



WSCC AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER

INTRODUCING THE WOLLOMBI SCHOOL COMMUNITY CENTRE INC

Wollombi School Community Centre Incorporated [WSCC] is a registered not for profit community organisation with no employees that is managed by a volunteer member Committee elected by members at the Annual General Meeting. Finances come from community based fundraising.

With the decommissioning of Wollombi Public School in 2014, the P&C Association together with the Save Our School Wollombi Committee formed what is today known as the Wollombi School Community Centre.

WSCC intends to honour the intention of the original provisioning of land for the Wollombi Public School over 162 years ago which was for the wellbeing of the Wollombi community.

WSCC holds a lease with the NSW Department of Education and a Sub License with Barker College to enable the establishment of Ngarralingayil Barker, a school for primary school aged Indigenous children from the Cessnock LGA.

Hunter Mobile Pre School also operates at the Wollombi School.

The Wollombi School buildings and grounds are used for community use and events. There is available a functioning Arts Centre.

The Wollombi School Community Centre intends to make representations to the New South Wales Government to replace the current five year lease arrangement with a more stable long term Crown Land designation with the land use purpose changed to *Community Use*.

The sandstone buildings of the Wollombi School are heritage listed. Maintenance is a major consideration. The Wollombi School considerably adds to the Wollombi experience for residents and visitors to the unique Wollombi Valley.

The **OBJECTIVES** of the **Wollombi School Community Centre** are:

- (a) To keep the Wollombi Public School in public ownership for use as a Community Centre
- (b) To manage, maintain and preserve the grounds and heritage listed buildings of the former Wollombi School
- (c) To facilitate activities which promote social contact and connection among members of the Wollombi Valley community
- (d) To promote educational, arts and cultural activities for the benefit of the Wollombi Valley Community
- (e) To encourage activities that promote the health and well-being of the Wollombi Valley Community
- (f) 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
- (g) To engage in fundraising activities designed to support and enhance the Association's ability to achieve these objectives including continuing as the Market Operator of the Easter Wollombi Market
- (h) To work in collaboration with other Wollombi Valley community groups

WOLLOMBI SCHOOL 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 28 July and was well attended. The AGM MINUTES have been sent to financial members.

The AGM considered Special Resolutions previously circulated to financial members and passed UNANIMOUS decisions including:

- Changing the name to **Wollombi School Community Centre Inc**
- Adopting a **new CONSTITUTION** that complies with the current Fair Trading Model Constitution for registered organisations.
- Approved the report from the **Future Directions Task Force**
- Approved and adopted as a forward pathway the **Wollombi School Future Directions CONCEPT PAPER**
- Conducted ELECTIONS for Office Holders and Committee members
- Adopted the annual financial report

- Approved the creation of the:

WOLLOMBI SCHOOL RELIEF AND RESILIENCE CENTRE

“This 2024 annual general meeting ...

HEREBY AUTHORISES the committee to:

- expand Wollombi School activities and progress into the **Wollombi School Community Centre** with a wider community centred capability including expanded community education and arts studio activities with Relief and Resilience Centre options.
- Provide the use of the Wollombi School grounds/land/buildings as and when requested as a RELIEF and RESILIENCE CENTRE in times of emergency such as fires/flood/extreme heat/need for heat havens / communications failures / smoke intensity relief space etc. The Centre is not intended to be a Neighbourhood Safer Place, and any use would be consistent with NSW Police, Council, RFS and other emergency services directions, requests and guidelines.
- to continue to offer to the NSW Rural Fire Service the opportunity for the Centre to operate, at an agreed time, as a Community Engagement Centre.”

Special Motion passed unanimously at 2024 AGM

WSCC OFFICIALLY REGISTERED

The Fair Trading Commissioner NSW Government has now informed the Wollombi School Community Centre Incorporated that the NAME and CONSTITUTION have been formally approved. Confirmation letters have been received. [August 2024]

The Wollombi School Community Centre Incorporated is now a registered not for profit organisation incorporated under NSW law.

WOLLOMBI SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The committee has the task to manage the organisation on behalf of members, implement decisions carried at Annual General Meetings and Special meetings; to comply with the WSCC Constitution and to comply with applicable legislation. The WSCC Constitution also empowers the Committee to conclude leases and other similar arrangements.

The 2024 AGM elected the following by unanimous vote:

OFFICE HOLDERS:

PRESIDENT: Lesley Tyler

VICE PRESIDENT: Kerry Lannoy [also appointed the PUBLIC OFFICER]

TREASURER: Patrick Clarke

SECRETARY: Dave Brown

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Fiona Burless, Michael Fleming, Stuart Gibson, Jan Lloyd, Sharyn Roach and Gael Winnick



LESLEY TYLER

PRESIDENT WSCC

**LONG TIME WOLLOMBI
RESIDENT OF 33 YEARS**

**RETIRED BHP
ELECTRICAL ENGINEER
AND TAFE TEACHER**

**FORMER PRESIDENT OF
WOLLOMBI RFS FOR OVER
15 YEARS**

**LESLEYS CHILDREN WERE
STUDENTS AT WOLLOMBI
SCHOOL AND HER
GRANDDAUGHTER IS NOW A
STUDENT AT BARKER
NGARRALLINGAYIL**

WOLLOMBI SCHOOL

COMMITTEE MEETING

18 AUGUST 2024: SUMMARY

The Committee decided to:

- continue to make representations to the Department of Education and to the NSW Government on lease arrangements and consideration of the Crown Land model
- write to community stakeholders informing them of the creation of the WSCC and the key decisions of the AGM
- rebuild the WEBSITE: a long-standing neglected project: and consider future use of ALL forms of digital communications
- commence work on a Financial Model: a priority matter
- commence a MONTHLY WSCC NEWSLETTER
- renew the school fences: now an urgent task
- commence a water tank and firefighting audit and produce a replacement report: a task long overdue
- rebuild the antiquated Wollombi School internal wifi
- continue Wollombi Community consultations
- renew relationships with Hunter Mobile Pre School
- review work on a Business Plan: a task not completed following the 2023 AGM

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

FEEDBACK WELCOME

ALL FEEDBACK IS WELCOME AND REQUESTED

Please email FEEDBACK to secretary@wollombischool.com.au

BECOME A MEMBER...AN INVITATION

IF YOU WISH to become a MEMBER of the Wollombi School Community Centre and participate in the exciting AGENDA planned for the next twelve months please email the SECRETARY at secretary@wollombischool.com.au and we will email to you an Application Form

FINANCIAL MEMBERS are invited and welcome to attend monthly committee meetings which will be held on the **3rd Sunday each month commencing at 2pm at the Wollombi School. if you are not financial [\$10 a year] then email the Secretary and get it sorted!!**

**PLEASE GET INVOLVED IN THE EXCITING AND VERY REWARDING
WORK OF THE WOLLOMBI SCHOOL COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**NEXT Wollombi School Community Centre Committee monthly
meeting will be held at the Wollombi School commencing
2pm Sunday 15 September**

CESSNOCK COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS:

On the formation of the Wollombi School Community Centre:

Congratulations Lesley.

That's great progress.

Wollombi School Community Centre is a very appropriate name moving forward.

I look forward to continuing progress of your proposal.

Kind regards,

Melissa Boucher

Community Resilience Officer

Cessnock City Council

WOLLOMBI VALLEY DISASTER COUNCIL CONTACT September 2024

If there is a disaster within our LGA that requires coordinated recovery work from Cessnock Council, our Recovery contact during [September] the Council contact will be Tom Griffiths. Tom is Council's Community Engagement Officer and will support you in my absence. Please report/request disaster recovery assistance via the generic Council email address, which Tom will be accessing:

recovery@cessnock.nsw.gov.au In the event of an emergency, Tom will reach out via the Greater Wollombi Valley Community Resilience Network (GWV CRN) and will provide impact/recovery information to Council's Director of Works & Infrastructure for reporting to the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) and Recovery Committee as appropriate. Kind regards,

Melissa Bouche Community Resilience Officer Cessnock City Council

HOW TO CONTACT THE WOLLOMBI SCHOOL COMMUNITY CENTRE:BY EMAIL

SECRETARY: secretary@wollombischool.com.au

PRESIDENT: president@wollombischool.com.au