

# NEWS BULLETIN

## MARCH 2023

Dear Otfordians

Lots going on in Otford so, time to catch up on the Otford Community Inc news!

As you may or may not be aware, Wollongong City council had previously committed to refurbish our hall.

We have been going month to month with hiring and trying to keep activities going. Neighbourhood Forum 1 have been meeting at the hall since the closure of the Helensburgh Community Centre.

If you didn't get to either of the Causeway meetings or the NF1 and want to know what council's response was and the issues being discussed, you can request to go on the email list through the convenor, Warwick Erwin

[warwick@stts.com.au](mailto:warwick@stts.com.au)

[WCC webpage](#)

Council has subsequently notified us that refurbishment will not go ahead due to white ant activity. We can continue to use the hall until at least the end of June when hopefully more information becomes available.

We would like to continue Playgroup or some sort of Parents (of preschool age children) Group at the hall for but need **2 or 3 parents to step up to help run it. Not particularly onerous but jobs go easier when shared.** Please contact Sue at [oci.memb@gmail.com](mailto:oci.memb@gmail.com) if you need any further information. There was talk of a weekend playgroup for working parents or those who can't make a weekday. If you have an idea, please reach out.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO USE OR HIRE THE HALL FOR A KID'S PARTY, MORNING TEA OR MEETING PLEASE USE ONE OF THE CHANNELS BELOW. WE HAVE GREATER CLOUT WITH COUNCIL IF WE CAN DEMONSTRATE HOW MANY PEOPLE USE THE HALL AND HOW IT IS INTEGRAL TO OUR COMMUNITY.**

**WEBSITE** [otford.org.au](http://otford.org.au)  
**book.otford.hall@gmail.com**  
**Booking phone 0487854439**

During COVID all memberships were renewed **with no fees payable**. OCI manages the hall on behalf of Council and currently bears the cost of electricity, sanitary disposal and public liability insurance which totals around \$1600 annually.

We have agreed as a committee to re-instate membership fees in order to stay financially viable while we lobby council to keep the hall going.

OTFORD  
Community Inc



**Membership fees will become due on July 1 for 2023-2024 FY.**

**Family \$25**

**Single \$10**

**You will be able to pay securely via the website.**

If you have any changes to your contact details or family details or want to join please fill in the membership form on the website. Our membership currently stands at 30 Family and 17 Single memberships (89 adults and 40 children – 129 in total)

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

We all loved the food truck and we are hoping to organise another soon but in the meantime, while our causeway is closed, we thought we might have a pizza party on the closed section of Otford Road (ie: between Georges Rd and the causeway) to support local businesses who are impacted by the closure. BYO chairs and refreshments. You are welcome to bring a picnic if you'd prefer.

**SUNDAY APRIL 2 FROM 4PM PIZZAS DELIVERED BY 5PM**

**\$10 FOR 4 SLICES OF PIZZA, PREPAID ONLY ON THE WEBSITE. DEADLINE FOR ORDERS WILL BE MIDNIGHT WEDNESDAY MARCH 29**

### **THANK YOUS**

As always nothing happens without some behind-the-scenes machinations, thanks to the board members: Jackie, Claudia, Mark and Natasha, and to the committee: Vicki, Sue and Helen. Our heartfelt thanks for all the paperwork to outgoing Secretary Claudia Walters and welcome to Helen Bray as new secretary and Karen McDougall committee member.

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