

# OUR OWN NEWS

## SCULPTURE IN THE VINEYARDS

Wollombi Valley Sculpture Festival

12<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> September 2026



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SEPT

22<sup>nd</sup> Aug-6 Sept - 'Encounter' Art Exhibition-Fireshed P5

Fri 4<sup>th</sup> - Community Storytelling Night -WGS P2&18

Tue 8<sup>th</sup> -WSSC Community meeting 10am Woll.School P8

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> - Opening Night of Sculpture in the Vineyards Festival 4:30 - 6pm at Tennis Club. All welcome!

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> - Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Sculpture in the Vineyards Festival

Sun 13<sup>th</sup> - 'Celebration of the Fire Horse' performance - Undercliff Winery 5pm

Mon 14<sup>th</sup> - 'Women Wilderness Wollombi' film 5pm at St Michaels (Also 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> at 11am and 4pm). P5

Fri 18 & 19<sup>th</sup> - The Far side of Spain, St Michaels 5-6pm P4

### OCT

Mon 5<sup>th</sup> - Wollombi Markets at Saleyards

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> - Pickleball from 3pm at Wollombi Tennis Club

Sat 17<sup>th</sup> - Tennis Club Bunnings BBQ - fundraiser

## Wollombi Valley Storytelling Night

### Community Invitation

### Stories that shaped you in Cessnock City

Cessnock City Council is developing a new Heritage Strategy and updating the Heritage Policy to guide how we identify, protect and celebrate the places and stories that matter most to our community.

As part of this work, Council will host an intimate storytelling evening at the Wollombi General Store on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September.

The event invites residents to share the moments, memories, places that have shaped their connection to the Wollombi Valley and the broader Cessnock Local Government Area. This initiative also seeks to ensure both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage is managed responsibly and sustainably for future generations.

Community contributions gathered during the event will help define the principles and actions that guide the Heritage Strategy, ensuring it reflects what the community values most.

Interested in coming along to participate in the discussion and share stories? Details are below.

**held at Wollombi General Store**

**Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Sept 6:00 -7:30pm**



Front Cover: 'Drumbeat' by Paul Selwood  
image supplied by artist

**Dear Festival Friends,**

**During the sculpture festival, much-loved mezzo-soprano Allegra Giagu will give two special performances of Where the Waters Meet.**

**We wanted to let you know in advance so you have the opportunity to purchase tickets before they are released to the broader public next week. For tickets, please click on the link in the flyer, or go directly Humanitix. Looking forward to a wonderful festival, and hope you can join us for this special event.**





**Sculpture**  
IN THE VINEYARDS  
Wollombi Valley Sculpture Festival

## Save the Date

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



Sentinel by Stephen Coburn

Community Opening Night & Presentation of Prizes

**SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2026**  
**4:30 PM - 6:00 PM**  
MC: Jim Wilson  
Wollombi Tennis Club

Twelve prizes valued at more than **\$80,000** will be presented  
Our distinguished judges: Isabel Langtry, Jane Watters & John McDonald

Thank you, this festival is made possible by the generous support of our donors, partners and community.

PRESENTING PARTNER  GOLD PARTNERS  

Hands-on Sessions for Our Youngest Sculptors!



## Children's Sculpture Gallery

**12 - 27 September 2026**  
**10am - 4pm Wollombi School in the Historic Schoolhouse**

Drop in and enjoy the colour, curiosity, and imagination they bring to the festival.

**Free Weekend Workshops: Saturday 1pm - 2pm**

Accessible entry via the main school gate. Toilets available on site.

With thanks to Wollombi School Community Centre WSCC & Ngarralingayil Barker.

Proudly Supported by a Clubs NSW Community Grant

**The Children's Sculpture Gallery** is full steam ahead.

Our small but enthusiastic team has partnered with Landcare, Laguna Public School, Cammeray School, Hunter Preschool, Barker College, and our local home schoolers to create a vibrant, interactive installation for this year's festival.

As well as school tours throughout the week, on Saturday's, the gallery will host free hands-on workshops for children and families:

- 1-2pm: Guided sculpture workshop with Sheree 12th, 19th, 26th September
- 12-4pm: Hands on lanternmaking with Sally, 19th & 26th September

We do ask that parents stay and supervise their children during all activities.

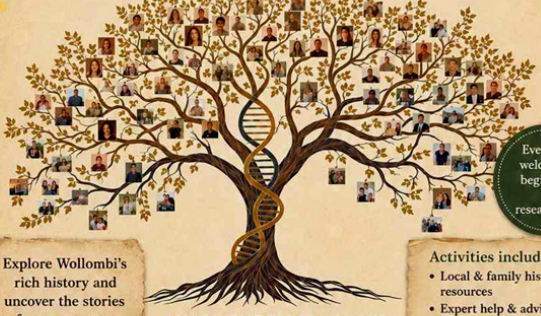
A heartfelt thank you to Clubs Community Grants for their financial support and Wollombi School Community Association for the use of the historic schoolhouse. These partnerships have made the Children's Gallery possible.

Deb Harrod  
Chris Davey

# FAMILY HISTORY DAY

## Wollombi

• DISCOVER YOUR PAST • CONNECT YOUR STORY •



Everyone welcome - beginners to researchers!

Explore Wollombi's rich history and uncover the stories of your ancestors.

**ANCESTRY RESEARCH DAYS**  
**SATURDAY 19TH & SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2026**  
**10:00AM - 5:00PM**  
VENUE: Principal's Residence, Wollombi School  
2851 Wollombi Road, Wollombi

Activities include:

- Local & family history resources
- Expert help & advice
- Old maps & photographs
- Family tree tips
- Displays & memorabilia

Bring your iPad

- Bring your family tree - find your ancestors
- Search genealogy records
- Learn to history websites
- Discover your ancestors and their stories
- Friendly assistance is available throughout both days
- Cemetery maps available to view
- Museum will be open

BRING YOUR STORIES • SHARE YOUR HISTORY • CELEBRATE OUR HERITAGE

PROUDLY HOSTED BY THE WOLLOMBI SCHOOL COMMUNITY CENTRE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
0414 869 225  
Wollombi and Mangrove Creek  
Yarralong Family History Group

Where the past connects us all



## WOLLOMBI ENDEAVOUR MUSEUM

If you have been in the village on one of these these chilly Wollombi nights you may have noticed that the external lighting on our museum has been repaired.

Thank you, David Roache and his son Adam.



**Volunteers  
needed!  
Sign up for  
a few  
hours to  
help**

### 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 and encourage locals to help us out to keep the doors open during this exciting and busy time in the valley.

[wollombimuseum1@gmail.com](mailto:wollombimuseum1@gmail.com)

**SPECIAL PERFORMANCE**  
WOLLOMBI VALLEY SCULPTURE FESTIVAL

# The Far Side of Spain

**WHERE THE WATERS MEET**  
Archive meets performance, scholarship meets imagination, forgotten connections begin to sing again.



**Allegra Giagu**  
MEZZO-SOPRANO



**Owen Salomé**  
BANDONEON

**St Michael's Church**  
WOLLOMBI

**FRI 18TH SEPT** 5:00pm – 6:00pm  
followed by an optional reception at Gays Inn

**SAT 19TH SEPT** 5:00pm – 6:00pm

**TICKETS HERE**



**Sculpture**  
IN THE COUNTRY  
Wollombi Valley Sculpture Festival



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !

We need your help  
for the two  
big events  
coming up  
in our valley



**Sculpture Festival**  
12-27<sup>th</sup> September

**Wollombi Markets**  
5<sup>th</sup> October

Donate a few hours  
and roster on  
to help out

- lots of easy jobs  
and fun being part of  
the crew.







## Wollombi Valley Arts Council Inc.

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

#### August – September 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 on Instagram

Our current exhibition....

#### 'ENCOUNTER' by Artz Emergence

Sheryl Cain, Sheridan Menchin, Syann Williams, Toni Cooper, Melanie Meggs

**22 August - 6 September**

**Open DAILY 10am - 3pm**

You are invited to join the artists at the exhibition opening at 11am Saturday 22 August, refreshments provided.

'Encounter' brings together the artists of Artz Emergence in a dynamic exhibition celebrating creativity, exploration, and connection. Each artist offers a unique perspective, shaped by diverse backgrounds, techniques, and lived experiences. Together, these works invite audiences to encounter fresh ideas, individual voices, and evolving artistic practices, offering a glimpse into the future of contemporary art through a collective committed to growth, experimentation, and creative expression.



Our next exhibition will be

#### 'SMALL SCULPTURES'

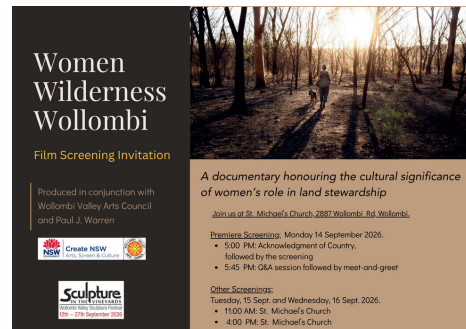


Wollombi Valley Sculpture Festival 2026  
May 27, 2026

SCULPTURE TRAIL | 10 DAYS | 3 WEEKENDS | OVER 150 WORKS | MULTIPLE EXHIBITION SPACES

- Discover leading Australian and international sculptors alongside emerging artists
- Works ranging from large-scale outdoor installations to intimate indoor pieces
- Curated sculpture trail across villages and valley sites
- Indoor exhibitions in historic buildings full of charm
- A welcoming program for visitors including artist talks, workshops and community events
- Just two hours from Sydney and 90 minutes from Newcastle

12th - 27th September 2026



#### 'WOMEN, WILDERNESS WOLLOMBI'

A documentary honouring the cultural significance of women's role in land stewardship, produced in conjunction with Wollombi Valley Arts Council and Paul J. Warren. You are invited to join us at St. Michaels Church, Wollombi on Monday 14th September at 5pm. Also 15th & 16th September at 11am and 4pm.

#### 2026 EXHIBITIONS in the OLD FIRESHED GALLERY

Artz Emergence: 'Encounter' 22 August - 6 Sept  
'SMALL SCULPTURES' :Sculpture in the Vineyards: 12 - 27 Sept  
Family Ties- FLORA & FAUNA: 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:

September 30, October 14 & 28, November 11, December 2  
Please call Michael to register Ph: 0468 730 955

#### Wollombi Valley Arts Council Inc

Email: [artscouncil@wollombi.org](mailto:artscouncil@wollombi.org)  
[yengogallery@wollombi.org](mailto:yengogallery@wollombi.org)  
F/B: <https://www.facebook.com/artscouncilwollombi>  
<https://www.facebook.com/littleyengogallery>  
Postal address: 2892 Wollombi Rd.  
Wollombi 2325



# Valley Artists inc.

"Valley Artists is a good name for a group of artists who live and work in the Wollombi Valley area. It would be a good name for a company that puts on plays and theatrical productions. And it is. But it's a lot more than both of those things. It's a community that has become an institution, with a reputation for putting on entertainment of the highest quality and standards. They're a good mob, these Valley Artists. They're organised and they're professional. And they've made a name for themselves.

Nowadays, if you hear of a VA production coming up you tend to pen it into your calendar because you know you are going to see a top-quality theatrical event for way below city prices; but with originality, freshness and professionalism equal to or better than a lot of the stuff you would pay a small mortgage to see in the city.

You know you are going to be entertained and have a unique cultural experience brought to you by actors, technicians, producers and directors, some who have been in show business at some time or another and some who still are. Of course, not all of them have been in the business before. Often you get beginners and dabblers who are interested in learning the craft or experiencing the thrill of live performance. But they're not being sent out to the front line alone. They're backed up with the support, the expertise and the encouragement of the pros. Some of them have gone on to complete NIDA courses in their particular field, sponsored by the VA organization. Why do they do it? It must be love. Love of show business. Love of performance. Love of theatre. Love of the camaraderie that comes with getting a production together. There is also the satisfaction unique to those who experience audience reaction. The exquisite excitement of live performance. There is nothing like it. Ask the Valley Artists. They'll say come and see for yourself. Once you've seen a VA production you won't want to miss another one."

*A quote from Australian actor, Peter McDonough*

VA are always looking for people to join in and to help put on these fabulous shows.

There's so much involved in putting on a theatrical performance that there is no doubt something you can get actively, productively and enjoyably involved in with a bunch of likeminded local folk. Whether your interest is to act, produce, direct, set build, paint, design, dress people, shop, tech, be on the committee or just lend a hand. If you don't know how, we'll help you learn.

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](mailto:info@valleyartists.org) or visit the website for more info – [valleyartists.org](http://valleyartists.org).



## Wollombi Valley Pony Club

At our last rally day, our riders had the opportunity to get out and train over our cross course, and they were all amazing! There was plenty to work on, but it was fantastic to see everyone giving things a go, building their confidence and developing their skills.

A huge thank you goes to our wonderful volunteers, who have spent countless hours working on the cross-country course to get it ready for our riders. There is still plenty more work to be done, but we are making great progress.

After our enormous fundraising effort to replace our clubhouse, which was completely destroyed by the floods, we are finally in a position to turn our attention back to our cross country facilities. Our cross country course is such an important part of our club and provides our members with a fantastic place to learn, train and enjoy their horses.

We are looking forward to continuing the work on the course and making it even better for all our members. A huge thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising efforts, volunteered their time and helped our club get to this point. It really does take a community to keep a pony club going!



## WOLLOMBI TENNIS CLUB

The tennis club organised a weekend of coaching for members this month which was very enjoyable for all participants and onlookers. Dillon Harris, our coach, put together a fabulous program which was both fun and improved on our tennis skills. We thank Dillon very much for putting aside this time for us.



### Save the Date/s:

#### SEPT:

Saturday 12th 4.30pm - 6pm - Community Opening Night for Sculptures in the Vineyard at the Tennis Club - all welcome

#### OCT:

Monday 5th - Wollombi Market Day

Saturday 10th - Pickleball from 3pm

Saturday 17th - Fundraising Bunnings BBQ

Please join us for regular tennis play on Thursday afternoons/evenings and Sunday mornings. To see if there is a game on contact Julia on 0403 500 381.

500 cards is played on the last Monday of the month, we are always looking for people to play, it's a fun night.

Contact Jan Harrison on 0439 988 276.







By the time you read this, our AGM will be over and another year and Committee/team (hopefully some old and some new) will continue the work of retaining the Wollombi School site in community hands.

If you attended the AGM you will know we are at a critical stage in our community stewardship and the next year will be shall we say, "particularly interesting".

- So this is your invitation to add your thoughts, suggestions, and action by coming along to our next Committee meeting at 10 am on Tuesday 8 September 2026. The meeting room is in the School Sandstone cottage on the corner of Wollombi Road and Crawford Street. Plenty of parking.

For those who haven't yet joined WSCC and would like to show your support, you can do so via our website [wollombischool.com.au](http://wollombischool.com.au)

We hope you can come.  
The WSCC Committee





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## No Power, No Problem - Nomad camping



**Cranky Rock farm and camping grounds** owned by locals, Lindsay and Pam Pyne, enjoyed a raving review from Anne Bowles, senior writer for Seniors magazine whom recently reviewed their own Grey Nomad off-grid camping trip, stating:

The "No Power, No Problem: A Hidden Grey Nomad gem just 2 hours from Sydney". The article sung the praises of Cranky Rock for relaxed camping.

And also gave great reviews for local Wollombi shops, Tavern and Laguna Trading Post dining options. Well done Pam & Lindsay!

# Laguna Public School

3738 Great North Road  
Laguna NSW 2325



Courage, Compassion, Honesty, Responsibility and Respect

## Lovin' Learning at Laguna!

Term 3 has certainly kicked off with a bang, with so much happening across our wonderful school community!

We recently celebrated our **100 Days of School**, combined with our **Project Launch** for the term. Across all classes, students are exploring Australian history, and there is nothing quite like bringing history to life through hands-on experiences. Scrubbing the decks, playing old-fashioned games and cooking damper over an open fire have provided wonderful opportunities for our students to step back in time and experience history in a meaningful and memorable way.

We have also been chipping away at our **whole-school sculpture**, and what a wonderful opportunity this has been to deepen our students' understanding and appreciation of their local environment. We are very excited to head out on our Sculpture Tour and discover the amazing art and creativity on offer within our local community. More recently, we celebrated **NAIDOC Day and our Education Week Ceremony**, providing a wonderful opportunity to come together and recognise some truly outstanding members of our school community.

We were incredibly proud to acknowledge:

- **Kylie Mexon** – for her dedication and excellence in teaching.
- **Christine Burns** – for her ongoing love of Laguna and her outstanding support of our school community.
- **Richard Graham** – for his active contribution and dedication to our whole-school community.
- **Edie** – for exemplary academic achievement and outstanding leadership across the whole school.

Every recipient was incredibly deserving of their recognition. In fact, reaching the final decisions was no easy task, with such a high calibre of candidates right across our school. It is a wonderful reflection of the strength, commitment and spirit within our Laguna community.

Finally, we have had **many families reach out regarding enrolment for 2027**, which is absolutely amazing! We are so excited that families are considering Laguna Public School for their children's educational journey.

If you are a family looking to transition your child to school in 2027, please reach out to us. We would be very happy to share our **Orientation plans**, and you are always welcome to come and visit the school for a **guided tour at a time that suits you**.

We love sharing our beautiful school and community with prospective families, and we look forward to welcoming many new faces to Laguna!





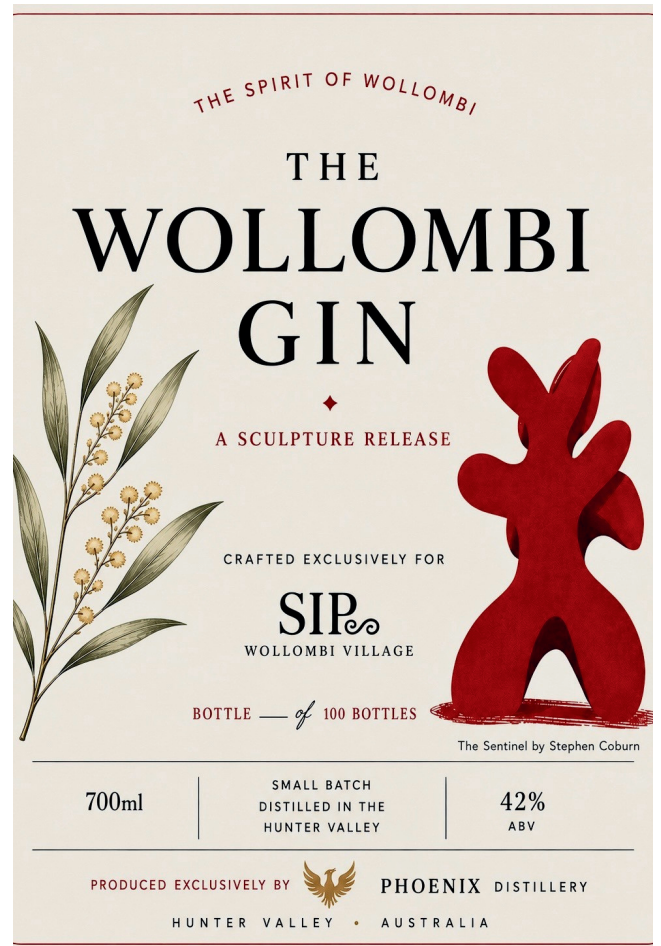


**ART N SIP**  
Classes or High Tea groups

**The Makers Studio**  
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Bring your creativity - take home a masterpiece!

Open to everyone - info & bookings: [hollybrookhuntermvalley.com/art](http://hollybrookhuntermvalley.com/art)



THE SPIRIT OF WOLLOMBI

**THE WOLLOMBI GIN**

A SCULPTURE RELEASE

CRAFTED EXCLUSIVELY FOR

**SIP**  
WOLLOMBI VILLAGE

BOTTLE — of 100 BOTTLES

700ml

SMALL BATCH  
DISTILLED IN THE  
HUNTER VALLEY

42%  
ABV

PRODUCED EXCLUSIVELY BY  **PHOENIX** DISTILLERY  
HUNTER VALLEY • AUSTRALIA

The Sentinel by Stephen Coburn

### THE WOLLOMBI GIN

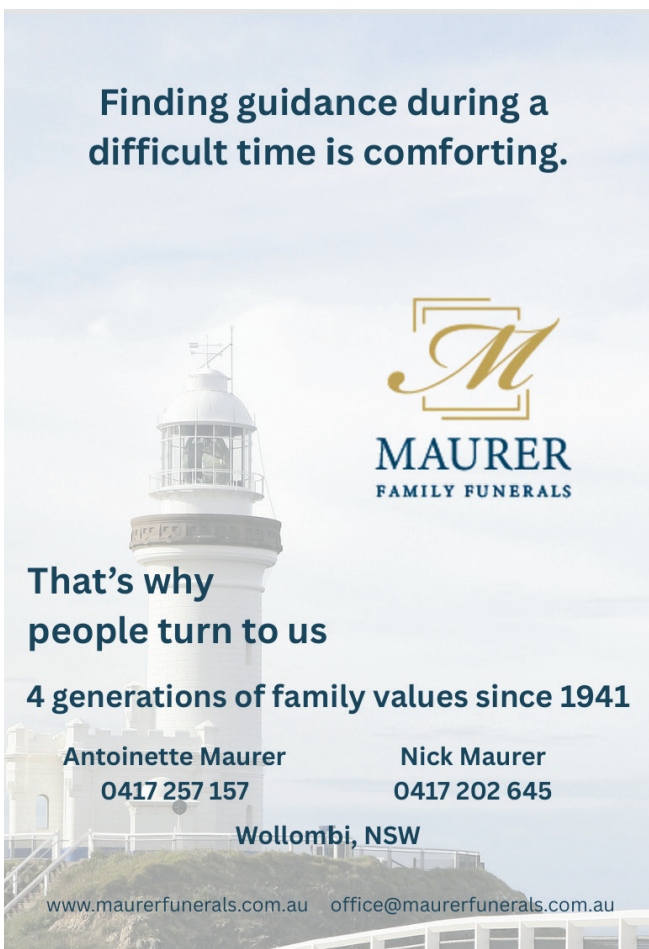
Limited edition gin made for Wollombi and the Sculpture Festival. Michael Noyce, owner of SIP Wollombi Village & Grays Inn, wanted to launch a new gin during the Wollombi Valley Sculpture Festival. When he share the idea with Sheena Duncan, the festival's executive director, she suggested adding a sculpture on the label.

Stephen Coburn said yes straight away. The sculpture on the label "The Sentinel", is easily recognisable as his work, and closely identified with the festival.

The gin itself is a small batch collaboration between SIP Wollombi Village and Phoenix Distillery, made with local native botanicals including Wattle blossom, roasted wattleseed and native pepperberry, built on the foundations of a classic dry gin.

**Only 100 bottles have been made, and it will be available exclusively through SIP during the festival.**

**Part of the proceeds will go to the Sculpture Festival itself, it's a magnificent memento of this year's event.**



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## Garden Escapes - Part Three

In this final weed's column, we look at four more introduced plants that are common on properties in the valley and can easily spread into the bush, and onto pasture.

But before you read on, Cessnock City Council's Biosecurity Management Coordinator, **Terry Inkson**, is holding an information evening on weeds: *Terry and the Garden Escapees*. The event will be held in Cessnock Library on Thursday 10 September from 6.00 to 7.30pm. Unfortunately, we received notification of this event after the August OON came out.

The good news is that Terry has written a booklet on weeds entitled *Garden Escapees and invasive plants of farms, bushlands and reserves*. The booklets may be obtained from Council's Administration Centre and are free to residents of the Cessnock LGA. But hurry as copies are limited!



### Freeseias

Well everyone loves the scent of freesias in spring but these bulbs rapidly multiply and walk (or run) very quickly out of garden beds and into trouble. Other bulb species can also be a problem if left unchecked, including ixias, sparaxis, crocuses and gladioli (which are actually a corm).



### African daisies

African, or Cape, daisies are easy to grow, colourful and drought hardy. But they also spread very quickly and will climb up slope into dry bushland with little encouragement.



### Black-eyed Susan

A delightful, fast-growing climber, this little wonder can quickly run amok and like jasmine (featured last month), it is as happy running along the ground as it is climbing a verandah post and can smother all before it!



### Fishbone fern

Often confused with native ferns like the smaller, red-tipped rasp fern, fishbone fern is not indigenous to the valley and spreads rapidly by an eager underground root system. Dig it out and make sure you get all of the roots...

## Wollombi Valley Landcare AGM

*Your local Landcare group has a new committee following the AGM on 9 August.*

President – Anna Yerbury

Vice President – Simon Geraghty

Treasurer – Dirk-Jan Hofman

Secretary – Tanya Sobiesiak

Committee – Patrick Jury, Len Van Der Westhuizen, Geoff Parkin

**Check out the website at**  
<https://wollombilandcare.org.au>.



## 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



## Greater Wollombi Valley Community Resilience Network

### A Fabulous Boot Sale at the Laguna Village Green!



Forty cars and utes participated in the Boot Sale on Sunday, July 26, which ran from 10am to 1pm. Everything from antiques to crockery to plants, books, clothes for all ages, produce, toys, bed linens, safety equipment for protection during bushfire season, tools, you name it, were for sale! Lots of negotiating, swapping, buying and selling accompanied laughter, bargains and delight as friends caught up with one another. Funds raised from Boot Sale registrations and the sausage sizzle went to Laguna School.

Many thanks to all who organised it so well, planned and prepared the field to make everyone safe...Suzanne, Fiona, Seb, Richard, Ken, Jonathon Marsh; to Steph and Rode for bringing Cherry Highway; and to the Forsyth Family Trust for their extraordinary support in helping make this event happen.

Due to popular demand, planning is underway for two Boot Sales next year: April/May and August/September. Get in touch if you have ideas and would like to be involved: [info@greaterwollombiresilience.org.au](mailto:info@greaterwollombiresilience.org.au)

In the meantime, come along to the Growers Market on Saturday, November 7, from 9am-12noon at the Laguna Village Green. Bring your produce, plants, veggies, fruit, herbs, flowers, eggs, whatever, to sell or swap. Growers please register, further details will be provided prior to the event. The \$10 grower registration fee helps these events become self-sustaining.

<https://events.humanitix.com/greater-wollombi-valley-growers-market>

Not selling produce? Come browse (no entrance fee), eat and take home goodies, catch up with neighbours and friends, enjoy time out on the Green.

See our updates in OON!

### Be connected!

email: [glr@greaterwollombiresilience@gmail.com](mailto:glr@greaterwollombiresilience@gmail.com) / [GWVCRN](https://www.gwvcrn.org.au)  
facebook: Greater Wollombi Valley Community Resilience Network

## WOLLOMBI COUNTRY DAIRY

*Boutique Country Accommodation*

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Explore Wollombi

- ♥ Boutique wineries & cellar doors
- ♥ Historic Wollombi Village
- ♥ Cafes, galleries & country pubs
- ♥ Walking trails & markets

WE'D LOVE TO WELCOME YOUR COUPLES & GUESTS

Please contact us for group bookings or to arrange an inspection.

0411 889 931  
[info@wollombicountrydairy.com](mailto:info@wollombicountrydairy.com)  
[wollombicountrydairy.com](https://www.wollombicountrydairy.com)  
@wollombicountrydairy  
Wollombi Country Dairy

SCAN TO VIEW OUR COTTAGE

WOLLOMBI COUNTRY DAIRY • WHERE COUNTRY MEMORIES ARE MADE

GREATER WOLLOMBI VALLEY

# GROWERS MARKET

Growers please register via Humanitix \$10. Visitors free, no registration needed.  
<https://events.humanitix.com/greater-wollombi-valley-growers-market>

Saturday, Nov 7, 9am-12pm  
Laguna Village Green

Browse, buy, sell, swap - plants, fruit, veggies, herbs... **Everyone welcome.**

## Be Connected

[www.greaterwollombiresilience.org.au](http://www.greaterwollombiresilience.org.au)  
Email: [info@greaterwollombiresilience.org.au](mailto:info@greaterwollombiresilience.org.au)  
Phone: 0414 869 225

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# WOLLOMBI GARDEN CLUB

Stories and photos  
highlighting  
kindness, sharing and all  
things garden!

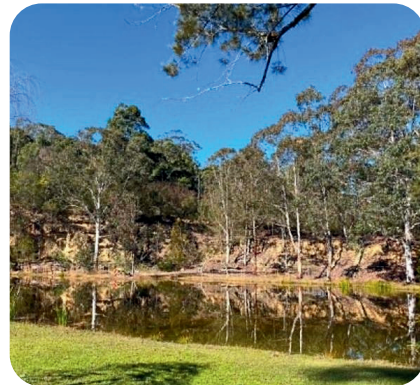
July's outing was to Cheryl's beautiful garden just outside Wollombi. We had our refreshments on the deck overlooking an amazing, landscaped dam. We fed the fish and wandered through the extensive grounds which included an orchard with the biggest oranges I've ever seen and manicured lawns rolling down to the creek. It was a really lovely afternoon.

For our August garden we ventured out to Millfield to Margret's sprawling property and had our lunch on the balcony overlooking extensive gardens filled with native and exotic plants many of which were in flower. The views over the pool and dam and then onto Millfield were stunning. There was also a beautiful bougainvillea in full flower.

We all enjoyed ourselves and I am hopeful I can find another garden for our September outing. If you wish to share your garden with us or join our group.

Regards

**JUDY ZIEREN – 0405 281 845 or  
barryandjudy1@bigpond.com**



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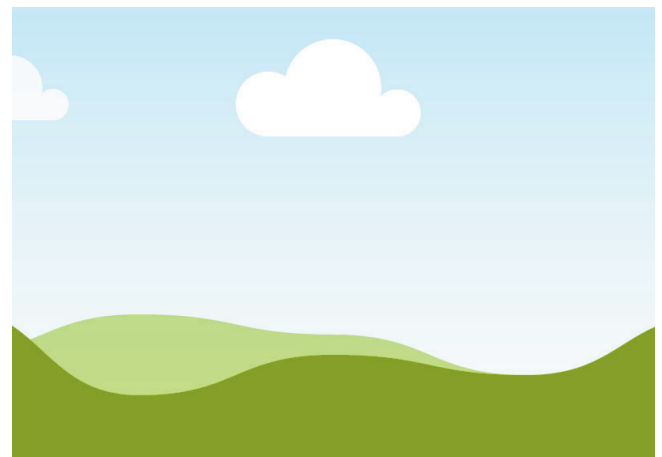
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## Notices and advertising in Our Own News

Payments for Advertising and notices are what keeps the OON going and we are happy to provide a rate sheet.

If you are interested in advertising in the OON or placing notices please contact us to assess what costs are involved.

**oon\_news@hotmail.com**



## MIND - BODY - SPIRIT

*"Instructions for living a life:*

*Pay attention.*

*Be astonished.*

*Tell about it."*— Mary Oliver

There's something beautifully simple in these words.

Pay attention ~become present to what is here.

Be astonished ~notice the ordinary miracle of being alive.

Tell about it ~carry that wonder beyond yourself, through your words, your kindness, your creativity, or simply the way you move through the world.

Perhaps that is part of what we practise on the mat: becoming more awake to the life that is already here ✨

**Wollombi Yoga**

## BANK LOAN TO A CANNY SCOTSMAN



A Scotsman (wearing his kilt and a bonnet) walks into offices of private bankers Coutts & Co in the Strand, London (Bankers to the Royal Family since 1820) and asks to speak to the manager.

He informs him that he is going abroad on business for two weeks and needs to borrow £5,000. The Manager tells him that Coutts & Co would only be delighted to meet his requirements, but that he should understand that since he is not a client of the Bank, it would need some modest security for the loan.

So, the Scotsman opens his sporran, takes out the keys and documents of a brand-new Ferrari parked in front of the bank, and hands them to the manager saying "Will this do?" He also produces the car's log book and after a phone call, everything checks out fine.

The manager agrees to accept the car as collateral for the loan; the cashier hands out £5,000 while the bank's porter drives the Ferrari into the bank's underground garage for safe keeping.

Over lunch the manager tells his colleagues the amusing little story of how a simple-minded Scot from North of the Border secured a loan for £5,000 offering a £120,000 Ferrari as collateral and they all enjoy a good chuckle as they sip their Port.

Two weeks later, the Scotsman returns, repays the £5,000 and the interest, which comes to £15.41. The manager says, "Sir, we have been more than happy to have had your business, and this transaction has worked out very nicely, but we are just a little puzzled. While you were away, we checked you out and found that you are in fact a wealthy property investor. What puzzles us is why would you bother to borrow £5,000 from us? "

The Scotsman replies: "Where else in London can I park my Ferrari for two weeks for only £15.41 and expect it to be still there when I return?"

## 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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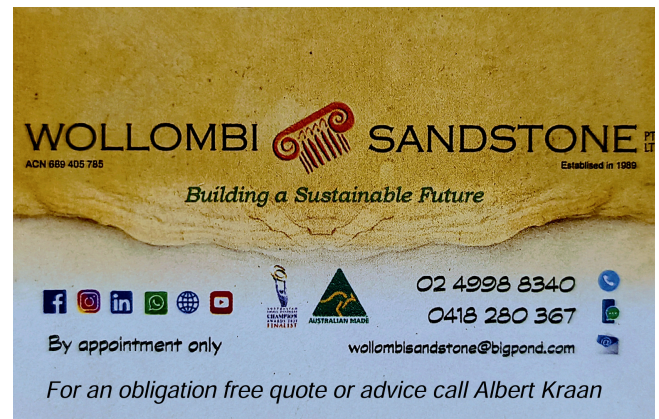
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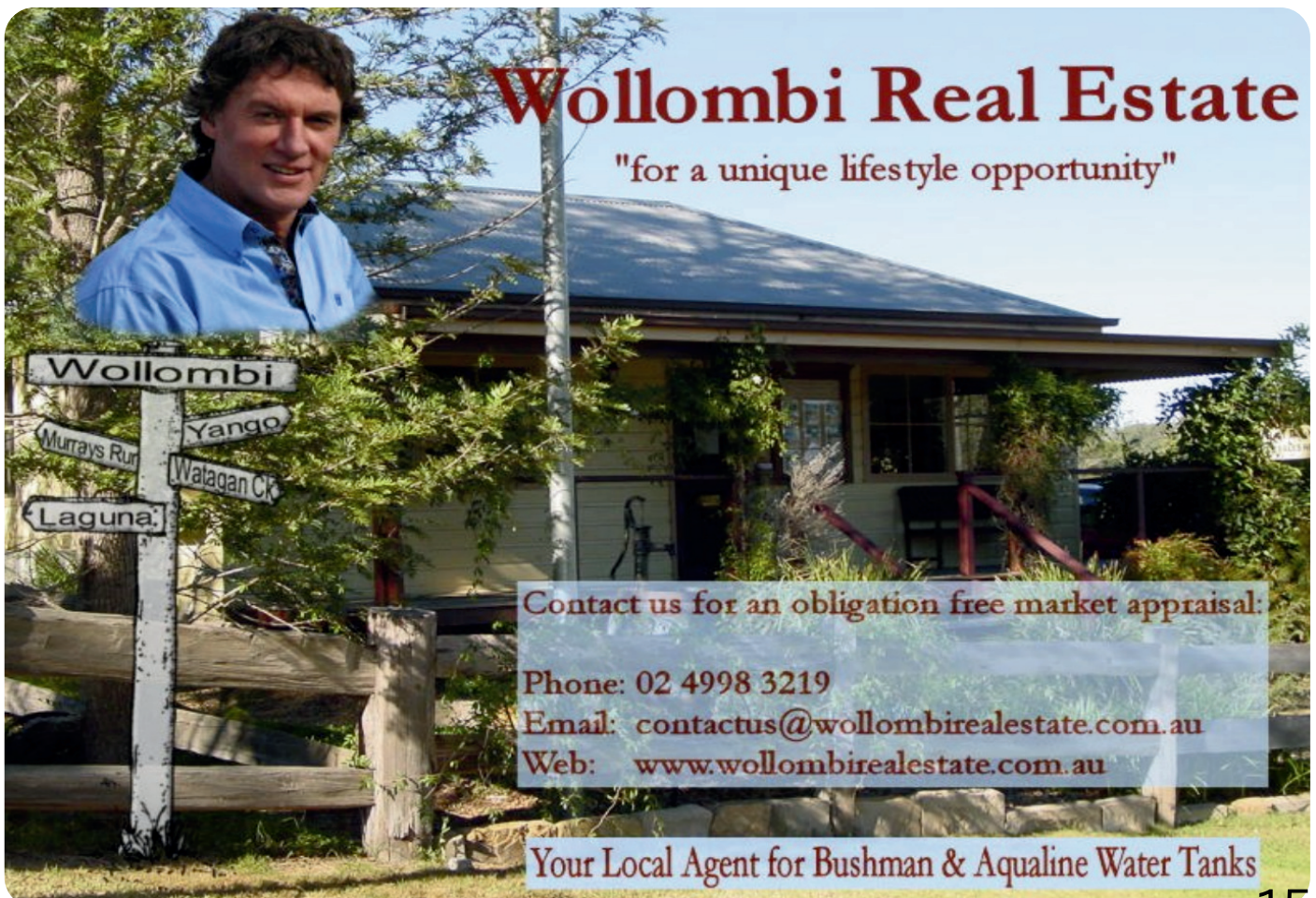
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# WOLLOMBI OF OLD

**Wollombi. Tuesday 19th September 1848.**

The long continuance of frost and parching wind has retarded vegetation and the appearance of the late sown wheat on the higher grounds is very unfavourable. Unless a sufficiency of rain falls at an early time to moisten the surface, the heat of the sun during the day will destroy the roots, the earth not being sufficiently covered by the young shoots. Generally, the early wheat is very luxuriant, but it remains to be seen whether that portion that was fully in ear has not sustained injury from the frost.

The small settlers whose crops of wheat were very deficient last season have been busily engaged during the last month or two in stripping and carrying to market wattle mimosa-bark, proverbially known as the Wollombi wool. It is no unusual matter to see half a dozen carts pass to Maitland during one day, each with a load of a ton and a half, and this is exchanged for tea, sugar, and other supplies, generally purchased with the produce of their surplus wheat and maize.

**The Sydney Morning Herald.  
Sourced through Trove by Steve Sullivan.**



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## 'SEASON OF THE WITCH'

### Comedy Cabaret

Legs 11.11's latest show, 'Season of The Witch' is a comedy cabaret celebrating Witches, Warlocks & the like! Set to a 60s & 70s soundtrack, this show has a wicked combination of live music, burlesque, magic & classic witch film clips. The Wollombi Burlesque Troupe have been creating local entertainment for 10 years, with and for the locals!

Come check out their latest show, set to be October 3rd at The Wollombi Hall 7.30pm.

You are guaranteed a unique & spooky night out! And if you are in the mood, dress witch. VIP guests get a glass of bubbles and front row action!

#### [Season Of The Witch Wollombi](https://events.humanitix.com/season-of-the-witch-wollombi)

<https://events.humanitix.com/season-of-the-witch-wollombi>



## Wollombi Valley Storytelling Night

### Community Invitation

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> Sept at WGS

6-7pm

**We need your stories!**

**See details P2 & P18**







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

### Wollombi Valley Storytelling Night Community Invitation

#### Stories that shaped you in Cessnock City

Cessnock City Council is developing a new Heritage Strategy and updating the Heritage Policy to guide how we identify, protect and celebrate the places and stories that matter most to our community.

As part of this work, Council will host an intimate storytelling evening at the Wollombi General Store on Friday 4 September, 6:00–7:30pm. The event invites residents to share the moments, memories, places that have shaped their connection and to gather insights into what matters to the community and what local residents value most about the Wollombi Valley and the broader Cessnock Local Government Area.

This initiative also seeks to ensure both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage is managed responsibly and sustainably for future generations. Community contributions gathered during the event will help define the principles and actions that guide the Heritage Strategy, ensuring it reflects what the community values most.

Council encourages local residents to attend, participate in the discussion and share the stories that have shaped their sense of place.

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### Mayoral Column

It was wonderful to hear voices from across Cessnock local government area recently, as Cessnock City Council General Manager Natalia Cowley and I took part in another town hall meeting – this time at Greta Workers Club. The forum was a great chance to share updates about what is happening at Council and listen to feedback from the community in an open and meaningful conversation. It was the latest in a series of events I hope to conduct across Cessnock LGA into the future – a genuine way for community members to have direct access to Council leadership. They are forums to get accurate information, challenge us, and raise difficult questions about the community we all share. There are no scripted questions, no avoiding hard topics – it's about transparency. Keep your eyes and ears open for details on when and where the next event will be.

Meanwhile, it's always a pleasure to stop and reflect on the people who spend their days protecting our LGA. One of those groups has just celebrated an incredible milestone. Fire and Rescue NSW marked 100 years of Kearsley Fire Brigade earlier this month. It was an honour to join past and present firefighters, community members and special guests to celebrate the wonderful anniversary, and it was a privilege to be involved in unveiling the Centenary Plaque recognising the brigade's century of service to the community. I sincerely congratulate and thank all who have been involved in the Kearsley brigade over the decades for their courage, dedication, commitment and service.

While I am on the topic of congratulations, I would like to highlight the excellent work of Council's Youth Ambassador Emma McLennan, who represented Cessnock in NSW Youth Parliament recently. The Year 11 Cessnock High School student drafted a bill regarding the importance of 'equitable third spaces' – facilities such as youth centres and community centres – and presented her work on the floor of the NSW Parliament. It's a thrill to see young people taking an active interest in important issues, and work on developing civic skills that could greatly benefit local communities. Their unique perspectives provide valuable contributions to community conversations. Emma has done great work and it is very encouraging to see young future leaders actively taking steps to improve their knowledge and skills and shine a spotlight on the issues that matter to them. You've made us proud, Emma!



## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 2pm.

**Wollombi Valley Home Church**, meets at Tennis Club, the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 02-4998 8158 or Jillian 0477 519 996.

### **500 Card Group - Wollombi**

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

Contact: Jan Harrison

Janeceharrison08@gmail.com

### **Chamber of Commerce – Wollombi Valley**

General Meetings held every 2 month.

Contact: for details and meetings

secretary@wollombivalleytourism.com.au

### **Fire Brigade - Laguna**

Training 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday monthly 8:30am Wollombi Fire Station. Members meetings: 11am following training in even months.

All welcome. Enquiries to

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

### **Garden Group**

1st Monday monthly.

Contact: Judy Zieren 0405-281 845

### **Conversations en francais a' Wollombi**

Rencontres de tendues 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, 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday

monthly except January,

Wollombi Cultural Centre

Contact: David Roache 0400 330 760

Or Lindsay Self 0491 239 589

### **Pony Club – Wollombi Valley**

Every 3 weeks contact President Simone

02-4998 8214 for details

### **Playgroup (all kids 5 and under welcome)**

9:00am-12:00pm every Wednesday at Stacks Park Wollombi

**Theology in the Pub** discussion group.

4<sup>th</sup> Sun/month at Wollombi School Residence 2pm

### **Wollombi Valley Community Association**

Community meetings held 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month

### **Wollombi Tidy Valleys**

11am, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday bi-monthly, Wollombi School meeting room. All welcome. Contact-Bernice 02-4991 1688

### **Wollombi School Community Centre**

Committee meetings held 10am on 2 Tuesday of each month. Venue is the Principal's Cottage on Cnr of Crawford & Wollombi Roads, Wollombi. Interested persons welcome.

## TRANSPORT

Grape Experience Tours Wine 0414 457 956

Country Taxis Cessnock 02-4990 1111

## SPORT & FITNESS

### **Pilates Classes**

Mat Classes are held Wednesday 9:30am & Fridays

10am Wollombi Community Hall

Contact: Susan 0403-270 365

### **Wollombi Tennis**

Thursdays from 4:30pm, Sunday 8:00am

All welcome. Contact Julia Brooke 0403-500 381

### **Eureka Taekwondo**

Thursday 4:00pm 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

### **Group Fitness Classes:**

Mon & Fri - Wollombi Hall

8:00am Interval Training, Curls & Crunches

9:00am Zumba Fitness

Contact: Fitness With Milly 0414 435576



**LOCAL ACCOMMODATION****Bellbird**

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**Laguna**

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 -Bucketty/Murrays Run  
 Laguna Cottages 02 4998 3219  
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 Valle Laguna 0408 809 471  
 Valley Field Escape 0488 436 001

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 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  
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 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 0432156 396  
 Wollombi Country Dairy 0411 889 931  
 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 988 623

**RESTAURANTS, PUBS & STORES****Millfield**

MillfieldGeneral Store 02 4998 1263

**Laguna**

Laguna Village Providore  
 The TradingPost,Laguna 0478 712 613  
 MusgroveRealEstate 02 4998 8244  
 02 4998 8383

**Wollombi**

Kopila & BeeMindful Homewares 0476 294 005  
 The Forge 02 4998 3441  
 Cafe Wollombi 02 4998 3220  
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 SIP Wollombi 0416 245 656  
 WaterhenHomeStore 02 4998 3331  
 WollombiGeneralStore 02 4998 3230  
 WollombiTavern 02 4998 3261

**A NOTE FROM THE OON TEAM**

OurOwnNewsisa Wollombi ValleyCommunity Association (WVCA) initiative co-ordinated by volunteers.

Articles or advertisements must be emailed as a **word file** with photos attached as a separate **jpg** file to [oon\\_news@hotmail.com](mailto:oon_news@hotmail.com) no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for publication in the following months edition.

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

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

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

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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**