

Small Resources BIG IMPACT – The Wollombi Festival

The Wollombi Festival is in its tenth year. From small beginnings at various locations in the small southern Hunter village, such as the old churches and other historic locations, the event is now the flagship of the Wollombi Valley Arts Council.

This year close to 200 volunteers make it happen. We are a remote rural community and all basic services, such as water, must be provided by the organising committee.

The Festival's themes are Reconciliation, Performance and Sustainability. The organisers declined an attractive offer of commercial sponsorship to ensure these foundation themes were maintained.

The Festival grew out of a Corroboree, staged in 1990 as a gesture of thanks to the local community for its support of a land claim near Wollombi. Inspiration comes from the natural environment and our desire to recognise and celebrate indigenous culture. For the past two years the event has been held at Yarnteen, an Aboriginal-owned property on the banks of the Wollombi Brook.

It is now a draw card for many national and international performers and a valuable opportunity to train local musicians and technicians.

Because the Festival encompasses so many forms of artistic expression and other skills everyone can contribute.

As a result the event is a genuine community Festival. All profits are put back into the Wollombi Valley Arts Council to enable the arts to continue to bring enjoyment and provide an opportunity for people from all walks of life to get involved. ■

Wollombi Festival
C/- Wollombi Store
Wollombi NSW 2325
Email ftthompson@optusnet.com.au