

# Our Own News



Scent Menu

- Kakadu plum
- Raspberry & Vanilla
- Lemon Myrtle
- Coconut & Lemongrass
- Citronella Lemongrass
- Vanilla Coffee
- Vanilla Bean
- Champagne Strawberry
- Australian Bush
- Amalfi Coast
- Umbel Lavender and Thyme
- The Cellar
- Peach
- Saffron Cardamom

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### APR

**25th Anzac Day Service 5:30am for a 5:45 start**  
**Followed by the Community Breakfast at 7am, 2-up**  
**after lunch and evening entertainment.**

**26th Tennis Club –Bunnings BBQ fundraiser**

**26-10th May 'Heads & Tales' by Wendy Black**  
**exhibition—Fireshed gallery P7**

### MAY

**1st Wollombi General Store 175th birthday dinner**

**2nd & 3rd Heart of Wollombi Street Party 175**  
**year celebrations, stalls, music, etc - see P2 for**  
**details**

**2nd Artisan Collective Grand Opening at The Barn,**  
**WGS—P2 or visit [www.visitwollombi.com.au/](http://www.visitwollombi.com.au/)**  
**hunter valley events**

**SIP Wollombi at Grays Inn –Official Opening, Gin**  
**Masterclass & Craft Beer Tasting P2 for times.**

**Myrtle & Stone Café –Devonshire Tea & Bubbles**

**Opening of Bee Mindful & Kopila The Label store—**  
**Grays Inn**

**16-31st Laguna Collective at Fireshed Gallery P7**

**17th Pickleball at Wollombi Tennis Club 4pm P11**

**THE HEART OF WOLLOMBI STREET PARTY**  
**2ND & 3RD MAY 2026**

**SATURDAY 2ND MAY**  
**10AM-8PM**  
 Village festivities all day & evening

**SUNDAY 3RD MAY**  
**10AM-3PM**  
 Village festivities during the day

PRESENTED BY **wollombi valley**

SUPPORTED BY **CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL**

Logos for WGS, SIP, Artisan Collective, Bee Mindful, Kopila, and The Tavern.

**JOIN US FOR A RELAXED WEEKEND CELEBRATING OUR BEAUTIFUL VILLAGE IN THE MAIN STREET OF WOLLOMBI**

**EVENT TIMETABLE**

ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION
<b>SATURDAY 2ND MAY</b>		
Market Stalls	1 All Day 2	St Michaels Church garden & Endeavour Museum lawn
Art highlights	All Day	Roadside Gallery / Twine (Waterhen) / Fireshed Gallery / Wollombi Cultural Centre / Jodie Usher Gallery / The Forge
Myrtle & Stone - Devonshire Tea	3 10am - 11.30am	Myrtle & Stone
Artisan Collective - Workshops (eg. leather, floral, resin)	4 11am - 4pm	Artisan Collective (WGS)
SIP - Sydney Brewery Hunter Valley Craft beer tasting	5 11am - 2pm	SIP Wollombi Village (Grays Inn)
Classic Car Club entry	11.30am	Wollombi Rd T-intersection
Tavern - Lunch special + live music	6 12.30pm - 3pm	Wollombi Tavern
Bee Mindful/Kopila - Opening event + welcome & music	7 1pm - 2.30pm	Bee Mindful Candles/Kopila the label (Grays Inn)
Street Opening Ceremony: Mayor ribbon cutting	8 3pm - 4pm	Wollombi Rd T-intersection
SIP - Opening event: Gin Master Class & producer talk	5 4pm - 5pm	SIP Wollombi Village (Grays Inn)
Mexican Cantina - food truck	9 5pm - 8pm	Artisan Collective & WGS Garden
Artisan Collective - Opening event + music & raffle	9 5pm - 8pm	Artisan Collective & WGS Garden
<b>SUNDAY 3RD MAY</b>		
Market Stalls	10 10am - 3pm	Artisan Collective & WGS Garden
Art highlights	All Day	Roadside Gallery / Twine (Waterhen) / Fireshed Gallery / Wollombi Cultural Centre / Jodie Usher Gallery / The Forge
Wollombi RFS	10 from 10am	Wollombi RFS Sausage Sizzle fundraiser

**ANZAC DAY 2025**

**WOLLOMBI ANZAC DAY SERVICE**

**Saturday April 25th at 5:30am for a 5:45 start**

**WOLLOMBI ANZAC RESERVE**

Community breakfast follows  
 Courtesy of The Wollombi Tavern

## Wollombi Easter Market Day, 2026.

The Wollombi School Community Centre (WSCC) was pleased and proud to coordinate the Wollombi Easter Market Day, 2026, as its annual fundraising event.

The success of this event was made possible by:

\*a willing and much appreciated volunteer workforce;

\*fortuitous weather;

\*the sale of nearly every stall site:

\*the variation of the nature of the stalls;

\*the enthusiasm of locals and visitors who attended our Market Day;

\*social media coverage and other media advertising of the Day;

\*positive community liaisons, including the Laguna Public School P&C, the Wollombi Valley Pony Club and the Wollombi Volunteer Bushfire Brigade, Wollombi Valley Landcare Group, Hunter Wildlife Rescue, and Bucketty Bushfire Brigade as well as many individual community engagements.

Funds raised will go towards WSCC's ongoing upkeep and insurances to keep the old Wollombi School in community use.

**Thank you.**




*We Will Remember Them*  
**ANZAC DAY IN WOLLOMBI**  
SATURDAY 25 APRIL 2026

5:45am  
DAWN SERVICE  
ANZAC RESERVE

7:00am  
COMMUNITY  
BREAKFAST  
WOLLOMBI TAVERN

12:30pm  
2UP until sunset  
WOLLOMBI TAVERN

5:30pm  
BRAD KNIGHT  
WOLLOMBI TAVERN



## Wollombi Valley Community Association



There will a General Meeting of the association on 15 May at 5:30pm at the Wollombi Tennis Club. All welcome.

This will be an opportunity to hear what the association has been working on and to give your views on future focus areas.

[wollombivalleycommunity@gmail.com](mailto:wollombivalleycommunity@gmail.com)

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## MARKET DAY REPORT

### Details by Fiona Burless

The Wollombi Easter Market Day, 2026, was held on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> of April, in the Cattle Sales Yard Paddock next to Slacks Park on Paynes Crossing Road in the village of Wollombi. The market opened, as scheduled, at 8am and, despite some brief sprinkling periods of cleansing rain, the market remained well attended until its official closing time of 2pm.

The Coordination team consisted of Fiona, Suzanne and Michelle. This team was supported by our Ozee Markets facilitator, Patrick, to ensure the smooth and successful booking of nearly 170 stalls.

The paddock was prepared by slasher-Fiona, mower-Simon, surveyor-Martin, stall marker-Atticus (volunteering for the 12<sup>th</sup> year in a row since he left Wollombi School) site flaggers-Fiona and Suzanne, and mow-poo eliminator-Patrick (who even managed to sell the bag of manure to a stallholder).

Stallholders were ushered to their sites almost-seemlessly by ushers Fiona, Atticus, Suzanne, Morgan, John, Nat, Fi, Alex, Katie, Bert, Naiomi and Carl.

Car parking areas, provided by the Wollombi Tavern, neighbours Martin and Steve, and the Crown (Aleppo Street) were facilitated by Bert, David, Camilla, Micaela, Fiona, Howard, Heather, Atticus, Katie, Alan, Dave and Sharon.

All three gates for the paddock were used for pedestrian access and, at each of those gates, volunteers equipped with clinking buckets did their best to entice market-attendees to part with as much or as little as they chose to contribute as donations to the cause. These bands of volunteer-bucketeers consisted of Fiona, Suzanne, Bert, Cathy, Simon, Morgan, Atticus, Gael, Rosie, Dorothée, Mel, Michelle, Linda and Lynda,

The objective of coordinating the Wollombi Easter Market was to accumulate some fundraising for the Wollombi School Community Centre. The ultimate goal...was to survive the experience and not to have to cancel the event. We are pleased that the event was indeed a success and that we did not even have the slightest suggestion that weather events might threaten the triumph of our market event this time.

The stallholders are our "customers" and their customers are the thousands of people who attended the Market Day. One disappointing thing that occurred on Market

Day, affecting stallholders and their market attendee customers, was that the contractor who provided the ATM was, unfortunately, unable to get his new machine to work. He said that had not checked yet checked to see if it worked before coming to our valley with its notoriously poor communication reception. After welcome help from Karen V, a borrowed starlink connection also failed to help him become operational. He ultimately needed to be escorted out of the venue by ushers. Our new Police Officer in residence, Chris, assisted in ensuring he maintained safe passage off the venue site. We received a full refund from the vendor...and a suggestion that his machine might operate better in a site closer to the road.

No incidents requiring First Aid were logged, but we had a lost child. A non-verbal 2 year old had exited the jumping-play area and "eloped" away from his normally vigilant parents. Simon, the Jumping-Castle operator rang me at the front gate then texted a photo of the child to my mobile phone. Several available volunteers, wearing hi-vis vests, bright lanyards and bunny ears were tasked with commencing a search for the child. I joined the search and communicated with the gates via a radio. Thinking like a two year old, I looked for the known "bright" stall sites. A concerned stallholder, selling large, colourful rubber balls in the F Row, had noticed an unattended child at her stall site, playing with the balls. Other onlookers were scanning the crowd for an obvious parent, When they spotted my rabbit-eared, hi-vis-jacketed, walkie-talkie-operating visage approaching the row. I was summoned me to the ball stall and the nonchalant child was soon reunited with his distraught parents...who then had to buy the ball that he refused to relinquish. Winners all round. Well done community.

I am waiting for figures (liquid and sold) from ABSOLOO to determine if three portaloos is one-too-many portaloos for a market day as successful as this one. Volunteer Patrick, in fulfilling his responsibilities along a similar vein as his Moo-Poo scooping duties, indicated that there seemed to be very little use of the toilet paper in the Absoloo stalls. There may be other reasons for this anomaly, stealth-poops being one of them, but Patrick suggested that it was because of scarce use of the portaloos. With absoloo's quantitative figures, we might be able to find a way to reduce some of our initial outlay.

Patrick's accounting acumen, combined with the dextrous counting talents of Lesley and Julie, have presented us with the ins and outs of our fundraising efforts, and I think we all deserve a big pat on the back for a job well done...or something substantially more bubbly.

# Wollombi Valley Pony Club

Our Club has had a very busy few weeks with our Tea Room Fundraiser & Ribbon Day .

A huge thank you to our incredible community for your support at the Wollombi Market Tea Room Fundraiser ☺

We are so grateful to everyone who contributed—whether it was your amazing baking skills or your valuable time behind the scenes. Thanks to your efforts, we raised a very generous amount through both the tea room and the raffle.

A special thank you to our wonderful prize donors:

- Wollombi General Store
- Myrtle & Stone
- Wollombi Tavern
- Laguna Trading Post
- Noyce Wines
- Gypsy's Bluff
- Stonehurst Wines
- Declan O'Sullivan Construction
- Fernances Creek Haflingers



The kids especially loved having Sid & Ockie the unicorn there, helping to sell raffle tickets and bringing plenty of smiles along the way ☺

Well done to everyone involved—what a fantastic and successful day for our club!

This past weekend Wollombi Valley members Ribbon Day.

We had 20 riders competing across a great range of classes, including rider classes, mounting & dismounting, best presented, and pony club mount—just to name a few! The day also featured plenty of fun sporting activities and, of course, some exciting show jumping.

It was wonderful to see such great participation and support, with over 50 people joining us for lunch and enjoying the day together.

A huge well done to all of our riders and a big thank you to everyone who helped make the day such a success. A truly fantastic day all around!



## HORSE FOOD IN LAGUNA

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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!

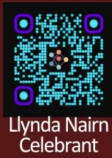


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Artist | Celebrant



Llynda Nairn  
Celebrant

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*"I love to help people create ceremonies that are meaningful and personal"*



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### From Laguna Pool to the Australian Nationals (Freediving)

Some of the regular Laguna swimmers may have noticed someone (Denny) doing numerous 25m and 50m underwater drills. This was part of a sponsored swim for the Starlight Foundation. He notched up 11km underwater in the month of February. It was also good preparation for the Australian Nationals Freediving event (Pool) held over 4 days in Sydney at the end of March. Denny was competing and representing Team GB. On Day 1 he was sitting in 23<sup>rd</sup> spot out of 52 (15 nationalities represented) having recorded a breath hold of 4 minutes and 51 seconds.

Denny with his instructor Jack who is a Guinness World Record holder in freediving.

He also managed 3 personal bests at the Nationals including 120 metres in the Dynamic Bi-fins (one breath underwater swim with fins).

Whilst he didn't win the overall event - maybe next time! - he did win a major award and prize as Best Newcomer at the event so came away pretty happy.



### B Squad swim squad road trip to Laguna

It was great to read last month of Laguna School's success in the relays at Hunter PSSA. It was also great to see the acknowledgement and thanks to the Forsyth family.

I would like to add to those thanks for allowing the B Squad social swim group to host a squad at Laguna pool during February. David Dennison, aka Denny, brought his swim mates up from Manly and they hosted a Skills and Drills session at the pool. A brave local junior swimmer joined us for the session and received some expert coaching from Mark who has previously coached the Canadian junior swim team.

We also ran an Intro to Freediving and Breath Hold 101.

Next year we hope to return to Laguna and will be canvassing for more local representation. In addition to a swim session and freedive session, we plan to host a mindfulness and yoga session.



Harrie Fasher Landscape of the Soul

*Contemporary Sculpture in a Historic Setting*

*Save the Date*



Stephen Paul Coburn Sentinel

**Sculpture**  
IN THE VINEYARDS

Wollombi Valley Sculpture Festival  
12th – 27th September 2026



Image Ross Zimmerman



## Wollombi Valley Arts Council Inc.

### What's on at The Wollombi Cultural Centre

#### April- May 2026

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](http://www.wollombi.org)

We are now also on Instagram

#### 'HEADS and TALES'

##### A solo exhibition by WENDY BLACK

26 April - 10 May 2026

Open Friday - Sunday 10am - 4pm

You are warmly invited to attend the opening of 'Heads and Tales' on Sunday 26th April from 2pm - 4pm. All welcome, refreshments will be provided. 'Heads and Tales' is an exhibition of drawings and sculpture inspired by people and animals with a fascinating story to tell.'



#### LAGUNA COLLECTIVE 16 - 31 May Open DAILY 10am - 4pm

Jordis Pointu, Loris Self, Rosie Hermann, Jane Mowatt & Danielle Holt

'An exhibition of art and crafts from local artisans with works on display and sale. Inclusive of wool, silk, decorative pieces, winter goods and accessories.'



### 2026 EXHIBITIONS in the OLD FIRESHED GALLERY

Wendy Black 'Heads and Tales' 26 April – 10 May

Laguna Collective 16 – 31 May

Fibre Artists Plus: 6 - 21 June

Taotocs: 27 June - 12 July

Fiona Bateman & Michael O'Sullivan: 18 July - 2 August

Wayne Munce: 8 - 16 August

Artz Emergence: 22 August - 6 Sept

Sculpture in the Vineyards: 7 - 27 Sept

Family Ties: 3 - 11 Oct

Susanna Chen Chow: 17 - 25 Oct

Jodie Usher: 31 Oct - 8 Nov

Glenda Mellows: 14 - 29 Nov

The Artists Market: 5 Dec - 3 Jan 2027

### THE LITTLE YENGO GALLERY

The Little Yengo Gallery was built and is maintained and run by volunteers to celebrate the rich Aboriginal history and culture of Wollombi and surrounding areas. The non-profit gallery displays an extensive range of Aboriginal paintings, artworks and artefacts. The proceeds from the sale of the works, minus a small administrative fee, go directly to the artists. Wollombi means 'meeting place', our totem is the waterhen. Please come and learn the waterhen story and meet the artists. New volunteers and artists are welcome. Visit <https://www.wollombi.org/little-yengo-gallery> for our online gallery

Wollombi Valley Arts Council Inc

Email: [artscouncil@wollombi.org](mailto:artscouncil@wollombi.org) [yengogallery@wollombi.org](mailto:yengogallery@wollombi.org)

Web: [www.wollombi.org](http://www.wollombi.org)

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

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

Postal address: 2892 Wollombi Rd. Wollombi 2325

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0403 270 365 or [leithsu@bigpond.com](mailto:leithsu@bigpond.com)



craft - small batch

## WINE/SPIRITS/BEER

### MAY SPECIALS

<b>FAR CANAL LAGER</b>	<b>\$24</b>
IronBark Hill - 4 pack x375ml	
<b>2024 BARBERA</b>	<b>\$28</b>
Beckels Vineyard - 750ml	
<b>ITCHY WOMBAT GIN</b>	<b>\$80</b>
Kawal Rock - 700ml	
<b>MUSCAT LIQUOR</b>	<b>\$40</b>
Peter Drayton	
<b>VAT OF 9 TAILS CIDER</b>	<b>\$10</b>
Incy Wincy Cyder	
<b>LITTLE BEE DESSERT WINE</b>	<b>\$34</b>
The Little Wine Company - 500ml	

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SIP CIRCLE  Benefits for regulars & their guests

2884 WOLLOMBI ROAD,  
WOLLOMBI NSW 2325  
ph: 0416 245 655

# Valley Artists inc.



Valley Artists inc.

## Stationery Lives

17p Karen Jones

17p Micaela Elphick

Directed by Annette Rowlison

**Laguna Hall Theatre**  
**May 22 - 30 2026**

An adaptation of *Ladies of Letters* by Carole Hayman and Lou Wakefield

After a number of unforeseen issues that stopped us from running our second production last year, the team at VA are hard at work getting our next production, *Stationery Lives*, ready to hit the stage at Laguna, opening on Friday the 22nd May.

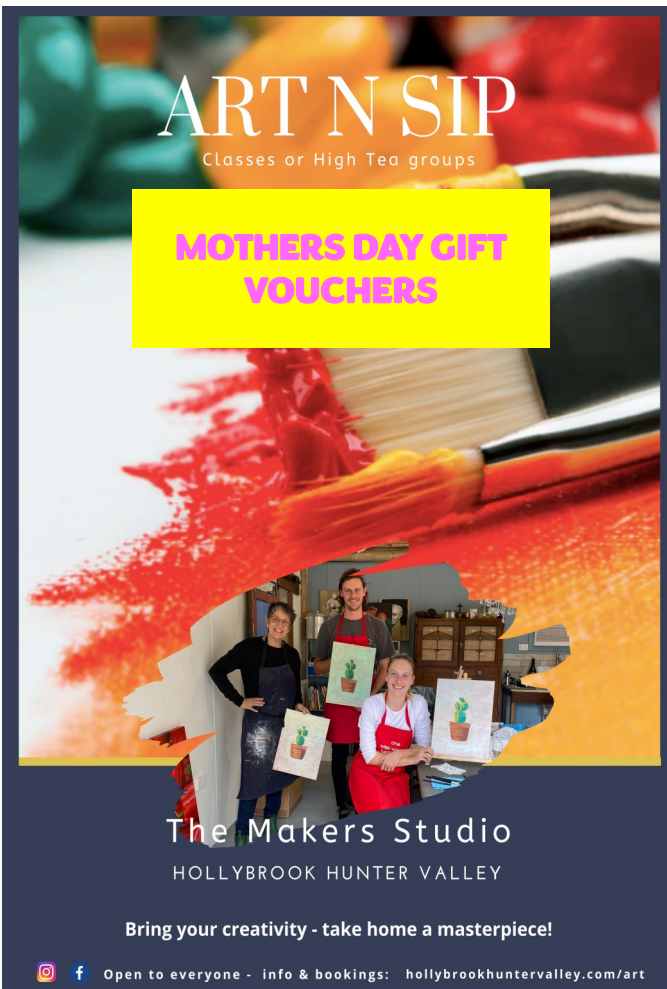
Two feisty, middle-aged, crazy English widows become friends through letters and correspondence over a number of years. Having originally met under a table at a wedding and both struggling, in their own ways, through "tricky" relationships with their families, and each with a penchant for one-upmanship, the scene is set for misunderstandings, innuendos and mishaps.

*Stationery Lives* is based on the very funny *Ladies of Letters*, written by Carole Hayman and Lou Wakefield and which ran as a BBC radio series for 13 seasons. We are sure it will have you laughing, crying - and contemplating your own relationships.

Directed by Annette Rowlison and starring Micaela Elphick and Karen Jones, *Stationery Lives* will run for 6 shows between May 22<sup>nd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> at Laguna Hall Theatre.

**Bookings are now open!** Simply click on the button below, scan the QR code or go to [valleyartists.org](http://valleyartists.org), for more information and to secure your tickets.

**BOOK NOW**


# ART N SIP

Classes or High Tea groups

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## WOLLOMBI VALLEY ENDEAVOUR MUSEUM

DISCOVER WOLLOMBI VALLEY AMAZING HISTORY

AT WOLLOMBI IN THE HUNTER VALLEY

### EXCITING NEW ERA FOR THE WOLLOMBI VALLEY ENDEAVOUR MUSEUM

Following discussions within the Cessnock Historical and Family History Society it has been agreed that the best way to maximize community ownership and involvement for the future of the Wollombi Museum will be to form the **WOLLOMBI VALLEY ENDEAVOUR MUSEUM INCORPORATED [WVEM]** as a registered not for profit association located in the Wollombi village with separate operations and objectives to the important family history work of CHFHS based at the Cessnock Library.

WVEM INC will commence in July 2026 when the WVEM is incorporated and assumes the role of Land Manager of the buildings and land of the Wollombi Museum on behalf of NSW Govt.- Crown Lands.

The **Wollombi Valley Endeavour Museum Management Committee** has been formed to guide the process. A Constitution has been adopted. A community meeting will be held in early July 2026 where the Constitution will be explained and put to a vote. Elections for the Committee will then be conducted.

The **OBJECTS** of the Wollombi Valley Endeavour Museum Incorporated include:

- To keep the Wollombi Museum in public ownership for use as a not for profit Museum
- To encourage activities that promote the rich history and heritage of the Wollombi Valley including the promotion and recognition of First Nations Indigenous history and culture
- To manage, maintain and preserve the grounds and heritage listed buildings of the Wollombi Endeavour Museum including appointment as Land Manager by Crown Lands
- By community management of the Wollombi Endeavour Museum promote educational, arts and cultural activities in the Wollombi Valley

#### BECOME A MEMBER OF THE WOLLOMBI VALLEY ENDEAVOUR MUSEUM

FOR MORE INFORMATION and to request a Membership Application form

CONTACT US BY EMAIL ...send to the SECRETARY WVEM: [wollombimuseum1@gmail.com](mailto:wollombimuseum1@gmail.com)

or you can ring the WVEM Convenor Lindsay Self on: 0491 239 589

or Assistant Convenor David Roache on: 0400 330 760

#### OON Subscription form, complete below or email to [oon\\_news@hotmail.com](mailto:oon_news@hotmail.com)

I would like a 12month Subscription to OON via  Email (Free) or  Post (\$60) Renewal ?  Yes  No

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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.

# Laguna Public School

3738 Great North Road

Laguna NSW 2325



Courage, Compassion, Honesty, Responsibility and Respect

## Lovin' Learning at Laguna!

We are incredibly proud of our swimming team, who have demonstrated outstanding effort and determination. Their hard work has paid off, and we are thrilled to announce they will be heading off to State early next term. We wish them the very best as they represent our school with pride.

Our Easter Hat Parade was a wonderful celebration, with a fantastic turnout from our local community. The creativity on display was impressive, and the atmosphere was filled with joy and excitement. It was especially lovely to see future students and their families joining us, creating a real buzz about what lies ahead for our school.

Students also enjoyed a memorable Rewards Day, highlighted by a whole-school game of hide and seek. Laughter and teamwork were on full display, making it a truly special experience for everyone involved.

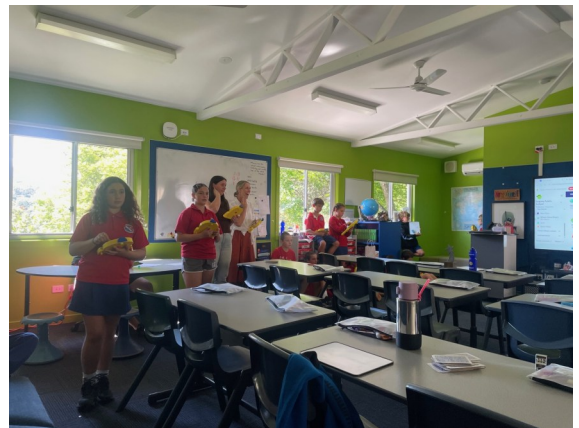
Adding to the excitement, our Fun Run was a great success. Students showed enthusiasm and perseverance as they prepared themselves for the upcoming Zone Carnival. It was fantastic to see such strong participation and encouragement across all year levels.

A big thank you goes to everyone who supported our Easter BBQ – the sausages were so popular they sold out! Events like this continue to strengthen our wonderful school community.

We are already looking forward to Term 2, with the highly anticipated Imaginaturalist program. Students will explore the incredible connections

between Creative Arts and Science, promising a term of curiosity, creativity, and discovery.

Thank you to our students, staff, and community for making Term 1 such a success. We can't wait to see what Term 2 brings!



**P: 0249 98 8251 E: [laguna-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:laguna-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)**

**W: [laguna-p.schools.nsw.gov.au](http://laguna-p.schools.nsw.gov.au) F: [LagunaPS](https://www.facebook.com/LagunaPS)**



**Education**



A great day was had for Pickleball on Sunday 12th April. A good turnout of players and so nice to enjoy the softening of the heat with the change into Autumn .

Bring family and friends to enjoy our next scheduled game, or give it a try for FREE if your new to the game. All tuition and equipment supplied, just wear suitable footwear and bring your water bottle, sunscreen and hat.

**NEXT PICKLEBALL GAME:**

**Sunday 17th May from 4pm.**

*Help wanted for setup from 3:15pm please.*

Contact: Heather 0411-968873

**Regular Social Tennis**- Sunday 8am and Thursday evenings at 6pm. Come along, have fun and get fit!

Don't forget our **Cards 500** group regularly meet.

Contact: Jan Harrison janeceharrison08@gmail.com

**Come and support our Bunnings BBQ fundraiser on Sunday 26th April  
See you there!**

**CALL FOR VOLUNTERS**



The Wollombi Valley Arts Council are welcoming volunteers for the Little Yengo Gallery. Gallery opening hours are 10-4 pm at weekends and Public holidays. Half and full day shifts available.

**Please email your interest to [artscouncil@wollombi.org](mailto:artscouncil@wollombi.org). Att: Kerry**

# Wollombi Real Estate

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Web: [www.wollombirealestate.com.au](http://www.wollombirealestate.com.au)

Your Local Agent for Bushman & Aqualine Water Tanks

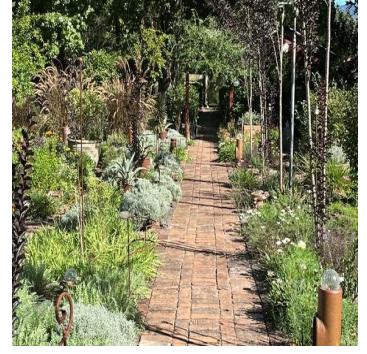
## WOLLOMBI GARDEN CLUB

This month we ventured to Ellalong to Taffy's beautiful garden. It was a glorious Autumn day which showcased the garden to perfection. The garden is a half acre, suburban block but there is nothing suburban about it.

Once through the gate it is a gardeners delight. It has many "rooms" and all are different. There are shady areas with magnificent trees and quaint seating areas amongst the plantings. The garden is quite old with huge mature camelias & crepe myrtles trees down the bottom & lovely open plantings of everything you can image in the centre. Off to one side is the succulent enclosure. Then the expansive herb garden & the cute woodshed in the corner. The house, set in another corner, is a beautiful old workers cottage. Taffy's horticultural knowledge is amazing and her eye for detail is evident everywhere you look.

We certainly had a wonderful afternoon, with a fabulous garden, great host & some good food & company. Next month we are off to Joy's garden high on a ridge in Laguna. Should be another lovely outing. If you would like us to come visit your garden or wish to join us contact me on my details below. I am always hunting for other gardens to visit. It doesn't have to be a show piece, just somewhere nice to visit. Taffy has worked on her garden for 42 years, but last month we went to a brand new garden which was just as fascinating.

**JUDY ZIEREN - WOLLOMBI GARDEN GROUP**  
**0405 281 845**  
 or [barryandjudy1@bigpond.com](mailto:barryandjudy1@bigpond.com)



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






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Wollombi Valley  
**Landcare**  
Group Inc.

### **Weed of the month:**

#### **Turkey rhubarb (*Rumex sagittatus*)**

A smothering pest!



Photo credit: NSW WeedWise

Strangely named, this perennial scrambling creeper thrives in moist soils along riparian zones, in gullies and in woodland. It can grow up to 5 metres long and has the propensity to climb up and over native grasses and shrubs.

The creeper has distinctive, arrowhead leaves which branch from reddish green, succulent stems. Turkey rhubarb grows from underground tubers which are attached to elongated rhizomes. In spring, it produces small flowers in branching clusters that change in colour from green to cream, and then to red. The papery, winged fruit turns brown and seed is then carried by wind and water.

Turkey rhubarb can be pulled out by hand but be sure to get all the roots and carefully dispose of them to avoid the plant re-sprouting! For alternative control measures, consult the sources below:

Sydney Weeds Network: <https://sydneyweeds.org.au/weeds/turkey-rhubarb-2/>

Weeds of the Blue Mtns: <https://weedsbluemountains.org.au/weeds/turkey-rhubarb/>

NSW WeedWise: <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weed/TurkeyRhubarb>

### **Seed Propagation Workshop Saturday 28 March**

About thirty Landcare members showed up at the Seed Propagation workshop to hear from Kris from Floribunda Endemics and get their hands dirty with a practical day of propagation. Kris is very knowledgeable and discussed seed collection and how to gauge viability of seed.



He had plenty of examples at hand to show us the range of seeds of the area. He demonstrated some unusual methods of germination including with smoke and heat.

Things really swung into gear when we rolled up our sleeves and learned how to plant out a tray of the seed we were keen to try raising.



There was some stiff competition for popular seeds.

Kris also gave us a surgically efficient 'propagation by division' demonstration and propagation by cuttings.

The hoop pines raised by Simon Geraghty were nabbed by La Presidenta, Anna Yerbury who has 'just the place for them'.

We'll be meeting under them in about 10 years.

Andrea Lang

### MIND—BODY -SPIRIT



Recently many of us looked up at the night sky with renewed attention as humans once again travelled toward the Moon. Watching a small spacecraft cross the vast darkness can awaken something ancient in us — a quiet sense of awe and wonder. For thousands of years people have gazed at the same Moon, telling stories, marking time, and contemplating our place in the universe.

Yet we do not need rockets or distant planets to experience this feeling. Awe often appears much closer to home.

Here in the Wollombi Valley it might arrive in the soft mist rising from the paddocks at dawn, the immense silence of the bush, or the brilliance of a sky full of stars on a clear winter night. In moments like these, the everyday world becomes quietly extraordinary.

Spiritual traditions often speak of awe as a doorway — a moment when the thinking mind softens and something deeper is felt. We remember, even briefly, that we are part of a vast and beautiful mystery.

Perhaps the invitation is simply to pause now and then. To step outside, look up at the sky above the valley, and allow ourselves to feel that quiet wonder. In doing so we may rediscover a gentle inner light — a sense of connection to the earth, the cosmos, and to one another.

**Helena Blazina-Elms / Wollombi Yoga**

*Highly Recommended and Now Local to the Hunter Valley*

## Lewis Drinkwater



### Registered Nurse & NDIS Professional

With over 12 years in healthcare and a strong background in the NDIS, Lewis Drinkwater has recently relocated to the **Hunter Valley** and is proud to support the local community through his work with **Sirv**.

#### Specialising in:

- Supported Independent Living (SIL)
- Complex & high-intensity supports
- Personal care & community access
- Behaviour support & capacity building

Lewis combines clinical expertise with a warm, person-centered approach. Whether you're an NDIS participant, family member, or provider—Lewis is here to help.

*"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."*

**Location:** Hunter Valley, Newcastle, Port Stephens & surrounds

**Email:** [Lewis.Drinkwater@sirv.com.au](mailto:Lewis.Drinkwater@sirv.com.au)

**More info:** [sirv.com.au/lewis-drinkwater](http://sirv.com.au/lewis-drinkwater)



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# Wollombi of Old

Wollombi. 7<sup>th</sup> May 1852.

A very unmistakeable evidence of public opinion with respect to the manner in which justice is administered at the Bench is now in

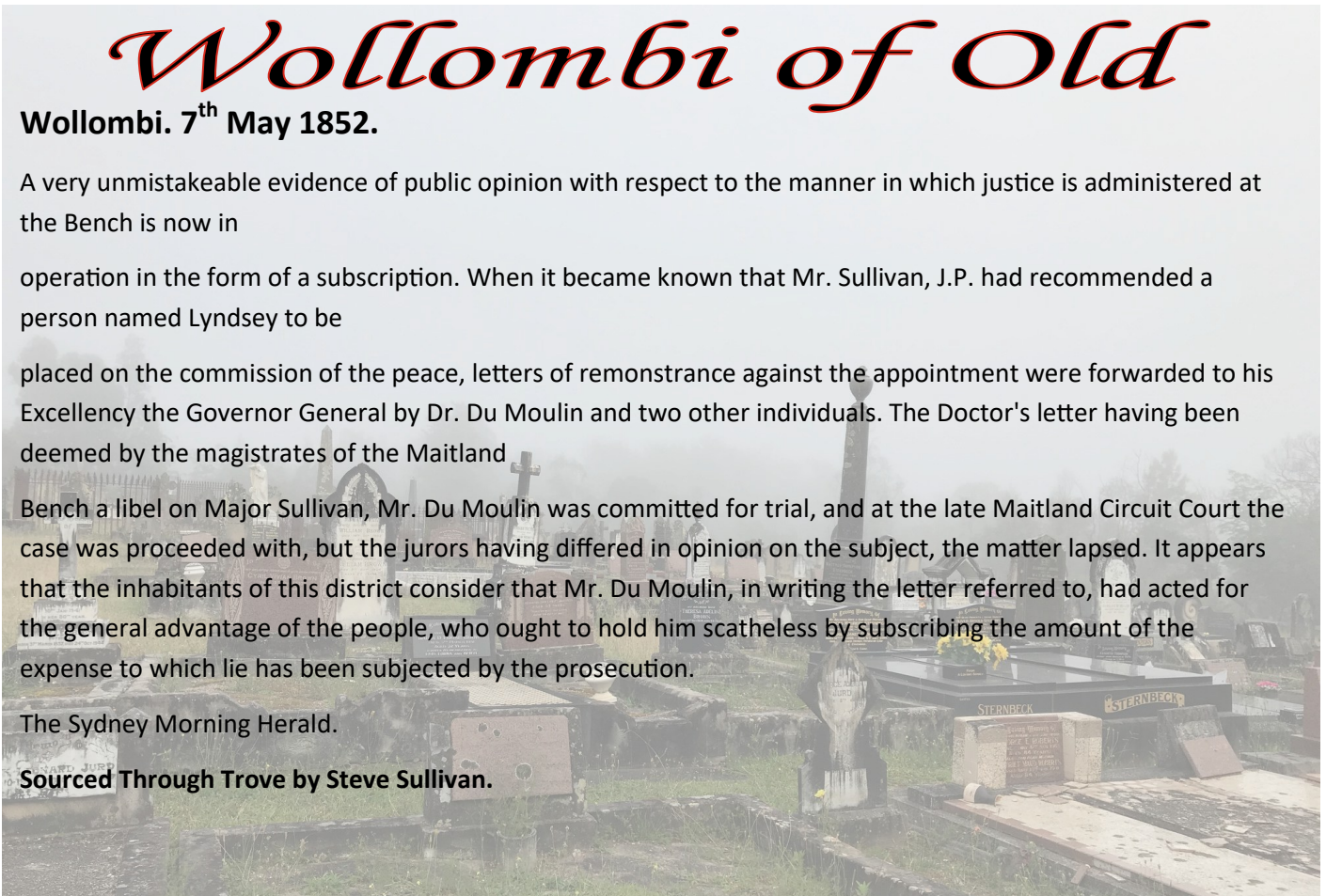
operation in the form of a subscription. When it became known that Mr. Sullivan, J.P. had recommended a person named Lyndsey to be

placed on the commission of the peace, letters of remonstrance against the appointment were forwarded to his Excellency the Governor General by Dr. Du Moulin and two other individuals. The Doctor's letter having been deemed by the magistrates of the Maitland

Bench a libel on Major Sullivan, Mr. Du Moulin was committed for trial, and at the late Maitland Circuit Court the case was proceeded with, but the jurors having differed in opinion on the subject, the matter lapsed. It appears that the inhabitants of this district consider that Mr. Du Moulin, in writing the letter referred to, had acted for the general advantage of the people, who ought to hold him scatheless by subscribing the amount of the expense to which lie has been subjected by the prosecution.

The Sydney Morning Herald.

Sourced Through Trove by Steve Sullivan.



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## Council Notifications which may be of interest to the community



### New contractor appointed for Wollombi Road Upgrade Project

Cessnock City Council has today appointed a new contractor for the Wollombi Road Upgrade Project.

Daracon has been engaged to deliver a single works program for the full length of the planned upgrade. The works are designed to increase road capacity, reduce traffic congestion and improve pedestrian access.

Once completed, this upgrade will also unlock the release and development of approximately 3,500 new homes in Bellbird North.

The project is funded through State and Federal grants for infrastructure and housing initiatives, developer contributions and contributions from Hunter Water.

To strengthen governance, Council has established a Wollombi Road Reference Group as an additional layer of oversight, which will receive ongoing project updates and support communication with the community.

Cessnock City Council Director of Works & Infrastructure Paul McLachlan said the engagement of Daracon marked a key milestone for recommencement of construction works.

“The engagement of Daracon to support delivery of this vital upgrade is an important step in rebuilding momentum on the project,” Mr McLachlan said.

“The community can expect to see construction activity gearing up throughout April now that a contractor has been engaged, following recent enabling works.”

“Cessnock City Council will be working closely with Daracon to ensure value, quality and delivery milestones are met.” Cessnock City Mayor Dan Watton welcomed the establishment of Wollombi Road Reference Group, of which he is a member.

“The establishment of the reference group provides an additional layer of assurance and transparency as Council leads the delivery of this major infrastructure project,” said Mayor Watton.

The project is jointly funded through a combination of state, federal and local programs. This includes the NSW Accelerated Infrastructure Fund, the Commonwealth’s Housing Support Program – Enabling Community Infrastructure, the State Voluntary Planning Agreement Funding Program, developer contributions and support from Hunter Water.

Council has approved a budget increase for the Wollombi Road Upgrade Project. The adjustment includes \$8.7 million in allocated developer funds, \$3.9 million in State VPA contributions, and an additional \$3.5 million from Hunter Water for watermain works.

For more information about the project, visit [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/wollombiroad](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/wollombiroad).

**MEET NEW PEOPLE, LEARN SOMETHING NEW, BRING SOMETHING NEW**

**JOIN ONE OF OUR MANY 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

### Cessnock City Council Mayoral Scholarship Program to eligible students

If you know students who live in the Cessnock LGA and are currently enrolled to study at university or TAFE, they may be eligible for a \$2,500 Mayoral Scholarship to help support their studies.

About the scholarship

- Value: \$2,500 (paid in two instalments)
- Who can apply: **Residents of the Cessnock LGA**, of any age, studying at university or TAFE
- Funds can be used for:  
Course fees, textbooks, laptops, study supplies and other education-related costs
- Selection is based on:  
Academic merit, community involvement and achievement

#### Applications close soon.

We would really appreciate your help in sharing this opportunity via your platforms (email, internet, social media, noticeboards) or directly with eligible students.

Key links

- Application form: 2026 Mayoral Scholarship application form
- Applicant information & terms and conditions: 2026 Mayoral Scholarship Program Terms & Conditions

Applications are currently open, and we're keen to ensure as many eligible students as possible are aware of the opportunity.

If you'd like short copy, a poster, or social media text tailored to your audience, I'd be very happy to provide it.

Thank you for helping us support local students to achieve their education and career goals.

**Applications close 27 April 2026.** More information and the application criteria can be found on Council's website.

[www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)

**CCC—Chrissy Grainger**

Economic Development Leader

### June Long Weekend Live Comedy Right Here in Cessnock!

Australia's biggest comedy festival is hitting the road and bringing the laughs to you right here in Cessnock!

Join the Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow as it journeys around Australia, delivering hot and tasty comic treats to audiences near and far. With a curated line-up of comedy legends and fresh faces from Australia and beyond, the Roadshow has all your comedy bases covered (no joke) – all in one side-splitting show!

For almost three decades, the Melbourne International Comedy Festival has been touring far and wide, bringing giggles, guffaws and good times across the country – and now it's Cessnock's turn!

#### Featuring:

- **Jo Gowda:** An Indian-born Australian comedian who has mastered the art of turning cultural confusion into comedy gold.
- **Dan Rath:** A multi-award-winning, internationally touring comedian with enough parking ticket debt to cripple a small European country.
- **Chris Ryan:** Known for sharing hard truths and relatable cynicism, paired with a raw, genuine vulnerability that highlights the hilarious absurdities of life.
- **Ben Kochan:** A stand-up comedian and writer, with credits including *Guy Montgomery's Guy Mont-Spelling Bee*, *The Hundred with Andy Lee* and *The Sam Pang Show*.
- **Luka Muller:** A fixture on the Australian comedy scene for over a decade and co-host of triple j Breakfast alongside Concetta Caristo.

*"We were laughing from the moment the lights went down, to well into the drive home."* – *Scenestr*

*"Side-splitting fun, razor-sharp, high-velocity wit."* – *Daily Examiner, Grafton (NSW)*

Don't miss your chance to experience the fun of Australia's largest comedy festival in your own backyard. Grab your mates and get on board the Roadshow! Tickets from just \$50.

**Location:** PACC | Performance Arts Culture Cessnock **Date:** Friday, 5 June 2026 **Time:** 7:30pm

**For more information and to book, visit:** <https://www.mypacc.com.au/Whats-on/26-Melbourne-Comedy>



## Diary & Events

### Church Services

**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](mailto:stjohnscottage@bigpond.com)

**St Michael's Wollombi**, Mass is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:janeceharrison08@gmail.com)

### Chamber of Commerce - Wollombi Valley

General Meetings held every 2<sup>nd</sup> month. See [www.wollombivalleytourism.com.au](http://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](mailto:brigade@wollombibushfire.org.au)

### Fire Brigade - Bucketty and District

Training 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday monthly from 9am - 12pm  
Members meeting 4 times per year  
Enquiries to: [bucketty@lowerhunterffs.com.au](mailto:bucketty@lowerhunterffs.com.au)

### 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](mailto: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](http://www.wollombilandcare.org.au) or [wollombi.landcare@gmail.com](mailto:wollombi.landcare@gmail.com)

### Monthly Historical Ghost Tours

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

### Museum—Wollombi

6pm summer – 5pm winter, 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday monthly except January, Wollombi Cultural Centre  
Contact: David Roache 0400330760  
or Lindsay Self 04091239589

### 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 10.30am.  
Wollombi Community Hall  
Contact: Susan 0403-270 365

### **Wollombi Tennis**

Thursday from 6:00pm  
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 7:30-8:30am Vinyasa  
Saturday 8.30-9.30am Hatha Flow  
Wollombi Community Hall

### **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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[houndsfelines@mail.com](mailto:houndsfelines@mail.com)

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**Laguna**

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 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

**Fernances Crossing**

Willows Retreat 0249 988623

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 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**