

Se Non E Vero, E Molto Ben Trovato Issue 508 November, 2025

\$2

Our Own News



UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT

25th- Mème pas peur—Art Exhibition, Fireshed P5

31st—Ace2Allergies—Fundraising Free event
5:30pm Wollombi Tennis Club—read more P10

NOV

4th -Melbourne Cup Day—The Tavern, 3pm, races all day, bristo open. Sweeps on!

16th—'Flight of Fancy' -Art Exhibition, Fireshed P5

20th—Wollombi Valley Community Assoc—Annual General Meeting 5pm Wollombi Tennis Club P11

24th—Wollombi Valley Chamber Commerce—General Meeting & Community Dinner See detailsP6

29th— Classic Country Community Picnic 4-7pm presented by Sculpture in the Vines.

30th—Wollombi Valley Pony Club—Annual General Meeting 1pm at Wollombi Pony Club P4

WOLLOMBI VALLEY CLASSIC COUNTRY COMMUNITY PICNIC

This day of valley community appreciation is presented by
Sculpture in the Vineyards

Saturday 29th November 2025, 4-7pm

The Tennis Club, Wollombi

Please bring a rug and a plate to share.
All welcome!

Live music and entertainment for all ages.
Laguna PS sausage sizzle, lemonade stand, Pop Art Gelato Cart, Noyce Brothers Bar

Lucky door prizes donated by Wollombi General Store & Where Pigs Fly Farm Sanctuary Laguna

Sculpture IN THE VINEYARDS
Wollombi Valley Sculpture Festival

With generous support from
Noyce Brothers, The Tennis Club, WVCA, WVCC, Landcare & Simon Mariner

LOVE LOCAL



Long time local and resident Gaile has been offering her delicious homemade jams & preserves seems like for ever!

Always a smile and always situated on the grassed verge in front of Jodie's art shop.

A favourite with visitors and locals alike.

Thank You Gaile!

SUPPORT LOCAL

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Front Cover: New Footpath into Wollombi, the first of many new enhancements to the village.

Photo Credit: @WollombiValley

WOLLOMBI T -INTERSECTION UPDATE

Wollombi Valley Community Association arranged a community briefing on the Wollombi T-intersection upgrade project by Cessnock City Council. The meeting on 8th October at Wollombi Tennis Club was attended by fifteen people and Council representatives.

Council outlined the phases of the project and answered questions from attendees. The project is starting at the museum corner and progressing up the road to the Wollombi General Store. It will then move to the old Telegraph Office and wind down to the corner opposite the tavern, before moving to the front of the Wollombi Tavern. All works are planned to be in tune with the heritage aspects of the village.

Council will engage with individual businesses as they are impacted to minimise disruption. Works are expected to be complete by March 2026.



Above L-R:
Cessnock Council Project officer Sean Wardman updating the community at the T-intersection meeting.

Left:
Footpath and parking works begin

WOLLOMBI VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Wollombi Valley Community Association will be held on 20 November 2025 at 5pm at the Wollombi Tennis Club. At the meeting, all committee positions will be declared vacant and an election for committee members will be held. We invite community members to consider nominating for a committee position for 2026. Please request a nomination form by emailing wollombivalleycommunity@gmail.com. The AGM will be immediately followed by a General Meeting to deal with other matters. We look forward to seeing you at the meetings.

Agenda

1. confirm the minutes of the previous annual general meeting and any special general meetings held since the previous annual general meeting,
2. receive reports from the committee on the association's activities during the previous financial year,
3. elect office-bearers and ordinary committee members,
4. receive and consider financial statements or reports required to be submitted to members of the association under the Act.

Completed nomination forms should be posted to

The Secretary, Wollombi Valley Community

Association Inc., 2424 Paynes Crossing Road,

Wollombi NSW 2325,

or emailed to: wollombivalleycommunity@gmail.com, at least seven (7) days before the date fixed for the holding of the Annual General Meeting at which the election is to take place.

As per the terms of the Incorporated Associations Act 2009, all nominations for committee positions must be supported by two (2) other current members of the Association. This may occur at the Annual General Meeting if the nomination is accepted.

VALE AMANDA DAVIES

**It is with deepest regret to inform the passing of
Amanda (Mandy) Davies**

**Mandy was a celebrated artist of the Wollombi
Valley and supported the Arts community in
many forms over the past forty years.**

She will be deeply missed.

Wollombi Valley Pony Club

Wollombi Pony Club Pentathlon.

Following a long, wet winter the October School Holiday weather proved to be excellent for riding. Members jumped into action, dusting off their gear and fine tuning their equestrian skills in preparation for a Pentathlon Competition down at Wollombi Pony Club Ground. Horse and rider combinations needed to work through five tasks throughout the competition day, in order to achieve a medal.

Activities included obedient horse workouts both on foot and on horseback, cross country, trail riding, show jumping and pole work, with each horse and rider team selecting the tasks that were suitable for their level of experience. It proved to be a successful recipe with all members enjoying a safe, fun and challenging day together.

The WVPC AGM will be held at our rally day at Wollombi Pony Club on Sunday, November 30th at 1.00pm. All are welcome!

Simone Smith

Photo Credits: Tanya Hardin



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As well as we order in: Meals for Mutts, Meals for Meows, Ivory Coat, Supercoat, Advance, Optimum, Fancy feast, Chicken, Bird, Fish & Rabbit food.

Some stocks of pet toys, grooming products, horse rugs & accessories.



Apptrak home grown horses: bred, raised and trained at Laguna!





Wollombi Valley Arts Council Inc.

What's on at The Wollombi Cultural Centre

October - November 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

'WVAC EMERGING ARTISTS AWARDS 2025'

The award - winners are listed below. Congratulations to the artists. Images of the winning entries can be found on www.wollombi.org Thanks to all involved.

Open Emerging Artist \$1500 – Annette Tubnor 'Pair of pears #2 (and the pair thieves)

Highly commended - \$1000 – Scott Colyer 'Last light on Yengo'

Commended - \$500 – Linda Wilkinson 'The rain sleeps on the rock so old'

Commended \$500 – Treena Jordan – 'Pumpkin Patch'

Wollombi Award \$500 – Garry Musgrove 'Tequila Sunrise'

2325 Local artist flora \$500 – Kaye Lovie ' Gum Blossom'

Indigenous Award \$500– Kathy Leary 'Never Alone'

Sculpture/3D \$500 – Amanda Broberg 'Young Goanna'

Photography Award \$500 – Wayne Munce 'Still life with Sushi'

Portrait Award \$500 – Mary Francis 'Bright Side'

Performance/video Award – Marie-Ellen Brockensha 'The Magic Circus'

Under 12 Highly commended \$100 – Elrod Vella 'Portrait of an Albatross'

Under 12 Commended \$50 – Rosie Colyer ' Rainbow Magpie'

Under 18 Highly commended \$250 – Lucca Heibel 'Fat Dog'

'MEME PAS PEUR'

An exhibition of paintings by **CHANTAL MAHONEY**

You are invited to join Chantal to celebrate the opening of her exhibition on Saturday 25 October from 2pm, refreshments provided

Exhibition open 25 October - 9 November,
Open Thurs - Mon 10am - 4pm

même pas peur



an exhibition of paintings by
chantal mahoney
25 oct to 9 nov 2025
opening hours: the new room - 1pm
opening hours: old fire shed gallery wollombi
www.chantal-mahoney.com
chantal@chantal-mahoney.com

« même pas peur »
After the launch of her 13th solo exhibition, the artist Chantal Mahoney will be exhibiting a selection of her most recent work in the new room of the Wollombi Cultural Centre. The exhibition will be open from 25 October to 9 November. Opening hours: 1pm - 4pm. Refreshments from 2pm.

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.

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

'FLIGHTS of FANCY' A retrospective exhibition by **PAM SAHN**

16th - 30th November 2025



LIFE DRAWING in the OLD FIRESHED GALLERY

October 1st and 22nd, November 12th 2025

1pm – 4pm

To register: send an email to artscouncil@wollombi.org.

Wollombi Valley Arts Council Inc.

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

Web: www.wollombi.org

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

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

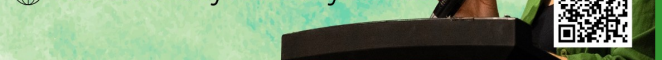


Llynda Nairn JP

0425 279 939

llyndanairn@gmail.com

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Chamber Chatter – October 2025

Introducing Wollombi Valley Connect “Work, Play and Stay”

On behalf of the Wollombi Valley Chamber of Commerce, we are delighted to introduce our newly elected committee for the 2025/2026 term. We're stepping into this new chapter with energy and purpose, united by a shared commitment to supporting local businesses, enhancing visitor experiences, and championing sustainable growth across the Wollombi Valley. We're also excited to continue strengthening our partnership with Cessnock Council as we collaborate on initiatives that celebrate and elevate our vibrant valley.



MEET YOUR NEWLY ELECTED CHAMBER COMMITTEE

President: Brett McMullen

Vice President: Nick Brooke

Secretary: Julia Brooke

Events & Communication: Deb Harrod

Treasurer: Annie Snell

Marketing & Social Media: Daniela Riccio

Compliance & Alliances: Michael Noyce

Government Grants & Funding: Jan Harrison

Together, we bring a diverse mix of experience, creativity, and community spirit to the table. We're here to listen, to lead, and to work alongside you in making the Wollombi Valley a thriving destination for locals and visitors alike.

How can the chamber help you

Our chamber serves as a voice for our community. It is the local business group that

helps facilitate networking, promotes business opportunities, serves as an advocate for its members, provides resources, and encourages economic development. Get involved, come to an event or meeting, let's see what we can achieve together.

Date for Your Diary

Join us for our upcoming General Meeting and Community Dinner:

- **Monday 24th November 2025 Wollombi General Store Meeting: 5:00–6:00 pm (with guest speakers) Dinner: from 6:00 pm**

Stay tuned via our social media channels & flyers for details and booking opportunities.

We look forward to connecting with you.

Brett, Nick, Julia, Dani, Michael, Deb, Annie

WOLLOMBI VALLEY
CHAMBER PRESENTS

GENERAL MEETING & COMMUNITY DINNER



**MONDAY 24TH
NOVEMBER 2025**

Meeting 5-6pm with guest speakers

Dinner 6pm - 9pm

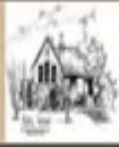
Wollombi General Store

Book via the QR CODE

\$55pp 2 x courses plus drinks



Wollombi School Patron
John Newcombe AO OBE
Wollombi School Community Centre - WSCC



WOLLOMBI SCHOOL COMMUNITY CENTRE

Greetings from the WSCC Committee

When you are looking for local available venues for craft groups and other social meetings, you are invited to consider organising your regular or one-off event at the Wollombi School cottage. Just contact Suzanne on secretary@wollombischool.com.au to find out what's available and booking arrangements. Some rooms are not available when the Pre School is operating two days a week, and also on days which are already used by regular or occasional groups, but feel free to inquire and discuss.

Our next Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 11 November 2025 at 10 am followed by a cuppa. Do come along and join with us in our efforts to retain and develop this local valuable community asset.

The WSCC Committee members



Four Letters to Santa #2

SANTA, DEAR SANTA

Santa Dear Santa Oh please visit me,
I've been too busy to put up a tree
Last year I wrote you asking for a frog,
then changed that to a pony or a dog.

Well Santa you were very kind to me,
but I really wasn't expecting all three,
This Christmas, if you've got time to drop by,
we need to chat I'll tell you why.

The frog he croaks and croaks all night
and I think he's given the dog a fright,
Pony's learnt to hide in my room
but I'm sure Mums going to find out soon.

Maybe if pony had his own yard
then things wouldn't feel so hard,
Dear Santa I don't know what to do,
I really need to talk to you.

Without my dog I think I'd be lonely
and I've grown quite fond of my little grey pony
Dear Santa I know it's a lot to say,
but this year could you bring me some hay.

By Sally Sullivan

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LOVE OUR LIFESTYLE?

**JOIN ONE OF OUR LOCAL GROUPS, MAKE NEW FRIENDS, SHARE YOUR SKILLS OR JUST
LEND A HAND ... YOUR COMMUNITY WILL BE GRATEFUL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED NOW**

[See our back page for all organisations](#)

Laguna Public School

3738 Great North Road

Laguna NSW 2325



Courage, Compassion, Honesty, Responsibility and Respect

Lovin' Learning at Laguna – Term 4 Has Arrived!

2025 has been an amazing year for our students and our school, filled with so many memorable events and achievements. Term 4 is shaping up to be just as exciting!

We're kicking things off straight away with our relay team heading to State in Week 2, a whole-school excursion to the PCYC for a fun-filled day, welcoming our 2026 Kindergarten students, and of course, preparing for our end-of-year celebrations.

At the end of last term, some of our students had the wonderful opportunity to visit *Where Pigs Fly*. What an incredible sanctuary it is for those lucky animals! The volunteers were absolutely divine and made it such a memorable experience for our students. It was truly special to see our students proudly present a cheque to the charity they had chosen and fundraised for themselves. We are so fortunate to be part of such a creative, compassionate community.

Please keep an eye out for all the exciting happenings at Laguna – there's sure to be plenty to celebrate and share as the term unfolds!

P: 0249 98 8251 E: laguna-p.school@det.nsw.edu.auW: laguna-p.schools.nsw.gov.au F: LagunaPS

Education

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Name: _____ PH: _____

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Post this form and a **cheque** payable to WVPA Inc./OON to OON Subscription C/- Wollombi General Store, Wollombi NSW 2325 **or** enclose this form and **cash** in an envelope and pop into the OON box at the Laguna or Wollombi General Stores.

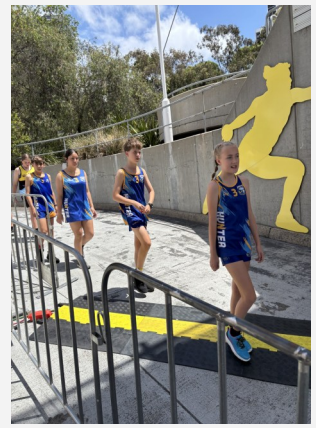
Local Students Perform at State Athletics.

Laguna Public School athletics relay team, Ariel, Zane, Alicia, Elrod and reserve Cooper, qualified for the 2025 NSW State Primary School Championships recently held at Olympic Park, Homebush Bay. The team had been training over the winter months and had enjoyed success at Zone and Regional Athletics Carnivals.

The Laguna Village Green has once again, been a fabulous asset in the preparation process of these young athletes, as reflected in their final performance where they placed 3rd in their heat and 14th overall in the State. How proud we are!

Simone Smith.

Laguna Public School



WOLLOMBI GARDEN GROUP

Our October outing was to Sue & Todd's lovely old garden in Wollombi. They have only been custodians of this beautiful property for 1 year, but they have been very busy restoring it to its previous glory.

Driving up to the house (circa late 1800's) there are lovely mature trees leading to lawned areas, shady patio, fruit trees and flower beds.

Old world roses abound, and most were in full bloom & absolutely exquisite. There are also fascinating slab sheds and Todd has built Sue a fabulous vegetable garden.

Although they have achieved great results so far they have big plans to improve the property in the years to come. We will certainly visit them again in the future.

November's outing, Monday 10th November @ 5.00pm, is to Ant & Alice's garden also in Wollombi.

If you wish to join the mailing list or host a garden visit contact me.

Judy Zieren

0405 281 845 or barryandjudy1@bigpond.com



ACE2ALLERGIES CHARITY EVENT

Eric Potier and Sebastien Nicolas (personal friends of locals Rick & Teresa Jirsch) have recently set up a foundation called Ace2Allergies – a Super Fundraiser founded to accelerate and amplify the impact of 2 important charities in tennis, health, and allergy. Ace2Allergies has teamed up with Rally4Ever (rally4ever.org - do look up their website) founded by Louise Pleming, former professional tennis player and Grand Slam commentator, whose inspiring work helps those less fortunate and introduces them to the benefits of tennis. Eric, Sebastien, and Louise believe tennis boosts mental and physical wellbeing, sparks connection and builds lasting friendships - something we readily agree with.

Ace2Allergies are embarking on a yearlong trip to promote the health and social benefits of tennis throughout urban, rural, and regional Australia. Starting at a rally4ever event in Bondi later this month, their very first stop will be Wollombi, and they would like to invite you to a presentation on the work they are doing. The meeting will kick off at 5:30pm and will include:

- Louise's coaching technique and skills during a social tennis session on the tennis courts
- A presentation by Eric and Sebastien supported by Rally4Ever representatives
- Some welcome drinks (nice French wine carefully selected by Eric) and nibbles

This is a great opportunity for us to support tennis in the community and its benefits. Please come along on Friday, 31st October, Wollombi Tennis Club at 5.30pm – the event is free. It would be fabulous if **you could let us know of your attendance no later than October 29, 2025**, so that Ace2Allergies has enough to cater for everyone – RSVP by clicking on the link: <https://events.humanitix.com/ace2allergiesandrally4ever>. Or just let me know you would like to attend. If you're unsure, please just come along anyway.

Hope you can make it. Julia & Committee

Julia Brooke - Club Secretary
Wollombi Tennis Club
0403 500 381
juliabrooke2@gmail.com



Valley Artists inc.

It is with sadness and disappointment that we have to advise we are unable to stage a 2nd production for 2025.

As many may be aware, we were unable to go ahead with our scheduled production of "I Hate Hamlet", which was already in pre-rehearsals. With the goal of "a show must go on" and with short notice, we attempted to pull together "The Odd Couple" as an alternate production, but casting proved very difficult. We then attempted to do a 'bared down' production, "Love Letters", but although we have spent several weeks attempting to obtain the rights to perform from the US agents, we have not been able to do so. Consequently, this also cannot go ahead.

So we bow out the year after staging the absolutely amazing Melissa Bubnic play "Ghosting the Party", directed by Karen Jones. What a memorable and poignant assailing of the senses that was!

*The amazing cast and crew behind Ghosting the Party,
our
very successful Autumn 2025 production.*

Hopefully, fingers crossed, 2026 will be a better year with capability to return to our usual 2 productions for the entertainment of you, our valued patrons. We've got a couple in the wings, so we're fully confident we'll be able to get back to "the show will go on"!

So please bear with us, and we look forward to seeing you all again in April/May for the first of our 2026 productions at the Laguna Hall Theatre.





WOLLOMBI TENNIS CLUB

The weather has been heating up so remember to hydrate! Great fun on court with a good roll up of members.

Come and join us now!

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

Diary Note!

TENNIS CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY—Friday 5th December
Runaway Cabbages are playing so lots of fun and dancing. Bring a plate to share—more details coming.

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

Starting October 15 for 3 weeks

Time: 3:30pm

Contact Jacqui 0438-225086 if interested

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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 Pilates

Authentic | Gentle | Effective

WOLLOMBI PILATES Celebrates 10 years.

I am proud to announce that I have been teaching Pilates in Wollombi for ten years this November.

Before moving to the Valley I was a dedicated student of Pilates in Sydney for more than 20 years.

Most of my students come to class to maintain or regain movement, strength and flexibility while some have joined class to prepare for or recover from knee or hip surgery.

I'm told some students come for the after class coffee and cake....

What my students say:

Pilates is my secret weapon for building core strength, flexibility, and balance.

Who knew wellness could be this much fun.

I've tried other types of organised exercise, but never lasted more than a few weeks Pilates ticks all the boxes for me.

Susan's a very skilled and experienced teacher and unfailingly helpful to every student. She also makes it fun!

I can now cross my legs when sitting on the floor.

Happy 10 year anniversary. You have made a great contribution to many people over those years.

Thank you to my students, your dedication makes it all worthwhile.

I believe we all deserve to be the master of our bodies and everyone can learn how to begin moving again, how to stand tall again, how to become flexible and strong again.

New students are always welcome.

And remember be kind to yourself.

Susan Leith-Miller
0403270365

Wollombi Pilates

Authentic | Gentle | Effective

Wednesday 9.30am

Friday 10.00am

in the Wollombi Community Hall

Doors open 15 mins before each class for sign-in & equipment set up

For more information contact Susan
0403 270 365 or leithsu@bigpond.com

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Wollombi Valley
Landcare
Group Inc.

Planting day on Village Green Laguna



At the end of Term 3, Wollombi Valley Landcare joined with students, parents and staff of Laguna Public School and Ngarralingayil Barker to plant native tube stock on Village Green Laguna.

We planted 160 *Iomandra longifolia* and 30 water gum along the bank of the Wollombi Brook at the northern end of the Village Green. After successive floods, the riparian zone has a number of erosion sites, and the planting will assist the bank to stabilise.

The plants were grown by Trees In Newcastle, with the water gum being raised from seeds collected along Watagan Creek by former Landcare President, Chris Jackson. Hunter Local Land Services generously paid for the tube stock and enabled the project to go ahead.

This planting day was a follow-on from the environmental project that Landcare ran with Laguna School in Term 1. It was also a way of thanking the Forsyth Trust for its generosity in allowing the local community, including our schools, to enjoy all that Village Green Laguna offers.

WEED OF THE MONTH

Narrow-leaf privet (*Ligustrum sinense*)

Flowering now in profusion!!



Photo credit: NSW WeedWise

Narrow-leaf privet, sometimes called Chinese privet, is an introduced species that long ago escaped garden confines and now grows abundantly in the Wollombi Valley.

An evergreen, multi-stemmed shrub growing up to 3 metres, it thrives in the moist soil of riparian zones and its cream-coloured flowers are currently in profusion along the Wollombi Brook and other watercourses in the valley. The flowers have a pungent, sweet-sour smell which may upset hay fever sufferers. Its green berries turn black later in the season and are poisonous, as are the leaves.

The plant is spread by birds and water carrying the berries and also by root and stem suckers. It forms thickets along stream banks that can quickly outcompete native shrubs. The plant has oval shaped, wavy edged leaves that can sometimes be confused with our native breynia, lilly pilly and backhousia.

It is difficult to eradicate narrow-leaf privet by pulling it out, and cutting thickets down encourages the roots to spread and produce more plants. The same is true of Broad-leaf privet which will be featured in the December OON.

For effective control measures, refer to the following sources:

NSW WeedWise: <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov/Weeds/PrivetNarrowleaf> and

weedsAUSTRALIA: <https://weeds.org.au/profiles/chinese-privet-narrow/>

THE FORGE

The Blacksmiths Forge

This is the site of a blacksmith and wagon building business from 1870s to the 1930s.

In the 1800s Thomas A Townsend, the son of J.M. Townsend owned the property and lived in the slab hut behind the forge.

In 1875 Thomas Townsend advertised himself as a Wheelwright.

In the early 1900s George Sternbeck operated his business from here and that included making tools and repairing vehicles, as well as providing the service of an undertaker.

Over the decades the Forge has changed hands many times and been a variety of businesses.

Today it's a treasure trove of relics from a bygone era mixed with creative recycled pieces.



The Forge today

From Local Historian – Carl Hoipo

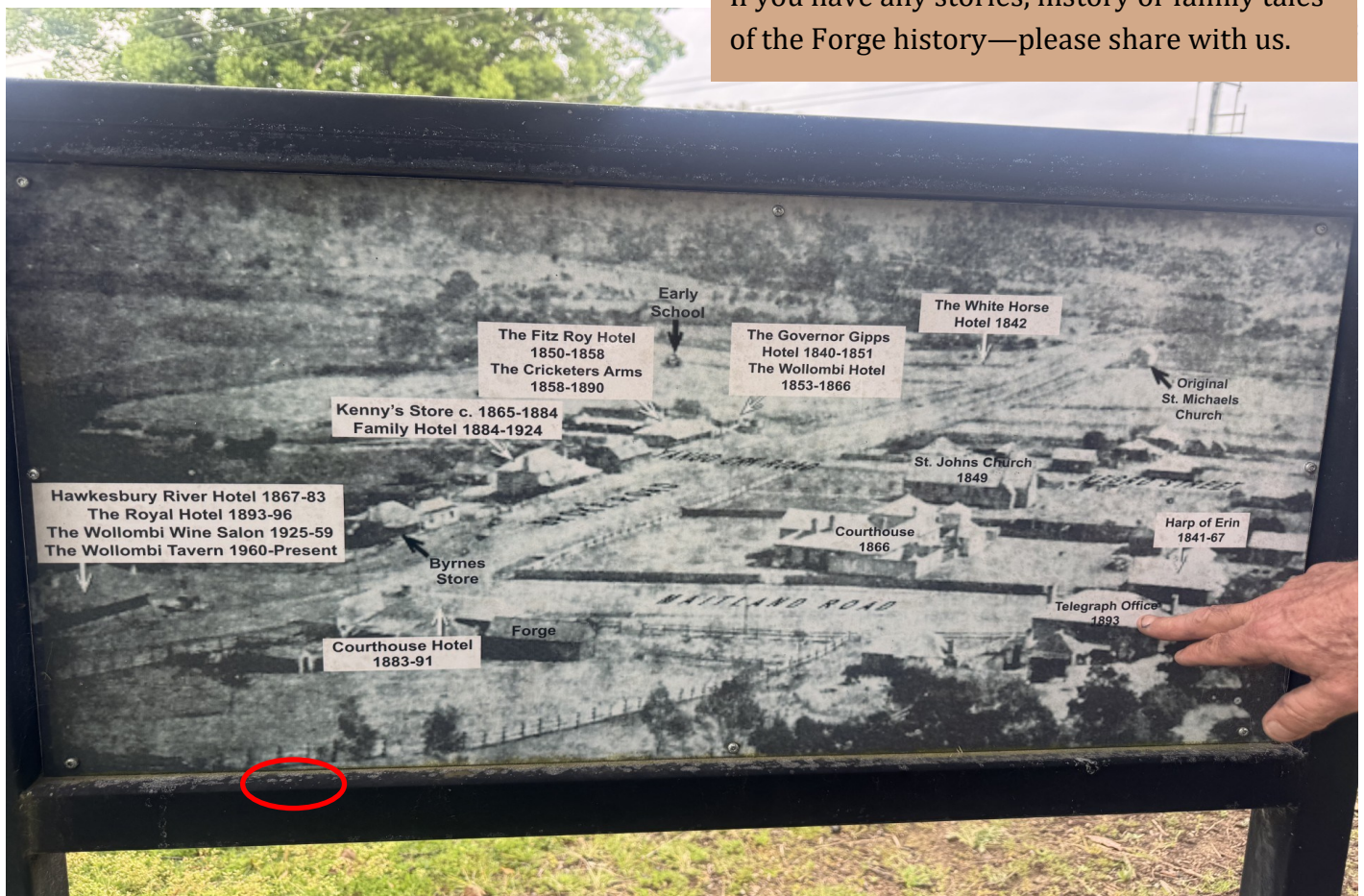
Three blocks of land, from the corner up to the church site were first bought at a government auction in 1840, and remained in one ownership for over a hundred years, although the owner changed several times. The bottom two lots had a shop on them for most of this time, although that was used as a hotel for a while. So the Forge must have been rented during this time. Blacksmiths were a very important part of a towns business in those days, and Wollombi is likely to have had two at times. I don't know the names of the occupants. The small residential building at the rear of the site was probably built in the late 1800s.

It was inspected by a heritage expert, who confirmed that it is quite old.

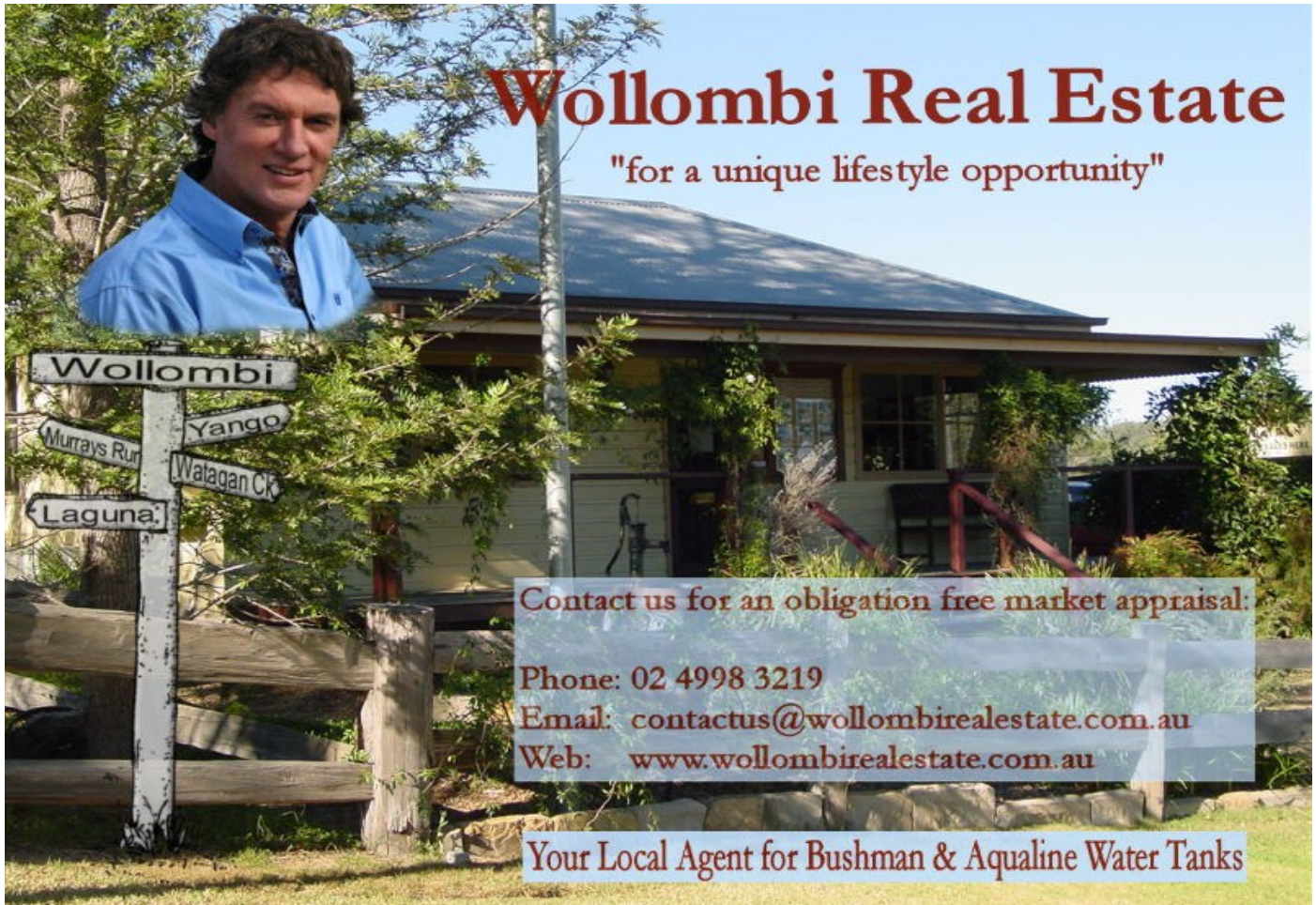


The Forge approx. 1940s

If you have any stories, history or family tales of the Forge history—please share with us.



Early historical map located outside of The Forge



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Scott Mobile: 0405378398
Nickie Mobile: 0414722292
Email: wollombiearthworks@bigpond.com

HREC Project No: 19364

Have your say on Natural Flood Management in your catchments and rivers

The NSW government is partnering with Macquarie University to hear from the community about ways to manage flooding using natural solutions.

This research will help shape future flood resilience strategies for our catchments and rivers. Natural Flood Management (NFM) uses nature-based approaches to slow floodwaters, reduce erosion, and lower flood risks.

Examples include:

- Revegetating riverbanks
- Restoring floodplain wetlands
- Improving soil, water, and vegetation management

How You Can Get Involved

You can take part in:

- A short, anonymous online survey (15-20 minutes) and/or
- A one-to-one interview to share your experiences in more detail

Why your voice matters

With extreme weather events becoming more common, it's important to understand how communities view these strategies.

We want to hear from:

- People affected by riverine flooding
- Those involved in flood, river, or catchment management
- Anyone interested in local flood solutions

All responses are anonymous and the project has ethics approval from Macquarie University.

Contact information



Michael Rupic
PhD Candidate -
Environmental Sciences
michael.rupic@hdr.mq.edu.au

Help shape the future of flood resilience in your community. Get involved today!

To participate in this survey, please click the link [here](https://tinyurl.com/2ynyn7zn)! Or, copy/paste the link into your browser!

Survey Link:

<https://tinyurl.com/2ynyn7zn>



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Great Northern Trading Post, Laguna



Wollombi of Old

WOLLOMBI. October 29th, 1887.

The all-absorbing topic in this locality for some weeks back has been the railway proposal. To judge from the earnestness and enthusiasm displayed by our whole community the fever seems to have taken root, and the genuine interest displayed augurs hopefully for a well-organised and determined effort being made to secure a boon, which, while it would be of incalculable benefit to our residents, is one we are, in the opinion of those competent to judge, justly entitled to. To persons unacquainted with our district a visit of inspection is, indeed, a revelation which always leads the visitor to wonder why such a large, fruitful, and populous territory is only connected with the outside world by the crude and premature expedients used by the last generation and our reply must certainly be that we have not agitated to obtain our right to cheaper and readier communication. However, we have at last awakened, and I trust will not go to sleep till we have convinced the powers that be of the justice of our claim.

The Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser.

Sourced through Trove by Steve Sullivan.



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Council Notifications which may be of interest to the community

MAYORAL COLUMN

Here in the Cessnock local government area, we are lucky to be home to a large piece of one of Australia's most celebrated wine destinations. The Hunter Valley wine region, as a whole, supports more than 150 wineries and generates about \$256 million in total wine sales, with more than 2,500 people working in the viticulture industry revolving around Pokolbin.

That's why Cessnock City Council drafted its Vineyards District Place Strategy, which was formally adopted by Councillors at the October ordinary meeting, following 28 days on public exhibition.

The viticulture industry in our LGA is significant from both historic and economic perspectives, as prominent family businesses continue across generations and people come from around the globe to visit our vineyards and cellar doors – often spending money at local businesses and choosing from our wonderful range of places to stay.

Our Vineyards District Place Strategy aims to support a resilient and diverse rural economy and protect the long-term prospects of our viticulture industry. The Strategy contains a range of tools we can use – such as minimum lot sizes – to protect valuable and significant wine-producing land and keep viticulture the main allowable land use in that area. It supports tourism-focused land uses that support the viticulture industry as a major economic driver, such as boutique accommodation, provided those uses are compatible with their surroundings. Future residential growth is being directed towards our dedicated urban release areas at Bellbird North, North Rothbury, and Greta-Branxton. I encourage you to look at this important document online and see how we are planning for the future. Meanwhile, there's still time to nominate a local legend for some well-earned recognition as part of Council's Australia Day Awards. These annual awards are the perfect chance to celebrate the unsung individuals in our community who go above and beyond for others. The awards program spans 10 categories – including Citizen of the Year, Community Event of the Year, and Sporting Award - and is open to individuals, groups, and events that have made their mark on us. Nominate someone who inspires those around them by 10 November, by searching 'Australia Day Awards' on Council's website.

And finally, the next in our regular Meet the Mayor sessions will be held at the end of this month. Drop in to Arthur's on Cooper Street at Cessnock (between the Vincent Street intersection and the Coles shopping centre) on Wednesday 29 October from 10am for an informal discussion about anything related to Council or the community. I'll be at the café with some other Councillors and Council staff, so come along for a chat about the things in our great LGA that matter to you!

Applications Open for 2026 Cessnock City Council Youth Ambassador Program

Cessnock City Council is calling on passionate young people aged 11 to 18 who live, work or study in the Cessnock region to apply for their 2026 Youth Ambassador Program. The program provides a unique platform for young people to have their voices heard, influence local decision-making and help shape the future of youth services and initiatives across the region.

Ambassadors will have the opportunity to share feedback on Council's youth events and initiatives, raise important youth issues with Council and the wider community, take part in leadership and personal development activities, and connect with like-minded peers.

Cessnock City Mayor Daniel Watton is encouraging local youth to get involved.

"Young people are an important part of our community, and their input helps Council better understand the needs, interests and concerns of the next generation," said Cllr Watton.

"The Youth Ambassador Program is a meaningful way for young people to connect with peers who share their passions, collaborate directly with different areas of Council, and champion the positive impact youth can make, and I encourage those interested to apply today!"

Applications are open now and will close on Friday 17 November 2025.

Interested young people are encouraged to complete the Expression of Interest form available via Council's website. Selection is merit-based, and successful applicants will be contacted to confirm their participation. Parent or guardian consent is required for all applicants.

For more information or to access the Youth Ambassador Charter, contact Council's Youth Services team at youthcentre@cessnock.nsw.gov.au or call 4993 4359.

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, glansbury@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 2:00.pm

Wollombi Valley Community Association

Community meetings held 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 10.00am.

Wollombi Community Hall

Contact: Susan 0403-270 365

Wollombi Tennis

Thursday from 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

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 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

Fernances Crossing

Willows Leap 0249 988623

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.

All rights reserved: no part of artwork/photography for this publication in whole or in part may be reproduced without the permission of the OON Team. We welcome your comments by email. We hope you enjoy reading your copy of OON and thank you for supporting our community.

The OON Team