

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

This process is intended to ensure you are well informed about the Co-operative and for the Co-operative to decide if you are suited to our community.

Membership Guides will support you throughout the process.

You may choose single membership (one adult) or joint membership (two adults).

Each adult applying is required to complete a Membership Application Form.

Step One	Done
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.	Yes
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.	Yes
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.	Yes
d. Research Intentional Communities. At a minimum: read "Creating a Life Together - Practical Tools to Grow Ecovillages and Intentional Communities" by Diana Leafe Christian. Download a copy Here OR listen to sustainable world radio- ecology and permaculture podcast : "Ecovillages and Intentional Communities with Diana Leafe Christian"	Yes read the book and listene d to the podcas t
Part B	
a. If you would like to proceed with the Membership Application complete the Questionnaire (appendix A), and forward by one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Email completed questionnaire to secretary.goolawah@gmail.com ● Post to PO Box 4080, Crescent Head, NSW 2440 ● Submit to your Membership Guides. Note: Your questionnaire may be discussed at the next General Meeting and may require a 2/3 majority vote to proceed with the application. The Guides will advise if you should proceed with the application.	
b. Provide a National Crime Check https://www.nationalcrimecheck.com.au/	
c. Identity Check (appendix B)	
d. Provide three referees (appendix C)	
e. The Guide will complete a court record search http://www.austlii.edu.au/forms/search1.html	

Step Two (complete appendix D)	Done
<p>a. Stay at the Co-operative for a minimum of two weeks, preferably four weeks. Let your Guides know when you will be visiting.</p> <p>Note: <i>The stay period does not have to be consecutive. You will need a van or tent to stay at the community Camp Kitchen, which has an enclosed equipped kitchen, covered outdoor seating area and composting toilet, but no shower. Members may offer a shower and/or short stay hosting.</i></p>	
b. Meet a minimum of 45 adult members (Who's Who list will assist you)	
c. Attend two General Meetings	
d. Attend two community events and one working bee	
Step Three Part A - Progress Meeting (Applicant, Guides and Director, members advised via Phone Tree)	
a. Application reviewed	
b. Member's concerns (if any)	
c. Understanding governance structure and policies	
c. d. Issues and challenges of community living	
d. e. Inherent risks – bushfire, flood, wildlife	
f. Costs, effort, time, and possible stresses involved in establishing a home	
1. g. Monthly Treasurer's Report	
h. Member's Liability (Rules 20 to 22)	
Part B - Membership Eligibility, Share Transfer and Ratification Guides will lead a review of the Membership Application at a General Meeting without you present. At a subsequent GM, a vote on your eligibility for membership will be held. A 2/3 majority vote is required for Membership Eligibility, share transfer and ratification. Members may require further information or action before voting. The Co-operative, at its discretion, may refuse an application for membership or shares without assigning any reasons for its actions. a. If you have found a share prior to the membership eligibility vote, you may complete the Share Transfer and Ratification forms, and pay the \$13,000 share capital (\$7,000 Site Share and \$6,000 Infrastructure Share) plus Joining Fee, which are refunded if membership eligibility is not achieved at the GM. b. If you have not found a share prior to membership eligibility approval, you will be kept informed of any shares becoming available. Notes: 1. <i>You are responsible for obtaining your own legal and financial advice regarding any agreements and transfer of funds to the seller.</i> 2. <i>Documentation is returned to you, except for Share Transfer, Membership Ratification, Identity Check Forms, and the Membership Process Checklist, which are filed by the Secretary.</i>	

3. Your name, allotted share number, date of allotment and any other relevant information will be recorded by the Secretary in the Member Register two weeks after the formally ratified Share Transfer.

APPENDIX A

Questionnaire Applying to become a member of Goolawah Co-operative

I agree to this questionnaire being posted on the Goolawah Co-operative website for discussion at a General Meeting, which may decide not to progress this application. Attach additional pages for extended responses.

Name: Terese Hope _____ Signature: _____

Phone: 0434165284 _____ Email: teresehope@gmail.com _____

Applying for joint membership with: No Relationship to you? _____

Children's names and ages: Saszka Hope-Wasilewski _____

How did you hear about Goolawah Co-operative?

Met a member working at Blackfish cafe about 7 years ago. I was really interested then to learn more about the community but my partner at the time was not interested. Now I am single I would like to be part of the community.

Describe your current living/housing situation.

I am a 'home owner'. I live there happily with my four year old son. I have separated from his other parent; we have an amicable co- parenting relationship, we always communicate respectfully and put my son Saszka's needs first. We have done the circle of security parenting course after our separation as part of this commitment to co parent respectfully. I have my son 80 percent of the time and his other parent looks after him 20 percent of the time. We have a written parenting plan and our financial settlement has been finalised so any proceeds of the sale of my house will be available to purchase a site at Goolawah. I have a great network of friends and really enjoy living in the Macleay valley.

Have you lived in a residential co-operative in the past? If so, where?

Why do you want to leave/did you leave?

I have been a visitor at a co-op in Hobart and I loved my visit and wanted to move to the community.

What are your occupation/s and interests?

I am a qualified high school English teacher. I look after my son (and sometimes other people's children) during the day and teach English classes online in the evening. I love Shakespeare and theatre and poetry and creative writing. I have 3/4 of a masters in creative writing and hope to create a life with more free time to finish my masters and write short stories or novels.

<p>What inspires you?</p> <p>Art</p> <p>Activism</p> <p>Kindness</p> <p>Nature</p> <p>Yoga</p> <p>Breathwork</p>
<p>What frustrates you?</p> <p>Getting anywhere on time with a small child... on a serious note:</p> <p>Prejudice; transphobia, homophobia, racism etc</p>
<p>Why would you like to join Goolawah Co-operative?</p> <p>I would like my son to grow up on a community. One of my friends grew up on a community and said it was a wonderful childhood; I would like to give this kind of childhood to my son. I would like to live closer to nature and to be more environmentally sustainable. I would love to be part of community that gets together socially (I would love to join book club too) and who help each other with working bees and emergencies. I would like to have more financial freedom so I can choose to homeschool my child if he needs or get to fulfil my dream of writing.</p>
<p>What could you contribute to Goolawah Co-operative?</p> <p>Childcare (over 13 years in early education). Education support (over 10 years experience as a teacher- could be useful for homeschooling support). Kids yoga and yoga therapy (I am currently training as a kids yoga teacher and yoga therapist). I am a good listener. I can cook gluten free food. I am keen to learn new skills and contribute in other ways.</p>
<p>What do you think you would enjoy about co-operative living?</p> <p>Community dinners</p> <p>Bookclub</p> <p>Watching my son playing with lots of other kids - being part of that playing</p>

What might you find challenging about co- operative living?

Conflict.

However, I think that I am emotionally mature; I am able to reflect on myself and am able to see things see situations from a range of perspectives.

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

Banding together during floods and bushfires.

I would love to make some friends on the co-operative but don't expect everyone to love me.

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

<https://www.ecovillages.au/post/what-is-it-like-to-live-in-an-intentional-community>

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

I think there is a different attitude towards 'ownership'; on an intentional community you are a caretaker of the land rather than an owner of the land.

There is a greater respect for the natural environment and the fauna; especially with not introducing domestic animals that can cause harm to native flora and fauna.

I think there is a greater requirement for emotional maturity and an ability to deal with conflict constructively.

I think there is a greater opportunity for real human connection with others.

What would you like to do on your share, and over what timeframe?

Build a small home. Have a garden. Possibly a native bee hive to support native bee populations.

Note: Lending institutions will not lend for building on co-operatives. Are you able to finance construction of a dwelling with an off-grid power system, grey water system, composting toilet, water for domestic and firefighting purposes, communications, and infrastructure to council specifications?

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

In 1-2 years time, if the co-operative accepts me.

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

I think they are very sensible rules that respect the natural environment and help reduce conflict between members. I am reassured by the fact that this is a well established community and am grateful for the work that has already been done to establish this community. If I were involved in creating a community I would be wanting to implement the same rules.

Any comments or questions?

My main question is whether this community is LGBTQIA+ friendly. As a teacher I have supported a number of LGBTQIA+ students and seen the harm it causes when their community does not accept them. The transphobia in the world right now is particularly upsetting. I want to live in a community where if my child realised they were trans or gay they would be safe and supported. Currently my son has two mums, with one parent being gender questioning, and I want my son to live in a community where his family is accepted.

Appendix B

Identity Check

To be completed by each applicant

First name/s: Terese Elowyn_____Surname: Hope_____

DOB: 25/06/1982_____

Address: 75 Belmore Street Smithtown_____

Phone number: 0434165284_____Email: tereseehope@gmail.com_____

Type of government photo Identity e.g. Driver Licence, Passport: Driver’s licence_____

ID number: 13393276_____

Signature: Terese Hope_____Date: 13 May 2025_____

Are you known by any other name/s: Not anymore but I used the following surnames as a child and teenager:
Clapham, Lane and Burg_____

TO BE WITNESSED BY TWO DIRECTORS

Director: _____Signature: _____Date: _____

Director: _____Signature: _____Date: _____

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Appendix C

Character Referees

e.g. members of community groups or organisations, work colleague)

Name	Monica Dux
From	
Relationship to you	Good friend. Previous employer
Length of time known	15 years
Contact Number/s	...0405324205
Email	
Comments (Guide completes)	
Name	Ali Mackenzie
From	
Relationship to you	Good friend. Previously a colleague, currently an employer.
Length of time known	8 years
Contact Number/s0458978601
Email	
Comments (Guide completes)	
Name	Helen Bush
From	
Relationship to you	Good friend. Previously a colleague.
Length of time known	7-8 years
Contact Number/s	0437 546 258
Email	
Comments (Guide completes)	

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Appendix D

Stay dates: _____

Meetings dates: _____

Community event/s and dates: _____

Working bee activity and date: _____

Meet 45 Adult Members

Member	What you learned about the Co-operative from the member/s
e.g. Goolie and Creso (2 members)	A rainforest can be created using native plants from local Land Care tube stock and plants grown by fellow members in under 10 years. Great friendships formed.

Appendix D cont.

Meet 45 Adult Members

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Appendix D cont.

Meet 45 Adult Members

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Membership Application Process Feedback

Please give your Feedback Form to your Membership Guide

How would you sum up your experience of the Membership Application process?

How was the application process helpful/worthwhile for you?

How was the application process difficult/challenging for you?

What are we doing right?

How could we improve the process?

Any other comments?