

How did you hear about the Co-operative?

I heard about the Co-operative after responding to advertising on Realestate.com through Toni and Loise.

Describe your current living/housing situation.

My Wife, Daughter and I share a 1 bedroom flat which overlooks Lake Manmorah on the Central Coast. The aspect of the property only allows half a days sun which makes it cold in the afternoons but the view of the lake is really nice. We are renting while we look to buy , happy to have found this place as the rental market is very busy with so many people looking for places to rent.

Have you lived in or applied to join a community before, if so which one(s)?

I have never lived in or applied to a community before. Although we have both lived overseas in a variety of small communities but not as a co-operative living arrangement.

What are your occupation and interests?

I have been doing construction in Indonesia for the past 8 years some areas hands on and other more organization and managerial . I have also worked as an Interior Designer/illustrator positions previously. I'm doing some volunteer work at the moment with some community organizations while helping to look after my daughter. I like surfing, boating and have a interest in gardening/permaculture my garden at the moment is only small only a couple of meters wide but its better than having no garden .

What inspires you? What frustrates you?

Making stuff, designing things, being creative, sharing ideas, hanging out in Nature, spending time with friends. Not having a project big or small to work on. Stuck indoors when it rains for weeks on end.

Would other people live with you on the Co-operative - who are they and tell us about them?

Yes my wife and 1 year old daughter would live with me. Hazel comes from Southern Philippines she works as a RN she likes singing, cooking and our daughter Emily has started walking about a month ago. We would like for a family member to come from the Philippines to help with Emily in the future.

Why do you want to join the Co-operative?

From what I can tell in a Co-operative people are connected by a social framework to live more Sustainable in the broader natural environment around them. I would like to see my family growing up in a sustainability minded community. I grew up in a cul de sac street where all the neighbors new each other and socialized together it was a great place to grow up I'm thinking a Co-operative would be similar and a great place for my daughter to grow up.

What can you contribute to the Co-operative and its members?

We would like to have a large non commercial organic garden where we would be happy to help support others with vegetables when we have a oversupply . I like the idea of growing some bees even if they are not allowed, I'm sure this could be done off site, once again we would also like to supply the community. I'm happy to pitch in and help with any project or to help others.

What do you think you would enjoy about the Co-operative?

A sense of belonging and being part of a like minded community. It would be great to work on some common goal projects for the Co-operative. One of the biggest strength is its location being in one of the best parts of Australia always great to go surfing, fishing and or trekking with family or another Co-op member .

What do you think you would find challenging about the Co-operative?

Nothing challenging about the location. There will always be someone or something that will challenge your way of thinking that's not a bad thing. I think I'm open minded enough to always see the other side of an argument or rationalize the thinking behind why someone's action was taken. I realize that this cooperative has been working successfully for many years and best working practice is more than likely been figured out to a large degree but still a work in progress. I think the common use of machinery facilities sharing/maintaining might be a little tricky but putting it back better than what you found it always helps.

Bundagen has a summary of their cooperative on their website " Bundagen might be seen as a microcosm of the macrocosm, with all the dramas of the wider world played out on our small stage". I have found this same occurrence living in a small community there's always lots going on.

What would you do with a home improvement site on the Co-operative and over what time frame?

If there was a pre-existing home on the site I wouldn't really add to its structure unless we needed another bedroom or there was a logical improvement to make it more livable or energy efficient. If it was a blank home improvement site I would consider building a double skin Geo Dome structure, I'm still looking into the design it could be a little hard to waterproof so I'm not that adamant on that style of building. Garden integration into the main structure would be a big consideration as well as managing thermal loads with green solutions. Engineering costs may be more than what I think depending on the regulations from council and what the final building type design is. I have seen people use low coast shed like structures which I think could be made into a great living solution and more than likely is what I would end up building. Construction time would be under 1 year. I have sufficient savings to fund this project as well as extra investment that I can tap if there are cost overruns.

What do you estimate it would cost to establish a home, and how would you finance this?

- Building a house? 80K
- Alternate power system? 35K
- Grey water? 3K
- Composting toilet? 1.5K
- Water (domestic and firefighting)? 4K
- Communications? 1K
- Council fees? 5K
- Estimated total? 120K to 130K

What was relevant to Goolawah Co-op and why?

Most of what she outlines is very relevant. In general she is in favor of better social game theory through "Game Play", encouraging people to function better with trustful relationships and stronger social connections. At the core to this is non violent communication and governance through Sociocracy. I think this is a great way to run a small community.

What was not relevant and why?

They are mostly all relevant ideas that she has found to work in successful small communities.

What is your opinion of the Co-operative's structure and our rules compared to other communities?

I tried to find the community rules for Bundagen there not downloadable from there web site maybe they are getting amended or it could be a lack of transparency from the organization.

Narara ecovillage uses sociocracy across board making legally - binding policy decisions to working group day to day decisions. I'm assuming Goolawah also uses a Sociocracy process in decision making as well? I'm not sure on the policies of the community which are also not downloadable.

The structure of the Goolawah BY Laws seems workable where things can be rescinded under section

(e) For the purposes of the rule:

(i) the power to make a by-law includes the power to alter, substitute and rescind a by-law; and

(ii) the substitution, alteration or rescission of a by-law does not affect:

(A) the previous operation of the by-law or anything suffered or done or commenced under the by-law;

This makes most problems fixable under careful deliberation.

This BY LAW seems like it provides residential protection with residential tenancies

(d) Nothing in this rule shall authorise the co-operative to make a by-law which is contrary to any statute or other legislation in force which regulates residential tenancies, or the activities of the co-operative

In general most of the BY Laws and Code of conduct is straight forward.

How would you change / evolve the Co-operative?

Theres no way to answer this question at this point I would need to spend more time at the cooperative. From what I have seen a increased plant diversity on site would be a goal worth considering but it may go against the sites objectives. I have only been to Goolawah once but it would have been nice to see some community artwork in the area to give the community a sense of place purpose or celebrated activity.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I give permission for the information arising from the membership application process to be reviewed by members of Goolawah and checked further if necessary.

Name: Jonathan Matterson

Email: mattersonjonathan@gmail.com

Contact Number: 0476996519

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Matterson', written over a horizontal line.