

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.	
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: 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"	
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. <p><i>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.</i></p>	
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>	
<p>b. Meet a minimum of 45 adult members (Who's Who list will assist you)</p>	
<p>c. Attend two General Meetings</p>	
<p>d. Attend two community events and one working bee</p>	
<p>Step Three</p>	
<p>Part A - Review Meeting (Applicant, Guides and Director, members advised via Phone Tree)</p>	
<p>a. Application reviewed</p>	
<p>b. Member's concerns (if any)</p>	
<p>c. Understanding governance structure and policies</p>	
<p>d. Issues and challenges of community living</p>	
<p>e. Inherent risks – bushfire, flood, wildlife</p>	
<p>f. Costs, effort, time, and possible stresses involved in establishing a home</p>	
<p>g. Monthly Treasurer's Report</p>	
<p>h. Member's Liability (Rules 19 to 21)</p>	
<p>Part B - Membership Eligibility, Share Transfer and Ratification</p>	
<p>Guides will lead a review of the Membership Application at a General Meeting without you present. A 2/3 majority vote is required for Membership Eligibility, share transfer and ratification.</p>	
<p>Members may require further information or action before voting.</p>	
<p>The Co-operative, at its discretion, may refuse an application for membership or shares without assigning any reasons for its actions.</p>	
<p>a. If you have found a share prior to the membership eligibility vote, you may complete the Share Transfer and Ratification forms, and pay \$7000 share capital plus Joining Fee, which are refunded if membership eligibility is not achieved at the GM.</p>	
<p>b. If you have not found a share prior to membership eligibility approval, you will be kept informed of any shares becoming available.</p>	
<p>Notes:</p>	
<p>1. You are responsible for obtaining your own legal and financial advice regarding any agreements and transfer of funds to the seller.</p>	
<p>2. 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.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	

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: _____ Signature: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Applying for joint membership with: _____ Relationship to you? _____

Children's names and ages: _____

How did you hear about Goolawah Co-operative?

Describe your current living/housing situation.

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

If so, where?

Why do you want to leave/did you leave?

What are your occupation/s and interests?

What inspires you?

What frustrates you?

Why would you like to join Goolawah Co-operative?

What could you contribute to Goolawah Co-operative?

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

What might you find challenging about co-operative living?

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

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

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

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

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?

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

Any comments or questions?

Appendix B

Identity Check

To be completed by each applicant

First name/s: _____ Surname: _____

DOB: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ Email: _____

Type of government photo Identity e.g. Driver Licence, Passport: _____

ID number: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Are you known by any other name/s: _____

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	
From	
Relationship to you	
Length of time known	
Contact Number/s	
Email	
Comments (Guide completes)	
Name	
From	
Relationship to you	
Length of time known	
Contact Number/s	
Email	
Comments (Guide completes)	
Name	
From	
Relationship to you	
Length of time known	
Contact Number/s	
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.

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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?