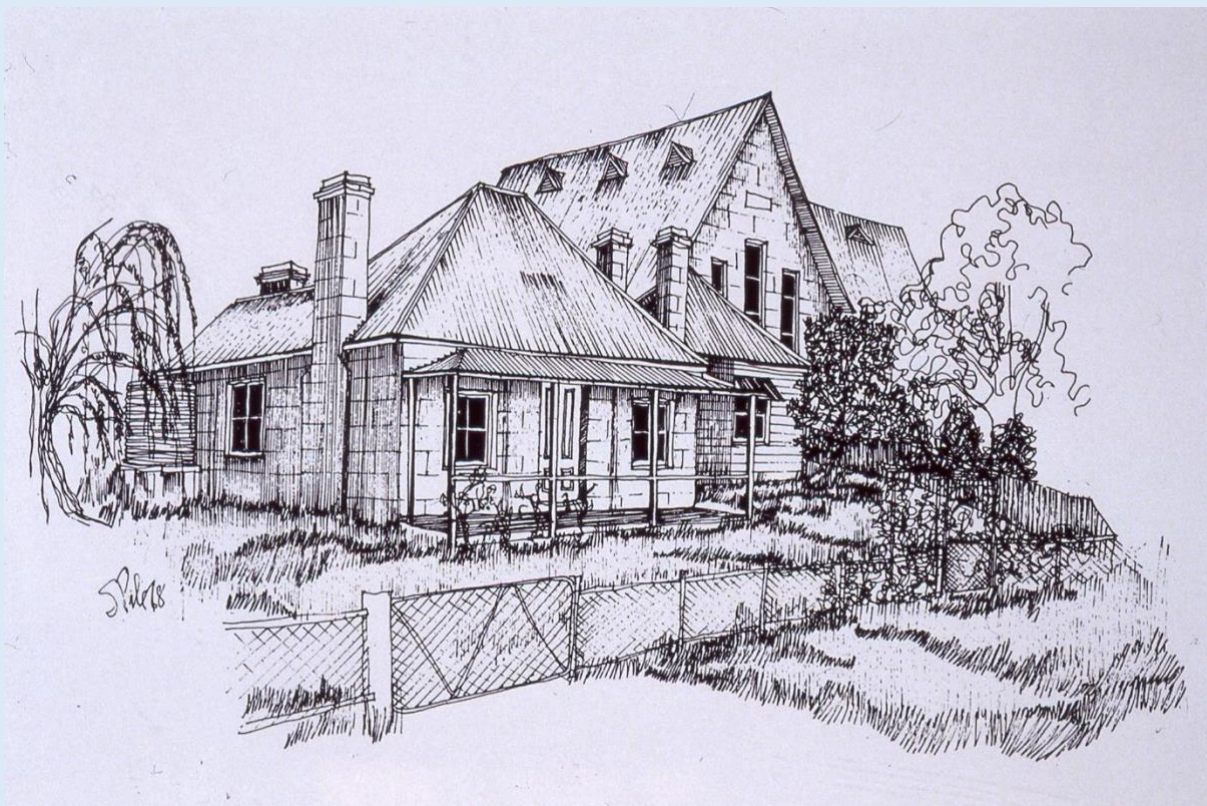




## **WOLLOMBI SCHOOL NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2024**



**SEASONS GREETINGS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

**to all the FRIENDS OF WOLLOMBI SCHOOL**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

**Everyone is welcome to visit the school and grounds and see  
the exciting program the WSCC Committee is progressing:**

**Please be safe and prepared this fire season**

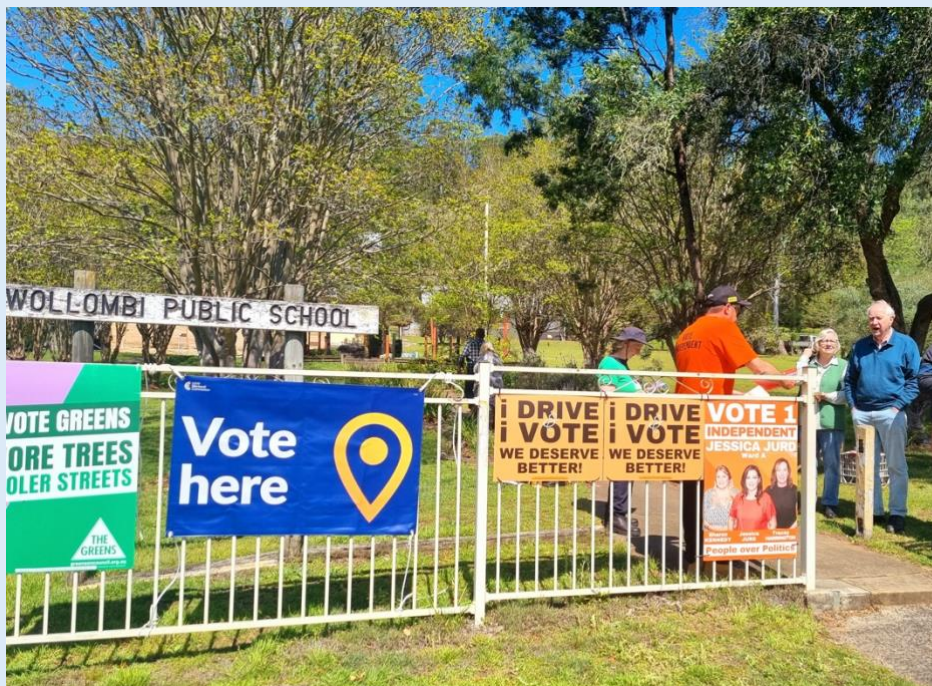
Contributions and feedback to the WSCC Newsletter welcome.  
to EDITOR : [newsletter@wollombischool.com.au](mailto:newsletter@wollombischool.com.au)

**NEXT Wollombi School Community Centre Committee monthly meeting will be held at the Wollombi School commencing:  
2pm Tuesday TBC January 2025 EVERYONE WELCOME**

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

**SECRETARY:** [secretary@wollombischool.com.au](mailto:secretary@wollombischool.com.au)

**PRESIDENT** [president@wollombischool.com.au](mailto:president@wollombischool.com.au)



**THE WOLLOMBI SCHOOL COMMUNITY CENTRE IS USED BY THE AUSTRALIAN AND NSW ELECTORAL COMMISSIONS TO CONDUCT COUNCIL, STATE GOVERNMENT AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS IN THE WOLLOMBI VALLEY.**

# **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 event

## **BACKGROUND BRIEFING**

### **HEAT HAVENS**

There is a great deal of concern and research about the increase in heat and heat-related issues. We here in the Wollombi Valley rely on our innate resilience and common sense to manage heat don't we? After all (we tell ourselves) we have survived in the past and so we feel confident we will go on doing that. But in our world, especially here in our sunny Australia, even hotter days and more of them are ahead of us. Those days when they come may be lethal for some, something we have not really faced before or are prepared for.

.At the very least it would be good for our Wollombi Valley community to have options - if only for those more vulnerable to heat stroke like the elderly and the ill and the very young. It would be good to have those options available with alternative sources of power so that we can deal with grid power outages.

The 2021 Intergovernmental Plan on Climate Change (IPCC) sixth assessment report has rated with 'high confidence' the 'increase in heat-related mortality and morbidity for people and wildlife in Australia due to heatwaves' and 'cascading, compounding and aggregate impacts on cities, settlements, infrastructure, supply-chains and services due to wildfires, floods, droughts, heatwaves, storms and sea level rise'. 1

Heatwaves are known as the "silent killer". Heatwaves are more deadly than all other natural hazards combined including bushfires, floods, cyclones, and storms. The Bureau of Meteorology defines a heatwave as 'three or more days of high minimum and maximum temperatures that are unusual for that location'.

Hot weather can affect everyone, however those at greater risk include older people, those with disabilities, people with vulnerable medical conditions, babies and young children.

As we know, the summer temperature in parts of the Wollombi Valley regularly exceed 40 degrees. The mains power supply to the Wollombi Valley is vulnerable.



It may not be possible to get cool at home when, without power, fans and air conditioning cannot function. Many households have solar power some do not.

### **During extreme heat and smoke events what can we do?**

The NSW Department of Health recommends “seeking out cool places or air conditioned public facilities in your local area, if you can safely travel without getting too hot.” That is not always possible in the Wollombi Valley.

While Cessnock City has air-conditioned spaces such as the shopping centres, the Library or the Cessnock Leagues Club, it may not be possible to access Cessnock.

### **Enter the Wollombi School Community Centre**

**WSSC is investigating the establishment of a HEAT HAVEN using the school buildings and facilities. Feedback from the community would assist.**

### **What is a Heat Haven?**

Heat Havens are facilities available to a community as places of refuge in times of excessive heat or smoke.

Wollombi School Community Centre has commenced research into the Heat Haven concept, how they have been created, how they function, how they are used by the community and identify if there is a demand and need in the Wollombi Valley.

The idea comes from the Southcoast Health and Sustainability Alliance in the Eurobodalla Shire in southern New South Wales where they have been introduced resulting from experiences in the 2019/2020 fires. Batemans Bay’s very first community-run bushfire and heatwave haven opened in 2023. The project to establish a safe community space in the area began during the Black Summer bushfires, which left the Eurobodalla community in distress and hundreds of homes destroyed.

Heat Havens include air conditioning, solar panels, battery and a back-up generator. WSSC would need to obtain resources to provide such facilities.

### **Heat Havens are also valuable when there is excessive smoke from bushfires.**

There could be a separate space within the Heat Haven which could have a HEPA filter which is particularly important for those at risk such as residents with lung conditions, those with vulnerable health conditions, the very young and the elderly.

**A Heat Haven at the Wollombi School would not be available and the school buildings would be closed when advised or directed by emergency services.**

**Also on a day/s when there is a catastrophic fire danger rating or when residents are advised or directed to leave the Wollombi Valley.**

When the Wollombi School Community Centre is successful in having the school site gazetted as Crown Reserve it could be possible to create a Heat Haven for the use of residents and visitors of the Wollombi Valley in times of need.

That is the WSCC objective. Your feedback and comments would help.

Email feedback to [president@wollombischool.com.au](mailto:president@wollombischool.com.au)

References.

- 1 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment Report, Working Group II, [Fact Sheet Australasia](#) 2021.

**WRITTEN BY MICHAEL FLEMING, GAEL WINNICK AND KERRY LANNOY WSCC**

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**Unsubscribe:** [newsletter@wollombischool.com.au](mailto:newsletter@wollombischool.com.au)

## **WOLLOMBI SCHOOL ARTS STUDIO**



**“Printmakers for Relief or Etching”**

equipment and facility available at Wollombi School Arts Centre

Would you like to join this group?..... Meets Thursdays 12 – 3pm

Contact Mandy 49988686 or Jan Lloyd email [janlloyd@skymesh.com.au](mailto:janlloyd@skymesh.com.au)

# **WOLLOMBI SCHOOL ARTS STUDIO**

## **OPERATING PROCEDURES**

**The Committee has resolved that the Wollombi School Arts Studio is an activity operating under the direction and guidance of WSCC.**

**Following consideration by the Committee and after extensive consultation with current Arts Studio users the following Operating Procedures now apply.**

Wollombi School Community Centre permits activities at the Wollombi School Arts Centre on the condition that these **OPERATING PROCEDURES** are followed by Studio users

- **Safety is the guiding principle for all Studio users and visitors.**
- Visitors shall at all times be supervised by WSCC Arts Studio members.
- Each Studio user and visitor will sign the Studio Attendance Book at each session they attend.
- All incidents will be recorded in the Studio Incident Book, and list name(s), incident description, date and time, witnesses.
- WSCC will conduct WH&S audits from time to time on Studio activities.
- All items in the Studio, other than those provided by WSCC, will be the responsibility of the owner or user of the materials/tools/machines etc.
- WSCC will not have contents insurance to cover any loss or damage to materials/tools/machines etc at the Studio not belonging to WSCC.

- All users of the Wollombi Art Studio will be current financial members of WSCC.
- Members of the Wollombi School Art Studio will nominate a representative to be a Committee member of WSCC.
- Kiln usage will be controlled by the Art Studio Co-ordinator. The cost of electricity for the kiln will be covered by the user(s).
- Studio users will pack up/store materials/tools/machines etc so that other members can use the Studio as per the Studio usage roster.
- The Studio will be locked after each use via the padlock/keypad locks.
- WSCC will advertise for new potential users of the Studio.
- The WSCC Market Co-ordinator will include Studio users in the Easter Market Roster.
- Grant applications (for running costs, equipment, capital improvements etc) will be approved by the President of WSCC and proceed in the name of WSCC.
- WSCC may change or vary these Operating Procedures from time-to-time, following consultation with Studio users
- WSCC will include the Wollombi School Art Studio in its Public Liability Insurance coverage for users and visitors who are accompanied by a WSCC member.
- If users accept and apply these Operating Procedures, no Studio hire fees will be charge

## COMMUNICATIONS:

# WOLLOMBI VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

13 May 2024

President  
Wollombi School Community Education Trust (WSCET)  
2851 Wollombi Road  
Wollombi NSW 2325



By email: [president@wollombischool.com.au](mailto:president@wollombischool.com.au)

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to express the support of the Wollombi Valley Community Association Incorporated (WVCA) for the proposal by the Wollombi School Community Education Trust Incorporated (WSCET) to convert the Wollombi School site into a community centre, including the gazetting of the site as Crown Reserve.

The Wollombi School site has been managed by WSCET since 2014, under a lease from the NSW Department of Education. It has been used for community focused educational activities such as, movies, play readings, community choir, ceramic/pottery workshops, health, indigenous and history lectures, and venues for meetings. Most recently, the site has been operating as an invaluable community resource, via Ngarralingayil, a campus of Barker College for Indigenous Primary School students, Hunter Mobile Preschool Van, a vital community service, and the Wollombi School Arts Centre.

Several local community organisations use the Wollombi School for events and delivery of services. These are listed at <https://wollombischool.com.au/groups/>.

Wollombi Valley Community Association sees the site as an invaluable community resource and a centre for hosting community-based organisations and activities.

We commend the proposal and offer our support.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Geraghty', is written on a white rectangular background.

Simon Geraghty  
Secretary, Wollombi Valley Community Association Inc.  
2424 Paynes Crossing Road, Wollombi NSW 2325



