

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

WALWA BUSH NURSING CENTRE
and
WALWA PRIMARY SCHOOL

ON JOINT WORKING ARRANGEMENTS
AND SHARED FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

September 2005

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The following document constitutes a Memorandum of Understanding between the Walwa Primary School & the Walwa Bush Nursing Centre (including the Walwa Community Centre).

Introduction

This paper documents the partnership that has been developed between the Walwa Primary School (herein to be referred to as the School) and Walwa Bush Nursing Centre and Community Centre (herein to be referred to as the Centre)

Both the School and The Centre have expressed their desire to work together to enhance the health and well being of the children of Walwa and its surrounding feeder area by sharing resources and facilities to the benefit of these students. The partners also agree that the combined School and Centre site and facilities may also be of benefit to the health and well being of other community groups such as the Riverview Independent Living Units and agree to include these groups in the context of the agreement.

This MOU has the full support of the Board and staff of both establishments and has been signed off by the Board/ Committee in recognition of their commitment to its aims.

The document describes a shared vision for the total well being of our children now and into the future and recognizes a need to create a safe and caring point of contact for them into the health environment.

The MOU also acknowledges the sharing arrangements for the School and Centre's various resources and facilities (including the separate sewerage agreement and joint irrigation options for the treated waste).

Nb This sewerage matter is the subject of a separate and more detailed agreement between the partners.

Preamble

In a small community such as Walwa and its environs, it is becoming more and more important to provide opportunities to develop strong links between all groups and individuals. People need to be given the opportunity to feel part of a healthy community. Continually in these rapidly changing times individuals and families are becoming disenfranchised and develop feelings of isolation.

In recognition of these issues, it is the Centre's wish to provide a common space for people to participate in activities and engage with others in community life, thereby developing a strong sense of belonging. We also wish to forge strong relationships between health carers and the children in order to develop in them, the confidence and feeling of trust that will encourage them to seek help for any of their health problems.

We wish our school grounds along with the adjoining Walwa Bush Nursing Centre site and resources to become a hub for community interaction and activity.

The School in partnership with the Centre thus aim to strengthen the connectedness between the school and community by developing programs involving the Centre that can be enjoyed and used by a wide range of groups and individuals with links to the School. Strengthening bonds within the community is of vital importance to the health and well being of both children and adults and both partners wish to encourage physical and mental well being in an enjoyable and safe setting for people of all age groups.

Within the master planning process of the reconstruction and redevelopment of the new Centre, it also became clear that the adjacent sites and overlapping needs of the two partners would open many opportunities for shared infrastructure and physical resources.

With relatively small numbers at the School it has become impossible to provide such things as a multi purpose room for the exclusive use of the School Community. In recent years it has been difficult to run School functions that require the use of a Hall or community space. These issues have been addressed in the ongoing planning and discussions around the new Centre development.

Resource sharing was seen as a perfect solution to this ongoing problem for the school. The Centre also wished to make worthwhile links with all members of the community and service their need for a meeting place. They considered the building of the multi purpose room and gymnasium as part of the new complex for this reason. Further discussions between the School and the Centre have resulted in this MOU which sets out long term aspirations for sharing.

The staff of the school identified a vital need to provide children with the opportunity to experience activities that may help them take responsibility for their own health and fitness at a young age. In our rapidly changing society there are more children living in single parent families and more children needing to take an active role in their own physical welfare. Children may also need support for reasons of mental health issues or depression within their families so it was identified that the Centre should be involved in developing programs that encourage the children to feel safe to talk to medical staff at any time.

As most of the children at Walwa Primary School will attend Corryong P12 for their secondary education it was also felt that they needed to have a safe place that they could come to that was part of their own community rather than to feel disenfranchised – not truly part of the Corryong Community and no longer part of Walwa's Community.

Therefore this alliance between the Centre and the School is based on the premise that the strong links and shared facilities will:

- -improve the health and fitness of the children
- -develop a trusting relationship between the School children and the Centre staff, especially the Medical staff and nurses.
- -give the children a sense of belonging and connectedness to the wider community.
- -provide the children with a safe place to turn to in times of trouble
- -Give the children more access to shared resources.
- -strengthen the schools curriculum program.

Vision

Our vision as a consequence of this MOU is that the children of Walwa will develop strong and active ties with the Centre that will last through their teenage years assisting them to develop into happy, healthy and valuable members of the Community.

We also see the wider Community, through the School Community, celebrating a sense of belonging through shared activities at the School and Centre.

Mission

Our mission is to work together to enhance the health and well being of the School children and other community groups by providing appropriate activities and resources to develop their health and fitness.

Objectives

The School and Centre will continue to support each other in the provision and maintenance of shared sites, facilities and resources to meet the above vision and mission.

The partners shall:

- Develop health and wellbeing programs that are consistent with the aims of this MOU
- Continue to develop physical infrastructure that will be of benefit to both parties such as the proposed walking track and the above-ground vegetable gardens.
- Provide staff liaison opportunities and professional support for one another.
- Maximise opportunities for funding and special programs through joint grant applications and /or letters of support.
- Develop innovative models and programs for the benefit of the School and therefore the community as a whole.
- Foster beneficial linkages between the Centre and the School which will include other organizations and community groups.

- Assist children to develop the knowledge and ability to take responsibility for their own health and well being into the future and allow them to be willing to seek help from appropriate School or Centre staff if needed.

Mechanisms/ Process

The following communication and operating strategies will enable the memorandum of understanding to be put in place.

- A liaison group will be established consisting of members from both agency's staff, and Council/Board of Management. The group will meet on an as needs basis to discuss and agree on the elements of this MOU.
- A schedule will be drawn up between the Centre and the School re the cost sharing required as part of this MOU (Annual maintenance of the shared sewerage system will form part of the separate sewerage system). This cost sharing and charging system will be reviewed annually or as required by the liaison group.
- The liaison group will make agreement on the use and scheduling of either partners facilities and resources eg the Centre kitchen for cooking classes, Centre staff for health and fitness classes, School IT facilities etc.
- The liaison group will nominate and approve joint submissions and grants that will benefit the purpose and intent of this MOU

Both agencies will access current technology such as email to transfer and receive information relevant to the aims of the MOU.

Joint press releases may be sent out following significant events involving the Centre and The School in joint activities.

Potential Resource Sharing

The shared sewerage and waste water irrigation agreement forms part of the intent of this MOU but because of its complexity is covered in another separate agreement.

The WBNC agrees to make available as far as is practicable the resources and facilities of its Centre. This includes but is not restricted to:

- the Bush Nursing Centre offices for staff and student consultation
- the Walwa Community Centre for general assembly and for specific school functions eg plays, presentations, films, etc
- the gym facilities as part of the Centre

the Centre kitchen to be used for healthy cooking classes and potential cooking of jointly managed garden produce
the Centre's surrounds and landscaped areas for walking or other physical activities eg Tai Chi, etc
the IT room including the use of computers on a supervised basis

The Centre's staff will also endeavor at times that are mutually agreed upon to support the programs and activities discussed under the terms of the MOU.

The Walwa Primary School agrees to make available as far as is practicable the resources and facilities of its School. This includes but is not restricted to:

School facilities such as oval, sports equipment,
IT facilities
Access to office equipment
access to the community through their school news letter
assistance with voluntary labour
inclusion in the process of submission writing for equipment and programs appropriate to this MOU

PRINCIPLES

Underlying this Memorandum of Understanding are a number of key operating principles that have been identified and agreed to by the staff and the Boards of both organizations.

Both organizations agree:

- To embrace the vision, mission and objectives of the MOU and be accountable to it.
- To actively seek opportunities for collaborative effort that will have the best opportunity for success and to inform each partner of appropriate opportunities and progress
- To support the work of each other's agency for the benefit of the School Community and the Centre.

Agreed on this day

the of2005

Signed on behalf of the Walwa Bush Nursing Centre

..... President

.....Secretary/ Public Officer

Signed on behalf of the Walwa Primary School

.....President

.....Principal