



DIG THIS: Wingecarribee Shire Mayor Gordon Lewis (foreground) turns the first sod to mark the beginning of construction for the Wingecarribee Community Services Centre in Moss Vale yesterday. Present at the ceremony with Cr Lewis were builder Michael Craig, architect Kathy Barnsley, project manager Robert Jones and Wingecarribee Community Foundation secretary Catherine Davies.

Community centre gets under way

By Vas Venkatramani

Construction of the Wingecarribee Community Services Centre in Moss Vale began yesterday.

Wingecarribee Shire Mayor Gordon Lewis dug the first portion of soil to mark the official start of excavation.

Representatives from various local community services were present on Tuesday morning to witness Cr Lewis mark the official launch of the project, which has come after more than four years of planning by committee members of the Wingecarribee Community Foundation.

Cr Lewis said the council was pleased with the initiative of the various organisations to focus their services on a local level.

"The council has been very supportive of this project since its initial planning stages," Cr Lewis said.

"We've donated the block of land and \$57,000, plus they received an interest-free loan of \$100,000.

"Upon its completion, it will prove to be a wonderful community asset."

Wingecarribee Community Foundation secretary Catherine Davies said she was thrilled work

was starting after years of planning.

"Given the council's immense support, it is most appropriate we have Mayor Gordon Lewis to be the one to turn the sod," Ms Davies said.

"The committee has worked hard for nearly five years on this. It's a dream that is finally becoming reality."

Ms Davies said further fundraising for the project would begin early next year to supplement the costs for the centre.

"So far we've raised \$70,000 out of \$300,000, so there is a long way to go," she said.

"We'll be looking to begin a range of fundraising initiatives to ensure we meet the costs of the project."

Project builder Michael Craig said the sod-turning ceremony marked the official start of excavation and the installation of security fencing.

"As a local company, we're also using local supply materials and tradesmen within the area," he said.

"It was a conscious decision in our part to emphasise the importance of the centre within the Southern Highlands."