

Central Coast Community Congress

my place - our place conference 13 + 14 July 2010

Ourimbah Campus, Hunter Institute of TAFE & University of Newcastle



Central Coast Community Congress, my place - our place conference

Day 2: Wednesday 14 July

Concurrent Sessions

€2

Welcome to Warnervale

Tricia Carlson: Warnervale Family & Community Centre

2.50pm



A faded background image showing a woman with long dark hair and three children (two girls and one boy) smiling and hugging each other outdoors in a grassy field under a blue sky.

Welcome to Warnervale

“The Welcoming Initiative”

Tricia Carlson
Community Connector

Where is Warnervale?

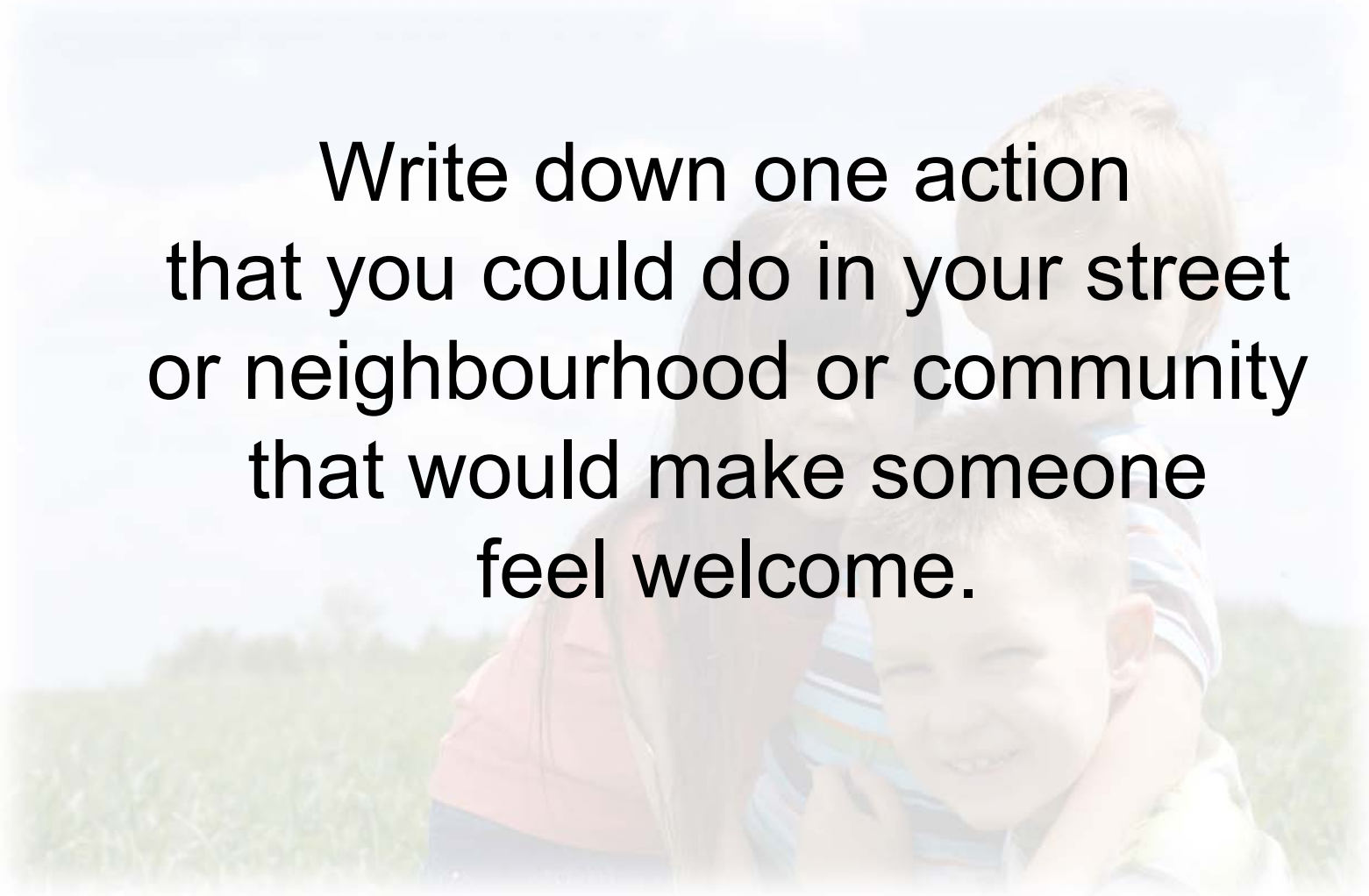
- Northern area of the Wyong Shire between F3 and Pacific Highway.
- Warnervale, Hamlyn Terrace, Woongarrah Wallarah and Wadalba.
- New residential estates, established residential village, rural areas, commercial and health facilities.

How many will live here in the future?

Warnervale-Wadalba SPD

	2006	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031
Population	10908	13617	20781	27162	31515	34625
Change		2709	7164	6381	4353	3110
Households	3558	4583	7181	9588	11398	12828
Household size	3.07	2.97	2.89	2.83	2.76	2.70

Wyong Shire Council Community Profile
www.wyongsc.nsw.gov.au

A photograph of a woman with long dark hair, wearing a pink jacket, hugging two young children from behind. The children are smiling and looking towards the camera. They are outdoors in a grassy field under a bright sky.

Write down one action
that you could do in your street
or neighbourhood or community
that would make someone
feel welcome.

Why? Community Connections

“It is important to develop a sense of belonging or connectedness in new urban release areas, there is increasing evidence that a sense of belonging or connectedness in a community has long term benefits in terms of resilience, ability to cope and overall well-being.”

Community Support & Human Services Plan for Warnervale/Wadalba 2002, p.13

Why? Crime

“Evidence suggests that those who feel excluded from participation in community life are more likely to offend against that community.”

Dr. Adam Graycar Director, Australian Institute of Criminology, 2001

Why do we do it? Health

A study by the National Heart Foundation in 2003 found that social isolation, lack of social support and depression increased the risk of developing coronary heart disease.

The level of risk is similar to smoking, high blood pressure or high cholesterol.

National Heart Foundation, 2003, [online] www.heartfoundation.com.au

Why do we do it? Child Development

“Child development is powerfully shaped by social capital.

Trust, networks and norms of reciprocity within a child’s family, school, peer group and larger community have far reaching effects on opportunities and choices, educational achievement, behaviour and development.”

Rothstein cited in Smith 2009 [online] www.infed.org.

What is the Welcoming Initiative?

- A universal strategy aimed at networking new and existing residents
- Welcome Kit
- Community events such as Kids Craft and barbecues in local parks

The Welcome Kit



Because children matter



Kids Craft in the Park



Because children matter

BBQs and Outreach



Because children matter

Morning Teas



Because children matter

Volunteers

“We knew not a soul here except for the guy I used to work with.

The ladies came over with a bunch of flowers and a plant and a whole lot of information and they were so friendly. Really, really amazing. And they made us feel comfortable and the neighbours are good.

We’ve been privileged to be volunteers delivering the welcome kits, we’ve got to know in just a small way, a number of other people”.

Bullen, P. 2004, p.29

Our Move to Warnervale

"We decided to have a seachange and move up to the Central Coast from Sydney to be closer to the beach and a more rural setting.

Our family attended the local markets where the Warnervale Family & Community Centre was having a family day and from that I received a Welcome Kit for new residents to the area. It was full of great information, along with vouchers from the local shops, which were a great help to us, plus a great native plant which now resides in our front yard.

I frequently visited the centre when I was trying to get employment. A big thanks to one of the volunteers for helping me get a job in the hospitality industry.

I have taken my children to the days in the park that the centre has organised, along with activities they hold at the markets, from time to time, which they both have enjoyed.

I applaud the volunteers for all their help and assistance to me, as a new resident in the area, it made my life a lot easier."

Wagtales, January 2008

What's on Offer?

“When I moved to Hamlyn Terrace early last year, I may as well have moved to Mars. Knowing nothing about the area, nor having any family or friends in the area I therefore welcomed my Wagtales when it first arrived, and even more, was thrilled with my Welcome Kit. Total icebreakers for a newbie in an unfamiliar area.


Now months on, I am enjoying three important aspects of my life in my new home, all as a result of Wagtales and the Warnervale Family & Community Centre: community, faith and fitness.

For community I joined Gorokan-Kanwal Lions Club. For faith I have enjoyed exploring various local churches. Fitness, my third important aspect, was in a very sad state earlier this year. In the past, I enjoyed gyms and hour-long treadmill walks. Then along came Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. In the July issue of Wagtales, a fitness class at a local church was advertised. These classes have helped me lose weight, gain strength through the weights exercises, improve flexibility and balance, and opened up another social dimension with laughs-a-plenty – all to music.”

Wagtales, October 2009

“When community members feel valued and personally experience their own capacity to contribute in a significant way to making their local community a happier and safer place to live, their self- esteem, participation in the local community and general approach to life is enhanced.”

*Ramsay, J. 2001, Keynote address:
Children Young People and their Communities: The Future is in Our Hands*

A photograph of a woman with long dark hair, wearing a red jacket, hugging two young children from behind. The children are smiling and looking towards the camera. They are outdoors in a grassy field under a bright sky.

**What can you do in your street,
neighbourhood or community to
make a difference?**

Because children matter

A young man was walking along the beach at dawn. Ahead of him he saw an old man picking up starfish and tossing them into the water.

At last the young man caught up with the old man and asked him, “Why are you doing that?”

The old man explained that when the sun came up, the starfish abandoned on the sand would die.

“But the beach goes on for thousands of miles and there are millions of starfish on the beach. How can your efforts make any difference, old man?”

The old man looked at the little starfish in his hand as he tossed it into the waves, and replied:

“IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE TO THIS ONE.”

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