

ACCC opposes hospital sale

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has opposed Healthe Care Australia Pty Ltd's proposed acquisition of Brisbane Waters Private Hospital, ACCC Chairman Mr Graeme Samuel said recently.

"The ACCC is seeking an undertaking from Healthe that it will not proceed with the acquisition", Mr Samuel said.

"The ACCC found that the proposed acquisition would be likely to substantially lessen competition in the supply of private hospital services to patients in the Gosford area.

"In particular, the ACCC's concerns relate to the potential for the quality of private hospital services to diminish.

"The ACCC's inquiries found that treating doctors play a significant role in ensuring that patients receive a high standard of care from private hospitals.

"The ACCC considers that competition currently exists between North Gosford and Brisbane Waters to attract doctors and that they can use the current competitive situation to benefit the

standard of care for their patients.

"The ACCC considers that this competition will end if Healthe own both private hospitals.

"Further, the ACCC considers that the proposed acquisition is likely to result in a reduction in the range and quality of services currently offered at North Gosford and Brisbane Waters, resulting, among other things, in patients having to travel further to receive treatment.

"Following extensive market inquiries the ACCC considers that Berkeley Vale is unlikely to be a sufficient constraint on Healthe post acquisition.

"In its market inquiries, the ACCC took into consideration information provided by Healthe and many other market participants, including specialists, health funds and industry bodies.

"The ACCC subsequently published a Statement of Issues on 8 November 2006 and will publish a Public Competition Assessment detailing the reasons for the ACCC's decision in due course".

Press release, 13 Dec 2006
Lin Enright,
Australian Competition and
Consumer Commission

Hospital upgrades - Page 6



NSW Opposition Leader Mr Peter Debnam accompanied by protesters outside Thommo's Pizza, Umina Beach

Police would be 'fully-operational' under Liberals

NSW Opposition Leader Mr Peter Debnam and Liberal candidate for Gosford Cr Chris Holstein have committed to a "fully-operational 24-hour Woy Woy Police Station" and to "re-open Umina Police Station".

"The Lemma Government has failed to adequately resource local police and as a result the community is experiencing a crime wave," Mr Debnam said after meeting crime victims in Umina on Monday, January 8.

Mr Debnam said he met with several local residents and business owners who "are fed up with the ongoing vandalism, violence and robbery which has engulfed the community's streets".

"Marie Andrews and the Labor Government has failed to adequately resource the hard-working local police and as a result they can't get the thugs off the street.

"I am serious about addressing crime and giving our police the resources they need to keep the community safe.

"I will do this by upgrading Woy Woy Police Station to a 24-hour fully-operational station and reopening Umina Police Station as a resourced shop-front.

"A Liberal Government will get NSW back in front by giving local police the resources they need to keep the community safe," Mr Debnam said.

Cr Holstein said that after working

with the community and extensive lobbying, he was very pleased with Mr Debnam's announcement.

"Since 2003 the Labor Government has cut 19 police officers from Brisbane Water Local Area Command and shut down the Umina Police Station, despite the community's appeals for more local police," Mr Holstein said.

"Today we have met with an elderly lady who has owned a store for 35 years and she is now fearful of being in her own shop, a businessman whose pharmacy has been broken into and vandalized several times and just here we can see the extent of damage inflicted on this local pizza shop by thugs.

"Only a Liberal Government can deliver our hardworking police the resources they need to keep the community safe and clean up our streets."

Cr Holstein said he was interested to hear comments of Labor MP Ms Marie Andrews.

"Ms Andrews was on the radio yesterday afternoon saying that crime on the Woy Woy Peninsula was being driven down," said Cr Holstein.

"If she wants I can introduce her to locals who have real concerns over theft, vandalism, malicious damage, anti-social behaviour and the lack of police."

Member for Peats Ms Marie Andrews said that Woy Woy police station was open 24 hours a day.

"It has been suggested today that the Woy Woy police station does not operate on a 24-hour basis, this

is incorrect," Ms Andrews said.

"Woy Woy Police station is open 24 hours a day and is one of a number of police stations in the region, which provides a great service protecting the Central Coast communities.

"Police are continuing to work with other agencies to address youth crime issues in the region.

"The NSW Government is committed to making the streets of the Central Coast safe and this is why we are providing record police numbers.

"The authorised police strength for the Brisbane Water Local Area Command, as at October, was 221, which is almost 30 per cent higher than when the Coalition was last in power.

"The actual number of police in the Local Area Command is even higher than that - currently 233.

"Since 2003 the Local Area Command has received 26 probationary constables.

"The NSW Police Force will also be boosted with another 750 police, when they graduate from the Goulburn Police College in Goulburn.

"The NSW Government is continuing to provide police with the tough powers resources and support they need to keep the community safe."

Press releases, 8-9 Jan 2007
Peter Debnam,

NSW Opposition leader
Marie Andrews, Member for Peats

No crime stats - Page 7

Night Owl bus runs until April

A summer "Night Owl" bus service will operate on the Peninsula until April 9.

The service began on Friday, December 15, and will operate between Woy Woy, Ettalong Beach, The Entrance, Terrigal and Gosford.

The cost per trip is \$5 with a security guard present on every bus.

Operating on Friday and Saturday nights from midnight to 4am, the service costs passengers for \$5 each per trip, collecting passengers from late night venues, with a security guard present on every bus.

Additional services will be provided for the Australia Day long

weekend and Easter.

The Summer Night Owl Bus service is funded by the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) and the Ministry of Transport, and is supported by Gosford and Wyong Councils and NSW Police.

Gosford mayor Cr Laurie Maher said the service "clearly saved many young people from potential dangers on our roads over the festive season".

Timetables for the Summer Night Owl Bus are available from Gosford Council and through participating venues.

Details are also available online at www.gosford.nsw.gov.au.

Press release, 12 Dec 2006
Marion Newall, Gosford Council

THIS ISSUE contains 60 articles. Read more at www.PeninsulaNews.asn.au



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Tribute to folk club stalwart Billy Rea

Long time Peninsula resident and Troubadour folk club stalwart Gordon William (Billy) Rea passed away recently after a long battle with cancer.

His brother Jimmy Rea provided an obituary and Troubadour president Mr Carl Desborough read his eulogy at the funeral.

"Bill was born at North Sydney in 1926.

"He was named Gordon William but he always chose to be called Billy," Jimmy Rea said.

"He had a very sad start to his life when he contracted polio at the age of two years.

"He was in and out of hospitals and wore irons on his leg all that time.

"In those days, they did not have the medical knowledge they have today.

"However, he carried on through those young years with the help of his parents, not letting anything get to him.

"He went forward and he grew to love singing and music.

"When he really got into music, he played the piano accordion and he used to play it almost all the time.

"Then he bought a guitar and he started to sing and play.

"We used to go to radio 2SM on a Saturday morning when they had a hillbilly show as it was called before it became Country and Western music.

"In the early days, one of the entrepreneurs was Bill McColl and Bill signed a contract with him and they used to sing at the town halls and Schools of Arts all round Sydney.

"I remember I used to go with him and I was so proud of him.

"I know my mum and dad were also proud of him.

"Before TV came to Australia, most of our entertainment came by radio.

"They had a show called The Amateur Hour run by Terry Deer.

"Bill and his mate Laurie Townsend entered and they made the grand finals as The Westernairs.

"They didn't win, but making the

grand final was a huge step on their part.

"Bill used to sing in pubs and clubs or whenever they had live entertainment."

His brother said Bill could also play the trumpet, the mouth organ and the whistle.

"He could draw, paint in oils, watercolours, pastel pencils and charcoal drawings," he said.

"Bill used to race model sailing boats.

"He started his own business as a pest control operator.

"He used to study in our bedroom of a night as well as learning to read music and play his guitar.

"He was the first member of our family to fly in a plane.

"They took him down to Melbourne for the grand finals of The Amateur Hour and I remember how we all listened crowded around the radio.

"The whole family including my younger brothers and sisters couldn't wait to ask him about the airplane trip.

"I remember he made me give up smoking as a young fellow.

"He told me it would stunt my growth.

"I gave it up.

"I was 5'3" then and I am still 5'3", so I think he told me a porky.

"My brother was a lovely man with a beautiful disposition.

"I don't think he had an enemy in the world.

"I never heard anyone say a bad word about him.

"He was a very kind brother.

"Bill was on many government committees as an adviser for people with disabilities on the Central Coast: Housing, ramps on gutters, ramps in shopping centers, wheel chair taxis.

"So when you go down a ramp, when you cross the road, remember Bill was one of the instigators of them.

"When his wife passed away, he turned to music to hide his grief and through that he met a lot of good people.

"His neighbours especially helped him towards the end and made life easier for him.

"But his main friends were the people from the folk group who he loved with a passion. "Every time I saw him or spoke to him he would



Billy Rea with Leila Desborough at the presentation of her painting and statue to Billy Rea

tell me about the folk group who treated him, he said, like an icon.

"Seeing that he was the older of the group, he tried to pass on his knowledge to the younger members.

"He told me he had taken up yodeling again, which he hadn't done for years.

"It is sad for Bill to finish his journey like this as he still had many plans ahead to do what he wanted a bit more life than his 80 years.

"He had his best years living in Woy Woy and we the family, would like to thank all his friends and neighbours for being so kind to him in his last days."

Troubadour president Mr Carl Desborough said: "Billy Rea was a special part of the Troubadour.

"I remember the first time my wife Leila and I came to a Troubadour event ... the very first performer we saw was a softly-spoken man who looked a bit like a cowboy, played his old guitar and sang classic songs in a surprisingly true voice," Mr Desborough said.

"We noticed how everyone there treated him with a special respect.

"I didn't figure it out at the time but I know now why everyone who met Billy respected him.

"It had nothing to do with his music or where he'd played or who he'd known.

"It was just Billy.

"Billy earned people's respect because of who he was; because of the loyalty he gave to his friends; because of the support and encouragement he gave to strangers; because of the enthusiasm with which he went about his life; because of his sincerity, his compassion, his heart and his courage.

"Billy first came to the Troubadour in 1999, about its third meeting, and played a selection of country music.

"In late 2002, Billy phoned and asked if he could bring his little dog Fifi to the hall and then he officially joined the Troubadour in February 2003.

"He has only missed a few days since then.

"As did many people in the Troubadour, my wife and I became good friends with Billy Rea.

"We played music with him, we went camping with him and we just enjoyed his company.

"I remember Billy dressed up as a clown entertaining the kids at St Albans.

"I remember how well he looked after his little blind poodle Fifi.

"I can't count how many times he told us to 'keep at it kids, you'll get there'.

"I remember Billy and Fifi busking outside Fisherman's Wharf where I know he added a little magic to a lot of people's Sunday lunch of fish and chips.

"I remember how touched Billy was when Leila made a sculpture of him and Fifi busking and entered it in a show for portraits of local identities.

"I remember a lot of good things about Billy and the strange thing is I don't remember anything bad."

"Thank you Billy for what you have given us."

Letter, 12 Jan 2007

Carl Desborough, Troubadour Central Coast

Peninsula News

Peninsula News is owned by Peninsula Community Access Newspaper Inc., an incorporated, non-profit association. Its aims include providing a viable, non-partisan news medium and forum exclusively for the Peninsula and developing a sense of community on the Peninsula.

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Declaration of interests

Honorary editor: Mark Snell

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Convenor, Burrawang Bushland Reserve Committee

Vice-president, Australian Conservation Foundation Central Coast branch

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Next Edition: Peninsula News 158

Deadline: January 24 Publication date: January 30

Contributions

Letters to the editor and other contributions are welcomed and should be addressed to: Peninsula News PO Box 532, Woy Woy 2256. Contributions should be in Word format sent via email to: mail@peninsulanews.asn.au, on disks or by handwritten letter if these facilities are not available to you. Include the date, your name, address and phone numbers. Name and Suburb will be published. Anonymous contributions will not be included. Submissions may be published in edited form. All accepted contributions also appear on our website.

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Legal responsibility for editing, printing and publishing in Peninsula News is taken by Mark Snell of Woy Woy, for Peninsula Community Access Newspaper Inc.

Ducks Crossing Publications is the commercial operator of Peninsula News

Ducks Crossing Publications also publishes

• Coast Bowls News - www.ccbna.org.au email: bowlsnews@bigpond.com

• Trad&Now - www.tradandnow.com email: info@tradandnow.com

Printed by MPD, Maddox St, Alexandria

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'Ettalong Peninsula' naming defended

Central Coast Tourism has defended referring to the Peninsula as the "Ettalong Peninsula", in its latest accommodation guide.

The organisation's chief executive Mr Horst Endrulat said that, as the area had no official name, it had "not renamed this area".

"The Woy Woy Peninsula ... is not listed as a gazetted place name either officially or unofficially," he said.

"Nor is The Peninsula."

"The area is variously known as The Peninsula, Woy Woy Peninsula and the Woy Woy-Ettalong Area, none of which are officially or unofficially gazetted," Mr Endrulat said.

"Woy Woy Peninsula has only been in use since the early 1980s.

"The local naming of both The Peninsula and Woy Woy Peninsula is a very grey area, used only by locals and actually quite confusing for visitors and tourists.

"Gosford Council itself refers to the area as The Peninsula, Woy Woy Peninsula and Peninsula, for example Peninsula Leisure Centre."

However, Woy Woy resident Ms Heather McKenzie is among those local residents who were not convinced.

She said that the area had been known as the Woy Woy Peninsula ever since Woy Woy had its own council.

Ms McKenzie drew Peninsula News' attention to the recent name change in the Central Coast

Tourism Accommodation Guide.

She said the area was referred to as the Woy Woy Peninsula in the guide last year, but had changed to the Ettalong Peninsula in the current edition.

She said the original name should be retained.

Mr Endrulat said there were several issues related to the naming in the accommodation guide.

He accepted that in the past Central Coast Tourism had "occasionally" used the terms Woy Woy Peninsula and The Peninsula.

"With the Outrigger Ettalong Beach Resort, Ettalong now has a much higher profile with more visitors and tourists than it did in the past," Mr Endrulat said.

"When summarising areas, not all locations in an area have been used.

"For example, The Entrance and Wyong does not list Norah Head, Magenta or Toukley.

"The list is endless."

Mr Endrulat said that the guide used Gosford and Ettalong Peninsula as a way to summarise the area.

"If we were renaming it, we would have used Gosford and The Ettalong Peninsula, which of course we haven't."

Mr Endrulat suggested that "perhaps the residents and businesses of this area should decide on exactly what the area should be known as and have it gazetted so that there is no longer any confusion."

Lyle Stone, 11 Jan 2007



A collection of printers and scanners in a tip bin at the e-waste collection day

Tip may collect computers

Woy Woy tip may get a permanent collection point for computer equipment, following Gosford Council's first electronic hardware waste ("e-waste") recycling collection.

Over 25 tonnes of old computer equipment, mobile phones, scanners and DVD players were collected during the first e-waste

campaign at council's Erina depot on December 16, according to a report from Gosford Council.

It stated that monitors, hard drives and printers formed the bulk of the collected goods.

"Cars arrived at the depot at the rate of one per minute, with more than 250 vehicles dropping off items during the four hour collection period," said council's senior technical officer for waste

services Mr James Lawson.

Mr Lawson said that council was delighted with the response, with many residents commenting on how valuable the service was.

Gosford Council is now investigating having permanent collection points at Woy Woy and Kincumber landfills, as well as continuing the "e-waste" service.

Press release, 19 Dec 2006
Marion Newall, Gosford Council

Thousands sign Andrews' petition

Member for Peats Ms Marie Andrews has claimed opposition to Gosford Council's proposed rate rise is growing.

She said that, in just four weeks, 3000 people had signed a petition against the rate rise following the public meeting in Woy Woy.

"Thousands of Gosford ratepayers are making a strong protest against Gosford Council's

plan to slug working families with a \$180 rate rise," Ms Andrews said

"Working families are telling me they're already doing it tough," Ms Andrews said.

"With interest rates and high petrol prices, working families simply cannot afford an extra \$180 added to their rates bill.

Ms Andrews said she expected more people would add their signatures to the petition as word

got out around the community

Ms Andrews said the Minister had the final say on council's proposed rate rise above the rate peg.

"On the other hand, the Coalition Opposition will review rate pegging," Ms Andrews said.

"By reviewing rate-pegging, it will leave the door open for rates to rise by up to 30 or 40 percent."

Press release, 12 Jan 2007
Marie Andrews, Member for Peats

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Forum

Priorities out of step

I just cannot contain myself any longer without making comment on the crazy road funding ideas coming from Cr Chris Holstein and his Liberal Leader Peter Debnam.

His recent announcements to commit millions of our tax dollars to tunnel under the rail line to realign Woy Woy Rd to link traffic into

Forum

Nagari Road and quiet residential streets is just nonsense.

Cr Holstein's priorities are completely out of step with public expectations when the majority of council roads on the Peninsula have no kerb and gutter, no drainage and no footpaths for

young mothers with prams or the elderly.

But I suppose I shouldn't be surprised as Cr Holstein doesn't live here, otherwise he would really understand what our town needs.

Wouldn't it be refreshing if someone actually listened to what we need!

Jack Galway
Woy Woy

Ferry pre-conditions not in place

Many residents on the Woy Woy Peninsula support a fast ferry commuter service from Ettalong to Sydney, but have concerns as to its financial viability.

They are aware that a tourist ferry service, using the existing Ferry Rd wharf, could easily be introduced with a low-cost upgrade to that wharf.

The only reason for utilising prime foreshore land on The Esplanade is to provide facilities necessary for an ongoing commuter ferry service to Sydney.

Discussions at Gosford Council meetings in 2005 and 2006 appreciated the above

Forum

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See Page 2 for
contribution conditions

matters and made reference to three pre-conditions necessary, as determined when the State

Government was involved in 2002/3.

Those pre-conditions/safeguards required the proposed operator, Fast Ships Ltd, to have in place before contracts could be finalised:

- a legally binding contract for the provision of a suitable vessel(s).
- a binding arrangement for berthing rights at Circular Quay (or equivalent).
- a viable financial business-operating plan, subject to due diligence by Gosford Council/State Government.

This week (December 14), I was allowed to inspect the relevant legal documents, being the Deed of Agreement and Lease and Sub-lease signed by Council and Fast Ships Ltd in July 2006.

I was very surprised to find the agreements do not appear to require any of the pre-conditions noted above to be in place prior to any work commencing on The Esplanade.

Instead, for a project which I estimate in capital terms to require some \$25m to cover two vessels, a wharf-terminal and funding for a financial plan, Council only requires a deposit of \$500,000 before work can commence - some two percent of the estimated project costs.

One has to ask why Council would do this, assuming it is not lack of commercial acumen.

Why wouldn't Council at least demand the same safeguards as the State Government?

No one wants a ferry terminal-wharf on prime foreshore land without a long-term commuter ferry service to Sydney.

I hope the project does not prove to be a "property play" to secure 40-year access to public Crown-Council owned foreshore land and that a commuter ferry service proves not to be financially viable.

If so, Peninsula and Central Coast residents will lose access to prime foreshore due to Council's lack of ensuring appropriate commercial safeguards were embodied in the agreements and contracts.

Michael Gillian
Ettalong Beach

Rainwater is unfit to drink

Forum

Rainwater, our governments tell us, is not potable water.

It is unfit to drink!

Toilet flushing, washing machine filling, watering the garden and washing the car is about it!

With the average daily demand for these uses, a tank of less than 50,000 litres may be enough for two people, who are supplementing their consumption with town water.

It will depend on frequency and volume of rainfall and a catchment of at least 10 squares of roof area.

Backflow prevention devices must be checked annually for compliance, which can cost \$80 dollars.

Certainly the relatively small tanks being promoted by green groups and subsidised by government are

not at all worth the trouble and real cost of making these commitments, simply because you can't store the complete rainfall for a year in these small tanks.

I accept as a guide the figures of Mr John Wiggin of the Central Coast branch of the Australian Conservation Foundation, reported on December 9 in the Peninsula News.

While his point is valid that many tanks are just too small to do what homeowners may be expecting, he overlooks the fact that Gosford Council tells us the rainwater is not potable.

Edward James
Umina

**For more Forum
see page 15**

Don't bother with cop shopfront

Forum

If, as I suspect, the Umina Beach Police Station Peter Debnam has promised to re-open, should he be elected to Government, is in fact the shopfront cop shop on West St, Umina, then I must say: Don't bother Pete.

The previous place was manned part-time by Volunteers in Policing, who had no policing authority, and served only as a teabreak pitstop for patrolling police cars and tied up a valuable parking spot full time.

Should he have in mind the police station that, in bygone days, was at Ettalong: Forget it also.

Dean Hartigan
Umina

The Cromwell of planning

Forum

NSW Planning Minister Mr Sartor wants to strip councils of their power so as to fit more people into the state.

Mr Sartor has emerged as the Oliver Cromwell of planning, that is, his word is law.

His outrageous actions strike at local democracy and are measures of the corruption of power.

The Planning Minister may know little of English history.

So to enlighten him: Oliver Cromwell was a ruthless dictator.

The people groaned under his puritanical yoke, and they fell over themselves to receive a rather decadent king to replace him.

There's a message here somewhere.

Keith Whitfield
Woy Woy

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Chamber pushes formain street cameras

Peninsula Chamber of Commerce has announced it will push for closed circuit television in the Umina Beach and Woy Woy commercial areas.

"What we need is closed circuit TV in the main street as a tool to assist the police in reducing crime and identifying those who are responsible for it," vice-president Mr Tom Tregent said.

"We also plan to push for CCTV at the Umina Beach Surf Club where much of the Friday and Saturday night trouble starts from.

"The Peninsula Chamber has already prepared an assessment for CCTV in the Ettalong Beach town centre.

"We want to combine these efforts with CCTV for Umina Beach and Woy Woy so as to attract funding through the Federal Government's National Community Crime Prevention Program.

"At Umina Beach, the digital CCTV plan would include both static and remote cameras located in strategic locations through West

St, Bullion St car park and the Umina Beach Surf Club car park.

"Data would be relayed and stored at a head receiver possibly at the Ettalong Beach Club where we hope to integrate the system with Gosford Council's network to be installed in Gosford this year".

"Whilst we have missed out on the current round of funding, we plan to work with Gosford Council and the NSW Police Service to ensure that this proposal is fully researched and documented for the next round of Federal funding later this year," Mr Tregent said.

"Government and community organisations have tried everything to stem the tide of criminal and anti-social behaviour particularly in Umina Beach with little effect.

"It's time now to identify, track down and charge offenders using surveillance cameras so the police have the best opportunity to catch these people."

**Press release, 5 Jan 2007
Tom Tregent,
Peninsula Chamber of Commerce**

The Brisbane Water Traffic Services have issued a report on the outcome of the statewide traffic operation Safe Arrival, with only one notable incident taking place on the Peninsula.

Traffic services Senior Constable Mr David O'Shea said the incident took place on December 26.

"At 4.50pm a vehicle was seen in Victoria St, Woy Woy, at the time the female driver was not wearing a seat belt," Mr O'Shea said.

"Upon being stopped the 21-year-old from Umina Beach produced a Learner's Licence.

"No other person in the vehicle held a current NSW driver's licence.

"She was issued with an infringement notice for the seat belt offence and will appear at court at a later date for the licence offences."

Operation Safe Arrival commenced on December 22, and continued for 15 days concluding on January 5.

It was a statewide traffic operation

targeting excessive speed, alcohol and drug impaired driving, driver fatigue and the non-wearing of seat belts.

"In the Brisbane Water Command, we breath tested 2461 people, of those 27 were arrested and charged with drink driving offences," Mr O'Shea said.

"This was a 44 per cent reduction, compared to the 2005-2006 safe arrival operation, in the number of people charged with drink driving offences.

"There were 194 infringements issued for exceed speed offences and a further 439 speed camera frames were exposed.

"There was an additional 75 traffic charges preferred for varying offences.

"Forty-seven crashes were

recorded which is slightly up on previous years, however our monthly crash rate for 2006 continues to fall.

"Of those crashes, there was a 40 per cent increase in injury crashes.

"This is a concerning trend and in the ensuing days we will analyse data from these crashes to identify if a trend or associated factor is common.

"Alcohol crashes rose by one only, however these will also be analysed to identify a common factor and assist in future enforcement."

Press release, 18 Dec 2006, 6 Jan 2007

**Dave O'Shea,
Brisbane Water Traffic Services**

Advertisement

Peninsula Perspective

by
Chris Holstein
Liberal Candidate 2007

We all know how precious water is on the Central Coast. After living with water restrictions for years now everyone is aware just how little water we have.

Our gardens are suffering; we can't even wash our cars.

Those who do have bore water don't want that resource to run out either.

The message I keep receiving when I meet people is: someone needs to get on with the job of fixing the problem. We've had enough of the blame game; we just want our water catchments full and life to return to normal.

But if we leave it for the State Labor Government to fix it will be years before the Central Coast is again flush with the precious liquid. Labor's plan to drought proof the Central Coast is to construct a water grid which will see us becoming ever more reliant on our water coming from the Hunter.

Labor's only response is the Tillegra Dam which will be located hundreds of kilometers away from us here on the Coast.

Not only will we be dependent on a community far away to service our water supplies, but the planning and building process for the dam will take 5 years, then it will be another 3 to 5 years for the dam to be filled. Hunter Water has said the first water from the dam should be available by 2013, but who can predict, especially that far away, how much it will rain?

What we need now is our own Central Coast short-term solution, something that will fill the gap between now and 2013 when Tillegra Dam will supposedly come online.

The Liberal led Coalition is working hard to develop a real plan that will mean the Central Coast can independently provide water for itself.

After twelve years Labor has failed to plan to address the water crisis. Labor has failed to plan, and now they are refusing to act.

Peter Debnam will declare a state of emergency on water on day one to cut through the bureaucracy and focus the full resources of government on solving the water crisis and we will ensure all possible storm water harvesting and water recycling goes ahead on the Central Coast.

With NSW in the grip of the worst drought in one hundred years, securing future water supply is vital for the people of the Peninsula.

After twelve years Labor has failed on water, and it is now time to change Government to get NSW back in front.

**Regards
Chris Holstein**

**Please feel free to contact me with your thoughts,
your concerns, and your opinions**

PO Box 1420 Gosford NSW 2250

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Health



Tour of Italy held in Woy Woy

Woy Woy Community Aged Care has held a "Tour of Italy" without leaving Woy Woy.

"If you can't go to Italy, bring Italy to you: This was the rationale behind the Tour Italy Project," said aged care general manager Ms Jennifer Eddy.

"For the past few months residents of Woy Woy Community Aged Care Hostel have been touring Italy from the comfort of their lounge room.

"Days have been filled with learning the language, taking armchair tours all over Italy, enjoying quizzes and reminiscing about visiting this beautiful place which has so much charm and

history.

"As part of the project, Brisbane Water Secondary College Umina campus students were invited to help paint a typical Italian scene as a back drop for the tour.

"What better than an Italian café where residents can enjoy Italian foods and coffee on table and chairs set up café style.

"Tuesday, December 19, saw the unveiling of the Year 8 art class masterpiece by students and art teacher Warwick Bateman."

Ms Eddy said that resident Olive Riley, who is 107 years old, and Valerie Ruthven visited the school for the unveiling.

"Both ladies in their thank you

speeches gave sound advice to students on the importance of living life to the full and being happy more often than being sad," said Ms Eddy.

"Back at Woy Woy Community Aged Care, the residents agreed that the artwork, being very large, will give the feeling of actually sitting with the Italian air sweeping across their faces and gently smelling the aromas of garlic and coffee.

"Residents are thoroughly enjoying the project which is being coordinated by recreational activities officer Amber Rowe."

Press release, 20 Dec 2006
Jennifer Eddy,

Woy Woy Community Aged Care

Meals on Wheels holds lunch

Gosford City Food Services Inc, which operates Woy Woy, Terrigal and Gosford Meals on Wheels, held its first Christmas lunch and presentation ceremony on Tuesday, November 28, at Gosford Race Club function centre.

"What were previously three Meals on Wheels services now all come under one banner but continue to operate from distribution centres at Green Point, Woy Woy and Mangrove Mountain enabling

us to service the whole Gosford local government area," said Woy Woy Meals on Wheels coordinator Ms Colleen Sharpe.

"The function was attended by 260 of our almost 600 volunteers.

"Eighteen five-year certificates, 11 15-year service badges, nine 20-year service badges, a 25-year service badge and a 30-year gift were announced.

"Life memberships were awarded to four founding members of, what was formerly known as, Gosford Meals on Wheels Service.

"Three are still actively involved

delivering meals and have held various executive positions on the management committee.

"The lunch was an opportunity for all the volunteers to enjoy a well-earned break and for the management and staff to show their appreciation for the many hours of caring volunteering given by these people.

"Their contribution is what makes Meals on Wheels such a valuable service to the frail aged and disabled members of the community enabling them to stay in their own homes as long as possible.

"If you are interested in volunteering or would like to know more about Meals on Wheels contact The Woy Woy Centre on 4341 6699."

Press release, 13 Dec 2006
Colleen Sharpe,
Woy Woy Meals on Wheels

Money raised for sick children

A fast food restaurant in Woy Woy has raised more than \$2000 to help seriously-ill children.

McDonalds Woy Woy has reported that \$2255 was raised for McHappy Day at the store on November 18.

On McHappy Day, \$1 from the sale of every Big Mac and profits from every \$2 wristband were donated directly to Ronald McDonald House Charities, with further contributions made by the community in the lead up to and on McHappy Day via donation buckets and phone donations.

The amount contributed to the

national total of \$1.7 million, the highest amount ever raised on McHappy Day.

The funds will go to programs throughout Australia that help seriously ill children live "happier, healthier lives".

"We are thrilled with the donation results of McHappy Day and want to pass on our sincere thanks to the Central Coast community, volunteers, staff and celebrities that helped us raise these much needed funds for sick kids," said McDonald's Woy Woy owner and operator Mr John Ursino.

Press release, 18 Dec 2006

Fiona McGill,

Professional Public Relations



The new pathology laboratory at Brisbane Water Private Hospital

Hospital will be upgraded

Brisbane Waters Private Hospital will receive an upgrade now that its sale has been blocked by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, according to new general manager Ms Pam Morphett.

"Unfortunately it's long overdue, and as we were in the process of being sold, plans were put on hold," Ms Morphett said.

"Staff are excited to see progress in the hospital and security with the Healthscope ownership continued," Ms Morphett said.

The upgrade work will start during March.

Ms Morphett said the upgrade would involve a major refurbishment of the day procedures unit and cardiothoracic ward.

This would involve "increasing the size of the day procedure unit and the look of the cardiac unit and overall hospital aesthetics".

"The company is committed to creating a nicer environment for patients, visitors and staff."

Ms Morphett said that refurbishment would cost around \$800,000 and was expected to be completed around early May.

"During this time there will be no disruption to hospital services," Ms Morphett said.

Other recent additions to the

hospital have included the opening of a pathology lab in December, which Ms Morphett said had "sped up" the turnover time for pathology and patient diagnosis.

"We are now the only private hospital on the coast to have a fully-served laboratory," Ms Morphett said.

"We are an acute care hospital.

"We have an intensive care unit, and a 24-hour private chest pain emergency service.

"We can deal with pretty serious patient conditions such as cardiac disease."

Those wishing to register for the private chest pain emergency service can do so by contacting 4341 9522.

The hospital also recently commenced providing laparoscopy surgery or obesity keyhole surgery.

"We have got two prominent local surgeons performing a number of those cases weekly," Ms Morphett said.

Ms Morphett, who has been with the hospital for 11 years, was recently made the general manager.

"I've seen some great changes, and I look forward to (the hospital) growing in the next couple of years," Mr Morphett said.

Lyle Stone, 11 Jan 2007

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Crime stats not available

Claims that crime on the Peninsula is rising or is worse than elsewhere are not based on crime statistics, it has been revealed.

Figures were also not available to support claims that crime rates are low on the Peninsula.

Opposition Leader Mr Peter Debnam claimed that "the community is experiencing a crime wave" after meeting crime victims in Umina on Monday, January 8.

However later in the week, after being questioned by Peninsula News, Liberal candidate for Gosford Cr Chris Holstein stated that he did not have current local statistics.

Cr Holstein said that his statistics had come from "word of mouth from the people on the streets".

"There is no better statistic than the people on the street," Cr Holstein said.

"At some stage, if it walks like a duck, swims like a duck and looks like a duck, somethings got to be wrong."

Member for Peats Ms Marie Andrews issued a press release refuting statements made by Mr

Debnam, and saying that the government was "committed to making the streets of the Central Coast safe" and was "providing record police numbers".

However, while providing figures to substantiate an increase in police numbers, she did not supply figures to repudiate claims of increasing crime in Peninsula town centres, despite a request from Peninsula News to do so.

Peninsula Chamber of Commerce also issued a press release during the week claiming "years of poor crime statistics in the Peninsula town centres".

"The crime stats for the Umina Beach and Woy Woy town centre have not appreciably improved in recent years despite greater police presence," the chamber's vice-president Mr Tom Tregent said.

However, by the end of the week, chamber president Mr Matthew Wales admitted the chamber did not have statistics for Umina or Woy Woy.

"We have the same problem you do," he said.

"The NSW Police Service will not release the suburb specific data to

us either.

"Regrettably we are relying on anecdotal information from conversations with the local police.

"Because they won't give us the stats (past or present), we can only form our view based on comments from the police and the visual evidence of the regular incidences.

"As has been explained to us before, the Government is always worried that the stats will be used for political purposes rather than for the allocation of police resources.

"I can understand this but unfortunately it doesn't help the community understand whether circumstances are improving or otherwise."

Last year Peninsula News asked the NSW Police for local crime statistics.

Police said they were unable to supply statistics and directed Peninsula News to the Australian Bureau of Statistics website, which is both out of date and not suburb specific.

Mark Snell, Lyle Stone,
12 Jan 2007



Warren Dennis and Norma Bailey

Couple wins dance contest

The Peninsula Dance Contest grand final was held in November with Warren Dennis and Norma Bailey winning first place.

The pair won a family holiday for up to four people to one of over 100 resorts across the east coast of Australia.

The amateur dance competition was open to couples of all skill levels and heats were held at Ettalong Beach Club between October and November.

The winners of each heat received a selection of Ryan Family

Wines."

"Warren and Norma enjoyed the competition and hope more people will come along and participate in this year's event," said Ms Belinda Campbell, Ms Bailey's granddaughter.

She said the competition was a great success.

"It is a great way to get some exercise and meet some friends."

The competition was sponsored by Peninsula News, Ryan Family Wines Broke Estate and Ettalong Beach Club.

Press release, 11 Jan 2007
Belinda Campbell

Patonga saltmarsh to be restored

Gosford Council has been awarded a \$66,000 grant application to restore and protect 30 hectares of saltmarsh on the northern shore of Patonga Creek, according to council's natural resource officer Dr Peter Freewater.

Trail bikes will also be banned from the site, in an effort to restore the area.

Residents in Patonga received a letter outlining the grant and the project it would support.

Dr Freewater said that council, in partnership with National Parks, was awarded the grant by the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority to undertake the works.

The works would involve foreshore stabilization works and "improvements to public amenity

along the creek".

"Saltmarsh habitats are arguably the most critical of estuarine habitats because of their importance in providing both food and shelter for estuarine fishes and invertebrates," Dr Freewater said.

"Saltmarsh crabs, worms and snails release their young (called larvae) into the outgoing tide.

"It has been demonstrated that invertebrate larvae exported from the saltmarsh can exceed 5000 larvae per cubic metre of outgoing tidal water.

"The larvae are a major food source for commercially important fisheries, including oysters, squid and prawns; as well as recreational fishes, such as bream, mullet and flathead.

"Smaller fish, feeding on the larvae, become food for larger fish, such as jewfish and trevalley."

Dr Freewater said that Saltmarsh

was also an important habitat and food source for a diverse array of rare and endangered bats, other mammals such as wallabies; owls and other birds, both migratory and local, such as sea eagles.

"Saltmarsh has been extensively cleared and filled and is now an endangered habitat," Dr Freewater said.

"The saltmarsh vegetation also binds the soil and prevents it from washing into the creek.

"For decades trail bikes have been ripping up the vegetation, which has resulted in significant damage and removal of more than 15 hectares of saltmarsh plants.

"This has resulted in significant sediment loads entering Patonga Creek and forming large extensive sand shoals."

Dr Freewater said the loss of both productivity and navigability in Patonga Creek was directly linked

to the activities of trail bikes.

"Therefore, a key component of this restoration project will be the permanent exclusion of trail bikes from the site," Dr Freewater said.

"Fencing will be erected to prevent trail bike access, while still allowing pedestrian access to the saltmarsh."

Dr Freewater said Saltmarsh was listed as an endangered ecological community in NSW and was protected under the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995 as well as the Fisheries Management Act, 1994.

The Patonga Creek Saltmarsh also comes under the protection of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974 and the Local Government Act, 1993.

"Signage will be erected to explain the importance of conserving the saltmarsh and highlight the legislation and fines that can be

levied to those in breach of the legislation," Dr Freewater said.

"National Parks and Council rangers will be monitoring the site and enforcing legislation.

"The saltmarsh can easily be restored and once the trail bikes are excluded, large areas will grow back with little effort.

"The return of the saltmarsh vegetation will result in an increase in the animal and fish communities within the saltmarsh, the creek and adjacent waterways.

"It will also drastically reduce the sediment load currently entering the creek and limiting boat passage.

"While some may regret the loss of trail bike access, the wider community will reap the benefits of a healthier and more navigable waterway for generations to come."

Letter, 11 Jan 2007
Peter Freewater, Gosford Council

Have a blooming great day out!

Ever seen a Dragon Garden? Stomped in a Puddle Garden.... or hugged a Bottle Tree?

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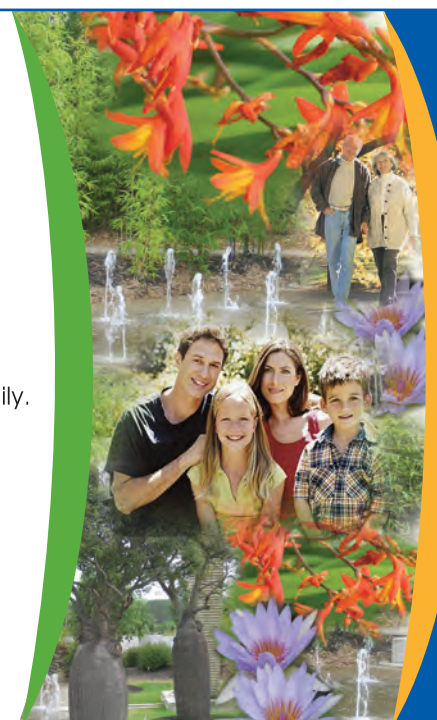
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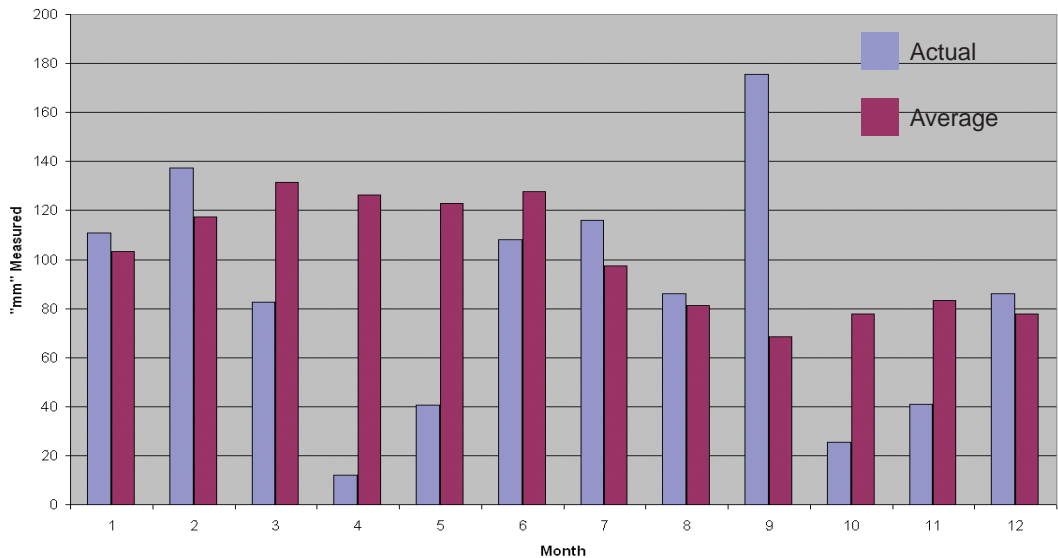
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**Mt Penang
Gardens**



2006 Rainfall Measurement
(Actual Vs Average by Month)



Rain totals 1022mm

A total of 1022mm of rainfall fell on the Peninsula in the last calendar year, according to Woy Woy resident Mr Jim Morrison.

This was 84 per cent of the average annual rainfall of 1215mm.

Rainfall for December was 86.1mm, 10 per cent above the December average of 77.8.

Mr Morrison supplied graphs for the year's rainfall, which showed monthly totals compared to the average and which showed

cumulative rainfall totals.

The lowest actual rainfall recorded was for April with a total of 12mm less than one 10th the monthly average of 126.5mm.

The highest actual rainfall was in September with 175.5mm compared to a monthly average of 68.6mm.

Six months last year had higher than monthly average rainfall. They were January, February, July, August, September and December.

The graph of cumulative totals showed actual rainfall compared to

average totals.

It showed that the months of April and May were the months that accounted for the greatest deficit compared to average.

The deficit for April was 114.5mm.

In May, the deficit was 82.3mm, with an actual rainfall of 40.5mm compared to an average of 122.8mm.

If these two months had have had average rainfall, the total for the year would have been 1218mm, almost exactly average.

Mark Snell, 12 Jan 2007

Bays group sells painting

A Rolf Harris painting that has been in storage in Woy Woy Bay Community Hall for years has sold on eBay for \$7100.

"It is a typical paintbrush scene and was done by Rolf Harris for a charity auction at a St George Leagues Club in Sydney back in 1981," said The Bays Community

Group secretary Mr Greg McMullen.

"The winner donated it to our community group.

"We decided to auction it to raise money for the community group and did not expect this excellent result which is a great boost for the group for our present and future projects and events.

"Rolf Harris himself verified the

authenticity of the painting, which was based on the song Carra Barra Winna Canna by Morva Cogan.

"Many thanks to Harry Brayshaw who stayed up until early in the morning to run the auction, which was eventually won by a UK bidder."

Press release, 18 Dec 2006

Greg McMullen, The Bays Community Group

Residents elect committee

Peninsula Residents Association Incorporated has elected its committee for the coming year at a meeting in November.

Elected were president Ms Fran Armstrong, secretary Ms Sheelagh

Noonan, treasurer Mr Trevor Anderson and committee members Michael Gillian, Doreen King and Mark Ellis.

The association meets on the third Saturday of the month at the Peninsula Community Centre, on

the corner of Ocean Beach Rd and McMasters Rd, Woy Woy.

The next meeting is at 2pm, January 20.

Press release, 10 Jan 2007

Sheelagh Noonan, Peninsula Residents Association

Diocese sends \$55,000 for drought relief

The Broken Bay Diocese of the St Vincent de Paul Society has sent \$55,000 to drought affected areas of NSW.

This was part of Vinnies' concentrated efforts to "help people living through the worst drought on record", according to community and corporate relations acting coordinator Mr Dane Hiser.

"The Vinnies Broken Bay Diocesan Council is twinned with the Wilcannia/Forbes and Bathurst Diocesan Councils as part of the St Vincent de Paul Society's disaster relief strategy to enable NSW city conferences (groups of Vinnies' members) to develop direct relations with rural conferences to more effectively support people in need in these areas," Mr Hiser said.

"The Broken Bay Diocese has directed much of the funds collected for their Christmas Appeal to rural conferences.

"This money will help purchase food, clothing and other household necessities from local rural businesses for farming families.

"The local businesses are also feeling the knock-on effects of the drought.

"Money is also being used to help pay school fees and allow remote and isolated schools to have an end of year get together, which otherwise would not have happened. "Another area of focus for the St Vincent de Paul Society is to break down the social isolation

experienced by individuals in rural areas.

"Vinnies has dedicated members who travel throughout the drought affected areas visiting people in their homes bringing a warm smile and offering the hand of support and hope."

Mr Hiser said city dioceses had been busy writing Christmas cards so "these people do not feel alone this Christmas".

"The St Vincent de Paul Society has established a Rural Task Force that works to raise awareness in city areas of the issues that face rural NSW," Mr Hiser said.

"Lack of access to services and basic needs is a reality for rural residents but this is not always realised by city dwellers.

"The St Vincent de Paul Society's Rural Taskforce travels throughout rural areas, talking to local businesses and farmers to highlight these important issues and to assess the most effective way to help.

"This will allow the Society to be more efficient in how it assists local rural communities during severe droughts."

To support people in drought affected areas and in all areas of need you can make a credit card donation towards the St Vincent de Paul Society's Christmas Appeal by calling 131812 or visiting www.vinnies.org.au

Press release, 21 Dec 2006

Dane Hiser,

St Vincent de Paul Society

Speeding reports

Police may keep a closer watch on several Peninsula streets after reports of excessive speeding were presented to Gosford Council.

The Peninsula locations mentioned in the report were Australia Ave and Haynes Ave, Umina Beach, along with Dunbar

Rd and Brick Wharf Rd, Woy Woy.

Council's traffic committee has recommended that the reports of excessive traffic speeds at the above locations "be brought to the attention of the NSW Police Service" for consideration of enhanced enforcement where possible.

Council agenda TR.06.116,

9 Jan 2007



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Plan for rare local bushland

A rehabilitation and management plan for rare local bushland has been prepared by the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation.

The plan is for Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland (UCSW), a rare type of bushland of which less than 14 hectares remain and which only exists in the Peninsula area.

The report estimated that less than 10 per cent of the community's estimated original cover remains.

The woodland was gazetted in 2002 as an endangered ecological community under the Threatened Species Act.

Three main areas containing the ecological community were identified with the gazetted - adjacent to Umina oval, adjacent to McEvoy oval and in the grounds of Umina campus of Brisbane Water Secondary College - and two other small areas at Pearl Beach and Patonga.

The report expanded from five to 12 the number of areas identified.

Areas identified in the report include the Burrawang Reserve, the Hillview St Catholic land, Etta Rd drainage reserve, and the Greenhaven Dr playground.

According to the report, "UCSW has been extensively cleared for suburban development and there are no surviving remnants within conservation reserves.

"Remnants are very small which increases the impact of threatening processes."

The report identified the threats as including: Further clearing and fragmentation for urban development; weed invasion; rubbish dumping; unapproved track creation; mowing and slashing; too-frequent fire; lack of knowledge of the significance of the vegetation community; sand extraction; and a lowering of the water table by extraction for domestic use.

It stated: "One of the better condition patches of UCSW is currently threatened by development, and other areas are not adequately protected from development."

Another "major problem" identified by the report was "destruction from uncontrolled recreational use".

"Significant damage has been

done to remnants of UCSW from uncontrolled access and the creation of tracks and trails through remnants.

"The most significant damage is caused from trail bikes leaving existing tracks.

"Inappropriate adventure play activities by children, such as making cubby houses, also causes considerable damage in some locations."

The report called for an assessment of proposals to extract groundwater from Peninsula.

"A proposal exists to pump ground water from the aquifer on the Umina-Woy Woy Peninsula.

"This proposal has the potential to lower the level of the water table, which may impact upon the ongoing viability of UCSW vegetation, which is a ground water-dependant community."

The report recommended 15 management actions, which would be implemented by the Departments of Environment and Conservation, and of Education and Training; by Gosford Council and by the local community.

These included controlling and formalising access to and within the bush areas, protecting these areas from development, and undertaking community awareness and education activities.

They included the preparation of

management plans for all reserves where UCSW existed as well as at the Umina campus, to include specific actions for protection and recovery of the woodland.

Other recommendations included the reinstitution of an environment committee at Umina campus, encouragement for the planting of local native species in parks and private gardens on the Peninsula,

Convenor of the Peninsula Bushcare Forum Mr Mark Snell said the report justified concerns which had been expressed about degradation of the rare Peninsula bushland.

These included opposition to the proposed development of the Catholic land at the corner of Hillview St and Veron Rd, Woy Woy; concerns expressed about groundwater extraction and the proposed playground development at Nambucca Dr; and calls for improved management of bushland at Umina campus of Brisbane Water Secondary College.

Mr Snell said he was interested in hearing from members of the community who were interested in actively supporting the plan, whether or not they had an environmental background.

For further information, telephone 4342 5333.

Mark Snell, 12 Jan 2007

Council to build bridge

Gosford Council has resolved to build a two-metre-wide bridge for a shared footpath-cycleway bridge between Lace Ave and Myola Rd, Umina.

Council had deferred making a decision about the proposed bridge from its meeting of December 6.

Council has also resolved that the balance of the funds over and above the \$75,000 developer contribution be provided through council seeking appropriate grants.

A recommendation had been made by council officers that no further action be taken to construct the shared cycleway-pedestrian

bridge.

It also recommended that the developer be repaid contributions of \$75,000 after three years if the bridge had not been constructed by that time.

Council officers had recommended that council not proceed with the project as a preferred bridge would cost council \$105,000 more, and even then it would not be part of council's endorsed cycle route.

An amount of \$75,000 had been available by way of a developer payment, determined by the Land and Environment Court, to construct the bridge.

Council agenda CIT.62,
12 Dec 2006

Clown workshop

A clown workshop for kids entitled "Your Clown is Hiding" will be held on Thursday, January 25, at St Andrew's Church, Ocean Beach Rd, Umina.

Participants will learn to juggle, learn slapstick for fun, face painting and be able to create their own silly walk.

The workshop is aged for anyone 7 or over.

Participants must also bring a silly hat.

The workshop will be held on January 25, from 9.30am to 1.30pm, and morning tea will be provided.

The cost of the event is a gold coin.

For more information, contact 4344 1662 or 4344 1347.

Press release, 10 Jan 2007

Kathy Martin,

Anglican Parish of Woy Woy

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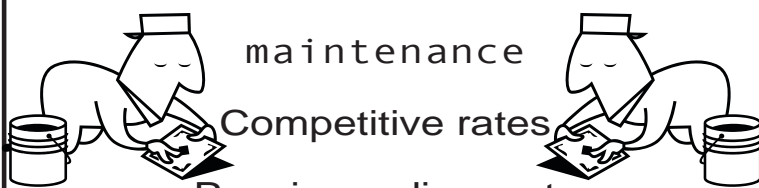
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B E A C H C L U B

DAs required for St Hubert facilities

Gosford Council has resolved to require owners of property within St Huberts Island to lodge a development application seeking consent for the use of their existing boating facilities.

This would be with the exception of existing boat ramps which comply with the requirement of the development control plan (DCP), or generally meet the objectives of the DCP, under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Council has also resolved to support the issuing of consents for the use of existing facilities where individual facilities comply with the requirements of, or generally meet the objectives of the DCP, providing they are "structurally sound and demolition or repair is deemed not necessary by council".

It has resolved that deferred commencement consents be issued for some approved facilities subject to the issue of a building certificate by council, the grant of a licence by council for use of the drainage reserve, and the creation

of a positive covenant attached to the land owned by the person who receives the benefit of a licence.

It resolved that facilities, including existing boat ramps, that are in, or are likely to become a danger to the public, or are so rundown as to be harmful to its occupants or the persons or property in the neighbourhood, be required to be demolished or repaired.

The effects of the decision will be reported to council in a year's time.

Council agenda SF.50, 12 Dec 2006

Flashing lights to be trialled

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) has advised that a trial of flashing lights will take place at the several local schools over the next few weeks and will continue through the first term of this year.

The trial locations were Woy Woy Public School, Blackwall

Rd, and South Woy Woy Public School, Ocean Beach Rd, Woy Woy, as well as elsewhere on the Central Coast.

The RTA advised a group meeting of the mayor and senior management on Tuesday, January 9.

Council agenda, TR.06.117, 9 Jan 2007

Events at Wagstaffe

The Wagstaffe hall will be the venue for a jazz community picnic and the annual Australia Day events.

The Jazz Community Picnic at the Waters Edge will feature Peter Kinch and Friends.

The event is free for everyone, and participants are invited to bring their own food, drinks chairs and rugs.

The event will take place in the grounds of Wagstaffe Hall on Saturday, January 20, from 6pm to

9pm.

The Australia Day events will feature a flag-raising ceremony followed by a community breakfast.

The event will be held in the grounds of the Wagstaffe Hall on Friday, January 26, at 8am sharp.

The morning will begin with the flag raising and a speaker.

**Press release, 30 Dec 2006
Ann Dillon, Pretty Beach,
Wagstaffe and District Progress
Association**

First Member for Peats dies



Keith O'Connell

Keith O'Connell, who passed away just recently, was the first State Member for Peats.

Keith rode into State Parliament on the storm of the Pelican Island Sewage Treatment Plant proposal.

He defeated the sitting member Mr Ted Humphries and served two to three terms of office.

One of the most original features of Keith's campaign was a large, grand mural painted on Mrs Kar's old shop, now the St Vincent's store.

Keith was the first politician to

open an electoral office at Woy Woy and also he opened the first set of traffic lights on the Coast.

He gained many facilities and monies for Woy Woy during his time in office.

One of his proudest achievements was to get the huge and unique ramp at Woy Woy railway station.

Keith stepped down from parliament in the early 1980s to make way for the then rising star Mr Paul Landa.

**Letter, 9 Jan 2007
Keith Whitfield**

Flag to be won

An Australian flag will be won in a competition to be held at the Australia Day festivities in Woy Woy, according to Gosford Council.

Local entrants will go in the draw to win a full-size Australian flags.

Australia Day Committee chairman Cr Chris Holstein said the competition was a great way to learn the national anthem.

"Ask someone to sing the full anthem and the second verse gets lost in the mumbles, with many people not even knowing that two verses exist," said Cr Holstein.

"The competition is a great opportunity to sing the anthem with pride and, as Australia Day Chairman, it's a tradition I'd like to see continue."

The flag entry form and the anthem's two verses will appear in newspaper advertisements shortly before Australia Day.

Residents can fill in their contact details and place the form in the lucky draw barrels located on the main stage, with the flag-winner announced during the festivities.

**Press release, 11 Jan 2007
Kate Carragher, Gosford Council**

Australia Day activities

Australia Day activities at Woy Woy will run from 3pm to 10pm on Friday, January 26, according to Gosford Council.

The festivities will be held at Anderson Park opposite Fisherman's Wharf.

The day will feature stage entertainment, bands, stalls, dancing in the street, children's games, art competition, a giant slide, low-cost rides, plus a lantern parade and a fireworks display at 9pm.

**Press release, 12 Jan 2007
Gosford Council**

Friday 26th January

come on down to
woy woy waterfront

- Musical Performances
- Dance Displays
- Children's Rides
- Market stalls
- Lantern Procession

& Fireworks!

3pm-9.30pm

Proudly supported by:

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Back to School specials at

YES PLEASE MEATS

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Sausages
"Gluton Free" 2kg for \$12

100% Beef
Mince
"Extra Lean" 2kg for \$16

Coffee & cake of the
day for \$4.90



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Blackwall Road, Woy Woy

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Chemist, the
full range of
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**School Holiday fun
at Peninsula Plaza
Everyday 1pm -6pm
Free activities,
facepainting and
balloon sculpturing**



**Hey Mum!
Take the kids for free
holiday fun while you
take advantage of
these back to
school specials
15th to 29th January**

What's On in and around the Peninsula

Listings in this section are free to not-for-profit community groups although a subscription to help support Peninsula News would be appreciated.

Many events listed take place at the following locations:

BFC, Beachside Family Centre, Umina Public School

CU, Club Umina, Umina Beach Bowling Club, Melbourne Ave, Umina Beach 4341 2618

CWAHWW, CWA Hall, Anderson Park, Brick Wharf Rd, Woy Woy

EBACC, Ettalong Beach Arts & Crafts Centre, Kitchener Park, Cnr Picnic Pde & Maitland Bay Drive, Ettalong 4341 3599

EBWMC, Ettalong Beach War Memorial Club, 211 Memorial Ave., Ettalong 4341 1166

ECC, Everglades Country Club, Dunbar Rd, Woy Woy 4341 1866

EMBC, Ettalong Memorial Bowling Club, 103 Springwood St Ettalong 4341 0087

EPH, Ettalong Progress Hall, Memorial Ave, Ettalong

ESCC, Ettalong Senior Citizens Centre, Cnr Karingi St & Broken Bay Rd Ettalong 4341 3222

MOW, Meals on Wheels Hall, Cnr Ocean Beach Rd and McMasters Rd.

NPWS, National Parks & Wildlife Service, www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au, 4320 4205

PBPH, Pearl Beach Progress Hall, Diamond Rd, Pearl Beach 4342 1459

PCC, Peninsula Community Centre, 93 McMasters Rd, Woy Woy 4341 9333

PCYC, Osborne Ave., Umina Beach 4344 7851

PWHC, Peninsula Women's Health Centre, 20a McMasters Rd Woy Woy 4342 4905

UCH, Umina Community Hall, 6 Sydney Ave., Umina Beach 4343 1664

WH, Wagstaffe Hall, Cnr Wagstaffe Hall & Mulhall St Wagstaffe

WWBC, Woy Woy Bowling Club

WWEC, Woy Woy Environment Centre, 267 Blackwall Road Woy Woy 4341 7974

WWLC, Woy Woy Leagues Club, 82 Blackwall Rd Woy Woy: 4342 3366

WWPH, Woy Woy Progress Hall, 76 Woy Woy Rd

DAILY EVENTS

Woy Woy **Pelican Feeding**, 3pm Pelican Park, Fishermans Wharf.

Playtime Mon-Fri 9am, Little Gym **PCYC**

TUESDAY

First Tuesday of every month

Buffalo Primo Lodge No 9, 7pm, **UCH**.

Second Tuesday of every month Playgroup for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Island families, **BFC**

Senior's Idol, 1pm; **Toastmasters**, 7.30pm, Seniors Day 12 noon, enq: 4341 6842, **EBWMC**

Get Together afternoon tea, **ESCC**, Pearl Beach Craft group, **PBPH**, 1.30pm.

Stroke recovery group, 11.30am, **MOW**.

Diabetics Support Group, 10am, **ECC**

Third Tuesday of every month

Buffalo Lodge Knights Chp9, 7pm, **UCH**

Woy Woy Peninsula **Arthritis** Branch, 10am, enq: 4342 1790, **MOW**

Fourth Tuesday of every month Playgroup for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Island families. **BFC**

Toastmasters, 7pm enq: 4341 6842, **EBWMC**

Combined Pensioners association afternoon tea, enq: 4341 3222, **ESCC**

Every Tuesday

The Web, Drop in centre 12-18yrs 12pm - 5pm, **TWYS**

Butterfly Group for Women who

have suffered domestic violence

12.30pm PWHC

Empire Bay Scrabble Club 9.15am-12.45pm, enq: 4369 2034

Judo 5pm, **Playgroup** 9am, **Peninsula Dance and Theatre School** 3.45pm, **Dragon Kung Fu** 6.30pm, **Gambling Counselling** by

apointment, Latin Salsa Dance 8pm, **School for Learning - over 55's** 10am, **Belly Dancing**, 1pm, **PCC**.

Circuit Boxing (Women) 9am, **Boxing/fitness training**, 4pm (Junior) , 5pm (Senior), **Breakdancing**, 5pm;

Gym Sessions 8am; **Gym Circuit** 9:15am & 6pm; **PCYC**

Rotary Club of Woy Woy, 6pm, **ECC**

Ladies **Indoor Bowls**-9am; **Handicraft**-9am; **Cards**-12.30pm;

Computers, 9am, **ESCC** .

Alcoholics Anonymous 6pm John the Baptist Church Hall, enq: 4379 1132

Bowls; 10am, Card Club; 7.30pm, **Chess Club**, 1pm, **EBWMC**

Tai-Chi classes, 9.30am (ex sch hols), enq 4360 2705, **WH**

Folk Art 9.30am, **Silk Painting** 1pm **EBACC**

Children's story time, Umina library, 10.30 am (Except Jan).

Sahaja yoga meditation, 10:30am enq: 4328 1409, **CWAHWW**

Playgroup 10am Kids 0-5yrs, **WWPH**, enq: Juhel 4342 4362

Butterfly Group Drop In (**Domestic violence** support), 12.30pm **PWHC**

WEDNESDAY

First Wednesday of every month

Older women's network, 10.15am, enq:4343 1079, **WWLC**

CWA social day, 10am, handicrafts, 1pm, enq: 4344 5192, **CWAHWW**

Ettalong Ratepayers & Citizens Progress Association, 7.30pm, **EPH**

Second Wednesday of every Month

Woy Woy VIEW Club, Friendship Day, **MOW**, 10.30-11am, enq: 4344 1440.

Red Cross, Umina branch meeting, Umina Uniting Church Hall, 1:30pm.

Woy Woy **Community Aged Care Auxiliary**, 10am enq: 4344 2599.

Umina Beach **Probus Club**, 9.30am, **ECC**

Third Wednesday of every month

Woy Woy VIEW Club - Luncheon at the Everglades Country Club, 10.30-11am, enq: 4344 1440, **ECC**

Every Wednesday

St John's Ambulance; Woy Woy Aged Care, 7pm, enq:4341 3341.

Killcare - Wagstaffe Rural Fire Brigade 7.30pm Stanley St, Killcare, enq: 4360 2161.

Brisbane Water Bridge Club, 9.30am & 7.30pm enq: 4341 6763,

Oil Painting, 9am, **Scrapbooking** 9am, **Multi-craft needlework** 10am, **BJP School of Physical Culture**, 3.30pm, 4-13 yrs enq: 4344 4924

Playgroup 10am, **Weight Watchers** 5.30pm, **Belly Dancing** 7.30pm; **School for Learning** 9am,

Gambling and general counselling by appointment, **Peninsula Dance and Theatre School** from 3.45pm

The Web, 12pm - 6pm; **PCC** .

Peninsula **Choir** rehearsal 7.30pm St Andrews Hall Umina.

Brisbane Waters **Scrabble** Club, **MOW** 6pm, enq: 4341 9929.

Seniors fitness **EPH** 9am, enq: 4385 2080.

Indoor Bowls - 9am; **Fitness** - 1pm

Leatherwork-9am; **Table Tennis**-9am. **Scrabble** 1pm; **Computers**, 1.30pm, **ESCC**

Gym Sessions 8am (Incl **Self Defence for Young Women** 1pm;

Gym Circuit 6pm; **Circuit Boxing** (Women) 9am, **Boxing/fitness training**, 4pm (Junior) 5pm (Senior), **PCYC**

Oils & Acrylics 9am, **Pastels** 11.30am, **Drawing** 2pm **EBACC**

Children's story time, Woy Woy

library, 10.30- 11.30am (Except Jan).

Alcoholics Anonymous 12.15 & 6.30 , St John the Baptist Hall, Blackwall Rd, Woy Woy.

Handicraft CWAHWW, 9am, enq: 4341 1073.

THURSDAY

Second Thursday of every month

Outsiders Club, 9am; Brisbane Water **Seniors** 1pm Enq: 4344 5670

EBWMC

Women's Health Clinic Enq 4320 3741 **PWHC**

Australiana Bus Trips PCC

Women's Health Clinic; **PWHC** 4320 3741

Fourth Thursday of every month

9am **Free immunization** clinic for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Island children 0 – 5 years, **BFC**

Umina Probus, **ECC**, 10am.

Women's Health Clinic; **PWHC** 4320 3741

Every Thursday

Creative Writing, **CWAHWW**, Enq 4369 1187

Gambling and general counselling by appointment, **Music 2-5yrs** 9am, **Yoga** 10am, **Brophy Circus Academy** 5pm, **Brisbane Water Bridge Club** 12.30pm, enq. 4341 6763, **Judo**, 5pm Enq: 43424121;

The Web, 12pm - 6pm **Young Men's Groups** 12-18 yrs, 4342 3684; **PCC**

Free entertainment 6.30 pm, **Senior Snooker** 8.30am **Ballroom Dancing**, 10am, **Trivia**, 7pm, **Indoor Bowls**,

Fishing Club Raffle 5.15pm, **EMBC**. **Bouddi Women's Drumming**, 2pm, 73 Highview Rd Pretty Beach, enq: 0425 229 651.

Scrabble, 12.30pm.**WWPH** ,

Children's art classes 4.30pm, **EBACC**

Tai Chi 11.30am & 3.45pm; **Dancing** 9am; **Indoor Bowls**, 9am; **Table Tennis**, 1.45pm; **Cards** noon, **ESCC**

St John's Ambulance; Brisbane Water Cadets, 7pm, Enq:4341 3341.

Children's story time, 3 - 5 yrs Umina library, 10.30am (Except Jan).

Gym Sessions 8am, **Gym Circuit** 9am & 6pm **Circuit Boxing** (Women) 9am, **Boxing/fitness training**, 4pm (Junior) , 5pm (Senior) **PCYC** .

Social Tennis 9am-12pm, Pearl Beach Courts, enq: 4369 3195.

Adult tap dancing, **EPH** 10am; enq: 4342 3925

Al-anon/Alateen family support group "The Cottage" Vidler Ave Woy Woy, 12:30pm, 7pm.

FRIDAY

Second Friday of every month

2pm **Peninsula Twins Club** Free. **BFC**

RSL Sub branch **EBWMC**, 2.30pm.

Third Friday of every month Legacy Ladies, **EBWMC**, 10am, enq: 4343 3492.

Fourth Friday of every month

South Bouddi Peninsula Community Assoc, **WH**, 1.30pm, enq: 4360 1002.

Civilian widows, **ESSC**, 1pm.

Every Friday

Cash House Nights, Gosford progress hall, 7.30pm, 4325 3608

Kids entertainment Yrs 7 -12, 7.30pm, **Playgroup**, 10am Umina Uniting Church.

Bingo 11.30am, **UCH** Enq:4343 1664

Lollipop Music Playgroup **BFC** 9.15am. Enq: 43 431929.

Old Wags **Bridge Club**, **WH** (except 4th Fri) 1:30pm, enq: 4360 1820.

Aqua-fitness, Woy Woy Hospital Hydro Pool, 1:30 & 2.30pm, enq: 4325 1869

Active Over 50's **Exercise Class** **EPH** 9.15am, enq: 4342 9252

Watercolour Painting 12.30pm **EBACC**

Painting 9am, **Computers** 1pm, **Scrabble** 1pm **ESCC**

Gym Sessions 8am, **Gym Circuit** 9am **Circuit Boxing** (Women) 9am,

Boxing/fitness training 4pm (Junior)

5pm (Senior) PCYC

Peninsula Pastimes Ettalong Baptist Church, Barrenjoey Rd. 9.30am,

(Ex sch hols), **Primary Kids Club** 4.30pm, **Youth Group** 7pm, enq: 4343 1237

Alcoholics Anonymous 6pm, St John the Baptist Hall, Blackwall Rd, Woy Woy, enq: 4342 7303.

Hardys Bay Community Church, **indoor bowls**, **canasta**, **scrabble**, **morning tea** 10am, enq 4363 1968.

Kids Club (Primary) .4pm, **Brisbane Water Bridge Club**, 12.30pm, enq. 4341 6763, **Weight Watchers** 10am, **Gambling Counselling** by

appointment, **Peninsula Dance and Theatre School** 3.45pm; **The Web**, 2pm-9.30pm **Doctor & Nurse** for 12-18 yrs old, **Brophy Circus Academy** 5pm **Kindygyg** 0 - 3yrs 9.15am, 3 - 5yrs 10.20am **PCC**

Women's walking group, 8am **PWHC**

Fishing Club. **EBWM**

SATURDAY

First Saturday of every month

The National Malaya & Borneo **Veterans** Assoc Aust meet, **EBWMC**, 2.30pm Enq: 4340 4160

Melaleuca Wetland Regeneration Group, Boronia Ave, Woy Woy, 8am.

Pretty Beach **Bushcare** group, Pretty Beach end Araluen Track, 8am.

Save our Suburbs, 1pm, enq 4342 2251 **WWPH**

Ex-Navalmen's Assoc, Central Coast Sub-Section, **WWLC** 10am.

Scrapbooking 12pm, **PCC**. enq 4342 3712

Umina Garden Club, 1pm, Woy Woy Meals on Wheels, enq 4369 2657

Third Saturday of every month Umina P & C **Bushcare** 9am, Umina Campus of BWSC, Veron Rd Umina. enq: 4341 9301

Market Day, 9am Sydney 2000 Park, **UCH**

Last Saturday every month Wagstaffe **Bushcare** group, Half Tide Rocks sign, 8am.

Melaleuca Wetland **Regeneration** Group, Boronia Ave, Woy Woy, 8am

Every Saturday

The Web, Activities for 12-18yrs old, 4.30-9.30pm; **Weight Watchers** 8am, **PCC**

Cash Housie St Mary's Hall, Ocean View Rd Ettalong 7.30pm .

Cabaret dance & floor show, 8pm free, Men's 18 hole **golf**; Men's triples **bowls** 1pm; **ECC**

Dancing Club; 1pm, Enq: 4341 2156

Snooker 8.30am **EBWMC**

Childrens Pottery 9.30am

Silvercraft 1pm, **EBACC**

Gym Sessions 9am, **Drama & Discovery** 9am **PCYC**.

Brisbane Water Bridge Club, 12.30pm, Enq: 4341 0721, **WWLC**

Al-anon/Alateen family support group Community Health building, Woy Woy Hospital 2pm Enq: 4344 6939.

Woy Woy Environment Centre 10am-. 267 Blackwall Road. Enq 4342 6589.

Car Boot Sale, Ettalong Markets. Community Dance, 1pm to 4pm, \$2, **ESCC**, Enq:4344 3131/4341 3222

Social Dance, New vogue, old time, \$2, refreshments, 1pm, **ESCC**. enq:4344 3131/4341 3222.

SUNDAY

First Sunday of every month

Blackwall Mountain **Bushcare**, 9am cnr Blackwall Rd & Memorial Ave Enq: 4342 6995

Second Sunday of every month Umina P & C **Bushcare** 9am BWSC, Enq: 4341 9301

Buffalo Lodge, Woy Woy, No 381, 11am, **Buffalo Lodge**, Gosford No 63, **UCH** 1pm.

Troubadour Acoustic Music Club, 1.30pm **CWAHWW** Enq: 4342 9099

The Bells want new members

The Bells performing group is looking for new members.

Empire Bay resident Ms Joy Warwick said: "We are a seniors' group who performs concerts in nursing homes and retirement villages without asking payment over the past 26 years.

"Our very first concerts were at the Ettalong Senior Citizens where we raised money for the centre and eventually for the Woy Woy Aged Care Nursing Home.

"Our very first piano player Mrs Dorothy Harvey who played for us for 20 years, retired here and passed away a few years ago.

"She played until she turned 98.

"Our average age is 74 years, and age and illness has decreased

our numbers to 10, and we desperately need a few more ladies to give us a few hours of your time every Tuesday morning at CWA Hall Umina.

"As long as you can hold a tune, love to learn and sing the old songs and, although optional, learn a few simple dance movements, you would be very welcome as a member of the Bells Family."

The group resumes again on January 30.

"We usually do our concerts on Wednesdays and occasionally on Thursdays," Ms Warwick said.

For more information, contact 4369 1899.

Press release, 1 Jan 2007
Joy Warwick, The Bells

Photos exhibited at Gosford gallery

Local photographer and Patonga resident Ms Dawne Fahey will be holding a photographic exhibition entitled "...that special place" at the Gosford Regional Art Gallery from Thursday, January 18, to Wednesday, January 31.

The exhibition will feature Ms Fahey's photographic work of 50 areas chosen by the public.

The work will be accompanied by a short description of "what their special place on the Central Coast means to them, or why this particular place is close to their hearts".

Ms Fahey said this may be in the form of a short story, a sonnet or a poem.

"When I speak to people who either visit or live on the Central Coast, especially during the holiday season, they often have a special place that has particular meaning for them," Ms Fahey said.

"It will be a place close to their hearts for some particular reason.

"As they talk about their special place, various images of the Central Coast come to life in their

stories.

"The aim of this exhibition is to capture just some of those images, using photography and photoart, of that special place for a selection of people who live, work and play on the Central Coast of NSW."

Ms Fahey said it was her long-term goal to use the submissions entered into the exhibition, and those that may have doubled up on geographical areas, in combination with other future photographic projects to complete an anthology of "...that special place" on the Central Coast.

The exhibition will be held in Studio One, Gosford Regional Gallery, 36 Webb St, East Gosford.

It will be open to the public from Thursday, January 18, to Wednesday, January 31. The official opening will be held on Saturday evening, from 7pm to 9pm. Refreshments will be provided.

Ms Fahey said a gold coin donation at the door would be appreciated.

Press release, 10 Jan 2007
Dawne Fahey

Horse takes to the stage

The hunt for a horse to play Phar Lap in the latest Woy Woy Little Theatre and Brisbane Water Secondary College co-production "Second Childhood" is over.

A suitable horse has been found, according to Woy Woy Little Theatre director Ms Brenda Logan.

Ms Logan said that when Gary Kirkby, president of Riding for the Disabled at Somersby, saw her plea for help he knew he had just the horse she needed.

"Star" had been recovering in one of their stables since being rescued from the fire at El Caballo Blanco and now almost fully restored to his former glory, was more than ready to perform again," Ms Logan said.

"Star will shortly be making his way from Somersby to the Peninsula Theatre to start rehearsals and is apparently very excited about donning greasepaint and taking on the challenge of playing Australia's most famous racehorse, the chestnut-coloured Phar Lap."

Ms Logan said the play, Second Childhood, was suitable for audience aged nine to 90.

The play opens from February 2 to 11 and tickets can be booked by calling 4344 4737 (from January 22) between the hours of 10am and 2pm.

Tickets are \$6 for children aged between 5 and 15.

Ms Logan also said that Riding



for the Disabled is always looking for volunteers.

"You do not have to have experience with horses, the main requirement is just a genuine desire to encourage people with a disability to extend their horizons."

Call 4340 0388 for more information.

Press release, 8 Jan 2007
Brenda Logan, Woy Woy Little Theatre

Lanck Street
THEATRE
WHAT'S ON

LAYCOCK ST THEATRE
Laycock St, Nth Gosford

BOX OFFICE: 43 233 233

January 19th 8pm
SUPPER CLUB DON HOPKINS AND FRIENDS
- Jazz, Blues, Swing and more
Tickets: \$25, incl cheese plate

PENINSULA THEATRE
cnr McMasters & Ocean Beach Rd, Woy Woy

January 19th 8pm
COMEDY ALL STARS
Tickets \$20

January 20th
MIC CONWAYS NATIONAL JUNK BAND
Cabaret/Vaudeville extravaganza.
Tickets: Adults \$25, Conc \$20

GOSFORD REGIONAL GALLERY
36 Webb St, East Gosford

OPERETTA IN THE GARDEN
Moby Dick is Dead!
Friday 19 January at 7pm
Tickets on 4325 0056

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Markets in the park
Saturday, January 20
Quality handmade arts & crafts made locally
Jewellery, Cottage Craft, Gift Cards, Candles and much more
We also have alternative stalls: Healers, Massage, Tarot, Spiritual and Medium readers
Quality Art & Craft stall holders required
Contact: 0409 880 658 or 0438 756 199
6 Sydney Avenue (cnr Knock Lane) Umina

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NOW SHOWING **STARTS JAN 18th**

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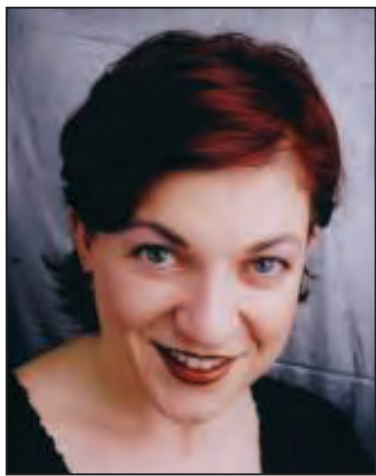
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LATEST RELEASES FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE
LIVE ORGANIST ON TUE & WED. MORNINGS

QUALITY CINEMA ON THE CENTRAL COAST
AND STILL THE CHEAPEST LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT

Arts & Entertainment



Comedians at theatre

Three comedians will be appearing at the Comedy All Stars evening at the Peninsula Theatre on Friday, January 19.

They are Dave Jory, Jackie Loeb and Simon Kennedy.

"One of the fastest rising young stars of comedy today, Dave has cut his comedy teeth on Triple J, Joker Poker and Stand Up

Australia," said Laycock Street Theatre marketing coordinator Ms Lisa Kelly.

Ms Kelly said comedian Jackie Loeb was recently listed as the one of the Top Five Comedy Acts by the Sydney Morning Herald.

"The smartest, cheekiest, wildest woman on the circuit, Jackie Loeb has been seen on Full Frontal, The Footy Show, Stand Up Australia and Joker Poker," Ms Kelly said.

Ms Kelly said Simon Kennedy had "a voice you're bound to recognise".

"Simon has been heard on popular radio station Nova in both Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth," Ms Kelly said.

**Press release, 22 Dec 2006
Lisa Kelly, Laycock Street Theatre**

The Gals dance at Ettalong

The Gals dance troupe recently appeared at a Christmas lunch and concert at the Ettalong Senior Citizens' Club.

"The audience revelled in the music and entertainment, whistling, stamping their feet, clapping to the rhythm and dancing in the aisles," said compere Chris Dillon.

"The Gals in their colourful and attractive outfits danced to music such as Cabaret, YMCA and Chorus Line, with songs from Merle Wade, Chris Dillon, Trisha Culver, John Wright, and duo Aubrey and Martin.

"The Gals have been performing around the Central Coast for more than 15 years raising funds for charity.

"The purpose of this event was a celebration for The Gals after they received a grant from Gosford Council to purchase a portable PA system enabling them to continue the good work of entertaining residents of retirement villages, hospitals and performing shows for various community organizations."

Ms Dillon said the council received applause when advised that the grants department had also provided a subsidy on the price of tickets to the lunch concert.

A cheque for \$1000 was presented to the Fred Hollows Foundation by Chris Dillon, on behalf of The Gals, to the foundation's public relations officer Ms Penny Tribe.

"This money represented 20 concerts that The Gals had performed through the year," said Chris Dillon.

"Ms Tribe said that the money would be used to restore the sight of 40 people."

Guests at the event included Gosford mayor Cr Laurie Maher, Colleen Dwyer representing the Woy Woy Rotary Club, the president of Radio 50 Plus Mr Barry Williams and several council staff.

"Some of the Radio 50 Plus presenters made themselves known to the audience," Chris Dillon said.

**Press release, 21 Dec 2006
Chris Dillon, The Gals**

Opera in the Arboretum

The Rotary Club of Woy Woy will present Opera in the Arboretum on March 3.

CanTeen, the Australian organisation for young people

living with cancer, will be the major recipient of funds raised.

The theme for the performances will be "La Passione", passionate romantic songs amongst the trees, with international baritone Mr Jose

Carbo, soprano Ms Annabelle Chaffey, tenor Mr Richard Lane, mezzo soprano Ms Stephanie Acraman and musicians Mr Guiseppe Zangari, guitar, Ms Larissa Oberfeld, piano and Ms Evgeny Sorkin, violin.

Tickets are \$40 for adults, \$30 for concessions and \$15 for children.

For more information, contact 4341 6004.

**Press release, 9 Dec 2006
John Garwood, Opera in the Arboretum**

A photographic exhibition of images of Pearl Beach and its environs, taken by Colin Husband, are currently on display at the Pearl Beach Café until January 30.

The exhibition, entitled "Gist", opened on December 16.

Colin is an established artist whose work is included in the permanent collection of Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery and in the photographic collection at the Art Gallery of NSW.

Colin's portrait of creative director and singer Paul Bennett hung in the 2000 Archibald Prize.

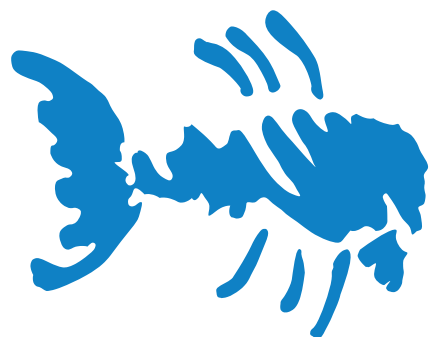
Dr John Irvine officially opened "Gist" on Saturday, December 16.

The exhibition is open Monday to Friday 10am to 3pm and 9am to 4pm on weekends.

Admission to the exhibition is free.

For further information contact John at Pearl Beach Café on 4343 1222

**Press release, 11 Dec 2006
Colin Husband**



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A lifetime of achievements

When a star is born, it is called a nova, but Belinda Emmett was a supernova.

Belinda was born a mere 32 years ago, but in that time she realized a dream.

Her dream was to entertain others, by following in the footsteps of her parents and grandparents, who were veteran entertainers in their own right.

Despite the heartbreak of being diagnosed with breast cancer at the unlikely age of 24, she did not despair.

She was determined to defeat the monster that was threatening to cut short her life, but threw herself into the task of reaching the pinnacle that she had set herself.

Taking the bull by the horns, she also took the entertainment industry by storm, landing several plum roles.

The first was in popular sitcom Hey Dad.

She played the role of Tracy, the daughter of the Kelly family.

Her next role was as a regular cast member in the long-running soap Home and Away, where she made her very own statement as an actor.

Her next role in Home and Away as Rebecca, the daughter of the local headmaster Donald Fischer, and gained her valuable

Forum

experience, and the respect of her fellow cast members.

This was followed by another in the hit series All Saints.

As flighty young ward clerk Jodi Horner, she was an immediate hit.

Many other triumphs ensued mainly in the music industry.

She met her Prince Charming in none other than the irrepressible funnyman Rove McManus.

Shortly after, they received the devastating news of her breast cancer, which was a cruel introduction to her new love affair with Rove.

Despite this setback in their lives, they went on to become soulmates, before taking the next step of becoming man and wife.

Rove was a real tower of strength throughout Belinda's battle against the disease that ultimately claimed her life.

She starred in a hit Aussie film The Nugget, before appearing in the ABC's Spicks and Specks special, A Very Specky Christmas, co-starring beside Rove.

Belinda had packed a lifetime of achievements into a mere 32 years, and her family will justifiably celebrate her life as their very own home-grown superstar.

**Ray Bride
Woy Woy**

More alcohol-free events are needed

A very big thank you to Brisbane Water Local Area Command, for dealing with anti-social behaviour over the holiday season.

If teenage party groups were well behaved, no one would have a problem with their get-togethers in parks and beach areas.

However, unsupervised teenagers tend to drink excessively.

It's also possible that drugs, like marijuana, speed and crystal meth (ice) are being used.

Excessive noise, vandalism, assaults and, sometimes, even fires then ensue.

There have been several recorded assaults (with some

Forum

victims being hospitalised).

It is also not uncommon for girls to be taken advantage of.

Some are given alcohol or drugs, and then raped.

Underage girls, in particular, are a target.

We need more supervised activities for young people on the Central Coast.

Every weekend alcohol-free rock concerts and nightclubs would be ideal.

It would offer fun, with supervision and safety to those that need it most - your local teenagers.

**Juanita Hutchesson
Umina**

Testing for the 'wrong' values

Why should newcomers have to be tested now?

What is really behind this?

Is it worth the expense?

Who is going to administer the tests?

We did so well without such tests.

How about existing citizens?

Should they also be tested from time to time?

In particular should they be asked questions about the Australian Constitution?

It could well be that nine of 10 would fail the test, if not more.

Forum

Would they be de-integrated or de-naturalised, or perhaps sent away for long overdue political education if they failed?

Some newcomers may say that they would test Australian society to see if they really want to stay, especially the much sought after skilled people who are arriving now.

Suppose they had the right skills but the "wrong" values?

**Klaas Woldring
Pearl Beach**

Humiliated in front of family and fellow students

Forum

Discrimination is alive and well at Brisbane Water Secondary College Woy Woy senior campus.

At the recent certificate assembly held on Friday, December 15, there were a number of students who did not receive their School Certificate.

The reason for this appears to be due to the students not paying their "contribution fees" for the year.

The college seems to have the inability to understand the meaning of "contribution".

Some students have paid an

amount which they are able to afford, even though it did not meet the full "contribution fee" requested by the college.

Therefore these unfortunate students were humiliated when they were called up on stage at the assembly of parents and family and did not receive their School Certificate or folio.

Discussion with Mr Beattie proved fruitless as his understanding of "contribution" was also vague.

Further discrimination was also

revealed by Mr Beattie when he said that these students would not receive the school magazine unless they paid \$10.

This also put further pressure on these disadvantaged students who could not pay the full "contribution fee" but had to pay \$10 for the school magazine or miss out.

This college does not appear to be teaching their students proper values by these decisions and by humiliating disadvantaged students in front of family, friends and fellow students.

**Robert Smith
Umina**

Like ethnic cleansing for endangered bushland

Forum

"Compensatory offsets" seems to be the latest term adopted by developers and government to rationalise environmental destruction.

And, like the terms "ethnic cleansing" and "climate change", the term "compensatory offsets" conceals both the nature of the action and those responsible.

The DA for the Catholic land on the corner of Veron Rd and Hillview St, Woy Woy, is due to come before Council's first meeting in February.

This is the second DA by this developer to Council, with the first one having been rejected by the Land and Environment Court.

This time, the developer has proposed compensatory offsets in return for Council approval to destroy a remnant of a plant community that is threatened with extinction.

Last year Justice Bignold of the Land and Environment Court rejected an application to build villas there because this rare plant community of Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland covered all the site, and so destruction of any part of the site was not acceptable.

Additionally, Justice Bignold recognised that this is one of the rarest plant communities listed for protection in NSW.

In the light of this ruling, what amount of compensatory offsets would be adequate for destroying the viability of the remnant endangered ecological community on this site?

How do we calculate the value of a species or plant community to determine what developers should pay for actions that will destroy one of the last examples, and hasten its extinction?

If there were only 10 minke whales left in the world, what sort of "compensatory offsets" would we be asking a developer to pay for killing the 10th whale?

What is the price of extinction? Is there an amount of money that would compensate for UCSW's extinction? If so, who decides? How much money would it be? One hundred dollars, a thousand, a million?

What is the monetary value of the land?

If a third of the land's vegetation is

to be destroyed and compensated for, should the compensation be some multiple of the land value?

Should the developer be required to purchase and donate to the community a similar piece of land with this UCSW?

And if no such land remains, why would destruction of this remnant be approved by local and state government?

In the case of this DA, proposed compensatory offsets include using community resources, both council reserves and volunteer labour, to improve the health of the other Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland remnants.

In minke whale terms, this would equate to killing off one whale but allocating community funds to provide better food for the remaining nine.

Another compensatory offset proposed to be funded by the developer is the care of the UCSW on the developed site. That is, the UCSW that is not destroyed by the development.

Again in minke whale terms, this would mean the developer pays for a health care program for the nine remaining whales.

The underlying principle or assumption of these proposed compensatory offsets appears to be: "You have to destroy some bushland or minke whales to pay for protecting the rest."

This destructive principle undermines and contradicts the precautionary principle on which Justice Bignold based his decision.

Further, the idea that it is necessary to destroy some bushland to protect the rest is incorrect.

There is a model of successful rehabilitation of this rare bushland with few community resources and no destruction.

A group of community volunteers has been rehabilitating UCSW for over five years by reducing weeds and destructive human activities there.

The contradictions in the logic of compensatory offsets and the fact that Council already has spent many thousands of dollars in the Land and Environment Court to

oppose this development are obvious.

Despite this, it appears that Council has painted itself into a corner.

It has spent all available Peninsula Section 94 funds on the regional pool, and Coastal Open Space Scheme funding guidelines discriminate against the most endangered ecological communities.

This means that neither of these funding sources is available to purchase the land, and so council staff and councillors may be tempted to adopt the developer's compensatory offset proposal.

However other options and alternative sources of funding need to be rigorously pursued before a decision is made to proceed with this destructive DA.

For instance, a nomination for national listing of UCSW is being recommended by the Department of Environment and Conservation. If accepted, this is likely to attract funding.

And, if compensatory offsets are to be considered as part of this proposal, they need to be adequate and at least the equivalent of standards adopted elsewhere in the state, eg the developer provides land many times the value of that destroyed, or an equivalent financial contribution.

I encourage Peninsula residents to make their views known to Gosford Councillors on this matter before February so the Councillors can vote in an informed way.

Shirley Hotchkiss, Umina

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It's a Boy!

Ryan and Amber are delighted to announce the arrival of Brock Bucello born on 4.1.07 53cm 8lb
 Thanks to all at Gosford Hospital



Certificates presented to local businesses

The Woy Woy Public School's P&C association has presented several local businesses with Certificates of Appreciation.

The businesses were thanked for their support of a trivia night in October which raised \$2300 for the school.

P&C president Ms Julie Stevens was accompanied on Wednesday, December 13, by four of the school leaders, Matt Ball, Alex Jarrett, Ze Hoe Lee and Brittany Messham, who made personal presentations.

The companies were selected because of their "locality, value of donation and potential to continue to support the school with further donations".

The presentations were made to KFC, Gloria Jeans, Celestial

Hair & Beauty, Woy Woy Leagues Club, McDonalds and Eye Site Optometrists.

"The school leaders did a fabulous job in making the presentations and the companies were very appreciative of our effort to present in person," said Ms Stevens.

"Woy Woy Public School P&C would also like to thank all those companies who supported the trivia night and our other fundraising events.

"We are a small school and really rely heavily on local contributions.

"If anyone would like to make a contribution to future events please contact Julie Stevens, P&C President, on 4342 8560."

Press release, 18 Dec 2006
Julie Stevens, Woy Woy Public School P&C

Santa visit

St John's Little Angels playgroup celebrated Christmas with a Santa visit, with help from the local Umina Fire Station, on December 14.

School liaison officer Ms Beth Riley said all the children received presents and indulged in lots of party food.

The playgroup is held on the premises of St John the Baptist Primary Woy Woy on a Wednesday and Thursday, from 9.30am to 11.30am.

Press release, 14 Dec 2006
Beth Riley, St John the Baptist Primary School

Schools are maintained

Building and maintenance works took place at public schools on the Woy Woy Peninsula over the summer holidays

Member for Peats Ms Marie Andrews said the holidays presented an excellent opportunity for school maintenance and upgrade works to take place.

"Returning to improved facilities in Term One, 2007, will be a

great start to the school year," Ms Andrews said.

As part of the maintenance and building, Brisbane Water Secondary College, Woy Woy Campus received step ramps, Umina Campus received infill panels for the balustrades and Woy Woy South Public School received a toilet upgrade.

Press release, 22 Dec 2005
Marie Andrews, Member for Peats

Choirs perform at library

The choir from St John the Baptist Primary School performed three songs at a Christmas Morning tea held at Woy Woy Library on Thursday, December 7.

School family liaison officer Ms Beth Riley said the Choir consisted of 30 children from Year 2 to Year 6.

Ms Riley said the school choir from Woy Woy Public School also performed and parents and community members attended the performances.

Press release, 14 Dec 2006
Beth Riley, St John the Baptist Primary School

Tennis tutor is thanked

Ettalong Public School teacher Mr Bill Yeend has thanked a local tennis tutor for providing the school with seven weeks free tuition.

"All Ettalong Public School children were fortunate to receive seven weeks free tennis tuition from Andrew Coates and his helpers as part of their PE program," Mr Yeend said.

"Apart from giving up his time, Andrew also awarded six children a scholarship for one term's free tuition at his Woy Woy Tennis Academy."

Press release, 20 Dec 2006
Bill Yeend, Ettalong Public School

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★ **Kariong Branch**
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4342 1195

Sport & Entertainment



Dance studio opens in Woy Woy

A new dance studio has opened in Mutu St, Woy Woy.

The Dancinallity studio, run by owner and operator Ms Kristie Smee, caters to around 200 students.

The studio will be open Monday to Friday after school hours, and Saturday mornings.

Five teachers, including Ms Smee, teach with Dancinallity. "One teaches singing, one

teaches Latin Salsa and two of the others teach variations of dance styles," Ms Smee said.

"Being a dance teacher always been dream."

The first Dancinallity branch opened at Pt Claire in 2002 and catered for 65 students.

The following year a second branch was opened in Ettalong.

"As attendance grew, we moved to two shops in Umina where we stayed for three years," Ms Smee

said.

Ms Smee said Dancinallity still operated at Pt Clare, and will also be opening at Kariong in the future.

The school is family based, with Ms Smee's mother running the office side of the business, and her father doing the renovations on the new Mutu St studio.

For more information on Dancinallity, contact 4342 1195.

Lyle Stone, 12 Jan 2007



Bunnies secure Terry Hill

The Umina Bunnies have secured the services of former Australian and NSW Rugby League Representative Terry Hill as their first grade coach for the current season, according to club president Mr Ian Sonter.

"The experience that Terry brings to the Bunnies augurs well for not only the players but also for the entire club," Mr Sonter said.

"Working in the coaching ranks along side Terry will be Martin Briggs for second grade, Frank

'Junior' Johnson for under-19s and Rob Ryan for the under-17s."

Mr Sonter also said that a recently-auctioned surfboard had been won by Ms K Scarfone of Koolewong.

The raffle was drawn on New Years Eve by licensee of Ocean Beach Hotel Ms M.Hearn.

"The committee of the Umina Beach Rugby League Football Club wish to extend their gratitude to all who supported us by purchasing a ticket," Mr Sonter said.

Press release, 4 Jan 2007
Ian Sonter, Umina Beach Rugby League Football Club



Nikkita comes third

Local model Ms Nikkita Dries recently placed third in the national finals of the Miss Autosalon competition.

The Miss Autosalon competition is part of the Autosalon car show that travels around Australia and New Zealand.

The 20-year-old model from Umina has been competing in bikini competitions for over a year now, and appeared in the Peninsula News last March and April.

Ms Dries won the NSW title last March, and recently placed third in

the national finals.

"I am now lucky enough to have the opportunity to travel with the Autosalon show all around Australia this year, as well as having a feature spread appear in the February issue of Autosalon Magazine which I am stoked about," Ms Dries said.

Ms Dries has also placed first in NSW for an Inside Sport competition and will soon be attending the national finals for that.

Press release, 13 Dec 2006
Nikkita Dries

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Umina wins four grades to take shield

Umina District Cricket Club has won the Cattley and Hook Shield with a total of four wins in the six grades in the round against Woy Woy.

Umina and Woy Woy clubs competed for the shield during round 5 of district cricket competition.

The shield is named after Umina legend Steve Cattley and Woy Woy legend Bob Hook.

Woy Woy were the current holders of the shield and Umina were determined to win it back, according to Umina District Cricket Club publicity officer Mr Mark Smith.

"The first week saw Woy Woy's first grade scoring 204 with Colin Smyth getting 5/71 for Umina," he said.

"Week two saw Umina lose Ben Smith, Matt Jones and Simon Blake to the representative arena and Umina slumped to be all out for 196, with Scott Brown 75 and Mark Cattley 73 being the pick of the batsmen.

"Game one went to Woy Woy."

The loss saw Umina first grade slide down to fourth on the table.

"In second grade, Woy Woy batted first and scored 175, with Shane Burraston again the star with 5/32 and Greg Shirley 3/44 for Umina.

"Umina were cruising at 4/122 when the wickets started to tumble to be all out for 135. "Game two went to Woy Woy.

"Umina third grade bowled first rolling Woy Woy for 103 with Ryan Clement 4/16 and Jason Creese 3/13 being the pick of the bowlers.

"In the remaining overs, Umina went out to bat ending on 0/100 when the lightning and storms hit.

Stars again were Lachlan O'Donnell 38 and Nick Garnet 56 from the Under-16s.

Mr Smith said that week two saw Umina declare at 0/104 to take first innings points.

"Woy Woy returned to the crease and were immediately in trouble with a fine bowling performance from Jason Creese taking 5/40 and Ryan Clement 2/10, bowling Woy Woy out for 110 leaving Umina 110 off 24 overs for their third outright victory in a row.

"Umina were travelling well at 1/56 when the wheels fell off, ending up 9/92, so first innings points had to do to keep third grade at the top of the table.

"Game three went to Umina.

"Fourth grade rolled Woy Woy for 38, with Josh Wakem 5/17 and Steven Searston 4/6.

"Umina batted and scored 5/110 declared with Jamie O'Donnell scoring 38.

"Woy Woy's second innings was a better effort at 122, with Steve Searston backing up a fine performance in the first innings to get 4/23, ably supported by Tim Knight 4/23.

"This left Umina 50 runs to get for an outright victory which they achieved losing four wickets.

"Game four was won outright to Umina and the team went into the top four for fourth grade.

"In fifth grade, Umina batted first scoring 6/200 with Greg Conklin getting a well deserved 86 and Kurt Pride another good score with 46.

"Woy Woy were all out for 144 with Greg (Merv) Mathis 4/24 and visiting Englishman Liam Rumble 3/25.

"A good win by Umina fifths saw them sitting in third place on the ladder.

"Game five went to Umina.

"Sixth grade bowled first and Woy Woy scored 97 with Paul Griffiths the pick of the bowlers getting 5/16 and Peter Jones 5/21, Umina declared at 3/141 with Mick Grealy 50 being the best of the scores.

"In Woy Woy's second innings, they scored 147 Scott Aitchison 3/19 Peter Jones 4/32, leaving Umina 103 for an outright victory which they achieved, 1/119 Scott Aitchison 75 not out, Dave Munson 27 not out."

The win saw Umina sixths sitting fifth on the ladder.

"With first innings wins in thirds and fifths and outright wins in fourths and sixths, Umina regained the coveted trophy," said Mark Smith.

"During his speech to present the trophy, Steve Cattley said that he played for over 25 years for both clubs, and while he enjoyed playing cricket for Woy Woy, he loved playing cricket for Umina too.

"Fourth grade's Steve Searston was awarded Player of the Round with 4/6 and 4/23." Mr Smith said that club captain Ben Smith had recently been selected to represent the Northern NSW Colts under-21 side, as one of only two Central Coast players selected.

Press release, 12 Dec 2006
Mark Smith, Umina Cricket Club



Malibu places announced

The Ocean Beach Malibu Club has announced its final placegetters for last year's competition.

The clubs presentation night was held on Saturday night, December 16, at the Ettalong Beach Memorial Club.

In A Grade, first place went to Garry Halliday, second place to Marty Skewes, third place to Michael Baker, fourth place to Mark Williams, fifth place to Mitchell Bolton and sixth place to Craig Coulton.

In B Grade, first place went to Ron Stockings, second place to

Graham Penboss, third place to Len Wilkinson, fourth place to Brent Olsson, fifth place to Craig Palmer and sixth place to John Hirst.

In the juniors, first place went to Kai Flint, second place to Bryce Williams, third place to Scott Palmer, fourth place to Madison Cook, fifth place to Jake Williams and sixth place to Sean Cornwall.

An old mal (original 1960's boards) contest is also held in December, the week prior to the presentation night.

In first place was Hayden Emery, second place was Garry Halliday, third place was Michael Baker and fourth place was Mitchell Bolton.

Marty Skewes was awarded clubman of the year.

Awards for 100 percent attendance went to Michael Baker, Mitchell Bolton, Craig Coulton, Garry Halliday, John Hirst, Craig Palmer, Graham Penboss, Ron Stockings, Mark Johnstone, Peter Flint, Kai Flint and Scott Palmer.

Anyone interested in membership or sponsorship can visit www.oceanbeachmalibuclub.com for more information.

Press release, 17 Dec, 06
Craig Coulton, Ocean Beach
Malibu Club

Sponsorship for sabot sailor

Woy Woy resident Jacqui Evans has also received \$500 sponsorship from Central Coast Regional Organisation of Council (CCROC) to attend the 43rd Australian Sabot Championships in Sandringham, Victoria, from December 27 to January 5.

Sabot is a sailing dinghy that is raced either single-handedly or in pairs by young sailors, in preparation for sailing on bigger craft.

Jacqui Evans will sail in the sabot "Hot Chocolate".

Along with other Gosford Sailing Club teammates, she has been training on Brisbane Water, as well as off Terrigal Haven to experience sea conditions.

Bensville resident Corrie Eames has received \$1000 sponsorship from the CCROC to play in the Australian Schoolboys Water Polo team.

The sponsorship was for a tour of New Zealand, the USA and Canada

from December 16 to January 4.

The 17-year-old Kincumber High School student will play centre forward against national and college teams.

The Central Coast Regional Organisation of Council is a joint initiative of Gosford and Wyong Council.

Press releases,
19-21 Dec 2006
Kate Carragher, Gosford Council

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Peninsula News

Edition 157

January 15, 2007



Skateboarding is booked out

Up to 120 local skateboarders aged 16 and under were booked for a skateboarding competition on January 13 at Umina Skate Park.

Umina is first off the rank in a four-stop junior qualifying series being held in NSW and Queensland during the January

school holidays.

Finalists from the four qualifying events will compete in a Summer Series Final at Berowra Skate Park in April.

The Skateboarding Australia Summer Series qualifying events crown local male and female champions across four

divisions, being boys 14 and under; boys 16 and under; girls 16 and under; and sponsored skaters 16 and under.

The Umina event was organised by Gosford and Wyong Councils.

Press release, 10 Jan 2007
Marion Newall, Gosford Council

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