living Treasure.
- The Newcombe Medal, awarded yearly to the most outstanding Australian tennis player, is named in honour of his tennis achievements.

YARRAMALONG SCHOOL COMMUNITY CENTRE

- The Yarramalong Public School was decommissioned in 2008 as a NSW Department of Education Public School (Wollombi School in 2014).
- The NSW Government in 2013 rededicated the land use from 'Public Education' to 'Community Use' and appointed the Yarramalong School Community Centre Inc as the land manager of the Reserve Crown Land containing the former Yarramalong Public School buildings and grounds.
- The Yarramalong School Community Centre was formed in 2009 after classes finished at the Yarramalong Public School. It is a not-for-profit, community managed registered organisation and manages the buildings and land for community purposes. YSCC also has a lease arrangement with Barker College, in partnership with the Darkinjung Aboriginal Land Council, to provide a primary school for local indigenous children. A similar relationship exists with Barker at the Wollombi School.

Wollombi School Community Centre is asking the NSW Government to apply the same arrangements to Wollombi that exist at the Yarramalong School.

WOLLOMBI SCHOOL ARTS CENTRE

- **The October WSCC Committee meeting formally adopted the proposal that the Wollombi School Community Arts Centre is an activity of WSCC**
- **A condition of use will be that all studio users will be members of the Wollombi School Community Centre [\$10 per year]**
- **The Wollombi School Arts Centre will be open to use on days other than Tuesdays and Thursdays for everyone in the Wollombi Valley who apply to use the space for creative activities**
- **Studio users of the Wollombi School Arts Centre will be consulted on proposed OPERATING PROCEDURES with final decisions made at the November Committee meeting**
- **WSCC will advertise for persons or groups to use the Studio according to a seven day a week Roster**
- **No hire fees will apply to studio users**
- **Studio Users will be expected to contribute to WSCC fundraising by participating as volunteers at the Wollombi Easter Market**



SUBMISSION TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

Tuesday 3 September 2024

Hon. Prue Car

Deputy Premier

Minister for Education and Early Learning

WOLLOMBI PUBLIC SCHOOL

Dear Minister

The Wollombi Public School was decommissioned as a public school by the Department of Education in 2014 and since that time the Department has leased the school and grounds to a community not for profit organisation for community use.

The current Lease and Sub License nominally conclude on the 23rd of December 2024

This submission is a genuine attempt by the residents of the Wollombi Valley to reach an agreement with the New South Wales Government enabling the Wollombi School to continue to be managed into the future by the not for profit community led organisation.

It is our request that the Department of Education transfer the land and buildings to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure and that the land title be transferred to a Reserve Crown Land status with the gazetted purpose of the land changed from 'Public Education' to 'Community Use'. It is also proposed that the Wollombi School Community Centre after transfer be nominated as the 'Land Manager' in accordance with the Crown Lands Act.

We would also seek agreement for the current Lease and Sublicence to continue in their current provisions after the 23 December 2024 until a decision is made on the proposal to move to a Crown Reserve title at which time new management and lease arrangements can be finalised by the relevant parties.

Attached is a '**BACKGROUND and REASONS IN SUPPORT**' document [3 September 2024] WSCC has written in connection with this request.

With very best regards **Michael Fleming Committee Member**

For and on behalf of the Wollombi School Community Centre Inc.

WOLLOMBI SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING 8TH OCTOBER 2024

The Committee decided to: Develop a WSCC FINANCIAL MODEL

The WSCC Committee meeting on 8 October 2024 considered the task of developing a WSCC Financial Model that would provide ongoing and sustainable finance.

It was resolved that:

- A **Wollombi School Finance Sub Committee** is established in accordance with rule 20 of the WSCC Constitution
- The development of a WSCC Financial Model is a matter of urgency and priority
- The terms of reference of the Finance Sub Committee shall be to develop and draft proposals for a WSCC Financial Model and such proposals shall be placed before the WSCC Committee for approval and action
- The Finance Subcommittee shall be chaired by the WSCC President or in the absence of the President a member appointed by the President
- The WSCC Treasurer shall be a member of the subcommittee together with WSCC Committee members who nominate themselves to be members
- The Finance Subcommittee has the authority to invite advisors to be attend
- The Finance Subcommittee shall consult with Wollombi Valley community organisations as it sees fit with the aim of developing proposals for joint fundraising activities.

A copy of the WSCC October Meeting Minutes plus Agenda for the next meeting will be sent to financial members prior to the November meeting

PLEASE GET INVOLVED IN THE EXCITING WSCC PROGRAM

Contributions and feedback to the WSCC Newsletter welcome.
Email to: newsletter@wollombischool.com.au

**NEXT Wollombi School Community Centre Committee monthly meeting will be held at the Wollombi School commencing:
2pm Tuesday 12 November 2024 EVERYONE WELCOME**

HOW TO CONTACT THE WOLLOMBI SCHOOL COMMUNITY CENTRE: BY EMAIL IS PREFERRED

SECRETARY: secretary@wollombischool.com.au

PRESIDENT: president@wollombischool.com.au

PROFILE: WSCC SECRETARY

DAVID BROWN

Resident of the Wollombi Valley for over 33 years
Former Teacher, retired University/TAFE/CES administrator.
Dave's son and daughter attended the Wollombi Public School
and a granddaughter is currently attending Ngarralingayil Barker.

Dave has been described as: “ex home dad, mudbricker, Bridge fanatic,
tragic Knights supporter, dishwasher [ex Brunos], writer, family historian,
photographer, grandfather extraordinaire, global boiling worry wort, etc etc”

A true friend to many in the Wollombi Valley the very much appreciated WSCC
Secretary has over the past two years organised what was a chaotic WS administration
into the streamlined and efficient system it is today.



Dave is the unsung backbone hero
of the Wollombi School Committee and volunteers on average two to three days per
week to WSCC activities....AN AMAZING PERSON.....

The wellbeing of the residents and visitors to the Wollombi Valley community is
considerably enriched due to his selfless and generous efforts.

Thank you Dave.

17 July 2024

Ms Lesley Tyler
President
Wollombi School Community Education Trust

Dear Lesley, *Lesley,*

Thank for your time and willingness to share the initiatives the Wollombi School Community Education Trust and Future Directions Workforce committee have prepared.

I have read the proposal dated 30 May, which I understand has taken considerable effort to prepare and has been circulated within the community. The key elements being:

- An update of the committee's name to Wollombi School Community Centre
- A renewal of the committee's constitution
- Collaboration with local emergency agencies to utilise the site as a Resilience and Relief centre during critical incidents in the valley
- Pursuance of a transfer of land tenure from Department of Education to Department of Infrastructure to ensure long term retention of the site as a community asset
- Suggestion of extension of your lease for 2 years beyond 23 December 2024 to facilitate that transfer.

As discussed, the Barker community remains wholeheartedly committed to the education of First Nations students. Our vision of providing culturally safe, on-country education, to lay the foundations for our students to become lifelong learners is unwavering. The support of WSCET to provide this opportunity at Wollombi is greatly appreciated.

I support the initiatives proposed by the committee and wish you much success as you navigate this new era.

Yours sincerely,



Phillip Heath AM
Head of Barker College

Best wishes!



WOLLOMBI SCHOOL RELIEF AND RESILIENCE CENTRE

MISSION STATEMENT:

To establish and maintain a Community Relief and Resilience Centre where the Wollombi Valley community may find support and practical assistance during times of fire, flood or other adverse events

BACKGROUND BRIEFING:

2024 - 2025 FIRE SEASON

EMERGENCY INFORMATION



TO REPORT A FIRE EMERGENCY

- **CALL TRIPLE ZERO (000)**
- **IF YOU ARE DEAF OR HAVE A SPEECH OR HEARING IMPAIRMENT CALL 106**

FOR INFORMATION ON FIRES

- **CHECK HAZARDS NEAR ME FOR CURRENT INCIDENTS**
- **FACEBOOK : WOLLOMBI VALLEY FIRE AND FLOOD**
- **LISTEN TO RADIO: ABC NEWCASTLE AM 1233**
- **BUSH FIRE INFORMATION LINE - 1800 679 737**

- **IF YOU ARE DEAF, HARD OF HEARING OR HAVE A SPEECH IMPAIRMENT, CONTACT RFS THROUGH THE NATIONAL RELAY SERVICE**
 - **TTY USERS PHONE 1800 555 677 THEN ASK FOR 1800 679 737**
 - **SPEAK AND LISTEN USERS PHONE 1800 555 727 THEN ASK FOR 1800 679 737**

WHAT TO DO DURING A FIRE

REMEMBER

- **FOLLOW YOUR BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL PLAN.**
- **IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A BUSH FIRE SURVIVAL PLAN, ENSURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WILL DO BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE FIRE.**
- **REMEMBER – LEAVING EARLY IS YOUR SAFEST OPTION.**

BEFORE THE FIRE

- **PUT ON YOUR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING**
- **TURN ON THE RADIO TO KEEP YOURSELF INFORMED**
- **BRING PETS INSIDE AND KEEP THEM IN ONE ROOM**
- **CLOSE ALL WINDOWS AND DOORS**
- **BLOCK SPACES BENEATH DOORS AND WINDOWS WITH WET TOWELS**
- **FILL BUCKETS, SINKS AND BATH TUBS WITH WATER READY TO PUT OUT SPOT FIRES**
- **HAVE YOUR FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT LIKE PUMPS AND HOSES CONNECTED TO YOUR WATER SUPPLY**
- **BLOCK DOWNPIPES AND FILL GUTTERS WITH WATER**
- **REMOVE ITEMS WHICH CAN BURN FROM AROUND YOUR HOME LIKE OUTDOOR FURNITURE**
- **BRING LADDERS INSIDE TO CHECK ROOF SPACE FOR EMBERS**
- **PATROL THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR HOME PUTTING OUT ANY EMBERS OR SPOT FIRES**

- **JUST BEFORE THE FIRE ARRIVES, WET DOWN TIMBER DECKS AND GARDENS CLOSE TO THE HOUSE**
- **MOVE ANY FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT TO A PLACE WHERE IT WILL NOT GET BURNT**

DURING THE FIRE

- **GO INSIDE BUT STAY ALERT**
- **SHELTER IN A ROOM ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE HOUSE FROM THE APPROACHING FIRE AND ONE THAT HAS A CLEAR EXIT OUT OF THE HOUSE**
- **PATROL INSIDE THE HOUSE, INCLUDING THE ROOF SPACE LOOKING FOR SPARKS AND EMBERS**
- **PROTECT YOURSELF FROM THE HEAT OF THE FIRE**
- **IF YOUR LIFE IS AT RISK, CALL TRIPLE ZERO (000)**

ONCE THE FIRE HAS PASSED

- **CHECK YOUR ROOF SPACES**
- **GO OUTSIDE AND PUT OUT ANY PART OF YOUR HOUSE WHICH IS ALIGHT**
- **CHECK UNDER THE HOUSE AND ANY DECKS**
- **CHECK ON YOUR PETS AND ANIMALS**

- **EMBERS OR SPARKS CAN START SPOT FIRES FOR MANY HOURS AFTER THE FIRE HAS PASSED**

- **IF YOU CAN, CONTACT YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND CHECK ON YOUR NEIGHBOURS**

REFERENCES: RFS AND WSCC

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