



# **Annual Report 2022-2023**



**Our vision:**

**Wagga Wagga - Australia's most liveable regional city**

# Message from the Chair

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I would like to begin by thanking our executive team made up of executive assistants Michelle Ford and Sophie Uden and CEO Scott Sanbrook.

It is also with a heavy heart that we bid farewell to Sophie after 4 years with Committee 4 Wagga. Sophie has a passion and energy that is hard to rival. She has worked effortlessly aside Scott and Michelle, pulling together programs, design elements, spreadsheets, events and many more duties that often go unnoticed but are never unappreciated. On behalf of Scott, Michelle, and the board of management, thank you Sophie and best of luck with your future adventures.

What a year! Seriously, didn't I just write this Chair report a few weeks ago? It certainly feels like it.

I always love to give a snapshot of our activities and initiatives for the year but it will be impossible to include them all, particularly when you count the amazing work some of our key members have done within the community too.

Here are a handful of highlights this year:

- We joint-hosted the Telstra Cocktail function in February at The Magpies Nest allowing our members to meet and network with Telstra's CEO, Vicki Brady who hails from Holbrook
- Also, in February we launched the 2023 Wagga School Leaders Program with 14 students representing 6 local high schools who would go onto graduate in August
- In March we co-hosted and organised with Corporate Member Region Riverina and new C4W members The Streaming Guys, the State Election Candidate Debate for the seat of Wagga
- We also partnered with Training Services NSW in March to launch the Made for a Trade program at Mercure with a packed house and I'm happy to say what has turned out to be a successful program with 8 schools involved and 38 graduates from the program
- In May we hosted the first of our six monthly Welcome to Wagga events at the Murrumbidgee Turf Club with the second being held in November



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- Met with the Hon. Jenny Atchison and Dr Joe McGirr in July about the Murrumbidgee River second crossing and Marshall's Creek bridge upgrade postponement. This meeting led to the cancellation of traffic lights being installed at Travers Street and the budget reallocated towards Marshall's Creek bridge widening and a business case for the Gobba Bridge duplication
  - In August we hosted the Telstra Wagga Wagga Beyond 2050 with over 100 delegates at the Riverina Playhouse which has resulted in a number of relationships being created between local businesses and some of our dynamic presenters, as well as having the first ever glimpse of an EV vertical take-off and landing vehicle in Wagga Wagga
  - In November we hosted the first of our local housing summits with the Designing a Future breakfast forum at the Riverine Club with event partner PRD Real Estate and Designing a Legacy's Tim "Rosso" Ross with plans for a second forum in 2024
  - We also launched the 2022-2023 Land Monitor Report with RDA Riverina and HIA Wagga in December.

I would like to personally thank each member of the Board of Management who volunteer their time to Committee 4 Wagga and ask nothing in return.

Our Board Members are:

- Vice-chair Richard Pottie from Ladex
- Secretary Samantha Beresford of Charles Sturt University
- Treasurer Matthew Moloney of WDF Accountants + Advisory
- Nick Abraham of CBA (Assistant Treasurer)
- Scott Braid of Wagga Motors
- Richard Allsopp of Rundles
- Rebecca Hardy of Enirgi
- Glenn Cox of ANZ
- Tania Contogeorge of Sureway Employment and Training
- Peter Braneley of Big Springs Water

Thank you to our Board.



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Finally thank you to our members. Without your support there would be no Committee 4 Wagga championing issues that matter to all of us. C4W will continue to work with other community leaders and stakeholders to ensure Wagga remains the best and most liveable regional city in Australia.

I look forward to welcoming onboard some new members of the board of management as we will have some new positions made available by our outgoing members Scott Braid and Matthew Moloney (11 years), and Tania Contogeorge (3 years). To Matthew, Scott and Tania – thank you for your commitment to Committee 4 Wagga during your tenure. We appreciate the time, effort, and dedication to the community you have made by being an integral part of the C4W team.

I write this before knowing who will be elected to the new positions, but I can say that all candidates represent the very best of Wagga’s business leaders and I am excited for what the future holds.

For an organisation that is 100% member funded and with a completely volunteer board, I could not be prouder of the achievements C4W has made over the last 12 months. It is a huge commitment of time and energy, often away from our own businesses, and I can’t thank everyone enough for their efforts. Have a wonderful Christmas and new year period and I look forward to seeing you again in 2024.



Adam Drummond  
Chairperson





## Message from the CEO

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The community spoke and Committee 4 Wagga listened and acted in a riveting 12 months for the city.

Our advocacy group has always provided a platform for residents to share their views on Wagga Wagga's future direction and this was again a focus in 2022-23.

The Candidates' Debate held in March gave community members the opportunity to learn all about the politicians running for seat of Wagga in the State election.

Region Media's Genevieve Jacobs and Chris Roe were the adjudicators for one of the most important events for the city in the lead-up to the poll.

Curly questions were asked from the floor, with the answers providing a clear insight to the pollies' policies and strategies.

Committee 4 Wagga also had extensive engagement with residents through its Gobbagombalin Bridge Survey.

If there was ever any doubt about the need for a duplication of the bridge, the survey provided overwhelming evidence that "yes" was the answer.

More than 1100 of Wagga Wagga's dwellers responded to the survey and 95 per cent indicated that the bridge was not adequate for our growing needs.

Committee 4 Wagga used the results to garner support from Member For Wagga Dr Joe McGirr and State ministers in a push for a business case study for a bridge duplication.

Wagga School Leaders Program again uncovered a group of dynamic and talented teens who will develop into ambassadors for the city.

An exciting and successful addition to our schedule was the Made For A Trade Program.

With the support of Training Services NSW, the inaugural Made For A Trade exceeded all expectations with 38 local students from Years 9 and 10 taking part.



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This program was a vision of Committee 4 Wagga's patron Kay Hull AO, who spoke passionately about trades at the launch.

Our chair Adam Drummond gives his all to the role and works tirelessly with the best interests of Wagga Wagga always at heart.

His enthusiastic leadership is complemented by a board of directors with an expansive skillset.

Executive assistants Michelle Ford and Sophie Uden are invaluable assets to the team and their contributions to every facet of the of the organisation are greatly appreciated.

The wide cross-section of the membership base remains one of Committee 4 Wagga's greatest strengths.

Every sector of the business community is represented throughout the six membership tiers, ranging from Affiliate to Corporate level.

We value highly the loyal support of these members and will continue to work closely together as we chase a common goal - to ensure our city is the best place possible in which to live.

*S. Sanbrook*

Scott Sanbrook  
Chief Executive Officer





# PROGRAM UPDATES



## WAGGA SCHOOL LEADERS PROGRAM

2023 saw the delivery of the eighth Wagga School Leaders Program. Once again, the program was a great success as it continues to develop the future ambassadors of Wagga Wagga. All students participating in the 2023 program graduated, and we look forward to achieving this success again in the 2024 Program.

The students' achievements were celebrated with parents, school principals and coordinators, program facilitators, Local Government representatives and program sponsors at the program graduation dinner in June 2023.



Thank you to our wonderful program supporters including New South Wales Government for their Stronger Country Communities Grant, Charles Sturt University, Estella Rise, Enirgi Power Storage & Recycling, Transgrid, Bush & Campbell Accountants, Sureway Employment & Training, and WDF Accounting + Advisory, for their significant contribution to this program in 2023.

Claire Markwick continued her work as the Wagga School Leaders Program facilitator in 2023. Thank you to Claire, the guest presenters, and our valued volunteers, who so willingly commit their time to these young adults. Without their support, this program would not be possible.





# PROGRAM UPDATES

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## MADE FOR A TRADE PROGRAM

The Made for a Trade program is a new initiative between Committee 4 Wagga and Training Services NSW. The program is for students in Year 9 and Year 10 to learn more about trade roles in the Wagga Wagga community through connections with local employers and practical activities.

The program is designed to allow students to experience a variety of different trades to give them a better understanding of what each trade does. Through this experience, it is expected that students will then pursue a trade pathway through an SBAT, VET at school in Year 11 and Year 12 or leave school to pursue a full-time apprenticeship.

Launched in March, 60 students from high schools throughout Wagga Wagga and neighbouring towns registered for Made For A Trade, which was made possible by the generous support of TSA Management.

Launched in March the program was completed in November with 34 students and their families attending the graduation evening. There are students who have already been successful in acquiring an apprenticeship.

This program is facilitated by Stacey Suidgeest of Training Services NSW and the program proved a great success with the assistance of TAFE NSW.



## EVENTS

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### STATE ELECTION CANDIDATES DEBATE

Committee 4 Wagga gave the State election candidates the chance to answer the questions important to the Wagga Wagga community in the lead-up to the State election in March. Hosted by Region Riverina and facilitated by Genevieve Jacobs AM, the event was live-streamed by The Streaming Guys for those who were unable to make it in person.

The event was attended by over 100 people with a further 700 people watching online. The discussion focussed on local issues like the Gobba Bridge duplication, regional health, and the squeeze on housing and workers.

The independent Member for Wagga, Dr Joe McGirr, the Nationals' Andrianna Benjamin, Labor's Keryn Foley, the Greens' Ray Goodlass and Liberal Party's Ms Ham all attended, while Shooters Fishers and Farmers candidate Chris Smith and Public Education Party representative Raymond Gentles sent their apologies. It was a great opportunity to hear directly from the candidates on a broad range of issues.



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### COMMUNITY BREAKFAST WITH COMMBANK AND COMMITTEE 4 WAGGA

Wagga Wagga's housing, transport and skilled labour issues were addressed when CommBank chief executive officer Matt Comyn was a special guest at a community breakfast held at the Rules Club.

Matt joined Committee 4 Wagga chair Adam Drummond and Founding Director at Sureway Employment and Training Judy Galloway on a panel facilitated by CommBank Riverina Executive Manager Nick Abraham.

The event was co-hosted by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia and Committee 4 Wagga, with former Member for Riverina and current C4W patron Kay Hull AO among the 75 in attendance.





# EVENTS

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## AUSTRALIAN PEAK SHIPPERS ASSOCIATION

Leaders in the freight and logistics sectors descended on Wagga Wagga to attend the two-day Australian Peak Shippers Association (APSA) Conference.

More than 170 industry representatives – the majority travelling from Sydney and Melbourne – heard from a range of experts at the Wagga RSL Club on August 30 and 31.

The conference also included a site tour of the Riverina Intermodal Freight and Logistics (RiFL) Hub at Bomen on the opening day as well as a Welcome Reception, which was sponsored by Committee 4 Wagga. Committee 4 Wagga chair Adam Drummond addressed the guests at the function, highlighting the strategic location and investment pipeline in Wagga Wagga.

An update on the progress of the Special Activation Precinct to the city's north also featured on the first day. For a number of those in attendance, the conference was their initial visit to Wagga Wagga.



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## TELSTRA COCKTAIL FUNCTION

Telstra's hierarchy made Wagga Wagga its present as they looked to the future of digital technology and connectivity. Led by CEO Vicki Brady, the Telstra executive team met with several Wagga business representatives as they conducted site visits in the city and its surrounds last week.

Committee 4 Wagga partnered with Telstra to hold a cocktail party at the Magpies Nest function centre. More than 100 guests – largely from Committee 4 Wagga's membership base and the Telstra team – attended the event.

Ms Brady spoke at length on the importance regional centres, such as Wagga Wagga, play in shaping the technological future.



# EVENTS

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## WELCOME TO WAGGA WAGGA

Committee 4 Wagga held two Welcome to Wagga events during the year.

Welcome to Wagga Wagga provides new residents with the information they need to discover and enjoy our city in a relaxed setting where they can connect with locals and new residents alike. The bi-annual event is held at a location that showcases an aspect of our city helping recent arrivals share our vision for Wagga Wagga to be Australia's most liveable regional city

Recently the events were held at the Wagga Wagga Botanic Gardens and the Murrumbidgee Turf Club and were sponsored by Region Media and Regional Development Australia Riverina.



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## TRY A TRADE DAY

Committee 4 Wagga has proudly supported Training Services NSW's Try A Trade Day for the last 2 years.

Held in August each year Try A Trade Day provides students the opportunity to meet with many businesses looking for trades people within Wagga and surrounds. The interactive demonstrations prove popular with students each year, showing them some of the skills they will learn as an apprentice.

Many Committee 4 Wagga members are present at Try A Trade Day including ProWay Livestock Equipment, Sureway, McDonalds, Wagga Motors, Milbrae Quarries, Transgrid, ARTC Inland Rail, TAFE NSW, PRD RealEstate, Wagga Wagga City Council.



# PROJECT UPDATES

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## GOBBAGOMBALIN BRIDGE

Wagga residents jumped at the opportunity to have their say on one of the city's most significant connection points – the Gobbagombalin Bridge.

Committee 4 Wagga carried out community consultation on the adequacy of the bridge and asked the public to complete the survey by Australia Day.

The results were overwhelming and also proved timely with the State election set down for March.

More than 95 percent of those who filled in the on-line survey agreed that the Gobba crossing could not cope with the growing traffic demands.

This feedback was considered a vital tool in the consultation process as the results would provide a comprehensive community insight for the city's decision-makers.

Committee 4 Wagga utilised the results to generate support from Member For Wagga Dr Joe McGirr and State ministers in its campaign for a business case study for a bridge

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## LAND MONITOR REPORT

Committee 4 Wagga played its part in the production of a vital study into land availability in and around our city.

The 2022 version of the Land Monitor Report emphasised the gap between social and affordable housing availability had closed dramatically.

Furthermore, increasing house prices and cost of living were being driven by record-high inflation and rising interest rates, as well as the growing demand for workers in every industry.

What we were left with – in short – was a housing crisis.

The study provides an accurate snapshot of where Wagga needs to be in terms of supply and demand for housing.

Vacancy rates in most real estate offices were below 1 percent, emphasising the urgency to review the facts and figures in the Land Monitor Report.

Committee 4 Wagga hopes the analysis would be used to identify growth areas requiring accelerated planning and approval processes, streamlined civil and utility infrastructure, and ultimately shovel-ready sub-divisions to cope with the increasing demand from a growing population.

The report is the result of a collaborative effort between Committee 4 Wagga, RDA Riverina, and HIA Wagga.

# YOUR BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

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## **ADAM DRUMMOND, CHAIR**

**Creative Director, WaggaWagga.TV.**

Adam has served as a Director on the Board of Wagga RSL Club, and local charity Carevan Wagga, where he was also one of the founding members. He was also a graduate of the inaugural Committee 4 Wagga Emerging Leaders Program. He is a well-known face around Wagga having established a reputation for being an effective communicator, diplomatic leader and having an entrepreneurial spirit.

Adam joined Committee 4 Wagga as Chair in February 2022.



## **RICHARD POTTIE, VICE CHAIR**

**Managing Director, Ladex Construction Group.**

Richard was born in Wagga Wagga and established Ladex in 1993. Ladex currently employs 55 full-time staff at their Bomen Office.

Richard is a life member of Apex, a director of Koorinal Rotary, and president and board member of the Riverine Club. Richard joined the Committee 4 Wagga board of management in December 2019.



## **SAMANTHA BERESFORD, SECRETARY**

**Head of Government Relations and Regional Engagement at Charles Sturt University**

Sam joined the Committee 4 Wagga board in August 2021.

Sam joined Charles Sturt in 2019, as the Director of External Engagement looking after the Riverina and Murray regions and is responsible for developing, maintaining and growing strong partnerships between the University and various sectors in order to build strong, vibrant regional communities.



## **MATTHEW MOLONEY, TREASURER**

**Consultant, WDF Accounting + Advisory**

Matthew Moloney is a Bachelor of Business (Accounting), CPA, JP and Consultant with WDF Accounting + Advisory. Matthew is a founding board member and treasurer for Committee 4 Wagga.

Matthew has been a director at WDF for the past 15 years and has a real passion for helping his clients grow and manage their businesses.



# YOUR BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

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## NICK ABRAHAM, ASSISTANT TREASURER

**Executive Manager for the CBA Business Banking in Riverina**

Nick has been with CBA for more than 11 years holding a number of positions within Business Banking across NSW and WA. Nick holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Economics (M. Finance USYD).

Nick joined the Committee 4 Wagga Board of Management in December 2020.



## SCOTT BRAID

**Dealer Principal / Company Director of Wagga Motors**

Scott is dealer principal/company director Wagga Motors and founding board member of Committee 4 Wagga.

Born and raised in Wagga Wagga, Scott has worked in his family business for over 60 years, upholding the founding principle that the public is entitled to the best service possible in satisfying its motoring requirements.



## RICHARD ALLSOPP

**Founder of Rundles Auctions**

Born and bred in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney, the “country-changer” made the trek to Wagga Wagga in the early 90s, with a view to bring industrial auctions - a traditionally metropolitan business - to the country, bringing with them stable and secure jobs for regional people.

Richard is the founder of Rundles Auctions and pioneered industrial auctions in country NSW. Richard joined the Committee 4 Wagga Board in December 2019



## REBECCA HARDY

**General Manager, Enirgi Power Storage Recycling, CA**

Rebecca is the General Manager at Enirgi Power Storage and Recycling and joined the Committee 4 Wagga Board of Management in December 2020.

Rebecca began her career with Cargill Beef Australia where she held numerous financial roles over a 13-year period before spending four years with Wagga Wagga City Council in a risk management capacity.

# YOUR BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

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## GLENN COX

**Regional Executive for ANZ in the Riverina**

Glenn joined the Committee 4 Wagga board of management in December 2020.

Glenn and his family moved to Wagga in September 2019 when Glenn commenced his current position. Glenn has over 25 years' experience in the finance industry, specialising in the Corporate, SME and Agribusiness finance sectors with both NAB and ANZ.



## TANIA CONTOGEGORGE

**General Manager, Corporate Services at Sureway Employment & Training**

Tania has over 20 years experience in state government and has spent her career managing large, geographically dispersed teams, including regional and remote locations. Tania's experience includes leadership in quality assurance, IT, business development and marketing.

Tania joined the Committee 4 Wagga board of management in December 2020.



## PETER BRANELEY

**General Manager, Big Springs Water**

Peter joined the Committee 4 Wagga board in December 2022.

Peter has been an enthusiastic supporter of C4W since its inception and is committed to the Four Pillar principles that guide its strategic activities. He is a graduate of the inaugural C4W Emerging Leaders Program and is passionate about the future success of C4W and Wagga Wagga's amazing community.





# YOUR EXECUTIVE TEAM

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## SCOTT SANBROOK

**Chief Executive Officer**

Scott was raised in the farming district of Mangoplah and was educated in Wagga Wagga before following his career paths in the city. He has a strong community involvement through the work and sporting connections he has developed in the Riverina during the past 30 years.

Scott joined the Committee 4 Wagga team in June 2022.



## MICHELLE FORD

**Executive Assistant**

Michelle joined the Executive Team in June 2018. Michelle manages member events, administration, communications, and Leadership programs.



## SOPHIE UDEN

**Executive Assistant**

Sophie joined the Executive Team in November 2019. Sophie focuses on advocacy research, member communications, governance and assisting with member events.



# THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS

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## CORPORATE MEMBERS



Region is the fastest growing source of quality local news and conversation in the Capital region.

## EXECUTIVE MEMBERS



## BUSINESS MEMBERS





# THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS

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## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS



## AFFILIATE MEMBERS



## HONORARY MEMBERS



# OUR VALUES

WE ARE COMMITTED  
WE HAVE INTEGRITY

WE ARE COURAGEOUS  
WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE

## OUR FOUR PILLARS



## OUR CORE OBJECTIVES

1. ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE WITHIN WAGGA WAGGA
2. ENABLE THE COMMUNITY TO INITIATE AND EFFECT POSITIVE CHANGE
3. DEVELOP AND EXPAND A LEADERSHIP BASE
4. FACILITATE THE INTERACTION OF COMMUNITY, BUSINESS, AND GOVERNMENT
5. SUPPORT A FLEXIBLE AND CREATIVE BUSINESS CULTURE
6. PARTNER TO DEVELOP CITY INFRASTRUCTURE
7. POSITION WAGGA WAGGA INTERNATIONALLY





## **OUR VISION**

WAGGA WAGGA, AUSTRALIA'S MOST LIVEABLE REGIONAL CITY.

## **OUR MISSION**

CHAMPIONING POSITIVE CHANGE THROUGH LEADERSHIP, ACTION, AND COLLABORATION FOR A THRIVING WAGGA WAGGA.

