



The newsletter of the Wolgan Valley Association Inc.

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April 2021

WVA awarded \$4,859 for the development of a community-based website

The Wolgan Valley Association received \$4,859 from Lithgow City Council under [the Bushfire Recovery Community Grants Program](#). We were one of ten community organisations including Mingaan Wiradjuri that received funding from the Federal Government's National Bushfire Recovery Agency and Resilience NSW through its Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund. Mayor Ray Thompson said that applications were rigorously assessed and took into account the disaster recovery criteria of

- community need;
- impact or benefit to the community;

- community connectedness and;
- capacity of groups to deliver.

He added that many groups doing fantastic work submitted applications and choosing successful projects was very difficult. Kristie Kearney's hard work on the grant application was essential to our success.

The Wolgan Valley Connecting Community Project will see the development of a community-based website that will provide important information regarding natural disaster preparedness, and in the event of a natural disaster provide critical information that will assist the community in making informed decisions regarding the protection of life and property. In addition, the website

will showcase the unique natural environment and significant cultural heritage of Wolgan Valley to an estimated 10,000+ annual visitors to Wolgan Valley, whilst encouraging sustainable and responsible tourism practices that are strongly valued by the community. The website will also highlight the objects and role of the Wolgan Valley Association and provide community-based information for residents and property holders in Wolgan Valley including the village of Newnes and the surrounding areas of Wolgan Gap, Maiyingu Marragu, Long Swamp and Angus Place.



Proud members of the Wolgan Valley Association receiving \$4,589 for the development of the Wolgan Valley website. Left to right: Paul Toole, State Member for Bathurst, Wolgan Valley Association members, Paul Bower, Sarah Denmead, and Andrew Chalk, with Lithgow Mayor Ray Thompson

Photo: Lithgow City Council



Thank you to Councillor Maree Statham for taking the time to meet with Wolgan Valley Committee members and residents on Saturday March 6. Items discussed included the lack of mobile phone coverage in the Valley; the condition of the only access road into and out of the Valley; communication from Lithgow City Council regarding maintenance of the road; and the Local Environment Plan for the Lithgow Local Government Area.

Photo: Andrew Chalk

Two tiered grant process to clear greenwaste and bushfire damaged trees

Lithgow Council and the EPA are offering grants to quantify the amount of greenwaste that was generated during the 2019/20 bushfires on public and private land. Once an area is assessed there may be the possibility to access further grants that would enable the clearing and disposal of stockpiled greenwaste or fire damaged trees that are posing a significant risk to public safety. For further information please see the [Council's Press Release](#). Registrations for the program must be received by Monday 12 April 2021. See the attached FAQ document.

Wolgan Valley Committee - Member Profiles



Update Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund

More than 650 grant applications were received requesting over \$1.6 billion in funding which is more than six times the available total funding of \$250 million. We have been informed that due to the high demand it is likely that many applicants will miss out on the funding. Successful applicants will be informed from late June 2021.

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Monthly committee meeting please contact Jayne Vought for time and location

President - Jayne Vought

I am a local and appreciate what we have to offer in our area, which is 'nature at its best', especially here in Wolgan Valley. As a child I had many family visits to Wolgan when there were no fences on the dirt road, and many cattle grids to cross before reaching Newnes.

I continually visited the Valley, camping, meeting at the Hotel in its trading days, and attended Newnes when the many people who formed the 'Friends of Wolgan' moved the Hotel from the river site to its current site, all in a weekend. I now proudly enjoy sharing the ambience of this valley, with our children and grandchildren.

I understand the power of a group process to develop goals and long-range strategic planning and will do my best to make positive and meaningful contributions towards the future of this wonderful valley.

Vice President - Sarah Denmead

Wolgan is the perfect place to grow up. As kids Mum and Dad let us roam safe in the knowledge that eventually we would be stopped by a cliff... most of the time. Generally, we found it easier to climb up than down, but knew a family member would rescue us by dinner (if we yelled loud enough). We learnt to drive Curly's (Ian Coates) ute the minute our toes could touch the peddles, named the cattle and ate chicken chips at the Newnes Hotel. At the end of the day we all slept in the Hut at the Corn Paddock listening to a chorus of snoring. Darren and I have lived from Margaret River to Cairns but when it came time to start our own family, we returned to Wolgan to provide our children with similar opportunities, experiences and values, that Mum, Dad and Wolgan, have gifted to me.