



WSCC SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

WOLLOMBI SCHOOL COMMUNITY CENTRE

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.

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 WSCC 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 COMMITTEE MEETING

15 SEPTEMBER 2024: SUMMARY

The Committee decided to: [Key Points]

- Accept the generous offer from John Newcombe AO to be the Patron of the Wollombi School Community Centre
- Create a TIMELINE of WSCC priority tasks
- Continue the renewal of the relationship with Hunter Mobile Preschool and enter into a lease arrangement
- Support the WSCC submission to the NSW Government on the Crown Lands proposal
- Identify as an urgent priority hold further discussions on proposals to develop a Financial Model for the Wollombi School Community Centre
- Continue to develop the WSCC website
- Publish a WSCC Newsletter monthly and make it a priority matter
- Review rates hall/meeting rooms hire and availability
- Commence discussions on the Wollombi School Arts Centre
- Called for nominations for an Office Manager and Kitchen Manager
- Continue the Community Consultation process on WSCC

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



HUNTER MOBILE PRE SCHOOL AT WOLLOMBI SCHOOL

Hunter Mobile Preschool is licensed by The NSW Department of Education and is established to accommodate the needs of young preschool children in outlying and rural areas in the Hunter. HMPS currently have 3 vans that visit 7 venues on a weekly basis, including: WOLLOMBI, Gresford, Lochinvar, Vacy, Mulbring, Kitchener and Cessnock.

Hunter Mobile Preschool is a Not-for-Profit, Community Based Preschool Service and has been operating since 1979

Hunter Mobile Preschool operates at the Wollombi School Community Centre on Wednesdays and Thursdays during school terms.

"Being a Community Based Preschool means the preschool is managed by the parents whose children are attending the preschool at that time, strengthening the community's investment in the service. **As a Not-for-Profit Preschool, all money that comes in is put back into the preschool for the children.** This is a requirement of the Department of Education."

For more information go to: www.huntermobilepreschool.com

A meeting was held on 5 September attended by representatives from the Wollombi School Community Centre and the Hunter Mobile Preschool. A positive and productive meeting occurred that renewed the growing positive relationship between the two organisations.

WOLLOMBI SCHOOL RELIEF AND RESILIENCE CENTRE OBJECTIVES:

- 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.

Following the endorsement of this community function at our recent AGM, the Committee is now tasked with moving to source and equip the Centre with those basic facilities which may be required.

WOLLOMBI SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The committee is tasked to manage the organisation on behalf of members, implement decisions carried at Annual General Meetings and Committee/Special meetings; to apply the WSCC Constitution and to comply with applicable legislation. The WSCC Committee Intends to develop the concept of a Wollombi School Relief and Resilience Centre with community consultation.

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 TUESDAY 8 OCTOBER 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

FEEDBACK/COMMENTS ARE WELCOME AND REQUESTED

Any suggestions? What would you like to know about us?

Please email FEEDBACK to secretary@wollombischool.com.au



WOLLOMBI SCHOOL RELIEF AND RESILIENCE CENTRE

BACKGROUND BRIEFING:

WHAT IS A NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACE?

The **Rural Fire Service** defines a **Neighbourhood Safer Place [NSP]** as a place of last resort during a bush fire emergency and when people are facing immediate threat to their safety in the face of an oncoming bushfire. They are to be used when all other options in your personal Bush Fire Survival Plan cannot be put into action

Designated Neighbourhood Safer Places:

Wollombi: NEGRO STREET NEXT TO THE WOLLOMBI TENNIS COURTS

Laguna: LAGUNA OVAL, 3894 Great North Road opposite GNTP/LPS

For more detail go to www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

A Neighbourhood Safer Place DOES NOT GUARANTEE YOUR SAFETY

THE SAFEST OPTION IS TO LEAVE YOUR HOME AND THE WOLLOMBI VALLEY AREA EARLY AND WHEN ADVISED BY EMERGENCY SERVICES TO DO SO

The aim of a NSP is to provide a greater chance of survival for human life during the onset and passage of a bushfire. They are identified to be attended when an individual's other life safety options in a bush fire have failed or are no longer able to be safely attempted.

The intended occupation time of a NSP is from a couple of minutes to a couple of hours as the fire front passes.

The Wollombi School Relief and Resilience Centre is NOT intended to be a Neighbourhood Safer Place [NSP]

NSPs are not to be confused with Fire Refuges, Recovery Centres, Assembly Areas, Evacuation Centres or informal Places of Shelter.

Once safe to exit [the NSP] it is intended that occupants would return to their homes or move on to more official centres mentioned above.

PROFILE: WSCC VICE PRESIDENT AND PUBLIC OFFICER

KERRY LANNOY

Resident of Bucketty for 28 years

Retired Social Worker with Child & Family, Family Court,

Child Protection background in Federal, State, NGO roles in 3 States/Territories

Churchill Fellow.

Worked in Tavistock Clinic and St Thomas Hospital in London

Volunteer/Member of numerous local community groups including Life Member of

Bucketty RFS Brigade

Never been a NIMBY and enjoys working on worthwhile community issues alongside like-minded people

Loves living in this beautiful part of the world



COMMUNICATIONS:



Dan Repacholi MP
MEMBER FOR HUNTER

September 12, 2024

The Hon Prue Car MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Education
NSW Government

Re: Wollombi Public School

Dear Minister,

I write to you regarding the property known as Wollombi Public School. Since the decommissioning in 2014 by the NSW Department of Education, the Wollombi Public School buildings and grounds have been managed by the not-for-profit community organisation now known as the Wollombi School Community Centre Inc.

I am aware that the Wollombi School Community Centre has placed a submission before you with a 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 Inc, after transfer, be nominated as the 'Land Manager' in accordance with the Crown Lands Act. I support this submission.

A favourable decision by you will significantly enhance the future wellbeing of the Wollombi Valley community in my electorate and would enable the community to continue to build resilience and preparedness for future fire/flood emergencies.

The community intends to maintain its not-for-profit activities and also 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 Relief and Resilience Centre activities would be consistent with NSW Police, Cessnock Council, RFS and other emergency services directions and guidelines.

Kind regards

Dan Repacholi MP
Federal Member for Hunter



3 Edward Street
PO Box 526
Cessnock NSW 2325
Phone: 02 4991 1022
Email: Dan.Repacholi.MP@aph.gov.au





THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

Research Study Invite: Co-designed research for building climate resilience in remote communities - The Wollombi Project

Associate Professor Ying Zhang of the Sydney School of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine and Health, University of Sydney is leading a research study aiming to build climate resilience in the Wollombi Valley.

We are seeking local residents and stakeholders to share their invaluable personal experiences dealing with climate disasters, such as bushfires, floods, and heat waves. Your insights are crucial to our research and benefit other similar remote communities in building resilience.

Participating in this study will take about 30 minutes to share your stories, including your concerns and needs for resilience building. We can arrange a time convenient for you.

Here are some questions that we'd like to chat with you.

- How many years have you lived in Wollombi? What is your awareness/knowledge of local climate disasters in Wollombi? Have you observed any changes in climate and local environment over the years since you lived here?
- What are your main concerns about climate disasters? Have you personally been impacted by climate disasters, e.g. financial losses, impact on animals, and your health?
- What support have you received during previous disasters? What changes are needed in the community (and/or organisation) to better prepare and respond to climate risks? What would be the barrier and enabler for the needed actions?
- If you are a Community Resilience Coordinator or have been involved in the CRN, what are your reflections on the functionality and outcomes of the CRN in the Wollombi Valley, e.g. strengths and limitations? What would be your suggestions to improve future engagement and outcomes?

If you would like to participate in this study or would like further information about this project please contact Gael Winnick , a Wollombi School Community Centre committee member and who is the local co-ordinator. (winfam17@gmail.com or 0419 694 087)

The ethics approval for this study has been sought by the Human Research Ethics Committee of The University of Sydney.



FLOOD AND BUSHFIRE PREPAREDNESS RESEARCH

Hello, I am writing to kindly request your assistance in promoting the “Flood and bushfire preparedness surveys” which are part of my PhD research project titled “Measuring and improving individual preparedness in response to flood and bushfire emergencies”. This research is conducted under the supervision of Dr. Milad Haghani at UNSW Sydney. The surveys focus on flood and bushfire preparedness and willingness to drive/not drive in floods and bushfires:

Flood preparedness

survey- https://unsw.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_08sulUePUZqqkXc

Bushfire preparedness

survey- https://unsw.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1MISfZ9qSy7Xohg

Thank you for your time and support in this endeavour. Please note that this project has received ethics approval from UNSW, and the responses will be anonymous and remain confidential. Let me know if any additional information is required.

Best Regards

Sara Fazeli | PhD Candidate E: s.fazeli@unsw.edu.au

Research Centre for Integrated Transport Innovation (rCITI) School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, The University of New South Wales (UNSW Sydney)

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UNSUBSCRIBE: newsletter@wollombischool.com.au

WSCC WEBSITE www.wollombischool.com.au

