

V.O.W.W.

Voice of Woodville and Wallalong

including Brandy Hill, Seaham and Nelsons Plains

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KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR OUR CUDDLY NEIGHBOURS

Recording koala sightings is vital to protecting them. Learn how to help our local population.

Frequent koala sightings in our district indicate we have an important population of them. It forms a critical cog within the national koala population, and they are in need of careful protection.

“Most populations in NSW now survive in fragmented and isolated habitat and many of the areas in which they are most abundant are under intense pressure from development,” says a recent report for NSW Department of Planning.

The proposed clearing of 45 hectares for Brandy Hill Quarry’s expansion at Seaham would have a ‘significant’ impact on the national population. “It will adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of the species – given the disjunct populations across the nation,” say environmental consultants Biosis Pty Ltd in their report.

Recording koala sightings is vital to protecting them. Residents can help by logging koala sightings with Port Stephens Council. Search ‘Port Stephens Council

koala tracker’ on the internet and that will lead you through to a local map on which you can record your sighting, after registering. Or you can email jessica.morris@portstephens.nsw.gov.au with your name, address, date and time of sighting and exact location (nearest cross street). You can also help by looking out for the safety of any koalas on your land – particularly from dogs.



Photo taken in Duns Creek by Glenn Albrecht

VOWW ACTIVITIES UPDATE

We are a not-for-profit community organisation, formed by residents in 2013 to safeguard the character of the north-west corner of Port Stephens local government area. We are apolitical, and not opposed to development – provided it is compatible with existing rural land use and not in flood-affected areas. We need a strong, active membership base to reflect our community voice. We would love to see you at our meetings, but if you can’t make the time membership is only \$5 per year. (See info box.)

Ways in which VOWW has represented the community this past year include:

- Guiding residents to make submissions to council regarding a proposed NDIS group house on a flood-prone site by the Paterson River at Woodville, which

we believe puts residents at potential great risk.

- Facilitating information sessions for concerned land holders with managers of the Hunter Valley Flood Mitigations Scheme about imminent Wallalong Levee remediations.
- Representations to Port Stephens Council strongly opposing developers’ proposals to reduce the set-back distance between new housing developments and chicken farming operations from 1 kilometre to 500 metres.
- Ongoing community representation regarding proposals by Brandy Hill (Hanson) Quarry for 24/7 operations, which would heavily impact residents and roads through many local villages.
- World-class guest speakers have presented to the community on a range of topics at our meetings.

'WHY I LOVE WHERE I LIVE' COMPETITION WINNERS

Local resident Andrew Green's photograph of the Hinton bridge in fog has won VOWW's 'Why I Love Where I Live' competition.

Newcastle Weekly photographer Peter Stoop was guest judge for the competition.

Mr Green wrote, "I love the peaceful beauty of the area and would not want to live anywhere else." He wins a framed copy of his photograph and a bottle of wine.

Second prize was awarded to Neil Ritchie's photograph of a tractor among autumn foliage in Brandy Hill, and third place was won by Chris Winnett for her beautiful picture of a misty morning sunrise.

Other highly commended entries will be announced at our AGM on Wednesday 31 July, where all winning photographs will be displayed.



*Andrew Green's winning photo of the Hinton Bridge at dawn.
See the spectacular full-colour version at our AGM!*

VOWW MEMBERSHIP

Annual membership of \$5 can be paid in the following ways:

1. In person at the AGM
2. By Direct Debit to V.O.W.W. using BSB 032 529 and a/c 288653.
Please include your name as reference so we can identify you.
3. Post to VOWW at PO Box 91, Morpeth 2321.

Please also email your details to the email address at top of this flyer.

LEGAL WIN FOR RESIDENTS

Last month, the NSW Court of Appeal upheld a ruling by the Land & Environment Court in favour of Dungog Council, which took legal action against the proposed expansion of operations of the Martin's Creek Quarry by its operator, Daracon.

Quarry operations must now wind down to 300,000 tonnes as per the original 1991 council consent. It must not exceed this limit unless and until any new DA is approved.

Reduced heavy traffic from the quarry is some small respite for the Paterson community and others on the quarry's haulage routes.

VOWW has been active in supporting the Paterson community in this long-running battle.

AGM NOTICE

Get involved in your community!

Come to our next meeting, which is also our Annual General Meeting.

Woodville School of Arts Hall, Paterson Rd, Woodville

Wednesday, 31 July, 2019 at 6.30pm

~ with special guest speaker and refreshments ~