

From: Emma Fluhrer emmafluhrer11@gmail.com
Subject: Membership Application Submission
Date: 11 October 2024 at 9:42 pm
To: secretary.goolawah@gmail.com
Cc: Meeeema 🍷 mrsfluhrer@gmail.com
Bcc: Mim Fluhrer mimfluhrer@gmail.com, Linda Sultmann lsultmann@gmail.com, funnsurfn@hotmail.com

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Dear Goolawah Membership Team,

I hope this email finds you well! My sincere apologies for submitting my membership application on the eve of tomorrow's General Meeting, I had every intention of getting it in earlier, but a tooth infection slowed me down!

I've included my answers in the body of this email, and I hope that's acceptable as a starting point. I'm looking forward to hearing from you soon and being assigned my membership guides.

Warm regards,
Emma Fluhrer

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION -

Name : EMMA FLUHRER **Phone :** 0405 168 002. **Email :** emmafluhrer11@gmail.com

Applying for Joint Membership with **Jay Fluhrer**.

Children : Ocean Fluhrer, 5.

Step One

Part A - Before completing the Questionnaire

- ✓ a. **Read** the information on the Co-operative's website <https://goolawah.org/joining/>, including the Rules, By-Laws, and Code of Conduct.
- ✓ b. **Visit** Fair Trading website <https://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/associations-and-co-operatives/co-operatives/running-a-co-operative>.
Co-operatives are governed by the Co-operatives National Law (CNL). NSW Fair Trading is the government regulator.
- ✓ c. **Visit** <https://fed.coop/co-operatives-in-australia-a-manual/> The Co-operative is a member of the Co-op Federation, which provides advice and support to co-operatives.
- ✓ d. **Research Intentional Communities**. At a minimum: **listen** to sustainable world radio, ecology and permaculture podcast: "Ecovillages and

Part B:

a.

1. How did you hear about Goolawah Co-operative?

It all began with Mim and Marty. Well, mostly Marty being there all the time, and Mim commuting until she had Coco who's and moved in full-time. They'd talked about Goolawah for years, and with all the twists life's thrown us (the pandemic, house-hopping, and a city-living rollercoaster), I wasn't sure Goolawah was for me, until now. Mim officially became a member a few months ago, and Jay (my partner) is already knee-deep in her membership process, so I'm excited to join the Goolie tribe too!

2. Describe your current living/housing situation.

I'm 45, living in the city with Jay and our 5-year-old daughter, Ocean. We left Bellingen in April after years of bouncing between places. City life has been bustling, but we're itching to get back to nature, and more importantly, to reconnect the "bebes" (Ocean and Coco). We've visited Mim a lot since she secured her own site in Goolawah, and I've now had a real taste of it, thanks to her and Jay. Long story short, it's calling us back!

3. Have you lived in a residential co-operative in the past? If so, where? Why do you want to leave/did you leave?

Nope, I haven't lived in one before, though I've wanted to for a long time. Especially after the pandemic, the idea of intentional living, community, and a nature-focused lifestyle really began to resonate with me.

4. What are your occupation/s and interests?

Where do I start?

- First and foremost, I take care of my family.
- I'm deeply interested in the nervous system and how it relates to authenticity.
- I have a soft spot for people who are compassionate and considerate.
- I adore fresh, organic food, especially if it's home-grown. Picking fruit from a tree is my version of happiness.
- Yoga, breathwork, dance, and music fill my soul.

My husband and I are both full-time members of the Goolawah Co-operative.

- my heart sport is basketball (so, please build me a court!).
- I love teamwork, bringing people or projects together, and of course, I adore babies and children.
- And finally, I love making authentic connections, even the tricky ones.

5. What inspires you?

Healing inspires me. Plant medicine, intention setting, breathwork, and people who show up fully for something they're dedicated to. I'm talking consistency, heart, and drive. I've already met a few people like this at Goolawah, and I think more of them live here! I'm also endlessly inspired by the ocean (nothing quite like it) and by people who get the whole energy exchange thing, it's like a secret currency.

6. What frustrates you?

Stubbornness is a big one. Disrespect too. I also get frustrated with myself when I don't take care of my needs. And laziness—it's a real eye-twitcher for me.

7. Why would you like to join Goolawah Co-operative?

I'd love to join for that rich silence at night, the deep connection with nature, and to feel safe in a community that values what I care about: family, authenticity, creativity, and fairness. Plus, it's the perfect place for Ocean and Coco to grow up together, surrounded by a supportive and like-minded community.

8. What could you contribute to Goolawah Co-operative?

Where do I begin? I'll be baby-walking, making juices and coconut tapioca, and sharing rye sourdough! I'm all about encouragement, compassion, and respect, and if anyone's interested, I'll offer free basketball coaching (once you build me that court)! I'm also great at bringing people together and offering fresh perspectives.

9. What do you think you would enjoy about co-operative living?

I'd love the sense of shared purpose, the laughter, and the daily connections with people who care about the same things I do. I'm also excited about the connection to nature, and knowing we're all in this together, growing, learning, and supporting each other along the way.

10. What might you find challenging about co- operative living?

Probably people not getting along, that's never fun. I'm also not a fan of complaining, gossip (unless it's Hollywood-level drama), or the weather when it goes all extreme. And can I just say, cracked, dirty feet? They'll be a challenge for sure.

11. What do you expect from the Co-operative and its members?

I expect mutual respect, fairness, and open, honest communication. It's important to me that we all bring our best selves to the table, whether it's in moments of harmony or when working through challenges.

12. List the sources you used to research intentional communities e.g., title of books, articles, podcasts, You Tube, websites.

- *Creating a Life Together* by Diana Leafe Christian
- Intentional Communities websites and podcasts
- YouTube channels on co-operative living and community building.

List four things that are different about living in an intentional community compared to renting or owning property.

- a. Collective decision-making vs. personal autonomy
- b. Shared resources vs. individual ownership
- c. Community engagement vs. private life
- d. A focus on sustainability and nature vs. conventional living structures

13. What would you like to do on your lot, and over what timeframe?

I'd love to create a cosy, off-grid haven filled with fresh garden produce, a composting toilet, and a space for community gatherings. Yes, we're ready to finance this and make it happen in accordance with council specs.

14. When do you anticipate the Co-operative would become your principal place of residence?

Immediately!

15. What is your opinion of the Co-operative's Governance structure i.e., Rules, By-laws, Code of Conduct, policies, and decision-making processes?

The governance structure feels grounded and balanced. The rules and by-laws create a strong foundation that allows the community to thrive harmoniously while offering enough flexibility for creativity and expression. I appreciate the transparency in decision-making and the focus on fairness.

16. Any comments or questions?

Goolawah has clearly come a long way since its inception in the 1970s. It's incredible to see how much the community has grown and evolved while staying true to its core values of sustainable, intentional living. The diversity of families and individuals here and the shared commitment to taking care of the land and each other make it a truly special place. Thank you for the opportunity to apply.

b. Provide a National Crime Check <https://www.nationalcrimecheck.com.au/>

c. Identity Check (appendix B)

d. Provide three referees (appendix C)

1. Mim Fluhrer
2. Marty Cole
3. **Linda** Sultmann (City Neighbour and Friend) **0413 670 417**
4. Melissa "**Jack**" Hockley (Friend -Brunswick Heads) **0401 573 241**

Step Two (complete appendix D)

✓ a. Stay at the Co-operative for a minimum of two weeks, preferably four weeks. Let your Guides know when you will be visiting.

Will have stayed exactly the last 2 weeks this Sunday. **30th September - 13th October**

b. Meet a minimum of 45 adult members

Have started on the list!

c. Attend two General Meetings

d. Attend two community events and one working bee

