



WOLLOMBI SATURDAY MARKETS

KINGS BIRTHDAY HONORS AWARDS KEN MAURER OAM

We are incredibly proud to announce that Ken Maurer was awarded an OAM in the recent King's Birthday Honours Awards, in recognition for his outstanding service to Thanatology and the Community. He contributed significantly to the funeral profession, advancing professional standards while dedicating himself to caring for families at a most difficult time in their lives. He worked tirelessly in the community, always utilising his passion, knowledge, compassion and commitment to make a difference in peoples' lives, with a minimum of fuss and never expecting praise. Ken would be humbled by this honour and is therefore a fitting recognition of a lifetime devoted to helping others.

Ken loved this Valley and for 30 years passionately put his heart and soul into it. He will be remembered for many things but the most passionate thing for him was his determination to revive Anzac Day Dawn, which he achieved and it continues to be an immensely important day on the community's calendar.

As a 4th generation family funeral business, we will strive to honour Ken's legacy in dedicating our lives to the funeral profession and the Wollombi Valley community.

With gratitude and thanks, Antoinette and all the Maurer Family.



DKC Stairs STAIRS, BALUSTRADES & RAILS HUNTER & CENTRAL COAST

Proudly building and installing stairs, balustrades and rails for over 25 years.

- Renovations and new builds
- Internal and external projects
- Quality workmanship

Lic # 483739C

Contact Daniel to discuss
your project and get a quote

Ph. 0421 813 318
Email: dkstairs@gmail.com

Finding guidance during a
difficult time is comforting.



That's why
people turn to us

4 generations of family values since 1941

Antoinette Maurer
0417 257 157

Nick Maurer
0417 202 645

Wollombi, NSW

www.maurerfunerals.com.au office@maurerfunerals.com.au

SIP
WOLLOMBI VILLAGE

WOLLOMBI'S
BEST PRICES
ON SELECT WINES,
BEER & SPIRITS



SIP CIRCLE
Benefits for regulars &
their guests

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUG

Till Aug 2nd - Fiona Bateman & Michael O'Sullivan,
Fireshed Gallery P3

Thur 6th—Endeavour Museum meeting 4pm

Sat 8th—'Style on Demand' MaidenK & Bhret
McIntyre , Fireshed Gallery P3

Sat 8th -Sculpture in the Vineyards—Volunteer meet
P2

Sun 9th -Landcare AGM—11am-12:30pm, Myrtle &
Stone P3

Sun 9th—Wollombi Tennis Bunnings BBQ-Cessnock

Tue 11 - Wollombi School—Committee Meeting at 10
am at front at School cottage P3

Thur 20 - WV Chamber of Commerce AGM & social
dinner 5pm start /6pm dinner –Myrtle & Stone P4

SEPT

7 - 27 Sept -Sculpture in the Vineyards:festival



WOLLOMBI ENDEAVOUR MUSEUM

The Wollombi Courthouse was built in 1866 from local sandstone and cedar and was the Police District Administration Centre for the Greater Wollombi Precinct.

In 1970 the historic building became home to The Wollombi Valley Endeavour Museum.

We are an incorporated registered not for profit association owned and run by the Wollombi Valley community.

We encourage valley locals to become museum members and visitors to come and experience our artifacts from a bygone era.

The museum is the centre piece of our Historic Village. wollombimuseum1@gmail.com

MUSEUM OPEN HOURS

Mon, Wed and Thu - 11 am to 1.30pm

Fri – 11am to 3pm

Sat, Sun and public holidays -11am to 4pm

We will be extending the museum opening hours for the duration of the Wollombi Valley Sculpture Festival.



VOLUNTEER BRIEFING Wollombi Community Hall Saturday 8 August 11:00 am

Everyone Welcome – Come Along!

Thinking about volunteering for this year's festival?

There's **no commitment to volunteer**—just come along to:

- Learn about this year's festival
- Meet the committee members
- Chat with fellow volunteers
- Get answers to all your questions

What's New This Year?

We have **new guidelines, procedures, venues and activities.**

Even if you've volunteered before and know the ropes, we'd love to see you there and show you what's new for this year's festival.

Please RSVP so we can cater for morning tea.

Email: volunteering@sculptureinthevineyards.com.au
Phone: Alice – 0412 286 778

Register Online

Scan the QR code below to go directly to our volunteer registration page.



COMING SOON



Valley Artists inc.

Opening 16th October 2026
Laguna Hall Theatre

After the very successful – and very funny – run of *Stationery Lives*, the VA crew are hard at work getting the next production, the hilarious Neil Simon play *The Odd Couple*, ready to hit the stage at Laguna, opening on Friday the 16th October.

This 1965 classic satirical comedy follows two recently divorced friends who move in together. The story explores themes of marriage breakdown, male companionship and relationship, and the clash between the poles apart meticulously obsessive Felix and the slovenly, easy-going Oscar, despite the similarities of their situations in life.

VA are always looking for people to join in and to help put on these fabulous shows. Contact us now and we'll be more than happy to discuss what you are interested in, how you can help, how we can help you to achieve your goals, and more.

Send us an email at info@valleyartists.org



AGM

Thursday 20th August, 2026

5pm - Myrtle & Stone

6pm - Dinner for those wishing to stay on

We look forward to seeing you all at the AGM on Thursday 20th August.

Myrtle & Stone will have their usual Thursday night dinner on, please let us know if you would like to stay on for dinner so we can give Kristy & Angus an idea of numbers (Email Julia: secretary@wollombivalleytourism.com.au)

Help us take Wollombi Valley Tourism to the next level!

We are looking for a few enthusiastic locals to join our committee. We have big plans for the future, including putting a stronger spotlight on the Valley's amazing arts factor and addressing the growing demand for local EV charging infrastructure.

If you can volunteer just a few hours a month, you can help us drive these initiatives forward. We are actively looking for:

- Member Relationship Manager (Keeping our local business & creative community connected)
- Events Coordinator (Helping bring local arts and culture events to life)
- All-Rounders (Enthusiastic locals passionate about sustainable tourism and future proofing the valley)
- A tech-savvy person to help with the occasional website updates.

Come along to the AGM or drop us a line at secretary@wollombivalleytourism.com.au to find out how you can get involved!

EVENTS!

The events page on our [visitwollombi](http://visitwollombi.com.au) website has been updated with more events and workshops listed for July, August, September and beyond... (take a look, it looks amazing and a lot of hard work has gone into updating it)

If you are a member, have your event listed here <https://www.visitwollombi.com.au/hunter-valley-events/>



Wollombi Valley Arts Council Inc.

What's on at The Wollombi Cultural Centre

July - August 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

We are now also on Instagram

Our next exhibition....

MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN & FIONA BATEMAN

18 July - 2 August

Open 10am - 4pm Fri, Sat & Sun



MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN

"My recent paintings, while continuing to draw on the underlying chaos, control and processes of the natural world, hold two ways of experiencing time. The Murrays Run series sits in the near instantaneous, the flicker of light in my local landscape, the glance up, the movement of vegetation driven by a breeze, the time of day.

The other, Conflagrant series, accesses a different time scale; the slow process of structures building, a forest grown, the chaotic release in fire and its aftermath."

FIONA BATEMAN

"A selection of paintings in oils and acrylics alongside drawings in pastels and oil pastel with a focus on texture"

Followed by ...

'STYLE ON DEMAND'- MAIDENK & BHRET MCINTYRE

"The Valley's most colourful creative duo are turning heads this August

'STYLE ON DEMAND' – A collaboration to excite your senses and celebrate sustainable, wearable, visual and bespoke art."

7th – 16th August Open 10am – 4pm DAILY



2026 EXHIBITIONS in the OLD FIRESHED GALLERY

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

Wayne Munce: 8 - 16 August CANCELLED

Style on Demand: 8 - 16 August MaidenK & Bhret McIntyre

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

WOLLOMBI SCHOOL COMMUNITY CENTRE

The school premises are available to be hired for workshops, art classes, and other community activities. WVAC already holds the Life Drawing and Ceramic sessions at the school. Details of available facilities and hiring fees can be obtained from Michael O'Sullivan ph 0468 730 955

LIFE DRAWING CLASSES

August 5th and 19th at Wollombi School Community Centre

Ph.Michael 0468 730 955

Wollombi Valley Arts Council Inc

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

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

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

Postal address: 2892 Wollombi Rd. Wollombi 2325

ADVERTISE HERE
1/8 SIZE
BLACK AND WHITE
SINGLE ISSUE \$40-
PLUS INCLUSION ON OUR WEBSITE

Laguna Public School

3738 Great North Road

Laguna NSW 2325



Courage, Compassion, Honesty, Responsibility and Respect

Love learning in Laguna for Term 2

There is never a dull moment at Laguna Public School, and Term 2 certainly lived up to that reputation. Our students embraced every opportunity that came their way, with a calendar packed full of learning, adventure and community spirit. From athletics and cross country carnivals to whole-school excursions, Pyjama Day, Film By, discovering weird and wonderful with Gillian and many other memorable experiences, the term was filled with opportunities for students to challenge themselves, build friendships and celebrate their learning.

One of the highlights of the term was the wonderful community spirit on display at our annual Sock Hop and Swamp Stomp. These much-loved events brought together students, families and community members for evenings of fun, music and connection, showcasing the strong partnerships that make Laguna Public School such a special place to learn and grow.

As we look to Term 3, there is even more to look forward to. Students will experience some exciting changes to classroom learning, designed to further engage, challenge and inspire them. Our Stage 3 students are eagerly anticipating camp, while our K-4 students are preparing to solve the mystery of a mischievous thief as part of an exciting learning adventure.

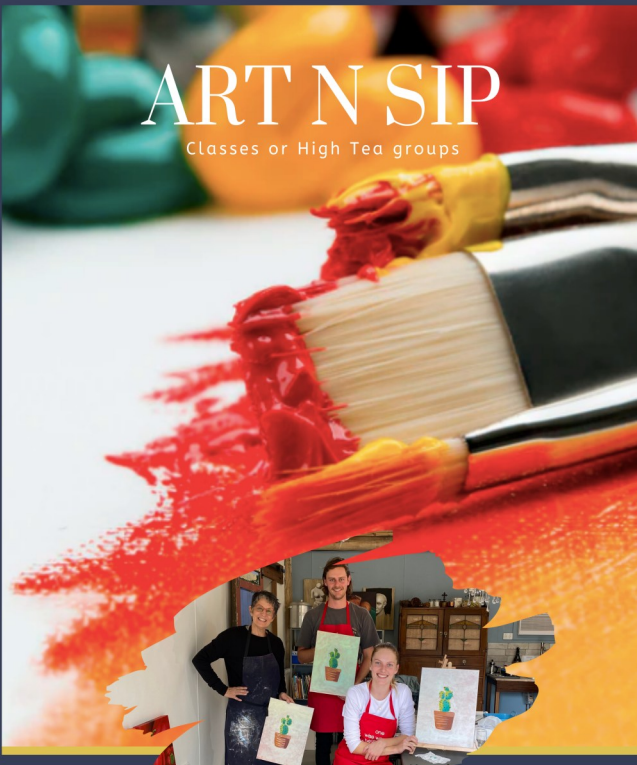
Across the school, students will also step back in time as they explore life in the old days of Australia through rich, hands-on History experiences. These authentic learning opportunities encourage curiosity, creativity and collaboration while helping students make meaningful connections with Australia's past.

At Laguna Public School, we are proud to provide a nurturing environment where every day offers new opportunities to explore, achieve and belong. We look forward to another term filled with adventure, discovery and a continued love of learning.



ART N SIP

Classes or High Tea groups




The Makers Studio

HOLLYBROOK HUNTER VALLEY

Bring your creativity - take home a masterpiece!

Open to everyone - info & bookings: hollybrookhuntervalley.com/art

P: 0249 98 8251 E: laguna-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

W: laguna-p.schools.nsw.gov.au F: LagunaPS



Education

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



First of all, we want to express our sadness at the sudden loss of Sharyn Roache who was a very valued member of our Committee, and a dear, dear friend to us all. Our deep sympathy to David and to Sharyn's family. Family and friends will be gathering to celebrate and reminisce about Sharyn at the Tavern during the time this OON is being put together.

Knowing Shaz, she would want the work to go on, so we feel she would be happy for the following words to now follow, however sad we feel.

People like Sharyn, and other volunteers from Wollombi, Laguna, and Bucketty - via an elected WSCC Committee - continue to work on keeping the historic Wollombi School for the community rather than lose it to private ownership. We thank all of you who have already given your support by becoming members especially those who have recently joined in the cause.

If you would like to be more active in your membership, you would be most welcome to join us at our next Committee Meeting on Tuesday 11 August 2026 at 10 am in the front School cottage on the corner of Wollombi Road and Crawford Street Wollombi. We will be looking at options for some of the fresh challenges that face us in our almost 12 year stewardship to date.

You are invited too to our AGM and if you would like to stand for a position or become a Committee member, please get in touch with Suzanne our Secretary on secretary@wollombischool.com.au. The AGM will be held on Tuesday 25 August 2026 at 10 am at the same address.

We only get one chance to save old heritage buildings in villages like Wollombi. This is our chance!

For more information
www.wollombischool.com.au - The WSCC Committee



**Wollombi Valley
Landcare**
Group Inc.

Notice of Annual General Meeting of the Wollombi Valley Landcare Group Inc.

To be held at Myrtle & Stone, 2877 Wollombi Rd,
Wollombi

On Sunday, 9 August 2026 at 11:00am to 12:30pm
Followed by snacks, drinks and general good cheer.
RSVP to wollombi.landcare@gmail.com by 2 August
for catering purposes.

Agenda

1. Acknowledgement of Country
2. Attendance and apologies
3. Minutes of the previous AGM
4. President's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Membership report
7. Election of office bearers
President, Vice President, Treasurer,
Secretary, Committee (x 3)

Nominations for office bearers are welcome and should be emailed to wollombi.landcare@gmail.com by 2 August 2026.

The AGM will be immediately followed by a General Meeting.

Total Pumps & Irrigation

19 Cessnock Street,
CESSNOCK

📞 02 4990 9444

The only place in town to buy all your, pumping and irrigation equipment!

We sell

Water tanks	House pumps	Dam aerators
Household filters & Cartridges	solar pumps	Dam pumps
Drip lines for gardens	Pool pumps	PVC pipe & fittings
Poly pipe & fittings	Pool filters & Cartridges	Pool Chemicals
Garden hose & fittings	Brass & gal fittings	Bore pumps
Septic pumps	Ultra violet light filtration systems	
Pond pumps	Silvan spray equipment	Trenching



**Don't wait till
it's too late!**

Come in store for all your fire needs.
We service and sell all brands.



We repair all makes & models of pumps either in store or onsite. Call us for a free quote on all your irrigation needs. We can install or help you with a DIY system.



**FAIR
DINKUM
BUILDS**

Sheds & More

**TOPLINE
SHEDS**

We can assist with -

Design

Made to measure designed for you.

Concrete

Fully Licensed Concretor offering onsite consultation.

Installation / Fit out

Fully Licensed Builders offering a full range of services.

Plumbing / Electrical

Specialised trades to assist with your project.

Display Village located at - 6 Caledonia Street Kearsley NSW 2325

📞 02 49912977

✉️ topline@fdbuilds.com.au

Highly Recommended and Now Local to the Hunter Valley

Lewis Drinkwater

sirv
we serve you



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

More info: sirv.com.au/lewis-drinkwater



SCAN HERE

Wollombi Valley Pony Club

Wollombi Valley Pony Club members were treated to a fantastic day of riding at last Sunday's One Day Event Ribbon Day.

With riders ranging from our juniors through to senior members, there was something for everyone. Two separate courses of dressage, showjumping and cross country were set up to suit different riding abilities, giving every rider the opportunity to challenge themselves while having plenty of fun along the way.

One of the highlights of the day was heading out for a trail ride through the beautiful Wollombi Common. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a lovely area to enjoy, and we'd like to sincerely thank Peter Migan, who generously gave his time to slash the riding trails before the event. His hard work made the area look fantastic and ensured it was safe and enjoyable for everyone.

It was wonderful to see every rider tackle the courses with confidence, encouragement and good sportsmanship. At the end of the day, each participant received a ribbon to recognise their efforts, with plenty of smiling faces to be seen.

Members also had the chance to enjoy our new outdoor seating for the first time. Purchased with funds raised through our Bunnings BBQs, the seating has already become a welcome addition to the grounds. Not only is it practical for riders, families and spectators, but they also look great.

Our grounds are looking amazing thanks to all the hard work put in by our volunteers & we look forward to seeing everyone again at our next Rally Day.



Great weather at the moment for some fun and fitness!

Glorious sunny days and just a touch of wintery air to feel energised.

School is back, no excuse, come along and get fit, contact us to get you started.

Thursday: from 4:30pm /
Sun: 8:30am

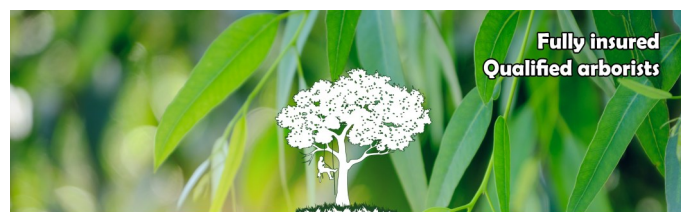
Ph: Julia 0403-500 381

500 Cards—Wollombi

6 pm on last Monday in the month at the Wollombi Tennis Clubhouse

Contact: Jan Harrison
janeceharrison08@gmail.com

Look out on Sunday 9th August, for our Bunnings fundraising BBQ! Put us on your Bunnings shopping list for that day!



Wollombi Valley Tree Services

Contact us for a free site
inspection and quote

0411 521 875

Tree removal
Tree pruning

Stump grinding/removal
On-site firewood cutting

Llynda Nairn
Artist | Celebrant

Llynda Nairn
Celebrant

"Join me for a fun and relaxing paint and sip experience"

Paint with Llynda

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

0425 279 939
llyndanairn.au

Based in Millfield - serving the Hunter and Beyond

Wollombi of Old

WOLLOMBI. August 8th. 1878.

On Monday and Tuesday, of last week, this district was honoured by Mr. Perkins, who styles himself "The Australian Blondin," and is no mean contemporary of the "Chevalier" himself. Mr Perkins gave a gratuitous exhibition of his skill in wire walking, much to the admiration of the good folks of Wollombi on both days a wire being stretched for him to exhibit his skill and as an Australian, is proverbially rough and ready, and is used to all expedients. This was exemplified by his appearance upon the wire with a sapling, hastily

snatched from a fence near, for a balancing pole. He walked with perfect ease and grace, lying down, and rising on one knee, with all the apparent nonchalance of one on terra firma. In the evening, a kind of entertainment was held at Mr. Jard's Inn, for which a charge was made, the amusement provided was a mixed character, consisting of sleight of hand tricks, a remarkably trained dog, but Mr Perkins' appearance upon a wire about the size of an ordinary piano wire, was worth the whole of the others put together. Altogether, the exhibition was both novel and amusing, and I believe very fairly patronised by our public.

The Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser.

Sourced be through Trove by Steve Sullivan.

**Musgrove Realty is a local
family-owned business offering
a superior real estate service.
Specialising in Hunter Valley
Country Properties.**

Contact us today for your
personalised market appraisal.

Ph: 4998 8383

Garry: 0429 663 026

Kurt: 0497 281 475

admin@musgroveready.com.au
www.musgroveready.com.au
Great Northern Trading Post, Laguna



**MUSGROVE
- REALTY -**



Wollombi Valley
Landcare
Group Inc.

Garden Escapes - Part Two

Last month we featured four ornamentals growing in some valley gardens that have to be carefully controlled, lest they escape into the bush, woodland or riparian zone.

We continue in this edition with four more plants that are old favourites amongst some of us. All can be readily bought in nurseries and there are many different varieties.

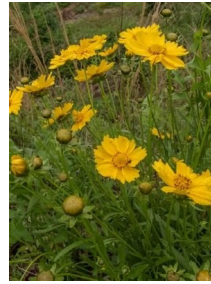
Common jasmine

Grown for its heavenly scent in spring, this climber grows rapidly if it has water and well-drained soil. But there is a catch: jasmine is as happy growing along the ground as it is climbing a verandah post, and it can travel very fast!



Coreopsis

You may well have seen the bright yellow daisy flowers of lanceleaf coreopsis growing along roadsides in spring. A glorious sight, yes, but this perennial spreads quickly by seed and will inundate pasture, gullies and riparian zones - anywhere where there is well drained soil.



'Non- invasive' lantana

If this description seems contradictory, it is! There are many varieties of dwarf, multi-coloured lantana cultivars that can be readily purchased. All will inevitably spread and if you plant lantana in your garden, it's up to you to control it!



Bamboo

Unless you plant a 'clumping' variety that has a label guaranteeing it will not spread, bamboo certainly does! 'Running' bamboo spreads rapidly via underground rhizomes. And don't be fooled into thinking a dwarf variety can be contained in a pot, because it probably can't be...



Article by Alister Wilkinson

OON Subscription form, complete below or email to oon_news@hotmail.com

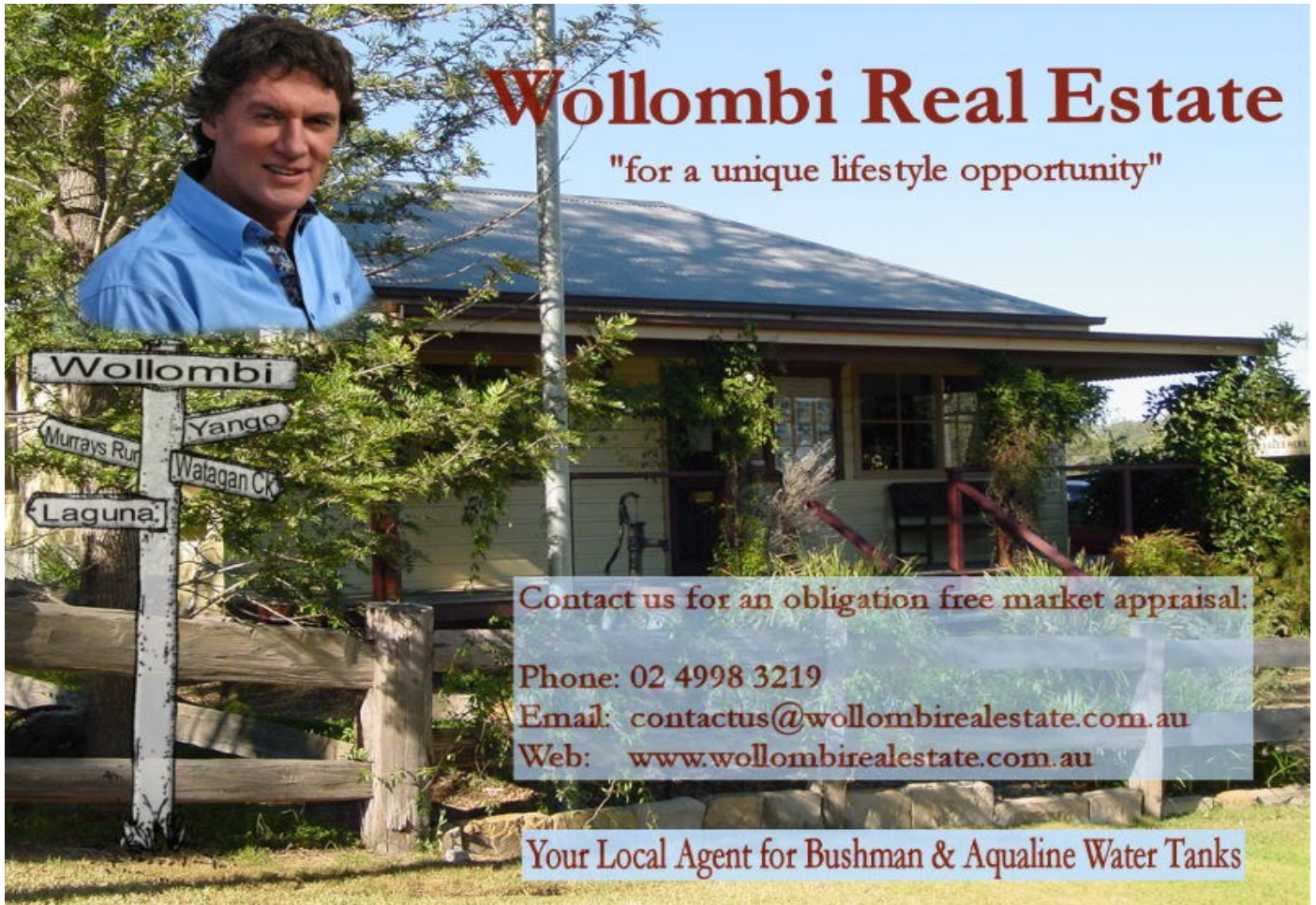
I would like a 12month Subscription to OON via ☐ **Email (Free)** or ☐ **Post (\$60)** Renewal ? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Name: _____ PH: _____

Postal address: _____

Email address: _____ DATE: _____

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.



Wollombi Real Estate

"for a unique lifestyle opportunity"

Contact us for an obligation free market appraisal:

Phone: 02 4998 3219
Email: contactus@wollombirealestate.com.au
Web: www.wollombirealestate.com.au

Your Local Agent for Bushman & Aqualine Water Tanks



AGRICULTURE • COMMERCIAL • RURAL • INDUSTRIAL

Australia's Leading Water Solutions Network

- ♦ Water Treatment
- ♦ Pump Systems
- ♦ Fertigation
- ♦ Irrigation Systems
- ♦ Mowers & Ride-Ons
- ♦ Pipes & Fittings
- ♦ Fire Protection Systems
- ♦ Chainsaws & Generators

Ph 4373 1466

780 Peats Ridge Road Peats Ridge

www.thinkwaterpeatsridge.com.au

WOLLOMBI EARTHWORKS

PTY LTD

SCOTT HAMILTON

Dozer Grader
BackHoe Tractor
Bogie Tipper Low Loader

Roads, Dams, House Sites, Clearing,
Mulching, Supply and Construct
Sandstone Retaining Walls and All
General Earthworks

Landline: 49983308

Scott Mobile: 0405378398

Nickie Mobile: 0414722292

Email: wollombiearthworks@bigpond.com



McGrath Rural

Tyson Nicholson
0418251312



Council Notifications which may be of interest to the community

It has been wonderful to welcome Natalia Cowley as Council's new General Manager in recent weeks. On only her second day in the job, Natalia joined me at a town hall meeting attended by about 120 people to discuss some of the challenges facing our community and answer questions.

As I've previously said, Natalia brings a wealth of experience, skills, and expertise to this important position, and we're thrilled to have her steering the ship as we continue along the path to financial sustainability. Thanks to our guest speakers as well as the community members in the audience who took part in this successful event in a spirit of positivity.

Meanwhile, work was recently completed on the Wollombi Road T-intersection upgrade and High Pedestrian Activity Area safety improvements project. The works have transformed the heart of Wollombi into a safer, more accessible and more inviting space for residents and visitors – enhancing connectivity within the village and encouraging safer, more active ways to move through town. These improvements were designed in collaboration with local businesses to ensure Wollombi can continue to thrive as a place people gather, explore and enjoy everything the village has to offer.

Completed works include traffic calming measures, improved pedestrian crossings, upgraded road surfaces, a reduced High Pedestrian Activity Area speed zone, and carefully designed streetscape elements that complement the village's heritage character. As part of a broader program of works, Council also completed upgrades to the Wollombi Walking Trail, converting it into a higher-quality shared pathway for pedestrians and cyclists including path widening, as well as surface and drainage upgrades.

Projects like this reflect Council's commitment to balancing safety, accessibility and heritage preservation – creating a safer environment for everyone who lives in, works in or visits Wollombi – while respecting the unique heritage character that defines the village. I'd particularly like to acknowledge the support of the NSW and Commonwealth Governments, whose funding was instrumental in delivering these projects for the Wollombi community.

Finally, Council is calling on community members to share their heritage stories as part of a major review of the Heritage Strategy and Heritage Policy. We want to hear stories that have shaped individuals and the Cessnock LGA over the years – tales about heritage places, the natural environment, people, and objects that are valued in our community. Sharing these stories will help develop the principles, refine the vision, and drive action in the Heritage Strategy and Heritage Policy. Visit <https://together.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/heritage-strategy-policy> for more information and to share a story.

Cessnock Library photographic exhibition

a treasure trove of images of childhood in 1960s and 1970s

The Cessnock Library team is delighted to announce the opening of its latest photographic exhibition, 'Cessnock's Children', showcasing charming candid images of local kids captured by celebrated mid-century photographer Laurel Minnie Rudd. The free exhibition runs from 1 July to 21 August 2026 in the Vincent Street library's foyer.

In 2022, the library received an extraordinary donation – the Laurel Minnie Rudd archive – a trove of thousands of proof sheets, negatives, and prints documenting the daily lives of Cessnock residents between 1960 and 1970.

The collection offers a rare, intimate look at workers, families, and social gatherings, captured with Rudd's spontaneous, informal style that places subjects at ease with the local photographer.

Library staff, supported by volunteers, have spent the past two years painstakingly digitising the material, making it accessible to a new generation of Cessnock residents.

The first public display of Rudd's work in 2025 attracted immediate acclaim, as visitors delighted in seeing themselves, their parents, and neighbours on the library walls, all dressed in classic 1960s attire.

Building on that enthusiasm, 'Cessnock's Children' focuses on Cessnock's youngest inhabitants.

Highlights include:

- Homemade fancy-dress ensembles that reveal the playful creativity of 1960s childhood
- Pouting tots and laughing siblings, captured in moments of genuine joy
- A cheeky, infectious informality that invites visitors to reminisce and smile

Library Services Coordinator Andrew Powell said visitors would leave the exhibition with a smile.

"We invite you to relive those joyful days and enjoy the latest Laurel Minnie Rudd photograph exhibition at Cessnock Library," said Mr Powell. "You might even spot yourself, family, or friends."

Visit cessnock.nsw.gov.au/libraries to find out what else is happening at Cessnock LGA's libraries.

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

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 4 times per year
Enquiries to: 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, 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
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)

9am-12noon every Wednesday, 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 Friday 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 4:30pm
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

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

Fernances Crossing

Willows Retreat 0249 988623

Restaurants, Pubs and Stores

Kopila & Bee Mindful -Homeware &Clothing –Wollombi

Laguna Village Providore 0478-712613

Millfield General Store 02 4998 1263

Myrtle & Stone Cafe 02 4998 3220

The Trading Post Laguna 02 4998 8244

Waterhen Home Store 02 4498 3331

SIP Wollombi 0416-245655

Wollombi General Store 02 4998 3230

Wollombi Tavern 02 4998 3261

The Forge 02 4998 3441

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