

CONNECTING COMMUNITY

&

CULTURE

DRAFT

WOLLONDILLY CULTURAL PLAN

2009 - 2012



Introduction

This Draft Wollondilly Cultural Plan 2009-2012 is an invitation to all residents of the Shire to express their aspirations for Cultural Planning and the cultural life of their community. Cultural Planning is embedded within Council's other planning processes however this is Council's first attempt to articulate a cultural vision, goals and objectives in a document focused specifically on Wollondilly's cultural life.

The aim of this document is to draw all aspects of local culture and activities together so that existing efforts can be identified and all cultural initiatives can be fostered in our community.

According to the New South Wales State Government's Cultural Planning Guidelines for Local Government, culture is defined as:

Culture in its widest sense is about what matters to people and communities. It is about relationships, shared memories and experiences. It is about identity, history and a sense of place. It is about the different cultural and religious backgrounds found in most communities. It is about the things we consider valuable for passing on to future generations. It is our way of connecting the present with the past and the future.

The culture of Wollondilly is therefore the way we live our daily lives, in particular our rural lifestyle, our celebrations as well as how we express ourselves via art, performance and other types of community events. Wollondilly's culture is authentic, unique, and contributes strongly to our sense of identity.

Fundamentally, Wollondilly Shire Council believes that culture planning is integral to achieving our overall Community Goal outlined in Wollondilly Community Strategic Plan 2030:

Wollondilly fosters networks of safe, resilient, resourceful, engaged residents, able at all stages of their lives to achieve a high quality of life within a shire with a rural character, by acknowledging, celebrating and catering for its diverse cultures.

Objectives, Goals, Outcomes and Actions

The objectives, goals, outcomes and actions outlined in this Draft Cultural Plan are founded in Council's belief that every person has many ways to contribute, if given the invitation and the opportunity. It is Council's role to break down any barriers to participation in our community's cultural life.

Since a community's culture reflects the energy, courage and resilience of its people, this suggests a need to focus more on strengthening community and regenerating civic engagement. This can mean supporting a wide range of leisure activities and cultural practices for people of all ages and circumstances which:

- Express, explore, interpret, present or develop community cultures and individual viewpoints,
- Enable individuals and groups to engage in new affordable activities and meet new challenges,
- Enable individuals and groups to acquire new responsibilities, skills and opportunities to contribute to community life,
- Demonstrate the community's ongoing concern for all its people and determination to treat them not as problems, but as valued members of the community,
- Promote social and community development, as well as artistic and sporting outcomes,
- Cultivate the community-wide leadership skills needed to sustain community involvement in governance activities, and
- Recognise and develop residents' talents. This may for instance require a paradigm shift regarding young men and women and a heightened emphasis on youth services and facilities to ensure young people as well as other community groups have access to:
 - Foundations for physical and mental health (including good nutrition, active physical activity, health advice, intellectual stimulation),
 - Adults who care (parents, neighbours, tutors, coaches, relatives, teachers, mentors),
 - Safe places to learn and grow,
 - The tools to succeed (education, teamwork skills, analysis skills, communication skills), and
 - Chances to make a difference (learn about their own values by giving back and making a difference)

Please note that the following draft objectives have been identified as emergent themes in prior community consultation. There is no order or preference to these objectives and the final objectives will be determined and shaped by all community consultation on this draft Cultural Plan.

OBJECTIVE 1: Reinforce a sense of connection, community pride and stewardship in Wollondilly

Wollondilly will become an interconnected set of towns and villages with a vigorous and vital cultural life. A strong whole of Wollondilly identity will be realised encouraging residents to respect and value their community and to further build local identity in the face of a rapidly changing world.

Goals:

1. Use cultural initiatives to connect people to place and build local identity so that Wollondilly is seen as a place to be treasured.
2. That Wollondilly will be able to express itself to the world and be connected with cultural expression around the world via the internet
3. **Improve utilisation of local resources to assist and enhance cultural development within Wollondilly without creating dependency on additional funding**

Outcome 1: The Shire's indoor and outdoor public places have programs of events and activities that sustain community involvement and help build community.

Wollondilly Community Strategic Plan 2030 outlines a vision for the future of Wollondilly where “Wollondilly fosters lifelong involvement with sports, music and with volunteer programs and encourages musical and arts activities as much as it's sporting activities.”

Action	Partners	Timeframe	Budget	Status
Establish indoor music/arts/internet centres by identifying and securing spaces that would allow people to learn and practice music and art or explore the internet and the world of computers for pleasure	Picton Library, Mobile Library			

Co-location and 'boundary-busting' activities to facilitate recognitions of sport, physical activities, music and other art as cultural pursuits and generate conditions for promoting creativity and crossover between these activities.				
Creative uses of community facilities and spaces to facilitate cultural and community activities. This can be facilitated through innovative partnerships and community usage agreements	Library			
Establish an Artist and Author in residence program.	Library and community Groups			

Outcome 2: The Shire's cultural assets are showcased.

Action	Partners	Timeframe	Budget	Status
Greater use of emerging technologies and facilities (such as photo sharing websites) by council staff, local schools, sporting clubs, other community groups and enterprises could showcase the diversity of the Shire's natural and built heritage and the advantages of living, working and playing in the Shire to the wider community.	Library			
Environmental photographic competitions and art shows through community grants and other external	Library			Living Macarthur: Nature Photography

funding bodies to assist in promoting the Shire and its talented population.				Competition and Exhibition
Use entry points to the Shire to reinforce local identity Wollondilly's visions of "rural living" to be promoted at roadside entry statements at Shire boundaries				
Community Project Officer – Cultural Heritage on a to drive and develop a Cultural Heritage Strategy and Action Plan				
Development of Cultural Civic Precinct				

Outcome 3: Internet access for Wollondilly's residents is improved

Action	Partners	Timeframe	Budget	Status
Lobby for broadband access and explore wireless hot spots that increases residents' capacity to engage in global culture	Library			
Record and disseminate of Wollondilly's oral histories and cultural heritage.	Heritage Societies, Library			

Outcome 4: Parklands and open spaces are better utilised

Action	Partners	Timeframe	Budget	Status
Wollondilly Shire's parks and their surroundings can be multipurpose places able to sustain high levels of year-round social and cultural activity such as markets, recreational use, exercise and sports training, and as settings for art and community events				

OBJECTIVE 2: Ensure Aboriginal spiritual, social and cultural connections to the Shire's land and waters is maintained and encouraged

To ensure Aboriginal spiritual, social and cultural connections to the Shires land and waters is maintained and encouraged, there is a need to give special consideration to identifying the Shires culturally significant sites and heritage issues then incorporating this detail into the development process.

Outcome 1: There is greater local Aboriginal community participation in Council's cultural decision making processes

Action	Partners	Timeframe	Budget	Status
Establish and support Wollondilly Aboriginal Advisory Committee (WAAC)	Aboriginal community of Wollondilly, Native Title Groups, Local Aboriginal Land Councils	2009-2012	Grant and Council Funded	Group is established and support provided by Council
Advise on appropriate consultation and referral	Wollondilly Aboriginal	2009-2012	Council	Process developed

processes with the broader Aboriginal community with specific regards to culture	Advisory Committee		funded	and to be evaluated
Development of an Aboriginal communication protocol and guidelines for Council	Wollondilly Aboriginal Advisory Committee	2009	Within operational budget	

Outcome 2: The profile of Aboriginal people and their cultural heritage within Wollondilly Shire area is raised.

Action	Partners	Timeframe	Budget	Status
Establish Aboriginal Development Officer position within Council	Area Assistance Scheme	2005-09		Achieved
Kooris on the Move Project - Assist in the development of skills to provide Aboriginal heritage, cultural and historical information and displays to educate the shires community on the importance of the areas Aboriginal history and the need for Aboriginal heritage and cultural preservation.	Wollondilly Aboriginal Advisory Committee, Council, TAFE, Library	2009	Grant Funded	Funding gained and implementation to commence in 2009
Provide Aboriginal community education, information, awareness raising events, shire events, festivals and other shire village events	Wollondilly Aboriginal Advisory Committee, Aboriginal community of Wollondilly, Native Title Groups, Local Aboriginal Land Councils, Library	2009-2012	Grant and Council Funded	

Development of an Aboriginal specific "One Stop Shop" for the delivery of HACC funded services	DADHC Funded services and Council	2009-2012	Council and External funded services	MOU developed
Assist with the facilitation and service development of Aboriginal services in the Wollondilly Shire	Wollondilly Aboriginal Advisory Committee, Council	2009-2012	Within operational budget	
Book Launches of Aboriginal Writers promoted via the Library	Library			

Outcome 3: Mutual awareness and respect for the cultures of both the Aboriginal and non Aboriginal communities is promoted

Action	Partners	Timeframe	Budget	Status
Assist the community to develop projects to heighten the awareness of the Aboriginal Community of Wollondilly with their Cultural, Heritage, Traditions and the preservation of local History	Aboriginal Elders, Landcare groups, Green Corp., WAAC, Council, Aboriginal Community, TAFE, Lands Councils, Native title groups, Library	2009-2012	Grant and Council Funded	
Caring for Stonequarry Country Project – Staged approach to develop a traditional Indigenous land setting to raise community awareness of traditional	Aboriginal Elders, Landcare groups, Green Corp., WAAC, Council, Aboriginal	2008-12	Grant funded	Stage one completed

Indigenous use of land and native flora species.	Community, TAFE, Lands Councils, Native title groups			
Develop a series information brochures on traditional Indigenous use of plants, historic events, customs and traditions	Aboriginal Elders, WAAC, Council, Aboriginal Community, TAFE, Lands Councils, Native title groups	2008-2012	Grant Funded	
Aboriginal/ cultural museum project				

OBJECTIVE 3: Use Culture to engage potentially excluded groups into community life

It is important that the culture of the Wollondilly recognises and actively includes participation by all members of the community. Groups that have been identified as vulnerable to marginalisation including youth, those without public transport and newcomers need to be actively engaged to participate in the cultural life of Wollondilly.

Outcome 1: There is greater youth participation in cultural activities

Action	Partners	Timeframe	Budget	Status
Programs to transition young people into volunteering roles via mentoring from older volunteers	Library			
Get young people actively involved in cultural projects				

in spaces that are often undervalued by youth, such as places vulnerable to anti-social behaviour (ie graffiti)				
Encourage Youth to write their own stories	Library			

Outcome 2: Access to cultural activities in the Shire is improved and enhanced

Action	Partners	Timeframe	Budget	Status
Arts Activities are incorporated into Community Celebrations	Community groups and Council			
Implementation of a Living Library Initiative	Community, schools, Wollondilly Library, Campbelltown and Camden libraries	2009-2012	Grant and Council Funded	Scoping commenced
Community Project Officer - Arts/Cultural Development to drive and implement the Cultural Plan		2010	Grant and Council Funded	
Public Art Policy Development & Implementation				

Outcome 3: Community events, arts and cultural activities serve to build a “sense of community” and common bond among new and existing residents

Action	Partners	Timeframe	Budget	Status
Welcome pack that outlines the range of cultural activities available in Wollondilly				
Sense of Identity in Local Neighbourhoods through Arts Activities projects			Community Grants funding	
Implement Youth Week Activities; Seniors Week Activities; NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Activities; Disability Awareness events and Activities				
Assist in the implementation of community arts and cultural events				
Support local Writers	Library			

OBJECTIVE 4: Build and foster Wollondilly’s creative economy

Wollondilly has a wide range of cultural assets, both physical and social, that can be harnessed to build a sustainable creative economy. By fostering current initiatives and developing new strategies, the Wollondilly community can work together to grow and reap the economic benefits of their creativity and rural practices.

Outcome1: Engage the local arts and cultural sector in developing Wollondilly’s creative economy

Action	Partners	Timeframe	Budget	Status
Foster collaboration and partnerships between different sectors of the arts and culture in Wollondilly to maximise opportunity for creative economy.				
Develop Creative Traders Art Markets to act as an incubator for creative economy initiatives and capacity build for community-managed economic development.				In progress

Outcome2: Foster rural living and agriculture by encouraging widespread consumption of local farm produce

Action	Partners	Timeframe	Budget	Status
Facilitate stronger links between the Wollondilly’s farmers and local retail outlets for their produce via “buy local” strategies				
Develop Creative Traders Harvest Markets to act as an incubator and capacity builder for longer term community-managed initiatives				

Outcome3: Enhance the relationship between tourism and the local creative economy

Action	Partners	Timeframe	Budget	Status
Facilitate stronger links between the Wollondilly's farmers and the local tourism industry (ie accommodation and tour operators) to encourage "use buy local" strategies				
Engage local farmers into local tourism initiatives based on creative economy such as farm produce trails				