

Se Non E Vero, E Molto Ben Trovato Issue 507 October, 2025

\$2

Our Own News

A TASTE OF SPRING

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPT

13-28th Chantilly—Art Exhibition
Fireshed Gallery see P5 for details

SUN 28th - Sister Moon Breathwork
@wollombi.spring revival. EVENTS.HUMANTIX.COM/
NAT MOORE

OCT

3rd—Emerging Artists Award 2025
Opening & Award Night: 6:30pm
Old Fireshed Gallery, Wollombi
4th- Exhibition continues till 19th—see P5
8th—Community General Meeting 4pm at Tennis Club.
Footpath & T-intersection update by Cessnock
Council
10th—SAT 11th Wollombi Tavern Woodchop
Friday 5PM -AUST VS NZ Evening Fun, Food & Live
Music. Everyone Welcome. Contact Tavern for
details.
13th—Garden Club—P11
15th- Tennis for Little Ones—see P6
18th—Council Mattress Drop Off –free
Basin Car Park, Cessnock.
Details: cessnock.nsw.gov.au
25th- Môme pas peur—Art Exhibition, Fireshed P5
28th- Pickleball—Wollombi Tennis Club see P6

Notice of General Meeting

Wollombi Valley Community Association Inc would like to invite the community to a General Meeting on 8 October 2025 at 4pm at the Wollombi Tennis Club, at which the **Cessnock Council Project Manager for the Footpath and T-Intersection works will provide an update.**

WVCA will also provide an overview and update in relation to activities of the Association and will welcome suggestions and questions on notice from those present.

All welcome. Light snacks, tea, coffee and soft drink will be provided.

Belinda Ritchie
President



Cancelled - October Long Weekend Market in Wollombi

The organisers of the October Long Weekend Market, Wollombi Valley Community Association Inc and Laguna Volunteer Bushfire Brigade have regrettably taken the decision to cancel the October market due to the persisting very wet condition of the grounds and parking areas. This decision was taken with regard to the conditions of the Development Application under which the markets are held and to avoid damage to the private property used for the markets and car parking, ensuring they remain available into the future. The timing of the decision balanced the need to provide appropriate notice to stakeholders while giving the ground as much time as possible to dry. Thank you for your support and we will be back next year.

SAVE THE DATE!

Upcoming Valley Family Picnic

Sunday, November 30th

Everyone welcome!

(Details to be shared soon)

There will be food, wine, live music and
engagement with community from
Laguna to Wollombi

We look forward to seeing you

**Wollombi Valley Sculpture in the Vineyards
& Partners**

HUNTER TRANSMISSION PROJECT

Good afternoon,

The opportunity to provide feedback on the Hunter Transmission Project is ending soon. The environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Hunter Transmission Project is currently on public exhibition for community and stakeholder feedback, with submissions open until 24 September 2025

This exhibition period is a chance to review the project's potential environmental, social and economic impacts and to make a submission for consideration in the assessment. With the exhibition period closing soon, we encourage all stakeholders to review the EIS and share their feedback before the deadline.

The EIS is available on the NSW Planning Portal, and you can make a submission and provide feedback during the exhibition period.

For further information on the Hunter Transmission Project and the EIS, please visit the EnergyCo website.

If you have any questions or require further information, please reach out to our community team on htp@energyco.nsw.gov.au or 1800 645 972, 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

Sincerely,
Grace Clegg
Hunter Transmission Project Community Team



EnergyCo

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The advertisement features a man in a blue shirt standing next to a wooden signpost with directions to Wollombi, Yango, Murrays River, Watagan Creek, and Laguna. In the background is a large, modern house with a blue roof.



Chamber Chatter: Community, Connection & What's Next

The Wollombi Valley Chamber of Commerce extends its thanks to everyone who attended and supported the WVCC AGM & Community Dinner on Monday, 25th August at Wollombi General Store (WGS). Thanks to your enthusiasm, the evening was a complete sell-out — a true celebration of community spirit.

WGS delivered an experience that was both generous and memorable. Their generous menu, warm hospitality, and attention to detail created an atmosphere that left guests feeling part of a wonderful community. We're sincerely grateful to the entire WGS team for making the night so special.

Events like these remind us of the value of gathering — sharing stories, laughter, and delicious food with neighbours and friends. With fingers crossed, we hope this marks the beginning of a new tradition: community dinners hosted throughout the valley.

Looking Ahead: Adjourned AGM

We're keeping the momentum going! The adjourned Annual General Meeting of the Wollombi Valley Chamber of Commerce will be held at 4:00 pm on Friday, 26th September at Gray's Inn.

Following the meeting, join us for cocktails and conversation at Myrtle & Stone.

Whether you're a long-standing member or new to the Chamber, your attendance is appreciated.

Enquiries: secwvcc@gmail.com

By working together, we're stronger.

Until next time....

Wollombi Valley Chamber of Commerce

Four Letters to Santa

#1

SANTA OH SANTA

Santa oh Santa, won't you please visit me
I've been very good, only I don't have a tree

So, in the corner of my room I've made ready a spot
where if you don't mind you can drop the lot

In the letter I wrote you I asked for a frog
Then changed my mind and asked for a dog

But now I've been thinking the dog might get lonely
So could you make it a little grey pony?

And can you make sure he doesn't have a cold
It's quite a problem here so I've been told

Well Santa I look forward to Christmas day
and just in case I've left out some hay.

By Sally Sullivan

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difficult time is comforting.**



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Wollombi Valley Arts Council Inc

What's on at The Wollombi Cultural Centre

September – October 2025

The Wollombi Valley Arts Council encourages and fosters all kinds of artistic and cultural expression within the Wollombi Valley in order to support and promote artists and our community. Please visit our website www.wollombi.org

Our current exhibition...

'CHANTILLY'

JENNIFER LITTLE & HEATHER MASON

13 – 28 September

Open Fri – Sun 10am – 4pm

'Chantilly' is an exhibition of ceramics, paintings and drawings which explores the materiality of lace and cream as metaphors. Chantilly, in France, is famous for delicate, floral patterned silk bobbin lace, whipped cream as well as for Rococo styled soft paste porcelain. This exhibition combines the imagery of intricate, fine lace with the ethereal quality of white, softly peaked whipped cream. Both these materials evoke a sense of lightness, fragility and transience. These textures are explored as they occur in many different contexts. Natural motifs, such as clouds and waves and flowers, emphasis the underlying symbolism— fragility and impermanence. Many of the works are porcelain with floral themes, referencing Chantilly's connection with porcelain.



WVAC 15th EMERGING ARTISTS AWARDS 4th - 19th October 2025

**Exhibition Opening & Awards Presentation:
6.30pm Fri. 3rd October 2025.**

You are warmly invited to celebrate the opening of the Emerging Artists exhibition with the WVAC committee, artists and volunteers. Please come along and cast your vote in the People's Choice Award, over drinks and nibbles.

**The exhibition will be open for three weekends:
4th & 5th, 11th & 12th, 18th & 19th October, 10am - 4pm.**

Entry Form Deadline: 5pm Monday 22nd September 2025. \$10 entry fee Download entry forms at www.wollombi.org

Artwork Drop Off: Between 2pm - 5pm Sunday 28th September 2025 Old Fireshed Gallery, Wollombi Cultural Centre

We are seeking volunteers to assist with various tasks involved in mounting and manning the exhibition. If you can help our small committee, it would be greatly appreciated. Our contact details are below.

Our following exhibition...

« Mème pas peur ».

Chantal Mahoney is an Australian artist born in France. After graduating from the National Art School in Sydney, she established her first studio in Mosman, where she became an active member in shaping the Headland Park artists' community on the former military sites managed by the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust. Eight years ago, her deep love of the Australian wilderness led her to open a second studio in Wollombi. Her work is held in collections across Australia and internationally.

« Mème pas peur » Mahoney's 13th solo exhibition, explores resilience and the courage to confront fear, transforming it into strength and connection



LIFE DRAWING in the OLD FIRESHED GALLERY

October 1st and 22nd 2025

1pm – 4pm

Phone Mandy 02 – 4998 8686

Wollombi Valley Arts Council Inc.

Email: artscouncil@wollombi.org or yengogallery@wollombi.org

Web: www.wollombi.org

F/B: <https://www.facebook.com/artscouncilwollombi>

<https://www.facebook.com/littleyengogallery>

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Ngarralingayil



Barker

Week 9 update from Ngarralingayil Barker

It's hard to believe it's week 9 already!

Our students are really enjoying school and making wonderful progress in their learning.

They've also been deepening their connection to country, by learning about their culture, which has been a special part of our journey together.

This term, we've loved adding some new skills to our days – the ukelele has been a big hit, and the students are also learning Auslan sign language, which has been both fun and meaningful.

Our alternate weekly visits to Hornsby and Darkinjung continue to be a highlight, giving the students rich opportunities to learn and connect in different settings. On top of all that, we were incredibly lucky to attend a show at the Sydney Opera House for Indigenous Literacy week – such an inspiring and memorable experience.

At the end of this week, we are looking forward to connecting with Laguna School for planting along the northern end of the Brook on Village Green Laguna.

We are proud of our students and the learning that they are doing at Ngarralingayil Barker!

Kathryn Cunningham



Apologies.... we are keen to bring you a historical spread on *The Forge* and its journey through the decades. As information is coming in, we will have a great article next month to share.

Our following Historic Building is—**The Tavern.**

We welcome if you have any stories, memories or pictures for our historical articles, please send to:

oon_news@hotmail.com

The OON Team



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Our next Pickleball game Sunday 28th @ 2pm
All welcome.

Regular games—Thursday 4pm & Sun 8am

Enquiries: Julia 0403-500 381

We look forward to seeing you on the courts.

Don't forget! 500 Cards group

Is on last Monday of the month

Contact: Jan Harrison

janeceharrison08@gmail.com

TENNIS FOR THE LITTLE ONES....AGES 3-6YRS

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The CESSNOCK EAGLE FRIDAY 7 January 1927 page 10

WOLLOMBI -School Concert

The Wollombi Public School concert, which was held on the 11th instant, proved to be a most successful function, and reflects great credit on both the pupils and the two ladies who organised it, Miss Baker and Miss Andrews, who gave their time and talents to the cause.

The stage decorations alone must have taken considerable time and labour. The children, who ranged from 5 years upward, went through the action songs and dances with perfect rhythm, although some of the items were very long and trying to children so young.

During the interval, Mr. R. McBlane, headmaster, presented Edward Spry with a medal, which was donated by Mr. H. Harris, jeweller of Cessnock, for general good work in the school. Mr. Clyne (formerly headmaster, and now of Thornton) presented Miss Dorothy Forbes and Miss Doris Hawkins with prizes for; music, donated by their teacher, Miss Andrews.

The public school inspector said that it gave him great pleasure to be present and remarked that the performance was far beyond his expectations, and could not be excelled in any school in the State. He stated that he intended to bring the work of Miss Andrews under the notice of his department as she received no pay for what she did. He thanked the public for their patronage. The parents for providing the dresses, the pupils for their splendid performance, and, above all, the ladies who organised the concert, and also Mr. Harris, a former pupil of the school, 'for donating the medal. Mr. Harris said that he was a pupil at the Wollombi School more than 30 years ago and was pleased to be present at the concert. He indicated that he would donate a guinea trophy next year, to be selected by the winner. It is also noteworthy that the inspector, in his annual report of the school, placed on record his appreciation of the pupils' performance, and also of the good work done by Miss Andrews and Miss Baker in bringing the function to a successful ensue.

The school library will benefit to the extent of £10/15/-.

Historical archive from Suzanne

**The Cessnock Eagle and South Maitland Recorder
(NSW : 1913 - 1954) Fri 7 Jan 1927
Page 10 WOLLOMBI**

Wollombi Art studio @ Weather Shed Wollombi School

August 2025

After the successful 2025 Exhibition of 5 ceramic and printmaker Rosie Herman (10% commission to WSCC) at which we received very good feedback and sales.

Ceramic Tues 12-3 pm

Printmaking Thursday 11-3 pm

have been busy creating new bodies of work, exploring new techniques for the 2026 Exhibition March 2026.

- One of the benefits of meeting each week is that long term developments and exchange of ideas within the arts studio,
- Sharing and keeping a clean open space with each artist having a full table to work,
- Amanda Davies artist/teacher of 45 years coordinates these groups, sharing knowledge experience and ensuring good OHS(WHS) practises and safe working conditions.
- Opportunities for new members occurs.

Expressions of interest always welcome

Amanda Davies 49988686

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Laguna Public School Shines: A Month of Creativity, Confidence, and Costume Magic!

What a spectacular month it has been at **Laguna Public School** —
one bursting with creativity, confidence, and community spirit!

Art Show Wonders

The **Laguna Art Show** was nothing short of breathtaking. Our talented young artists transformed Laguna hall, with the help of some amazing curators, into a gallery of colour, texture, and imagination. Our local community also shared their many talents. From bold abstracts to intricate portraits, every piece told a story — and our visitors were captivated. A huge thank you to our dedicated P&C, local artists, community members, teachers and families who helped bring this artistic showcase to life. The creativity on display was a true reminder of the power of community and the influence of creativity through visual expression.

Sporting Success

Our Athletics team had amazing success to make it through to Regional Athletics. Laguna were one of the best represented schools from across the Cessnock Zone. The students represented the school beautifully. Our relay team performed well, placing third and progressing through to State. Truly an amazing result given two of our relay teams have progressed through for the second year in a row. Congratulations to all students on their commitment and work during preparation and I look forward to watching the race on the big screen. GO LAGUNA!!!!

Public Speaking Stars

Confidence was front and centre this month as students across all grades stepped up to the microphone for **public speaking presentations**. Whether delivering heartfelt speeches, persuasive arguments, or entertaining stories, our students amazed us with their poise, preparation, and powerful voices. The courage it takes to speak in front of an audience is commendable — and each participant should be incredibly proud. This year Laguna had the opportunity to host the Early Stage One (Kindergarten) Zone finals. It was great to have Ms Davey, Alister and Mrs Hunt on the panel of judges. Laguna was on display at it's finest!

A Book Week Parade to Remember

If you heard laughter and excitement echoing through the hall, it was likely the sound of **Book Week celebrations** in full swing! The **Book Week Parade** was an absolute highlight, with students, staff and community donning brilliant costumes inspired by their favourite book characters. From classics to contemporary favourites, the creativity on display made it a parade we'll be talking about for years to come. The joy of storytelling was alive in every corner of the school. Thank you to all that attended and to the staff for the preparation for this amazing event, it was a great day for the students.

P: 0249 98 8251 E: laguna-p.school@det.nsw.edu.auW: laguna-p.schools.nsw.gov.au F: [LagunaPS](https://www.facebook.com/LagunaPS)NSW
GOVERNMENT

Education



Wollombi Valley
Landcare
Group Inc.

Wollombi Valley Landcare Group logo

Weed of the month:

Capeweed (*Arctotheca calendula*)

Flowering in your lawn or pasture now!



Photo credit: PlantwisePlus Knowledge Bank

Capeweed is a member of the sunflower family. It is a low growing annual plant that emerges in spring, producing a profusion of yellow flowers that are attractive to honeybees and native bees alike. The daisy-like flowers have a black centre while the grey-green succulent leaves form a rosette close to the ground.

While the plant has nutritional value for stock, areas of high infestation can cause nitrogen poisoning when ingested. When capeweed dies off later in summer, it can leave patches of bare soil, having outcompeted other grasses. Capeweed seeds are easily carried by wind and birds and can germinate in bushland. It is not known whether native Australian animals will eat the plant.

It is possible to remove capeweed plants using a fork to dig up the entire root system. For alternative control measures, consult the following sources:

CABI PlantwisePlus: <https://plantwiseplusknowledgebank.org> and Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania <https://nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds>

Ferals Animals Awareness Workshop

Wollombi Valley Landcare Group is developing a workshop to build awareness on feral animals in the valley. These include wild dogs, wild pigs, ferals cats, deer, foxes, rabbits, goats and others. We hope to schedule this workshop in the coming months. It will be announced in OON and to the membership via email.

Simon Geraghty



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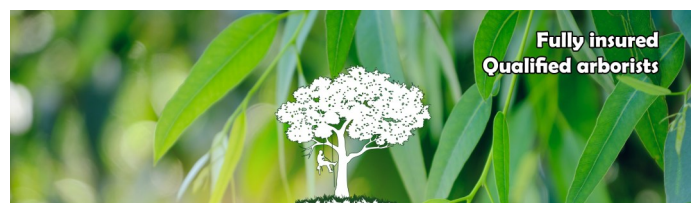
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WOLLOMBI GARDEN GROUP

September's outing was to my garden at Laguna and the weather gods shone down on us. The shared plates went down a treat & the bubbly flowed. My garden was looking a picture and I think everyone enjoyed the guided tour. First the veggie garden which has the last of the winter crops and resting beds waiting till mid-September to plant the summer seedlings, which have been potted up and placed in the bush house to grow on till it's warmer. My bromeliad garden is maturing nicely and all were amazed at the different variety of colours & shapes. My bonsai were also looking quite beautiful. I am very proud of my collection.

For October, Monday 13th (late because of long weekend), we are going to another local garden which I am told is stunning.

If you wish to join the mailing list or Host a garden visit please contact

JUDY ZIEREN
0405 281 845

or
barryandjudy1@bigpond.com



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MIND—BODY—SPIRIT

In Traditional Chinese Medicine, spring is the season of the Wood element — a time of growth, renewal, and upward energy. Just as sap begins to rise in the trees, our own vitality stirs and stretches toward light. The Liver and Gallbladder are the organs of spring, guiding vision, movement, and flexibility — both in body and in life.

Right now, we are moving through the energetic shift into spring, with the Spring Equinox (around September 21 - 23) marking the balance point between dark and light, rest and growth. It is the perfect moment to realign body and spirit with the season's awakening energy.

In YIN, we rest in The Pause. This gentle stillness nourishes the deep roots of the body, allowing stagnant winter energy to release and clear. Like the earth beneath the surface, YIN reminds us that quiet nourishment prepares us for new beginnings.

In FLOW we step from The Pause into motion. With breath and movement, we support the springtime surge of energy — opening the body, finding flexibility in the muscles and tendons, and embracing a spirit of renewal. Flow becomes a mirror for spring itself: expansive, uplifting, alive.

Together, YIN and FLOW balance stillness with growth, root with branch, pause with bloom. They invite us to align with the season — grounded in presence, yet ready to unfurl into possibility.

Helena
Wollombi Yoga



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"I'm Lewis. I am an experienced and motivated manager and Registered Nurse with a passion for developing teams and optimising outcomes for our participants. I live a purposeful life – at home with my family and at work. I bring a sense of meaning and purpose to everything I do, and I strive to instil these values in those around me. Along with this sense of meaning, I possess a wealth of leadership and management experience gained over the last 12 years in and out of the NDIS sector. Myself and my team all share one thing in common – we believe in the work we do."



SCAN HERE

Wollombi of Old

Wollombi. October 1853.

To give an idea of what is esteemed the value of land in this district, at a land sale on the 23rd ultimo, one thirty-acre farm was sold at £1, and another at £1 10s. per acre.

The Maitland Road trust have subjected the residents of this district to a tax which can scarcely be said to be justified. A large sum has been placed at their disposal by the Government, and without having expended that money in placing the roads in repair, an excessively high tax is now being levied as tolls. Can those gentlemen reconcile it to their own minds, that on any principle based on justice or common sense, that a heavy tax is to be levied on the community without an equivalent advantage. Let the roads be put in repair and then tolls can be justly levied for keeping them in a proper state, but in the present disgraceful state of the road from Maitland to the Wollombi, to levy tolls "is too bad."

When are our legislators to apply their minds to the consideration of an Act of Council based in some comprehensible principle, applicable to all roads throughout the colony, and they place in abeyance for the public good our numerous

The Sydney Morning Herald.

Sourced Through Trove by Steve Sullivan

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Council Notifications which may be of interest to the community



Celebrate Cessnock's Best: Submit Your 2026 Australia Day Award Nominations Today!

Cessnock City Council has officially opened nominations for its 2026 Australia Day Awards and is calling on the community to nominate exceptional individuals, groups, and events that make our local community shine.

From outstanding community service to environmental leadership and sporting excellence, these awards offer the perfect opportunity to show appreciation for those who inspire us.

Award categories include:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Senior Citizen of the Year
- Maree Callaghan Award – Young Female Achiever
- Community Event of the Year
- Sporting Award
- Environment Award
- Young Citizen Environment Award
- Heritage Award
- Community Award



Cessnock City Mayor Dan Watton is encouraging residents to nominate those who make a positive impact in our community.

"We are fortunate to live in a region filled with so many passionate, dedicated people who give so much to the Cessnock LGA," Cllr Watton said.

"The Australia Day Awards are a special chance for us to give thanks and celebrate their contributions, and I look forward to witnessing the incredible stories of local heroes who go above and beyond to make our community a better place for all."

Nominations must be submitted by Monday 11 November 2025. To learn more, including information on how to nominate a deserving local, visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/AustraliaDayAwards

Upgrades a boost for motorcycle tourism in Cessnock LGA

There are few more thrilling ways to take in the beauty of Cessnock local government area than on two wheels. A popular motorcycle tourist route through Cessnock LGA has been the focus of recent major upgrades, with improvements at two key intersections set to make it safer and more comfortable for the many riders who take to our roads each year.

Last month, work finished on \$1.3 million worth of safety improvements on George Downes Drive, at the intersection of Great Northern Road, Bucketty.

The upgrades, funded by the NSW Government's Towards Zero Safer Roads Program, included shoulder widening, tree removal, roadside drainage improvements, pavement upgrades and resurfacing, and increased safety infrastructure including a guardrail and motorcycle protection rail, as well as line marking and delineation.

It comes off the back of \$250,000 worth of upgrades to Rhino Corner – the intersection of Glenloona Road and Great North Road, Laguna - which included road resurfacing in a flood risk area, and raising the height of the road from a one-in-one-year flood level to a one-in-20-year flood level.

Cessnock City Mayor Daniel Watton said it was a boost for two-wheeled tourism in the Cessnock LGA.

"Some of the most scenic routes for motorcycle enthusiasts in NSW pass through the region," said Cllr Watton.

"The tourist route through the picturesque Wollombi Valley is a ride every motorcycle enthusiast should experience. Though after your first visit, I have no doubt you'll be eager to return again soon.

"These upgrades will significantly improve the already wonderful experience of enjoying our beautiful local government area from the road."

Visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Residents/Roads/Safety/Motorcycling to learn more about what the Cessnock LGA has to offer motorcycle riders.

Independent expert enlisted to guide financial sustainability



Cessnock City Council has engaged an independent expert, Professor Joseph Drew, to support its drive towards financial sustainability.

This significant step in Cessnock City Council's financial sustainability journey involves an extensive consultation process with the community, led by Professor Drew, to explore all relevant factors required for an application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a special variation.

Commencing last week, this latest engagement follows Council's commissioning of the University of Newcastle in late 2024 to undertake a review of its financial sustainability, which was also led by Professor Drew. The work is orientated towards providing Council and IPART with a robust evidence brief and the report will principally be orientated around audited financial data, as well as Australian Bureau of Statistics figures, of Cessnock and other councils.

Professor Drew is a leading scholar in local government finance, previously serving as Professor of Local Government Economics at the University of Newcastle's Institute for Regional Futures and now retired from full-time work. He has an extensive academic background, including qualifications as an accountant, economist, natural law philosopher, and mathematician. Professor Drew has published numerous books and articles in top-tier journals and has consulted for various governments and organisations both in Australia and internationally.

He will be joined in this phase of work by Professors Yunji Kim (Seoul National University), Masato Miyazaki (Saitama University) and Diogo Cunha Ferreira (Lisbon University). Cessnock City Mayor Dan Watton stressed the importance of independent expertise to guide Council's drive towards financial sustainability, and welcomed the engagement of Professor Drew and his team of three scholars. "As a fast-growing local government area, Council finances are increasingly under pressure as we work to deliver the range of quality services and infrastructure expected by our community," said Cllr Watton.

"These budget challenges are largely due to factors such as an ageing and growing asset base, cost shifting by successive state governments, and increases to costs and materials outpacing allowable rate increases capped by the state government.

"These problems are not unique to our Council, and are faced by the vast majority of the local government sector.

"It's vital that Council continues to do the work to achieve a financially sustainable future, and the independent advice from Professor Drew's team will provide the foundations to make informed decisions guided by the best evidence."

Professor Drew will be leading a series of community engagement sessions in November. In the meantime, visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/financialsustainability for more information.

MAYORAL COLUMN

It's strange, but true: the NSW Government considers Cessnock local government area to be metropolitan – when it comes to charging a waste levy. Since a redraw of waste levy boundaries brought the Hunter and Illawarra into the metro fold in 2006/07, Cessnock City Council has paid much higher charges than it would have if it was properly classified as a Regional Levy Area.

Being a Metropolitan Levy Area costs our council an extra \$73.90 per tonne (\$174.20 per tonne as opposed to \$100.30 per tonne for regional areas) – the same rate applied to Sydney councils. It means Cessnock pays about \$739,000 per year more at 10,000 tonnes. At 20,000 tonnes, it's almost an extra \$1.5 million. The ongoing NSW Waste Levy Review is a chance for the NSW Government to correct this inequity.

After my Mayoral Minute at the September council meeting received unanimous support, Council will write to NSW Minister for the Environment Penny Sharpe and the three state MPs whose electorates include part of our LGA, urging a change to our classification.

I encourage you to write to your local state MP, whether it's Clayton Barr in the Cessnock electorate, Jenny Aitchison in the seat of Maitland, or Dave Layzell in Upper Hunter, and help advocate for our LGA to be rid of this needless waste of money.

The metropolitan classification, despite our wonderful community clearly being regional, places a significant burden on ratepayers. Reclassification will reduce costs for Council and ratepayers, and better reflect the reality of our community. To me, it's pretty cut and dry – we are simply being overcharged.

Congratulations to Cllr Tracey Harrington on being elected Deputy Mayor of Cessnock City Council at our September meeting, and thanks also to Cllr Mitchell Hill for his service to the community in the role for the past year. Cllr Harrington is a lifelong local and has run a business in Cessnock for more than two decades. I look forward to working closely with Cllr Harrington over the next 12 months.

Finally, don't forget to think about those exceptional individuals, groups and events in our community deserving of recognition. Nominations are open for Cessnock City Council's 2026 Australia Day Awards. From outstanding community service, to environmental leadership and sporting excellence, these awards are the perfect chance for our community to publicly appreciate those who inspire us. Get your nominations in by November 10. Search 'Australia Day Awards' on Council's website for more information.

Diary & Events

Church

St John's Anglican Church Wollombi is a festival church. There is a service at Christmas and Easter. Baptisms, weddings, funerals and other services are by arrangement. Please contact the Parish on 02-4991 4761 or 0418-269 892 or email: stjohnscottage@bigpond.com

Other regular Anglican church events

Suspended during Covid

St Michael's Wollombi, Mass is on the 2nd and 5th Sunday of the month at 2pm

Wollombi Valley Home Church

Meets at Tennis Club

1st Sunday of the month at 2pm, followed by afternoon tea.

Contact Keith 0409-909 971 or Pastor Neville 0467-210 478

Crafty Yarns

Knitting/crochet group meets in Wollombi.

For more information contact Jane 4998 8158 or Jillian 0477 519 996.

500 Cards—Wollombi

commence at 6 pm on last Monday in the month.

Wollombi Tennis Clubhouse

Contact: Jan Harrison

janeceharrison08@gmail.com

Chamber of Commerce - Wollombi Valley

General Meetings held every 2nd month. See

www.wollombivalleytourism.com.au for venue.

Fire Brigade—Laguna

Training 3rd Saturday of the month with breakfast at 8.30am

followed by training from 9am to 11am. Laguna Fire Station.

Members meeting 11am after training in March, June, September and December.

Fire Brigade—Wollombi

Training 3rd Saturday monthly 8.30am Wollombi Fire Station.

Members meeting 11am following training in even months. All welcome. Enquiries to brigade@wollombibushfire.org.au

Fire Brigade - Bucketty and District

Training 3rd Saturday monthly from 9am - 12pm

Members meeting 1pm on the even months.

Garden Group

1st Monday monthly.

Contact Judy Zieren 0405-281845

Conversations en francais à Wollombi

Rencontres detendues pour ceux qui veulent parler francais a Wollombi. Nous nous reunissons les samedis une fois par mois vers 17 heures chez des particuliers. On discute l'art, l'histoire, la politique, la France – avec un bon vin et fromage bien sur.

Contactez: Gwen Lansbury, glsansbury@gmail.com

Ph: 02-4998 3141, 0451 693 376

Landcare Group - Wollombi Valley

Join us to learn more about caring for the land and the wildlife on it. We meet regularly for workshops, planting days and other events. New members are always welcome! Contact us

at www.wollombilandcare.org.au or

wollombi.landcare@gmail.com

Monthly Historical Ghost Tours

Newcastle Ghost Tours & Jo Potter Ph: 0411-357 519

Museum—Wollombi

6pm summer – 5pm winter, 1st Wednesday monthly except

January, Wollombi Cultural Centre

Pony Club—Wollombi Valley

Every 3 weeks contact President Simone 02-4998 8214 for details

Playgroup (all kids 5 and under welcome)

10.30am every Tuesday, at Slacks Park Wollombi

Theology in the Pub discussion group:

4th Sun/month at Wollombi School Residence 2:00pm

Wollombi Valley Community Association

Community meetings - 3rd Thursday of the month.

Wollombi Tidy Valleys

11am, every 2nd Thursday Bi-Monthly Wollombi School

Meeting Room. All welcome. Contact—Bernice 4991 1688

Wollombi School Community Centre:

Committee meetings held 10am on 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Venue is the Principal's Cottage on Cnr of Crawford & Wollombi Roads, Wollombi. Interested persons welcome.

Transport

Grape Experience Tours

0414 457 956

Wine country taxis Cessnock

(02) 4990 1111

Sport and Fitness

Pilates Classes

Mat Classes are held Wednesday 9.30am & Fridays 10.30am.

Wollombi Community Hall

Contact: Susan 0403-270 365

Wollombi Tennis

Thursday 4:00pm

Sunday 8:00 am

All welcome.

Contact: Julia Brooke 0403-500 381

Eureka Taekwondo

Thursdays 4pm – 5pm

Wollombi Community Hall

Contact: Steve Turner 0400-002 951

YOGA

Wednesday 7:30-8:30pm Vinyasa

Thursday 4:00-5:00pm Yin

Saturday 8.30-9.30am Hatha Flow

Wollombi Community Hall

Contact Helena 0412-369 291

Zumba Classes:

Fitness With Milly Monday Wollombi Hall

7:45am HIIT

9:00am Zumba Gold

Friday Wollombi Tennis Club 8:30am Zumba

Contact: Milly Ph 0414-435 576

Services

Dog and Cat Beds and Accessories 0421 431 451
<http://growls-hisses.com>
houndsfelines@mail.com

Local Accommodation**Bellbird**

Tabitha Hill Cottage 0429 657 166

Laguna

Byora Farm House 02 4998 8227
 Ipakey Cottage 02 4998 3219
 Kawalang Studio –Bucketty/Murrays Run 0404 896 396
 Laguna Cottages 02 4998 3219
 Twin Pines Cottage 0403 083 381
 Valle Laguna 0408 809 471
 Valley Field Escape 0488 436 001

Millfield

Bellbird & Swallows Cottages 0414 786 705
 Neudorf Country Retreat 0414 920 013

Congewai

Brown Muir Cottage 0409 416 416

Wollombi

Applegums 0419 416 416
 Blair Athol Estate 02 4998 3323
 Capers Cottage 0409 305 285
 Cedar Creek Cottages 02 4998 1576
 Corrabare Cottage 0409 416 416
 Cowboys Cabin 0423 109 558
 Cranky Rock Cottage 0438 757 442
 The Farm @ Hunter Escape 0418 114 303
 Grays Inn 02 4998 3483
 Gypsy Willows 02 4998 3404
 Hollybrook Hunter Valley 0411 968 873
 Hunter Valley Escapes 0409 416 416
 Ironbark Cottage 02 4998 3427
 Maggies in Wollombi 0416 039 081
 Mystwood Retreats 02 4998 3234
 Myrtle Cottage Accommodation 0409 416 416
 Pepper Tree Cottage 0416 039 081
 Redleaf Hunter Valley 0412 566 637
 Somewhere Unique 02 4998 3257
 The Studios 02 4998 3182
 Tiny Escape 0426 891 870
 two8seven5 Boutique Stays 0437 977 798
 Undercliff Settlers Cottage 02 4998 3322
 Wild Edge Retreat 02 4998 3304
 Wollombi Barn Stay 02 4998 3221
 Wollombi Birdhouse 0423 376 804
 Wollombi Brook Family Farm Stay 0422 515 905
 Wollombi Bush Retreat 0432 156 396
 Wollombi Farm Country House 0416 039 081
 Wollombi Stays 0416 039 081
 Woodcutters House 0416 039 081
 Yango Creek Farmhouse 0416 039 081

Restaurants, Pubs and Stores

Laguna Village Providore 0478-712613
 Millfield General Store 02 4998 1263
 Myrtle & Stone Cafe 02 4998 3220
 The Trading Post Laguna 02 4998 8244
 Twine Home Store 02 4498 3331
 Wollombi Café—Next Door 0408-599177
 Wollombi General Store 02 4998 3230
 Wollombi Tavern 02 4998 3261

A NOTE FROM THE OON TEAM

Our Own News is a Wollombi Valley Community Association (WVCA) initiative co-ordinated by volunteers.

Articles or advertisements must be emailed as a **word file** with photos attached as a separate **jpeg** file to **oon_news@hotmail.com** no later than the *15th day of each month* for publication in the following month's edition.

Articles are not edited but printed as received unless otherwise agreed and there is no guarantee of publication. Articles must be no longer than 200 words.

WVPA and the OON Team accept no liability for statements made or opinions expressed and are not responsible for the veracity of articles or advertising material.

Opinions expressed in OON are not those of WVCA or the OON Team, although they have the final word on content. If you are mentioning someone in an article please check details and facts with them and obtain their permission prior to submitting any articles for print.

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The OON Team