

## **MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE:**

**MORGAN BROWN**

### **How did you hear about Goolawah Co-operative?**

I first heard about Goolawah when a friend from Western Australia was visiting the East Coast. He was going spearfishing with Adam, who lives at Goolawah, and I tagged along. I camped at Adam's and was immediately taken with Goolawah. I've always dreamed of living off grid.

### **Describe your current living/housing situation.**

My partner Alice and I currently live in a sharehouse in Emerald Beach, just north of Coffs Harbour.

### **Have you lived in a residential co-operative in the past?**

We haven't lived in any communities like Goolawah before, we're not unfamiliar with communal living. I work on boats where I live onboard with my colleagues for up to a month at a time, while Alice has lived in share houses for years.

### **If so, where?**

N/A

### **Why do you want to leave/did you leave?**

N/A

### **What are your occupation/s and interests?**

I am a marine engineer on boats that service the mining industry in Western Australia's Pilbara region. Alice is a journalist. We live for nature and the ocean – surfing, spearfishing, fishing, and time spent in the bush.

### **What inspires you?**

Nature – and living as aligned with it as possible. Down to earth, no pretenses kind of people, with those bright, sparkly eyes from living a life with a bit more time. Kids in tune with nature too.

### **What frustrates you?**

Working with lazy people.

### **Why would you like to join Goolawah Co-operative?**

To live off-grid, to have space to tinker and create things, fix things and grow things.  
To be in proximity to good surf, work opportunities in Port Macquarie, and to experience an alternative style of living.

**What could you contribute to Goolawah Co-operative?**

Fire management, land care, engine maintenance.

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

Ultimately, I think the best part is surrounding yourself with a likeminded community, that prioritises taking care of each other and the land. I enjoy working with others toward a shared goal. I like the idea of living simply, being more connected to nature, and having infinite space to do hands-on things.

**What might you find challenging about co- operative living?**

Politics, gossip, judgement.

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

I would expect open, honest communication and respect. I hope for transparent conversations upfront if conflicts arise. I would hope for a scenario where expectations of each other are clear, and everyone does their part. Hopefully a scenario where kindness and community reigns, but privacy can be respected when asked for.

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

Youtube channels

Alternative living

Back to basics

Tiny homes

Off grid living

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

Shared decision-making.

No Pets

Your “share” is a portion of the property to take care of, rather than freehold ownership.

Run all own systems, eg water, power, rubbish, rather than council provided.

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

Ideally I’d buy a share that already has the main dwelling and infrastructure. I would also be wanting a shed, studio, vegetable gardens and space for family to visit.

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

Likely as soon as I could purchase a share – however as I already noted, I work away, so I wouldn’t be living on the property full time.

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

At this point, it seems reasonable. But I won’t fully understand until I’ve attended a few meetings and spent more time seeing how things run. I also hate the sound of barking dogs.