

Wollondilly Total Care newsletter: July 2026

Your monthly recap. Provider highlights from Wollondilly, NSW.

This is the screen reader version of the July 2026 newsletter. It has the same words as the designed edition, in reading order. Photos are not included.

To join in on anything in this newsletter, contact the team on 02 4683 2377 and we can do the rest for you.

Participant spotlight: David Hore

How long have you been a local to the Wollondilly for?

About 5 years

What makes David smile the most?

My daughter makes me smile the worst.

David is really good at..

I am really good at bowls.

David has a big goal this year, and it is..

To win a bowls tournament

What is something you have achieved lately that has made you super proud?

Had my operation

David has been part of the WTC family for almost a year! He enjoys lawn bowls, catching up over lunch at the pub, and never says no to a good coffee. David always brings plenty of laughs and interesting conversations, and it's been wonderful to see him continue building confidence, connecting with the community, and achieving his goals.

This or that?

Beach or Bush?

Beach

Road Trip or Holiday by Plane?

Road Trip

Pasta or Pizza?

Pizza

Early Bird or Night Owl?

Early Bird

Camping or Glamping?

Camping

Be able to fly or be invisible?

Be Invisible

Talk to animals or speak every language?

Talk to Animals

Employee of the month: Katie C

How long have you been a local to the Wollondilly for?

I've lived in the Wollondilly area for 5 years and love being part of such a supportive community.

What's one thing people might be surprised to know about you?

I run my own photo booth business- everyone knows I think but I don't know what to write haha

What's one thing on your bucket list?

To go sky diving

The best piece of advice you have ever received:

not to waste time on things you cannot control

What is something you have achieved lately that has made you super proud?

Building meaningful relationships with my participants and seeing them achieve their goals and grow in confidence.

Katie has been a valued member of the WTC team for over a year! She supports a wide range of participants, from after-school routines to community outings, always bringing positivity, flexibility, and dedication to every shift. Katie is known for helping participants achieve their goals and stay organised, making a positive difference every day.

What is your..

Favourite snack?

Ice cream

Favourite season?

Summer.

Favourite place you've visited?

Bali.

Weirdest food you've tried?

Nothing I am too picky

Superpower you'd choose?

Teleportation.

My hidden talent is...

Karaoke.

Upcoming events in August

Outings, walks, activities, hangouts, BBQs and so much more. August events are not ones you want to miss! Please note these are subject to change. ^ means community funded.

Tuesday 4th August: Tuesday Outing, South Lawson Waterfall Circuit and lunch at The Henry Pub

Transport provided. Walking gear required. Please bring money for lunch.

Thursday 6th August: Walking Group, Berrima River Walk

Transport provided. Walking gear required.

Tuesday 11th August: Tuesday Outing, Illawarra Timezone Visit and lunch

Transport provided. Please bring money for games and lunch.

Thursday 13th August: Walking Group, Dairy Rd Trail, The Oaks

Transport provided. Walking gear required.

Tuesday 18th August: Tuesday Outing, Pictures and Popcorn ^ (WTC funded)

Transport provided. Please bring money for snacks. Ticket will be paid by WTC. (Movie: End of Oak Street)

Thursday 20th August: Walking Group, Cave Creek, Hill Top

Transport provided. Walking gear required.

Tuesday 25th August: Tuesday Outing, Day Trip to Berrima

Transport provided. Please bring money for lunch and shopping.

Thursday 27th August: Walking Group, Lake Alexandra, Mittagong

Transport provided. Walking gear required.

Want to join in on the fun? Contact the team and we can do the rest for you: 02 4683 2377.

Previous events: what we got up to this month

Illawarra Light Railway Museum

Our July Company Funded Outing took participants on a fantastic day trip to the Illawarra Light Railway Museum. As the museum is only open during the school holidays and on selected days, it was the perfect opportunity to finally add this long-awaited destination to our calendar. Participants enjoyed exploring the historic trains, taking a ride on the full-size steam train and the miniature railway before finishing the day with lunch together. It was a wonderful opportunity to experience local history, and create lasting memories with friends.

One of the highlights of the day came from one of our youngest participant, Chaice, who proudly declared it was "the best day ever!" Moments like these remind us why we love creating meaningful experiences that bring joy, excitement and connection to everyone involved.

Chill Fest

This month, participants enjoyed an exciting day out at Chill Fest in Campbelltown. As a special one-off outing during the school holidays, we swapped our regular Tuesday outing to give participants the opportunity to experience one of the region's most popular winter events—a trip many had been asking for since last year. The day was filled with thrilling rides, plenty of laughter, delicious food, and wonderful company. Participants had the opportunity to make their own choices about the rides and activities they wanted to enjoy, while building confidence, independence, and community participation throughout the day.

From sharing meals together to creating unforgettable memories, Chill Fest was a fantastic day of fun, friendship, and connection that everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

Picton Botanic Gardens Walking Group

Before our BBQ Grill & Chill event, our Walking Group enjoyed a peaceful morning exploring the beautiful Picton Botanic Gardens. The gardens provided the perfect setting for a gentle walk, meaningful conversations, and plenty of fresh winter air. Participants Lauren, Alex, and our newest participant, Darcy,

were joined by Support Workers Katie and Monique as they explored the scenic pathways together. It was a wonderful opportunity for Darcy to meet other participants and staff in a relaxed and welcoming environment while enjoying the beautiful surroundings.

The walk was a fantastic way to begin the day, promoting physical wellbeing, social connection, and confidence before everyone gathered for an afternoon of food, laughter, and community.

BBQ Grill & Chill

Our BBQ Grill & Chill was another fantastic success, bringing participants, families, support workers, and staff together for an afternoon of connection, friendship, and fun at the Picton Botanic Gardens. Everyone enjoyed a delicious BBQ lunch while catching up with familiar faces, meeting new people, and sharing plenty of laughs. It was especially wonderful to officially welcome our newest participant, Darcy, who had the opportunity to meet other participants and members of our team in a relaxed and friendly setting.

Despite a few light sprinkles of rain, the weather certainly didn't dampen the atmosphere. A friendly game of soccer brought plenty of smiles and laughter, while conversations continued throughout the afternoon. Events like these highlight the importance of inclusion, community participation, and creating meaningful relationships that extend beyond our regular supports. We're already looking forward to our next BBQ Grill & Chill!

Spring Farm Lake Walking Group

Our Walking Group enjoyed exploring Spring Farm Lake for the very first time, and it certainly didn't disappoint! Participants Alex, Darcy, and Vicki were joined by Support Worker Nikki and me for a relaxing morning surrounded by beautiful scenery and warm winter weather. The walk featured a fully paved pathway that circled the lake, making it an enjoyable and accessible route. Along the way, the group crossed the picturesque bridge spanning the lake, taking in the peaceful views and fresh air. While there were a few gentle hills, the track was mostly flat, making it suitable for a range of abilities.

Our first visit to Spring Farm Lake was a great success, with plenty of conversation, laughter, and encouragement shared along the way. Exploring new locations like this allows participants to stay active, build confidence, and enjoy meaningful time together in the community. We look forward to returning again in the future!

NDIS updates

What's changing in the NDIS industry, and what this means for you.

New NDIS pricing from 1 July 2026

The NDIS has released its updated pricing arrangements and price limits for 2026–27, with new pricing coming into effect from 1 July 2026. These updates are reviewed each year to make sure NDIS pricing remains fair, sustainable and supports continued access to quality services.

So, what does this mean for participants?

The good news is that these changes do not mean your NDIS funding automatically changes. Your plan budget remains the same, however the maximum price providers can charge for certain supports has been updated. Any changes to service pricing must be discussed with participants and agreed to before they apply.

Key changes include: Support Worker Supports (Core Supports)

Support worker pricing has increased to reflect changes including wage and cost updates.

- Weekday daytime support: previously approx. \$70.23/hr, now approx. \$73.58/hr
- Weekday evening support: previously approx. \$77.38/hr, now approx. \$81.24/hr
- Saturday support: previously approx. \$98.83/hr, now approx. \$103.75/hr
- Sunday support: previously approx. \$127.43/hr, now approx. \$133.78/hr

What do you need to do?

For most participants, these changes will simply mean invoices may show updated support rates from July onwards. Your funding can still be used flexibly within your plan, however the amount of support hours you can access may change depending on the rates charged by your provider.

At WTC, we will continue working alongside participants to ensure plans are being used effectively, supports remain goal-focused, and funding is managed carefully throughout the plan period. If you have any questions about how these changes may impact your supports, please speak with your WTC Support Coordinator.

Community events

Companion Planting with Edible & Medicinal Plants

Thursday, 13 August 2026, 5:00pm – 7:00pm. Robin Davies Wollondilly Community Nursery, Wonga Road, Picton.

Discover how to create a productive and sustainable garden with renowned social ecologist and author Judith Collins. Learn practical companion planting techniques, natural pest control, year-round food production, and how edible and medicinal plants can work together to improve your garden. Includes an interactive Q&A session and book signing.

Service NSW Mobile Service Centre

Thursday, 20 August 2026, 9:00am – 3:30pm. Tahmoor Inn Carpark, 2715 Remembrance Driveway, Tahmoor.

The Service NSW Mobile Service Centre is visiting to help residents access a range of government services. Services include driver's licence renewals, Working With Children Checks, birth certificate applications, Hazard Perception Tests, RSA/RCG cards, and information about government rebates and vouchers.

Café Connect – You Only Die Once!

Tuesday, 25 August 2026, 10:00am – 1:00pm. Tahmoor CWA Hall, 98 York Street, Tahmoor.

Join South Western Sydney Primary Health Network for a free community information session about Advance Care Planning. Learn how to document your future healthcare wishes, ask questions in a relaxed environment, and enjoy a light lunch. Bookings are free but essential.

The Oaks Family Markets

Saturday, 29 August 2026, 11:00am – 3:00pm. The Oaks Hotel, 36 John Street, The Oaks.

Bring the whole family along to the The Oaks Family Markets for a fun community day out. Browse over 80 local stalls featuring handmade products, boutique clothing, homewares and gifts, while enjoying delicious food, live entertainment, kids' activities, giveaways, and even some special farm animal visitors. Best of all, it's dog friendly—just keep your furry friends on a lead!

Advertisements

2-bedroom unit available

A comfortable 2- bedroom unit is now available at Taara Gardens.

For more information or to arrange an inspection, please contact Jenny Cheetham, Village Manager, Taara Gardens, on 0418 265 416.

Thank you, Flower Mama Tahmoor

A big thank you to Flower Mama Tahmoor for providing the beautiful flowers we present to our Employee of the Month each month.

For fresh flowers, thoughtful gifts, and exceptional customer service, be sure to support this wonderful local business.

Flower Mama, 152-158 Remembrance Driveway, Tahmoor NSW. Phone (02) 4604 1110.

That's a wrap for this month!

Thank you for taking the time to catch up on what's been happening at WTC. We can't wait to share more with you next month.

Wollondilly Total Care: 02 4683 2377.