

MEMBERSHIP POLICY

21.1.2017

The policy outlines the approved membership process, in accordance with the Cooperative Rules & By-laws.

References: Goolawah Co-operative Rules 6, 14, 18 & 19.

Membership & Guest Committee

The Membership & Guest Committee is elected each year at the Co-operative's October Annual General Meeting. The Committee is responsible for assisting prospective members and guests through the membership and guest process, calling the appropriate meetings and acting as a buddy throughout the process.

The Committee must be familiar with information in the "Joining" section of the Goolawah Co-operative website. The Committee is responsible for ensuring the website is accurate and up to date, and should advise the website administrator of any changes required.

When an interested person contacts the Co-op a Committee person is allocated to guide them through the process. The Committee person should not be known to the applicant.

The process of membership commences once the Co-op receives Step One of the application form.

The Committee person is responsible for assisting the applicant;

- To make an informed decision about joining Goolawah Co-op.
- With questions about the Co-op and membership process.
- To contact other members and learn about the Co-op.
- To 'tour' the Co-op.
- To complete the documents and forms.

Applicant Requirements

The applicant must:

- Complete the Membership Application Form.
- Read the Co-operative's Rules, By-Laws and Code of Conduct.
- Understand Goolawah Co-op is to be their '**principal place of residence**'.
- Attend 2 monthly meetings.
- Meet a minimum of 15 co-op members.
- Stay two weeks at Goolawah Co-op. One week at the Camp Kitchen and preferably a second week staying with three members not known to them.
- Provide three personal referees.
- Complete an Identity and Criminal Record Check.
- Read 'Creating a Life Together: Practical Tools to Grow Eco Villages and Intentional Communities' by Diana Leafe Christian (DLC), and/or view DLC YouTube videos.

Shares

Information regarding shares for sale will be provided after the two week stay and meeting 15 members. The names and contact details of members on neighbouring sites will be provided, and it is the applicant's responsibility to contact and/or meet these members.

Co-op members are not permitted to take deposits for the sale of their share. Deposits are only payable to the Co-op, after the applicant has been approved as eligible for membership.

To secure a site during the application process an applicant may lodge the share transfer fee of \$7,000 with the Treasurer, and it will be held in the Goolawah Co-op account as a refundable deposit. Once membership is approved and a member agrees to sell, the share transfer is processed and the new member is ratified.

Co-operative members who wish to sell their share must advise the Secretary.

Meetings

1. The Committee person will invite Co-op members to a Review meeting to discuss the Membership Application (without the applicant). If there are any objections/concerns, the applicant will be given an opportunity to discuss and respond.
2. The applicant meets with the allocated Committee person, another Committee member and one Co-op member to discuss the Membership Application.
3. The Committee person brings all completed paperwork to a Community / General meeting for voting.
 - After the membership process is completed all paperwork is returned to applicant/s, with the exception of the Share Transfer, Membership Ratification and Identity Check forms (in line with the Co-ops Privacy Policy and filed by the Secretary).
 - At the Co-op ratification meeting the Chairperson will ask applicant/s to leave during the voting process (the Committee person should advise prior to the meeting).
 - A 2/3 majority vote is required to be eligible for membership.

Share Ratification

- If the applicant is approved as an eligible member the Co-op will vote to ratify the share transfer.
- The applicant's name, allotted share number, date of allotment and any other information will be recorded by the Secretary in the member register.
- The Co-op, at its discretion, may refuse an application for membership or shares without assigning any reasons for its actions (Rule 18e).

Children of Members

Member's children, who wish to continue living at Goolawah Co-op when they turn 18, are required to complete the following steps:

- Read the Rules, By-Laws and the Code of Conduct.
- The child and the parent/s sign an agreement (as per Guest Agreement).

Voting approval is not required.