

Minister approves 'infrastructure' rate

Minister for Local Government Mr Paul Lynch has approved the Civic Infrastructure Strategy rate increase for 2008/2009.

A \$3.2 million "foreshore enhancement" at Ettalong and a \$3 million coastal walk from Pearl Beach to Umina were among the projects the strategy will fund.

Council's director of corporate services Mr Nic Pasternatsky said the strategy had the potential to bring employment to the area, encourage new business ventures, and improve the quality of life.

"We are pleased that we will be able to take the first step in achieving some of the goals set out by the community in the Vision 2025 public consultation process, which

will open up opportunities to action further elements of the strategy in the future," Mr Pasternatsky said.

The Minister for Local Government approved a special rate variation of 9.98 per cent for the financial year of 2008/2009, including the allowable minimum rate increase, which is yet to be announced.

The increase in council's general rate income will be ongoing.

Council's Senior Management Group will be reviewing the various projects under the Civic Infrastructure Strategy, with the aim of reporting options to council for their consideration in the coming weeks.

Press release, 13 Feb 2008
Kate Carragher, Gosford Council



The multi level Woy Woy Commuter Car Park

Regeneration project for Ettalong dunes

A native plant regeneration project involving 10 young people will take place on the Ettalong dunes.

Member for Robertson Ms Belinda Neal said the new Green Corps project was aimed at restoring valuable coastal flora on the Central Coast and was "a great step forward for the local environment".

"This important project will give 10 young people the chance to regenerate local native plant species, through weeding and planting at sites in the Peninsula dunes," said Ms Neal.

The project would regenerate areas at Ettalong and Killcare, at Killcare Heights and Empire Bay.

"The project will also monitor native and exotic wildlife in bushland areas at Kincumba Mountain to provide land managers

with information on the types and numbers of animals in the reserve, and collect print samples for use in future education programs."

The \$143,000 project is administered by the NSW Central Coast Fauna Conservation and Coastal Restoration program and is funded by the Australian Government's Ministry of Employment Participation.

"Participants in the project will be making an important contribution to increasing community awareness and appreciation for the natural environment," Ms Neal said.

Green Corps gives people aged 17 to 20 the opportunity to volunteer to conserve, preserve and restore Australia's natural environment and cultural heritage, with projects normally lasting six months.

Press release, 18 Feb 2008
Belinda Neal, Member for Robertson

Tenders called for carpark design

Tenders have been called for a detailed design of a multi-million dollar Woy Woy Station car park expansion and interchange upgrade.

Member for Gosford Ms Marie Andrews said the call for tenders for the detailed design marked the next step in the project, which is expected to be begin early next year and be completed late next year.

"We've already got a concept design for the car park and interchange finalised.

"Now we need an expert to work on the nuts and bolts of the detailed car park design," Ms

Andrews said.

"That design work is expected to be complete by mid-year with development applications to Gosford Council and a call for tender for the construction work to follow later this year."

Ms Andrews said council was managing the project on a day-to-day basis and was working closely with the Government to ensure the best infrastructure for Woy Woy's commuters.

"This is great news for Woy Woy commuters and will see the multi-deck car park expanded to include an additional 220 car park spaces, bringing the number of commuter

car spaces to around 1000," Ms Andrews said.

"This expansion is about making it easier for local commuters to leave their car at the station and travel to work.

"And with significant population growth on the Central Coast, the upgrade will also provide for increased use of Woy Woy Station."

Ms Andrews said the upgrade would deliver on the lemma Government's election commitment to improve parking for Central Coast commuters.

Press release, 20 Feb 2008
Marie Andrews, Member for Gosford

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Computer course for parents

Beachside Family Centre will be offering a free computer course for parents of young children.

The "Introduction to computers" course will be for parents on the Peninsula who are "starting from scratch" on computers.

"A TAFE accredited module will cover opening and closing files, basic work processing, using the internet and email, basic graphics and desktop publishing," facilitator Ms Debbie Notara said.

"This course will help you help

your child with their school projects as well as give you the basic skills now expected in the workplace."

The course will be held on Wednesdays from 1pm to 3pm, starting February 27.

The course lasts for six months during Term 1 and Term 2.

It will be held at Umina Public School, Sydney Ave, Umina.

For more information, telephone Debbie Notara on 4343 1929.

**Press release, 18 Feb 2008
Debbie Notara,
Beachside Family Centre**

Rotary presents community awards

The Rotary Club of Woy Woy held its Pride of Workmanship and Community Service awards night on Tuesday, February 12.

Publicity officer Mr Ross Pearse said that 70 members of the Rotary Club and their guests attended.

"The Pride of Workmanship award recognises vocational excellence of the highest degree and to honour outstanding contribution by individuals or teams of a few individuals for significant advancement in their vocational field."

This year's awardees included Tony Day of Armstrong Automotive, Bernadette Wilkins from Pearl Beach Café, Lance and Millie Gidgeon and Michelle Moreno.

"When recommending Tony for the award, Mr Armstrong mentioned Tony's outstanding attention to detail and his personal attitude towards customers," Mr

Pearse said.

"Bernadette Wilkins is a cook at Pearl Beach Café and will soon be a chef.

"The proprietor of the café, Mr John Karbowski, complemented Bernadette on her drive and enthusiasm.

"The Community Service award is given to those members of the community who have worked to improve the community we live in.

"This award was given to Mr Lance and Ms Millie Gidgeon who have volunteered many hours of service to the community.

"They have given service to improve the lives of the residents of Peninsular Village Aged Care.

"Also honoured was Michelle Moreno for organising fund raising events, including organising for gifts to be donated for the Woy Woy Rotary trailer raffle."

**Press release, 20 Feb 2008
Ross Pearse,
The Rotary Club of Woy Woy**

Trash and treasure

The Wagstaffe Killcare Community Association will be holding a "Trash'n'Treasure" day on Easter Saturday, March 22, at the Wagstaffe Hall.

The event will be held from 9am to 1pm.

The group is currently looking for donations of all goods for the event, except clothing.

The goods can be dropped off at the hall on Thursday, March 20, between 5pm and 9pm, or on Friday, March 21, between 9am and 7pm.

"This is a popular annual event to raise money to improve community facilities," association president Ms Robyn Warburton said.

"Last year we raised over \$4000.

"All goods are donated by the community as a huge recycling project which is also lots of fun.

"It takes place irrespective of the weather and the hall is always crowded with an amazing variety of bargains including \$2 boxes in the last hour.

"We accept all kinds of saleable goods except clothing; furniture, books, glass, china, soft furnishing, electrical, bed stuff, kitchenware, pictures, travel and sporting goods and bric a brac.

"Pickup can be arranged on Good Friday morning."

To arrange pickups, telephone Judith on 4360 2922 or Robyn on 4360 1709.

**Press release, 14 Feb 2008
Robyn Warburton, Wagstaffe Killcare Community Association**

Peninsula News

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Convenor, Burrawang Bushland Reserve Committee

President, Australian Conservation Foundation Central Coast branch

Chairman, Equilibrium Community Ecology Inc

President, Central Coast Bush Dance & Music Association

Vice-president, Brisbane Water Secondary College Umina Campus P&C

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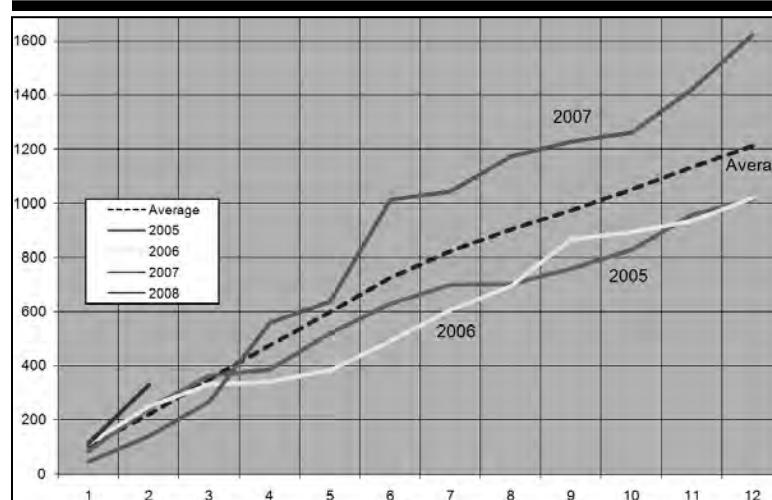
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Rainfall almost double

Rainfall for February, with a week to go, has almost doubled the monthly average.

A total of 213.6mm had fallen by February 22, according to figures recorded by Woy Woy resident Mr Jim Morrison.

The monthly average for February is 116.9mm.

The Peninsula rainfall makes both the both the monthly rainfall and the cumulative total for the

month better than in any of the previous three years.

Mr Morrison said the variability of rainfall across the Central Coast during February was "quite amazing".

Figures were recorded of 334mm at Gosford, 189mm at Norah Head, 210mm at Mangrove Mountain and 226mm at Peats Ridge during the same period.

**Spreadsheet, 22 Feb 2008
Jim Morrison, Woy Woy**

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Call for more street cleaning

The Peninsula Chamber of Commerce has called on Gosford Council to increase street cleaning and maintenance of the Peninsula town centres of Ettalong Beach, Woy Woy and Umina Beach.

"Whilst the current contractor, ACS Group, does a great job in maintaining our town centres, they do so under very restrictive financial constraints," Chamber president Mr Matthew Wales said.

"Gosford Council only allocates \$180,000 for the street cleaning, maintenance and security in our town centres which only allows two ACS contractors to undertake the works required.

"At best, it gives only a couple of days of maintenance for each town centres each week with no service being provided over the weekend.

"By comparison, the Gosford CBD, which has a similar area to our three town centres, receives nearly \$350,000 in funding for a seven day a week service."

Mr Wales said that this inequality was unacceptable as the demands of both town centres were comparable.

"With high pedestrian traffic areas like Umina Beach, more regular footpath cleaning is needed to ensure that the community's assets are properly maintained," Mr Wales said.

"The frequency of mechanical scrubbing needs to be increased and more maintenance is required to our gardens and street furniture.

"We understand Council's financial constraints but street cleaning is vitally important to ensure that shoppers and visitors to our area feel like they want to return and spend their money.

"This issue was raised at our recent monthly meeting with Mayor Jim Macfadyen."

Mr Wales aid that Cr Macfadyen acknowledged our calls and will work with the Chamber to improve services.

Mr Wales said the Chamber would be making representations to council for the required budget increases over the next month in the lead-up to the Council's 2008-2009 Budget Review

Press release, 9 Feb 2008

Matthew Wales,

Peninsula Chamber of Commerce



The Patonga Camping Ground

Department has plans for Patonga

The Department of Lands is to prepare a plan of management for all public land in Patonga, according to a Gosford Council report.

This would see a plan of management for the Patonga caravan and camping area incorporated into a plan of management for the whole of Patonga.

The plan of management would be prepared by consultants engaged by the Department.

The preparation of the plan of management for Patonga caravan and camping area has been in progress since February last year.

The Department said the plan would ensure "a cohesive approach to the management and maintenance of all Crown Land within Patonga including Dark Corner Cottages, Eve Williams Memorial Oval, Community

Foreshore Land and the Caravan and Camping Area".

The Department asked that council provide copies of the draft plan of management along with all other relevant material referring to the management and maintenance of reserves currently under the care, control and management of council.

Council must also provide the department with a brief, outlining all other issues, concerns and proposed developments to any area of crown land within Patonga which must be addressed within the Patonga plan of management.

Council stated that upon completion of the draft plan of management for Patonga, it was envisaged that the department and council would place the plan on public exhibition with a view of adopting it by August.

Council stated that the perceived

timeframe for the draft Patonga plan of management to be placed on public exhibition is in June or July.

A report would be presented to council when the draft Patonga plan of management was completed requesting that it be placed on public exhibition at the same time as exhibited by the Department of Lands.

The draft Patonga plan of management would be presented to council in the May strategy policy forum and subsequent council meeting in June.

Council officers have recommended that council support the preparation of a plan of management for all Crown Land in Patonga.

They have also recommended that officers provide all relevant documents and information to the department of lands as required.

Council agenda SF.2, 26 Feb 2008

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Charity worker visits church group

African charity worker Ms Stella Mesikano will be visiting the Peninsula next month to thank the Mission Support Group of the Uniting Church in Ettalong for its continued support in Africa.

Ms Mesikano will be guest speaker at a special luncheon organised by the group on Thursday, March 20, starting at 12 noon.

Mission Support Group president Ms Gwen Shave said the group has been supporting charities in

Africa for over 10 years.

"Helping others in need helps us to appreciate how lucky we are," Ms Shave said.

"We have a unique opportunity to help other people who may not have access to the simple luxuries in life such as food and shelter."

The Ettalong-based charity group began knitting small squares for rugs that were to be donated to Australian and overseas charities, including Africa.

"We were all good knitters and enjoyed doing it," Ms Shave said.

"So we put our talents to good use and began knitting ... and we have not stopped since."

"For many years, generous people have been knitting squares for rugs which have been distributed far and wide."

"The luncheon is a unique opportunity to hear Stella, who works with communities who receive many of our rugs."

Ms Mesikano first came into contact with the Mission Support Group after former Peninsula resident Mr Glen Price put them in touch with each other.

At the time Mr Price was a Qantas cabin crew member and responsible for the distribution of donated goods to local charities in Africa.

"Glen knew our group was willing to help anybody in need," Ms Shave said.

"And he knew of a woman (Ms Mesikano) that was in need of our help."

"It all worked out rather well."

Ms Mesikano is the founder of the Chiedza Child Care Centre in Zimbabwe.

She has developed the centre into a holistic community child care centre with a pre-school, soup kitchen, laundry block, playground and vegetable garden.

The centre's aim is to provide a caring home for orphans and children in difficult circumstances, including those affected by HIV/AIDS.

Ms Mesikano has over 30 years experience in child care and her dream is to expand the success of Chiedza to other areas in Zimbabwe.

"There is no doubt that Stella is looking forward to meeting us all and saying thank you for our ongoing support," Ms Shave said.

"Her visit is important in bringing awareness to the ongoing support that is needed in her region and many others in Africa."

The luncheon will be open to the public and donations will be accepted on the day.

For more information, contact Gwen Shave on 4344 6188.

Press release, 22 Feb 2008

Gwen Shave,
Uniting Church Ettalong

Free gardening workshops

Equilibrium Eco-Services Inc will be holding free natural gardening workshops at the Woy Woy Environment Centre during late February and early March.

The workshops will be held on Wednesday, February 27, March 5 and March 12.

Mr Ian Sutton, from non-profit organisation Equilibrium Eco-Services Inc, will provide a simple introduction to natural gardening principles and demonstrate an ecologically-sustainable way to create a garden.

Equilibrium Eco-Services education coordinator Ms Mia Hughes said the organisation was also looking for participants for its Youth and Community Garden Project.

The community garden was established on the grounds of Woy Woy Public School, in association with Youth Connections Inc.

The Natural Gardening Workshops and the Youth and Community Garden Project were both supported by the Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority and the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust.

The workshops will run from 10.30am to 11.30am at the Woy Woy Environment Centre, Old St Luke's Church, 267 Blackwall Rd.

Ms Hughes said individual or group bookings were welcome.

For more information, telephone Mia Hughes on 0417 043 165.

Press release, 20 Feb 2008
Mia Hughes, Equilibrium Eco-Services

Easter raffle

The Woy Woy Hospital Auxiliary will be selling Easter Raffle tickets in Umina during March.

The Hospital Auxiliary will be selling the tickets outside St George Bank, West St, Umina.

Members will be there from Monday, March 10, until Friday, March 14.

Press release, 21 Feb 2008
Pat Harding,
Woy Woy Hospital Auxiliary

Gosford rating based on own assessment

A recent complaint handling survey, in which Gosford Council was rated one of the top five in the State, was completed on a self-assessment basis and was not independently verified, according to the NSW Ombudsman's office.

Gosford Council was one of five councils, out of 125, that the survey found to comply with the Australian Standard for complaint handling.

"The complaint handling systems survey was completed

on a self-assessment basis," said Ombudsman public relations officer Ms Lisa Du.

"While councils were asked to provide copies of various documents about their complaint handling system, no independent verification of the systems has been conducted."

"There is no direct link between the number of complaints an agency receives and the quality/standard of its complaint handling system."

Lyle Stone, 21 Feb 2008
Interview: Lisa Du,
NSW Ombudsman's Office



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ACF branch warns on foreshore strategy

A draft foreshore strategy for Brisbane Waters is "flawed" and could lead to Gosford Council facing legal liability if it fails to take a precautionary approach to climate change predictions, the Central Coast branch of the Australian Conservation Foundation has warned.

The branch has told council that the strategy had failed to adequately take into account the effects of climate change, which could have serious consequences for low-lying areas such as the Woy Woy Peninsula.

"The study has seriously underestimated potential sea-level rise and has totally ignored predictions of more frequent and intense coastal storms," said branch president Mr Mark Snell.

"Given that the study identifies ocean storms as the single most important factor affecting flood levels, it is surprising that it has failed to take predicted changes to their frequency and intensity into account."

Mr Snell suggested that the consultants should redraft the report responding to the issues raised in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment Report, among other scientific material.

The submission stated that despite attributing one figure (300mm) for sea-level rise to the IPCC, the draft foreshore strategy did not appear to have taken any of the other IPCC statements about sea level rise and storm frequency and intensity into account.

It stated: "For example, the IPCC report specifically excludes melting of polar ice from its estimates of mean sea level rise.

"In relation to polar ice, the IPCC estimated a sea level rise of seven

metres (7000mm) with the melting of the Greenland ice sheet alone.

"There are very few parts of the Woy Woy Peninsula that are much above this elevation.

"The IPCC predicts that this will occur if global warming reaches and stays above 1.9 degrees warmer than pre-Industrial levels."

Mr Snell said the study had not seriously considered the Newcastle storm of June last year "which brought wild weather to Gosford and resulted in major flooding, with consequent threats to water, sewerage and electricity infrastructure".

Mr Snell said: "As it was, this storm caused widespread electricity blackouts, cut land-based and radio communications, as well as causing widespread local flooding.

"Water and sewerage systems broke down as power was cut to pumping stations, either because powerlines had been brought down or flood levels had been under-estimated in the siting of the pumping stations.

"Had this storm been centred on Gosford rather than Newcastle, the damage and other local consequences could be expected to have been of at least the same disastrous proportions as suffered in Newcastle and surrounding areas.

"It is intense storms of this nature that are predicted to become both more frequent and more intense."

In its submission, the branch compared the Woy Woy Peninsula with New Orleans, stating that the Peninsula was "in a similarly vulnerable position, being a low-lying coastal sandplain accommodating as much as one quarter of Gosford's population with limited evacuation potential".

Press release, 19 Feb 2008
Mark Snell,
Australian Conservation Foundation



Library hours to shorten

Gosford Council officers have recommended earlier closing times and shorter hours for Woy Woy and Umina libraries.

The two libraries would be open for a total of 5.5 hours less than currently.

Council officers said that the changes were suggested as there was "little use made of the library during the suggested hours of closure".

Library management has recommended longer opening hours at the branches where there is greater demand.

Umina Beach Library would be open for only 46.5 hours each week as opposed to the current 51 hours.

Woy Woy Library would be open for 51 hours a week as opposed to the current 52 hours.

Woy Woy Library would close at 5.30pm instead of 6pm on Monday,

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

It would open at noon instead of 1pm on Sunday.

Umina Beach Library would close at 5.30pm instead of 6pm on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

It would close at 5.30pm instead of 8pm on Tuesday.

A council staff report stated that there would be a fringe benefit of providing staff with more family friendly hours, minimising risk, improving staff productivity and standardising hours.

It stated that: "Library Management has made the hours as consistent as possible to make it easier to roster staff and so that customers will find it easier to remember when branches are open".

The proposed library hours of opening would commence on Monday, May 5.

Council agenda SF.46, 26 Feb 2008

Ask first

Bushwalkers should contact their local National Parks' office and check the conditions and tracks before they set out on walking trails believed to be in a national park, according to the Department of Environment and Climate Change.

The comment came after Peninsula News reported several bushwalkers were stuck near Patonga for 13 hours in early February, when a trail became non-traversable.

The Highway Ridge Trail between Patonga and Woy Woy was not located on National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) land and therefore it was not responsible for managing it, said public affairs officer Ms Erin Schrieber.

"A portion of this trail does appear on NPWS brochures and maps for the area, but isn't named or promoted as an NPWS trail.

"This walking trail is usually used and maintained by the Broken Bay Sport and Recreation Centre, and it is located on their property.

"If the Sport and Rec Centre is no longer maintaining it then we are happy to remove it from NPWS maps, but it may still appear on topographic maps for the region (which NPWS does not publish)."

Lyle Stone, 19 Feb 2008
Interview: Erin Schrieber,
Department of Environment
and Climate Change

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Council should note tribunal decisions

Central Coast Express Advocate, (February 13) reported that Wamberal ratepayer, Mrs Pauline Coleman, asked Gosford Council for the name and address of her next door neighbor so she could discuss the replacement of their dilapidated dividing fence.

The article states that Gosford Council has decreed that its property register is private and council could not and would not provide the information.

Gosford Council has repeatedly made available to commercial businesses the personal information on its property register

Forum

and caused their advertising material to be printed and posted into the private homes of 70,000 ratepayers without their consent and at council's expense.

The Administrative Decisions Tribunal advised council its conduct was not correct and could be a breach of Section 17 of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act.

However, in the case of Mrs Coleman's request, the Privacy Code of Practice for Local Government relevantly provides that: "Council may use personal information for a purpose other than the purpose for which it was created

in the following circumstances: (1) Where the use is in pursuance of council's lawful and proper functions and council is satisfied that the personal information is reasonably necessary for the exercise of such functions."

Gosford Council may lawfully provide Ms Coleman with the information she requires and its failure to do so may have already compromised her security, safety and wellbeing.

Council would do well to pay attention to the direction of the Administrative Decisions Tribunal before using personal information on its property register to benefit private commercial advertisers.

John Collins
Woy Woy

Borefield test is in the wet

Forum

The Woy Woy borefield will be under a "test production" licence for a further 18 months (Peninsula News, January 29).

Data collected in that period will be used to calculate an annual allocation of water to be taken from the aquifer.

I am stating the obvious when I say we are in the midst of a very wet La Nina weather pattern which looks like lasting for at least that period, so I would say the result of the 18 months aquifer test will be more than comfortable.

What I would like to see is an

assurance that when old El Nino returns we are not locked into a licence (who will hold the licence, by the way?) which will prohibit us from immediately lessening the amount of water pumped out.

As this aquifer comes entirely from local rainfall, I can't see how an annual allocation figure can be safely fixed upon.

I would welcome opinions or reassurances.

Fran Adams
Umina Beach

Patonga road has potential to kill

Since August 3 last year, I have photographed and investigated our roads on the Woy Woy Peninsula paying particular attention to Pearl Beach Dr and surrounds.

The more I look into it the more evidence I find that my council can't be trusted to act in the ratepayers' best interest, unless someone else is paying close attention.

Photos of land slips on Pearl Beach Dr, in an area which had blocked traffic for some hours a few years ago, are indicative of the many concerns raised in our local print media going back to the 1960s.

Each time there is a near miss on the road, which is notorious for rocks (some large ones) and rubble dropping of the unstable mountain road with monotonous regularity.

Pearl Beach and Patonga residents are sick to the back teeth of complaining to Gosford Council about it.

If ignored, this has the capacity to kill someone.

The road was never built to do the job for which it is intended.

The reason then, as now, was a lack of funds.

Forum

Letters to the editor should be sent to:

Peninsula News
PO Box 532,
Woy Woy 2256
or

mail@PeninsulaNews.asn.au
See Page 2 for
contribution conditions

There is linear cracking in one section of almost 30 metres along both sides of the sewer trench.

This is clear evidence of a slow yet relentless slip down the mountain.

This cracking is evident for hundreds of metres even to a casual observer.

Investigations even in recent times have never covered all of the adversely-affected areas identified.

I am sure ratepayers are sick of the political spit and polish of a visit from an elected rep as they go back to the same sort of

procrastination which resulted in the collapse of the two culverts on the old Pacific Highway at Leask and Piles Creeks.

The blocked drain at the bottom of the Mt Ettalong Rd has also been the target of many complaints to council for action for quite some time.

It often forces cars and big trucks onto the wrong side of double lines because of a pond of water which accompanies any piddling downpour.

Is the traffic committee waiting for a head-on crash before insisting the drain be kept cleared?

Like Piles Creek, council works officers drive over and through these man-made obstacles almost every day.

These everyday problems should be addressed as a matter of routine without the need of endless complaints, followed by pleas for money to make existing infrastructure safe.

The investigation into Piles Creek may run to over a million dollars with out counting reasonable compensation.

The repair was quoted in writing by Tynan Engineering at less than \$250 thousand.

The fact that Mt Ettalong Rd, Pearl Beach Dr and the road to Patonga have a similar potential to kill cannot be ignored by those who are passing themselves off as responsible government.

Edward James
Umina

After a very nasty fall, I was taken to Brisbane Waters Private Hospital where I was a patient for eight days.

Through your column, I would just like to say a huge thank you to the wonderful nursing staff in the medical ward, who attended to my needs during that time.

Forum

They were all very caring and highly professional.

The administration can be very proud of the nursing staff at Brisbane Waters Private Hospital.

Thank you all.

Diane Mackintosh
East Gosford

Don't blame National Parks

One can hardly feel sorry for this group of bushwalkers getting lost recently ("Walk becomes 13 hour ordeal", Peninsula News, February 11)

Firstly, anyone who regularly walks in this area will know the NPWS has not maintained these outlying paths for many years.

Secondly, walking into unknown territory and at such a late time in the afternoon with very little window for the actual journey and not allowing for track deviations or weather changes is foolish.

Thirdly, once lost as night fell and it began raining, the group should have found a cave or made a shelter and bunked down for the night - especially when one of the group was obviously distressed.

Someone should have been notified of the intended route and estimated return time before

Forum

leaving and the NPWS should have been contacted to validate the track condition - a must when travelling into unknown territory.

Passing any blame onto the NPWS is not valid when several of the most basic rules of bushwalking have been broken.

Steve Spillard
Woy Woy

Contributions

The Forum page/s presents an opportunity for Peninsula Residents to have their say. Any opinions expressed on the forum page/s are not necessarily those of the editor or management of Peninsula News. Contributions can be emailed, sent on disks or by handwritten letter. 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:

www.peninsulanews.asn.au

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The Peninsula newspaper's website, a comprehensive collection of editions published to date

Funds raised for Ugandan orphans



Performers at the fundraiser

A fundraising event for orphans of Uganda held on February 15 at Woy Woy Sporties was "well attended", according to organisers.

The event was organised by the Integrated Community Development Foundation (Incodefo), raising \$1050 with another \$205 donated from Anglican Church, Umina.

Incodefo publicity officer Ms Sue McCarthy said another \$511 had been raised at Erina Fair during the Christmas period.

The money will be used to buy a diesel generator and to rewire computers at an internet café used to create income and employment for the orphans.

"The road to acquiring a diesel generator and rewiring the computers at the internet shop is at least half way solved," said executive director Mr Sam Bukenya.

Mr Bukenya was due to return to

Uganda at the weekend.

Reaction to the fund-raising event was positive.

"I am impressed by the warmth and community spirit by the Central Coast residents to support Sam's work with the orphans in Uganda," Sydney resident Dobey Gardener said.

Woy Woy resident Ms Aileen Thomson said: "It was such an excellent entertaining fun night.

"Drumbala and Akabaga were a marriage of musicians and we, the oldies, got up to dance, and we are looking forward to the next one".

The performers included Robbie D (The magician), the Akabaga Boys band, Drumbala, Christine Sainsbury and Ray Wright from Bouddi Voice Choir, and Jan Couchman, who played her Celtic harp.

For more information, telephone 4344 3044 or email incodefo@yahoo.com.

Press release, 18 Feb 2008
Sue McCarthy, Incodefo



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This service is free and is funded under the Product Stewardship for Oil Program.



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Cullens Rd, Kincumber

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SATURDAY/SUNDAY
PHONE 4342 5255
Nagari Rd, Woy Woy



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Saturday	March 1	Gosford City Council Works Depot, Corner Gallipoli Ave & Ocean Beach Road, Woy Woy
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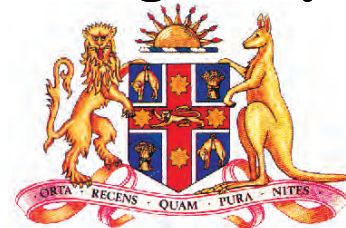
Sunday	March 2	Wyong Shire Council Works Depot, Corner The Entrance & Wyong Roads, Long Jetty
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For more dates and locations call
the Clean Out Information Hotline

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or visit www.resource.nsw.gov.au

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Council warned on policy

Auditor Price Waterhouse Cooper has warned Gosford Council about its investment policy following an \$8.8 million drop in the value of its investments.

The auditor warned that the council risks not being able to carry out projects or work due to the level of money it has invested during current "volatile and liquid market conditions".

PriceWaterhouseCooperpartner Mr WM Russell said the value of council's investments had reduced by \$8.8 million.

He "strongly recommended" that council carefully monitor its future cash requirements in the context of ensuring sufficient cash resources were available to meet future financial commitments and project obligations.

He also strongly recommend that council review its investment policy and incorporate appropriate limits in the type of securities in which it can invest to ensure the security of council funds.

"As 30 June 2007, council has net current asset deficiency of \$10,117,000 as compared to a net current asset surplus of \$19,510,000 at 30 June 2006 and \$50,888,000 in 2005," Mr Russell stated.

"In other words, the total current assets that council is expected to realise in the coming year meet the total current liabilities is deficient by approximately \$10 million.

"This is referred to as the current ratio and is a measure of the liquidity of council.

"Council's current ratio has decreased from 2.05 at 30 June 2005 to 1.38 at 30 June 2006 to 0.82 at 30 June 2007.

"It is acknowledged that not all current liabilities will need to be paid out in the coming year, for example current liabilities includes all employee entitlements.

"Australian Accounting Standards require all employee entitlements to which an employee has an unconditional right to be included in current liabilities even

though experience may indicate that not all entitlements will be taken by the relevant staff in the coming year.

"Notwithstanding this situation however, the deterioration in the position is cause for significant concern."

Mr Russell said the deterioration was largely due to council, since 2005, committing an "increasing amount" of funds to investments with maturity dates greater than 12 months.

"In other words, assets categorized as 'non-current' rather than 'current assets,'" Mr Russell said.

"In 2007 this amounted to \$109,959,000; 2006, \$71,715,000 and 2005, \$27,849,000.

"However, subsequent to 30 June 2007, global investment and financial markets have been subject to events which have resulted in a period of high volatility and market uncertainty which may impact the market value, recoverability, liquidity, cash flows and rates of return of various investment products such as Collateralised Debt Obligations (CDO's) and Floating Rate Notes (FRN's).

"At present, a number of these types of investment products are experiencing volatile and liquid market conditions which has impacted market values and the ability to convert these types of investments into cash.

"Council's non-current investment securities in 2007 comprised approximately \$51,213,000 in CDO's and \$58,746,000 in FRN's.

Mr Russell also stated that the "increasing complexity and sophistication" of various investment products available had highlighted the need for councils to have a thorough understanding of the nature of the products they were investing and council's rights and obligations in the context of compliance with various legislative and other regulatory requirements and council's internal policies.

**Audit report 2007
Gosford Council**



The Patonga Tavern

After 10 years, tavern opens at Patonga

Patonga Tavern officially opened its doors on December 20 last year after more than 10 years in the making.

Owner and Patonga resident for over 25 years Mr Robert Osborne has been battling with Gosford Council since 1997 for approval for his controversial proposal to redevelop the old Patonga general store site into "a watering hole for locals and visitors to the area".

Mr Osborne's plans were delayed for more than a decade with objections to the development, negotiations about parking requirements and the site being heritage listed.

White ants, concrete cancer and poor foundations made it difficult for Mr Osborne to retain much of the heritage listed building in the new tavern.

However, many other smaller items were able to be salvaged from the old building including window frames, verandah posts, trellis, decking and lattice.

Assistant manager Mr Lee

Eggleton said the new Patonga Tavern is "one of a kind".

"We offer the best beer and food with the best view," Mr Eggleton said.

"We are different to other licensed premises on the Peninsula because we are in a secluded place and offer a very relaxed atmosphere for our patrons.

Patonga Tavern is open Monday to Thursday from 11am to 10pm, Friday from 11am to midnight, Saturday from 8am to midnight and Sunday from 8am to 10am.

"The tavern is proving to be a hit with the locals and is great for bringing tourism to the area," Mr Eggleton.

"It is a great place for people to escape the hustle and bustle of other parts of the coast.

"We are well worth the short drive over the mountain to come and relax for a few hours over a

cold beer and some fresh local seafood.

The tavern features an America's cup bar, fireplace, bistro, outdoor eating area and historic photos of Patonga displayed throughout the building.

Mr Eggleton said the tavern is beginning to boast the best seafood on the coast.

"Our seafood platter for two and beer battered fish and chips are proving to be a popular choice," Mr Eggleton said.

"You are missing out if you do not want to indulge in a boutique beer and fresh seafood while overlooking the spectacular views of Patonga beach."

Patonga Tavern is located at 58 Patonga Dr, Patonga, and can be contacted by telephoning 4379 1111.

Clare Graham, 22 Feb 2008

Cobbled pavers installed at Ettalong

Cobbled pavers have been installed at pedestrian crossings in Ettalong Beach after months of representations, according to the Peninsula Chamber of Commerce.

President Mr Matthew Wales said the repair and re-instatement of the Ocean View Rd pedestrian crossings at Ettalong Beach came after 12 months of representations to Gosford Council.

"The Chamber congratulates Mayor Jim Macfadyen for ensuring that the white bath mats at the Ocean View Rd pedestrian crossings were removed and replaced with cobbled pavers for the visually impaired," Mr Wales said.

"Originally the white mats were glued to the street pavers with a raised cobbled surface to assist the visually impaired negotiate the pedestrian crossings.

"This was done in preference to

replacing the existing pavers with cobbled pavers of a different colour as is the case in all other town centres in the Gosford LGA"

"Regretably the council took the cheap way out at the time and the mats continually came unstuck creating a trip hazard for both visually impaired people and other pedestrians.

"They also looked cheap and nasty and visually degraded the intersection."

Mr Wales said that, following strong representations from the Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, council removed and replaced the footpath pavers at the pedestrian crossings last month.

"This issue was raised several times with Mayor Jim McFayden at our regular monthly meetings which has now resulted in the works being completed".

Press release, 9 Feb 2008

Matthew Wales,

Peninsula Chamber of Commerce

Street lighting is welcomed

Plans to improve street lighting in Ocean View Rd between the Ettalong Beach Markets Complex and the Ettalong Beach town centre have been welcomed by the Peninsula Chamber of Commerce.

"The Chamber is delighted with the news from Council that Energy Australia is to double the number of lights and replace the existing lights with 250 watt high pressure sodium lights along this section of Ocean View Rd," Chamber board member Mr Daryl Lynch said.

"The decision resulted from

representations by the Peninsula Chamber of Commerce to council as a result of the high pedestrian activity, perception of high risk of crime and a need to enhance the visual amenity of the locality.

"The link between the Ettalong Beach Market complex and the Ettalong Beach town centre is highly important as the Chamber sees the pedestrian connections vital to encouraging visitors to experience both ends of town.

"The improvements to street lighting are part of a broader strategy by the Peninsula Chamber of Commerce to improve the amenity of Ocean View Rd.

"Further representations are being made to council for street tree planting and new street furniture to enhance the linkage."

Mr Lynch said that the funding for the street lighting upgrade will be allocated from council's Public Streetlight Funds.

"This is further evidence that Gosford Council recognises the emerging importance of Ettalong Beach as a tourist centre with the need to improve pedestrian facilities and Council infrastructure," Mr Lynch said.

Press release, 9 Feb 2008

Matthew Wales,

Peninsula Chamber of Commerce

Clarkes Amcal Pharmacy Health Advice



Generally, arthritis means inflammation of one or more joints in the body causing pain, swelling, redness and sometimes stiffness.

While there are many different types of arthritis, most people suffer from two common forms: osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis. Other types such as reactive and gouty arthritis are less common,

What causes osteoarthritis?

Osteoarthritis is the most common form affecting about 34% of Australians over 50 years of age. It shows up on X-rays and is generally caused by the progressive wearing away of the cushioning joint cartilage. It affects women twice as often as men and weight gain can contribute to arthritis, especially in women. Whilst it generally affects large weight-bearing joints such as knees, hips and spine it can also attack joints in hands, fingers and at the site of old injuries. It is often first seen in fingers and toes.

Rheumatoid arthritis can strike at any age.

This form of arthritis affects 1-2% of the population including children, and afflicts more women than men. Unlike osteoarthritis, this is a systemic disease that affects the entire body. It's characterised by inflammation of the membrane lining the joint resulting in pain, stiffness, warmth, redness and swelling in hands, wrists, elbows, shoulders, knees and ankles.

Treatment of arthritis

Modern treatment programs often suggest a combination of medications, natural therapies, a balance between rest and exercise, weight loss, physical treatments, and sometimes surgery. Your Amcal Pharmacist can assist you in finding the best way to manage the pain and inconvenience of your arthritis.

- Heat can provide effective relief, and your Amcal Pharmacist carries a range of heating aids.
- Medication - Your Amcal Pharmacist will help you understand your prescription medicine and guide you through the common, over-the-counter preparations including paracetamol or aspirin as well as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory tablets or creams. In severe cases your GP may recommend corticosteroids injected directly into the joint.
- Natural therapies - in recent years, there have been encouraging reports on the use of natural therapies in the treatment of arthritis, including a substance called Glucosamine. Some vitamin and mineral supplements may also be beneficial, just ask your Amcal Pharmacist.



Natures Care Glucosamine 400 capsules
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Research grant for diabetes

A Peninsula resident has received a \$US5000 international grant for research into the prevention of diabetes.

Ms Suzanne Grant received the grant from international health care group Cochrane Collaboration in December last year.

She is currently undertaking a PhD at the University of Western Sydney and is principal investigator for a clinical trial researching the potential for Chinese herbal medicines to delay or prevent diabetes in prediabetes patients.

"When it comes to preventing diabetes in today's world, the best advice has been to eat well and exercise but for many of us changing our lifestyle for the better can be difficult to achieve and maintain," Ms Grant said.

"Chinese herbal treatment, if proven to be effective, will mean that prediabetes can be treated by a daily dose of herbal tablets."

Ms Grant will use the grant money to travel to Beijing in April to finalise her review of all Chinese herbal medicines.

"As a result of my research, I hope to find a treatment for prediabetes sufferers in order to prevent or delay the development of diabetes," Ms Grant said.

"We are looking into the Chinese herbal medicine called Jiangtang Xiaozhi at the moment."

According to Ms Grant, Jiangtang Xiaozhi is a complex Chinese herbal formula that has the potential to stop the rise of blood sugar to levels that cause diabetes and serious complications based on clinical and animal-testing evidence from China.

Ms Grant will undertake her own clinical trial at the University of Western Sydney following her trip to Beijing.

"Currently one in five people in Australia have prediabetes and do not know it," Ms Grant said.

"It can take up to 10 years for diabetes to fully develop in a person and a shorter time if they do not maintain a healthy lifestyle."

"Genetics play a major role as well."

Ms Grant moved to the Peninsula from Coffs Harbour

more than eight years ago to start a family with her husband.

"The Peninsula is such a beautiful place to live and raise a family," Ms Grant said.

"I love it because I can maintain a healthy lifestyle in such a relaxing environment."

"Sure I have a pretty hectic lifestyle working part-time as a Chinese herbalist and acupuncturist, completing a PhD and being a wife and mother."

"But I find eating well and exercising regularly keeps me fit and healthy enough to be all that I can be."

Ms Grant is looking for suitable people to join her clinical trial into preventing diabetes.

"We are looking for prediabetes patients who are willing to take part in this exciting new trial," Ms Grant said.

"Through the public participation, we will be getting one step closer to preventing a major health crisis in the future."

For further information, contact Suzanne Grant on 4322 8937.

Clare Graham, 22 Feb 2008
Interview: Suzanne Grant

Chamber backs Relay for Life

The Peninsula Chamber of Commerce has confirmed its backing for the Peninsula Relay for Life following a presentation by the Cancer Council to the recent Chamber Dinner at Barluka Tapas Bar at Ettalong Markets.

"The Chamber supports the Peninsula Relay for Life to be held on March 15 and will be encouraging all businesses to take part in the event," Peninsula Chamber vice president Mr Tom Tregent said.

"In recent years, the Chamber has supported the Cancer Council's fundraising efforts through the Brisbane Water Oyster Festival Charity Queen Event which has seen over \$120,000 raised for breast cancer research.

"The Relay for Life is just another way that businesses can help raise funds for cancer research.

"Relay for Life is an overnight teams event where participants take it in turns to walk, skip or run their way around an oval, having fun, meeting other members of their community, and raising funds to defeat cancer.

"Teams are encouraged to camp out overnight, theme their outfits and their tents and do something about cancer in their community in a simple and social way.

"It's a great team-building, fun event.

"Importantly, it's potentially a great community-spirit building event.

"It focuses the community in a common cause.

"It engages the community in the fight against cancer.

"It allows ordinary people the opportunity to make a difference and directly fund research and it gives people hope for a cancer-free future.

"We are calling on businesses to make a contribution to the event by cash sponsorship, in kind sponsorship, having a stall or advertising at the event or simply entering a team."

The Chamber stated that sponsorship could provide opportunities for local businesses to engage with participants and to be seen as a real contributor to the unique Peninsula community.

"Let's make the second week of March 2008 relay week and make the event a really significant community event," Mr Tregent said.

For more information on supporting this community event, telephone sponsorship co-ordinator Kevin McCaskie on 0403 013 420 or contact Lesley Chart at lesleyc@nswcc.org.au or 4325 5444.

Press release, 9 Feb 2008
Matthew Wales, Peninsula Chamber of Commerce

Courses at women's health centre

The Peninsula Women's Health Centre will be hosting a number of courses and groups in the coming weeks.

The activities include healthy eating, herbs for health, good bladder habits and a coffee morning.

"Good health is always important and as we get older it could be even more important," community development worker Ms Kate Bradfield said.

"Eating healthy doesn't mean depriving yourself, even if you have diabetes.

"Come and discuss healthy, enjoyable eating, especially if you have diabetes."

Carolyn Bunney from the

Area Health Service's nutrition department will facilitate the group on Wednesday, February 27, from 10am to 12 noon.

The cost is a gold coin donation. Ms Bradfield said that naturopath Ms Jill Meredith would discuss what herbs are good for everyday use in cooking, food and teas and how they benefit people's health.

The course will be held on Tuesday, March 4, from 10am to 12 noon.

The cost is a gold coin donation.

A coffee morning had been planned for Wednesday, March 5, from 10am to noon.

"This group is for all women who would like to get to know other women in the area.

"It is a social get together over morning tea.

"It is a great opportunity to meet women especially if you are new to the area or feel isolated. "The Peninsula Women's Health Centre has no childcare facilities however

you are welcome to bring your children who will remain under your supervision."

Ms Bradfield said that Hazel Simpson from North Sydney Central Coast Health would present a workshop on good bladder habits.

It would cover how to keep your bladder healthy by appropriate fluid intake, practising good toilet habits, maintaining good bowel habits and looking after your pelvic floor muscles.

"Hazel is a fun presenter and this workshop also provides lots of good laughs as well as helpful, practical information," Ms Bradfield said.

"The course will be held on Thursday, March 6, from 11am to 12 noon.

"Cost is a gold coin donation." Ms Bradfield said all women were welcome to attend.

For more information, telephone 4342 5905 or drop in to the centre at 20A McMasters Rd, Woy Woy.

Press release, 19 Feb 2008
Kate Bradfield, Peninsula Women's Health Centre



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Clean-Up at Burrawang Reserve

The Burrawang Bushcare Group will be coordinating a Clean-Up Australia Day project on Sunday, March 2, at the Burrawang Reserve.

The group has invited local residents to participate in the day. "People visiting the reserve have commented on the vast improvements, particularly the native regeneration that is occurring as well as the general lack of rubbish resulting from (our) regular cleanups," site coordinator Mr Jim Morrison said.

"If you would like to assist in this Clean-up Australia project and help to prevent rubbish becoming part of the scenery, you will be most welcome.

"The date is March 2 from 9am

to noon.

"The meeting place is the playground in Nambucca Dr, Woy Woy, at 9am for registration.

"Wear sturdy shoes and gloves and a hat.

"Do not forget the sunscreen, and please ensure that a responsible adult accompanies children under 15."

For more information, telephone Jim Morrison on 4341 9583.

Press release, 20 Feb 2008

Jim Morrison, Burrawang Bushcare

The Empire Bay Progress Association will be holding its annual Clean Up Australia Day event on Sunday, March 2.

"Volunteers are required and should come to the community hall, corner of Sorrento and Gordon Rds," association member Ms Charlotte Story said.

"Boat owners are very welcome to help clean up the islands around

Cockle Bay.

"Registration at the site is required.

"Children must be accompanied by an adult.

"Bags and gloves will be provided.

"Please wear strong, closed shoes, hats and sunscreen.

"A meat sizzle and drinks for volunteers will start at 11.30am."

Press release, 18 Feb 2008

Charlotte Story,

Empire Bay Progress Association

Clean Up at Empire Bay

Need Help with a State Government matter?



On Monday March 3, 2008
Marie Andrews MP
 will be at
Ettalong Senior Citizens Centre
from 1pm & Umina Library from 2pm
Call Marie's office to book an appointment
 20 Blackwall Road or PO Box 223 Woy Woy
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 Email: gosfordeo@parliament.nsw.gov.au

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at
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 Address _____

 State _____ Post Code _____
 Phone _____

What's On in and around the Peninsula

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. WWEC 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, \$3 (inc. afternoon tea), 1pm, ESCC, enq: 4344 3131.

SUNDAY
First Sunday of every month
 Blackwall Mountain **Bushcare**, 9am cnr Blackwall Rd & Memorial Ave Enq: 4342 6995
Second Sunday of every month
Ladies Auxilliary of Vietnam Vets, 10 am, **Vietnam Vets**, 11am; **EBWMC** Umina P&C **Bushcare** 9am BWSC, Enq: 4341 9301
Third Sunday of every month
Bushcare Group, Tennis Courts, Empire Bay, 9am Enq: 43692486
Ettymalong Creek Landcare, Ettalong Rd, Umina, 8am, enq: 4342 2251.
EBWM Fishing Club competition at Club House in Beach St, Ettalong.
Fourth Sunday of every month
 Burrawang Bushland reserve **bushcare**, Nambucca Dr playgrnd 9am 4341 9301.
Last Sunday of every month
Alliance Française "La Petanque" (the game of boules) 11am - 5pm Enq: 0415309074
Lions Club Boot Sale & Mini Market, Rogers Park Woy Woy Enq: 4341 4151
Every Sunday
Fijian Cultural Group, 11am-4pm, **PCC** Coast Community **Church Services** 9am & 5pm Enq 4360 1448
Al-anon/Alateen family support group "The Cottage" Vidler Ave Woy Woy 7pm.
Patonga Bakehouse Gallery 11am Enq: 4379 1102

MONDAY
First Monday of every month
RSL Womens' Aux 9:30am **EBWMC** Endeavour View Club Luncheon **ECC** Contact 4342 1722
 Pretty Beach P S **P&C**, Resource Centre 7:30pm, ph 4360 1587.
Grandparents Parenting Support Group, Web Riley Room Catholic Church Woy Woy 4342 9995
Country Women's Association meeting, 10am, CWA Hall, Sydney Ave, Umina, enq: 4341 5627.
Second Monday of every month
Bookclub 7pm enq: Mandy 4342 2482
Save the Children St Andrews

Church Hall, Ocean Beach Rd Umina 1-30pm Enq 4324 4389
Women 50+ Group Chat, **PWHC RSL Women's Auxiliary**, 9am; **RSL Sub Branch**, 2.30pm; **Card Club**, 1pm, **EBWMC**
Pretty Beach to Killcare Community Association WH 7:30pm, Enq: 4360 1546
 Killcare Heights **Garden Club**, 10:30am, Enq: 4344 4520
 Coastal **Crones** (over 50's), **PWHC**
Third Monday of every month
War Widows, 11am, **EBWMC** Enq: 4344 3486
Fourth Monday of every month
Toastmasters **Speechcraft**
Classes 6pm **EBWMC**
Labor Party Peninsula Day Branch, CWA, 1pm.
Carers support group, Group room, Health Service Building, Woy Woy Hospital, Enq: 4344 8427.
Last Monday of every Month
WWLT Playreading, Woy Woy P.S. 7.30pm, Enq: 4341 2931
Every Monday
Cash Housie EMBC 7:30pm Enq: 4323 3566
Walking with other Mums Enq: Liz Poole 4320 3741
3Cs-Craft, Coffee & Conversation, 12.30pm
BFC, Enq: 43 431929
Yoga WH 9.30am Enq: 4360 1854.
Computers, 1pm, **Dancing** 9am; **Indoor Bowls**-9am; **Mahjong** 1pm; **Fitness** 1pm; **Yoga** for beginners 2.30pm; **ESCC**.
Gym Sessions 8am, **Tiny Tots** 9:15am, **Circuit Boxing** (Women) 9.00am, **Boxing/fitness training**, 4.00pm (Junior) , 5pm (Senior) **PCYC**
Carpet Bowls 9am, **Card Club** 1pm, **EBWMC**
Fairhaven Cash Housie 7.30pm & **Bingo** 11am **EMBC** enq: **4323 3566**
Arts and Crafts for people with a disability 11am, Enq. 4341 9333
Patchwork & Quilting, 10am, **Pottery** 10am & 1pm **EBACC**
Children's Story Time, Woy Woy Library. 10.30 am
Occasional Childcare, 9am;
Volunteering, 9am; **Gentle Fitness**, 9am; **Supported Playgroup**, 9.30am & 12.30pm;
Yoga, 10am; **Second Chance Craft**, 11am; **Bridge Club**, 12pm;
Physical Culture Club, 3.45pm; **Coast Care Counselling**, 4pm; **Dance & Theatre School**, 3.45pm; **Judo**, 5pm; **U3A Courses**, **PCC**
Craft group, 1pm **BFC**
 Fairhaven Services **Cash Housie**, Ettalong Bowling Club 7.30pm
Yoga WH 9:30 am Enq: 4360 2705
Pilates WH (except 2nd Monday of month) 6-7pm & 7-8pm

New talent wanted after 45 years

Woy Woy Little Theatre is calling on "new and young" talent after celebrating its 46th year on the Peninsula.

"Woy Woy Little Theatre always welcomes new talent," publicity officer Ms Patrice Horne said.

"Learning the art of theatrical productions is a great springboard for your acting career."

"Acting and theatre are also great for building confidence and help with public speaking skills."

"If you feel you have that special acting talent, or if the art of local theatre production is something you could get passionate about, then contact us now," Ms Horne said.

Woy Woy Little Theatre will be starting off its 46th year with Ira Levlin's production thriller "Deathtrap" during late February and early March.

Following on will be Simon Hopkinson's Australian comedy "Lipstick Dreams", beginning June 27 through to July 6.

"We constantly get great audiences for our shows," Ms Horne said.

"My aim for this year is to entice some younger generations to the joys of the theatre."

Woy Woy Little Theatre was first established in 1962 and is a non-profit community drama group.

The theatre is run by "a passionate group" of local actors, directors and theatre lovers.

"Our aim is to bring a diverse

program of plays to the community to suit all ages," Ms Horne said.

"The theatre also aims to encourage and provide education for youth, in all facets of theatrical production."

Woy Woy Little Theatre is located at Peninsula Theatre on the corner of McMasters Rd and Ocean Beach Rd, Woy Woy, which

is the only purpose built theatre space of its kind on the Central Coast.

For further information telephone 4341 2931 or for bookings telephone 4344 4737.

Press release, 18 Feb 2008
 Patrice Horne,
 Woy Woy Little Theatre

Woy Woy Little Theatre presents Ira Levin's thriller
"Deathtrap"

Directed by **Brendon Flynn**
"Deathtrap was one of the biggest hits in the history of Broadway."
 The cast includes **Graham Vale, Christine Vale, Tyrone McMaster, Penny Dilworth and Mike Jeffries.**

Fridays	8pm - February 29 and March 7
Saturdays	8pm - March 1 and 8 2pm - March 8
Sundays	2pm - March 2 and 9

For more information, telephone 4344 4737.
 The box office is open from 10am to 2pm, Monday to Friday

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Thursdays Surf and turf Raffle Tickets on sale: 5pm Plus Members' Badge Draw...followed by karaoke!! & Darts	Saturdays Saturday Morning Raffle tickets on sale Fisho's raffle from 7pm
	Sundays Childflight (every third Sunday of the month) Free poker from 1pm

Membership - now only \$2.50

Women's Day celebrated

International Women's Day on the Peninsula will be celebrated on Sunday, March 9, at Brisbane Water Secondary College, Woy Woy campus.

Former Gosford mayor Dr Patricia Harrison and indigenous academic Dr Wendy Hanlan will be guest speakers at the celebration.

Local band "That's That" will also be performing on the day.

The Multi Arts Confederation and Brisbane Water Secondary College will also help celebrate the day with a joint presentation, featuring some of the Central Coast's "most talented" artists

A performance of "Ophelia Thinks Harder" and an art exhibition "Every Picture Tells a Story" will be held at the Woy Woy campus from Friday, March 7 to Sunday, March 9.

Bookings are essential and can



Sierra Phillips and Caitlin Shaw will celebrate International Women's Day with a performance of "ophelia thinks harder"

be made by telephoning 4365 3106 or 4369 4534.

The March 9, event will begin at 1pm, with the final performance of

"Ophelia Thinks Harder" beginning at 3pm.

International Women's Day is formally held on March 8, around the world and is an official holiday in countries such as Albania, China, Cuba, Italy, Russia and Vietnam.

The day aims to bring political and social awareness of the struggles of women and to celebrate the significant achievements of women world-wide.

**Press release, 18 Feb 2008
Maureen Locke-Maclean, Multi Arts Confederation**

Debut for new theatre company

New Central Coast theatre company DevisingTheatre will be showcasing its debut work on the Peninsula during late March.

Founders Ms Rosemary Parsons and Mr Paul Karton have written and developed what they say are "two exciting new works that explore the contemporary phenomenon of celebrity".

"The IT Girl" and "Panopticon" will be performed at the Peninsula Theatre, Woy Woy, on March 29 and 30.

"The IT Girl examines Google identity from the point of view of two young women named Kimberley Clark who are competing for the coveted number one position in the Google ranking," Ms Parsons said.

"Their lives turn to chaos when a new celebrity hits the scene also called Kimberley Clark."

According to Ms Parsons, The IT Girl is "funny, youthful and perceptive", and marks the directing debut of local actor Paul Karton.

"Panopticon is a visual, highly energetic performance that is part autobiography, part deconstruction of celebrity culture," Ms Parsons said.

"Panopticon asks: What impact does the highly insidious phenomenon of celebrity culture have on our understanding of ourselves?"

Ms Parsons said DevisingTheatre was committed to creating new theatre on the Peninsula.

"We are committed to creating new works that challenge, entertain and stretch the concept of theatre as it is understood on the Central Coast," Ms Parsons said.

The Saturday, March 29, show begins at 8pm, and the Sunday, March 30, performance begins at 2pm.

**Press release, 12 Feb 2008
Rosemary Parsons,
DevisingTheatre**

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Details correct at time of printing

Hotel hopes to fill gap

A Woy Woy hotel is promoting itself as a venue for entertainment for 35 to 50-year-olds.

The Bayview Hotel Woy Woy is wanting to become a venue on the Peninsula where they can listen to bands playing the music they grew up with, according to performer Phillip Hopson.

Mr Hopson said: "Very few pubs or clubs on the Coast provide quality entertainment which caters to the Baby Boomers who want to get out and rock the night away on a Saturday night.

"To satisfy this need, The Bayview has booked a stable of bands that will play on a regular cycle each Saturday night so that people will know in advance who is playing when," Mr Hopson said.

"The range of music played by the bands is from the 50s through to the 90s."

Owner and licensee of The Bayview Mr Garry Narvo said: "We are filling the gap here on The Peninsula and surrounding areas by providing quality entertainment on a Saturday night for the 35 to 50 age bracket.

"The bands I have booked for this year will well and truly meet this demand.

"One of our regular bands The Generators has built up such a following of regulars that whenever the band plays extra staff are required.

"Our aim at The Bayview is to provide a quality Saturday night out for our customers - fantastic food from our award-winning Brasserie and then great entertainment from bands playing the music we grew up with and don't hear on the radio anymore."

Press release, 13 Feb 2008
Phillip Hopson, The Bayview Hotel



Joel Salom, Jim Dunlop and Marko Simec are joined by the remote-controlled terrier "Erik" in their new show "Gadgets"

Technology joins juggling

A show that combines technology and live music with spectacular rhythmic juggling will launch the subscription season at Peninsula Theatre.

"Gadgets" features the juggling, physical theatre and beats of former Circus Oz performer Mr Joel Salom.

He is joined by musicians Jim Dunlop and Marko Simec who perform an eclectic mix of pop, classical, death metal and jazz fused with gypsy swing, according to theatre marketing coordinator Ms Lisa Kelly.

The show's "special guest" is Erik the Dog, a remote-controlled tin terrier "with attitude".

Erik made his debut with Joel in 1999 on O'Loughlin on Saturday

Night (ABCTV), said Ms Kelly.

Since then, his appeal has grown and Erik regularly appears on Channel V, at festivals and corporate events.

"Jim Dunlop has spent the past four years as a musician in Circus Oz and has worked with an intriguing mix of bands, mainly in the world of cabaret," said Ms Kelly.

"He has played the fool for years and is generally considered to be the clown in whatever group he's with.

"Jim has also produced his own big musical acts, including Butt Funky."

Marko Simec is a multi-instrumentalist, composer and performer with 16 years industry experience.

Ms Kelly said Gadgets was

first performed at the Woodford Folk Festival in 2005 and was a highlight at the Festival of the Winds in Bondi in 2006.

Touring nationally through Playing Australia, the show will be the company's longest and most comprehensive tour to date.

Gadgets plays at the Peninsula Theatre, Woy Woy, on March 18 and 19.

For more information, telephone 4323 3233.

Press release, 19 Feb 2008
Lisa Kelly, Laycock Street Theatre

Schools receive upgrades

Several Peninsula schools have had capital works and maintenance projects take place over the recent school holidays.

Brisbane Water Secondary College Umina Campus had a lift and link to the first floor, step ramps and paths installed, as well as a toilet for students with disabilities modified and covered walkways extended.

Minister for Education and Training Mr John Della Bosca said that while students had been enjoying the holidays since December, their schools had been a "hive of activity" with \$1.2 million of capital works and maintenance

projects taking place on the Central Coast.

"The break has been a good opportunity to complete a series of maintenance projects," Mr Della Bosca said.

"These works have taken place over the holidays to minimise the disruption to learning."

Some of the continuing projects include painting to Block G at Umina Public School, repairs to the pre-school building roof at Woy Woy Public School as well as painting and groundworks at Empire Bay Public School.

Press release, 30 Jan 2008
Alison Nolan, Office of the Minister

New staff at Umina campus

Brisbane Water Secondary College Umina campus has welcomed 14 new staff members to the school this year.

Mr Warwick Bateman will take on the role of deputy principal and Mr Larry Thomson as head teacher administrator.

Campus principal Mr Frank Gasper said: "We have had the opportunity to see both of them perform with distinction in our school setting and I know they will make an immediate impact in their new roles.

"We have been fortunate to acquire the services of several teachers who come to us with strong recommendations."

Nine teachers specialising in the areas of mathematics, science, visual arts, agriculture and PDHPE have joined the staff team.

"The school also welcomes careers advisor Ms Cutting and school counsellors Ms McDonald and Ms Chivers."

Newsletter, 22 Feb 2008
Brisbane Water Secondary College

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Student of the month

• TAMA •

David Hosford UMINA 4344 5042

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DEVISING THEATRE presents
**THE IT GIRL and
PANOPTICON**
29 and 30 March

Two new works that explore the
contemporary phenomena of celebrity
culture. THE IT GIRL explores the
significance of google identities,
PANOPTICON deconstructs celebrity
culture and asks what impact it has on
our understanding of ourselves?

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 Always Last Sunday (Except December)
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Anthony Charles
 Leybourne Smith c/
 Woolworth Limited, 1
 Woolworths Way, Bella Vista is applying for the variation of trading hours to commence trading from 8.00am on a Sunday pursuant to section 27 of the Liquor Act for the off-licence (retail) situated at Peninsula Plaza Shopping Centre, Blackwall Road, Woy Woy and known as "Woolworths Liquor". This application is listed for hearing on 31 March 2008 at 9.15am at the Licensing Court, Level 6, 323 Castlereagh Street, Sydney. Back Schwartz Vaughan Ref:BT;20386.
 Phone: 9223 3355

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Kindergarten tests introduced

Kindergarten students at Umina, Empire Bay and Pretty Beach will be assessed for their understanding of simple literacy and numeracy concepts, as they begin school this year.

They will be among 430 schools to use the Best Start assessment, according to NSW Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Central Coast Mr John Della Bosca.

"Right now, regional Best Start personnel are finalising training for Kindergarten teachers on how to use the assessment tools to develop teaching strategies that will meet each student's needs," Mr Della Bosca said.

The Best Start Kindergarten assessment will look at students' early reading and writing, their

understanding of how books work, and their ability to communicate with others, recognising and using the sounds and letters of the English language.

Teachers will also look at students' early counting skills, and how they recognise and work with numbers, groups and patterns.

"This is just one of the tools the lemma Government is using to improve literacy and numeracy," Mr Della Bosca said.

He said the program would cost \$81.6 million.

The Minister said the Best Start program also includes 200 extra Reading Recovery teachers over four years to work with Year 1 students experiencing difficulty learning to read and write.

Press release, 13 Feb 2008
John Della Bosca, Minister for Education and Training



Member for Gosford Marie Andrews, Brisbane Water Secondary College's Woy Woy campus student Regan Mitchell, Minister Assisting on Citizenship Barbara Perry, student Melissa Halstead, student Jeremy Sieczko and senior campus principal Pamela McAlister.

Cultural exchange declared a success

An exchange program between students at Brisbane Water Secondary College Woy Woy Campus and Hoxton Park High School has been declared an overwhelming success by the Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship, Ms Barbara Perry.

Under the program, students from Woy Woy campus spent a day at Hoxton Park High School, a culturally diverse school in Sydney's south west where many students are from non-English speaking backgrounds.

The Brisbane Water Secondary College students told Ms Perry about their involvement in the program when she visited the

school recently.

The exchange was run as part of the college's HSC Society and Culture program and was developed by teacher Mr Ian Backhouse.

The program has been funded in part by a State Government grant.

The program required students to complete an assessment for the preliminary HSC course worth 25 per cent of their yearly mark.

"Not only were the students required to complete a research-based assessment task about the exchange, they also gained invaluable life experience by hearing first hand about so many different cultures," Ms Perry said.

Brisbane Water High School vice captain Amber Miller, 17, who

took part in the exchange said it was a worthwhile experience.

"We got a better understanding of different cultures and that they are not all the same," Ms Miller said.

Member for Gosford Ms Marie Andrews said the exchange program has proved invaluable for the high school students.

"The students have come away from this experience with a wealth of knowledge about our culturally diverse State," Ms Andrews said.

"They can now share that experience with their fellow students, families and the local community."

Press release, 20 Feb 2008
Barbara Perry, Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship

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2. Anne Ridgway	Tinker's Way Part 1	4:20 France
3. Anne Ridgway	Planet Blue	4:28 Turn Your World Around
4. Glenn Cardier	Close Encounter (With A UFO)	3:51 Rattle The Cage
5. Marni Sheehan	Mama Was A Good Time Girl	4:56 Inside Stories
6. Gary Sheehan	Irish Girls	4:22 Here & There Now & Then CD1
7. Rebecca Wright	All I See	3:59 All I See
8. Tony Eardley	Before The City Wakes	4:53 Desire Lines
9. Mark Lucas	Seven Days	2:20 Sideshow Alley
10. Carmel Charlton	Spirit Of Makara	4:21 Whispers On The Wind
11. Glenn Cardier	How Long?	4:28 First Officers
12. Zigzag	Jericho	3:35 In The Middle
13. Seelalu	Don't Forget	4:50 When The World Was Young
14. The Fiddle Chicks	Adana	3:13 Out The Window, Over The Gate
15. Penny Davies & Roger Ilic	Big Water	2:21 Big Water
16. Frencham Smith	Have You Got A Heart	3:52 Lovehogs
17. Roy Charles Abbott	Love Me Just As Me	4:50 Pushing The Pedals
18. Pete Hawkes	The Warlock's Dream	5:33 Witchcraft

Ducks Crossing Publications, as the publisher of *Trad&Now*, has launched its own series of CDs titled *Pick of the crop*.

The series features selected tracks from CDs recently added to the *Trad&Now* on-line catalogue at www.tradandnow.com/shopping.

The first of these, *Pick of the crop 2008*, is now available for sale at \$20 + \$3 P+H.

It will also be issued free of charge to all new and renewing full subscribers to *Trad&Now* for 12 months or more.

Pick of the crop 2008 contains 18 tracks totalling over 70 minutes of excellent music as a taste of the wide variety of music genres now available through the on-line catalogue, heard at most festivals and covered in this magazine.

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Tesch and team beaten in final

Australian women's wheelchair basketball captain Liesl Tesch of Woy Woy and her team the Gliders have been defeated in the final of the Osaka Cup in Japan.

The Gliders entered the grand final of the tournament as favourites only to be defeated 52-40 by the United States.

Despite progressing to the final as the only undefeated team at the tournament the Gliders missed out on a golden opportunity to complete the winning run.

Head coach Mr Gerry Hewson was still upbeat despite the loss.

"We have had a great week in Osaka and now have another four international games under our belt, which will help us develop into the team we want to be by September for the Paralympics," Mr Hewson said.

Local sports star Liesl Tesch managed to score a total of 34 points for her team during the entire tournament in Japan.

"Ms Tesch has been an inspiration in basketball for over 10 years, after winning selection in Australia's first international women's wheelchair basketball team in 1993," Parramatta Basketball Association media officer Mr Noel Roswell said.

"Despite the routine challenges



Liesl Tesch

of a career as a school teacher and travelling to exotic foreign locations teaching wheelchair basketball, Liesl has remained focused on playing for Australia and is the only player from the 1993 campaign still competing on the international

stage."

**Press release, 17 Feb 2008
Noel Rowsell, Paramatta Basketball Association**

Local hero is nominated

Umina Beach Surf Life Saving Club member Dave Thompson has been nominated in a competition which could win the club \$1000.

Surf clubs within the Central Coast have nominated a member as their Surf Life Saving Hero and stand the chance to win \$1000 for their club.

The competition is open to lifesavers, supporters and fundraisers.

"Dave has been a member of the Umina Beach surf life saving club since 1977," according to the nomination.

"Since this time, he has quickly moved up the ranks from club captain to president and is now currently the national director of surf sports.

"In addition to this, he is also a member of the Australian Organising Committee, International Lifesaving Committee, has put his hand up to chair the opening of the new surf club, rewriting the club constitution, chairing the local organising committee for all the branch titles, officiates at local nipper carnivals, is a club patrol judge - all while he works for Telstra Country Wide in Erina.

"Whenever there is something to be done or co-ordinated, Dave is always there to help out."

The Heroes of the Club competition is being run by Telstra.

Telstra general manager for Central Coast Mr Phil Lammert said: "There are truly some inspirational people that have been nominated as their club's hero.

"It's certainly going to be a tough call.

"While the nominated heroes have each made a unique contribution to their clubs, the one thing they all have in common is an obvious passion for keeping our beaches safe."

The 2008 Telstra Surf Life Saving Hero nominees will be narrowed down to three.

Online voting is available until 11.59pm on February 29.

Once the voting is closed they will then be announced as finalists for their SLSA region on March 10.

The finalists will then be judged to determine the winner for each Telstra area.

Mr Lammert said the support of the community was integral to local success in the Search for the 2008 Surf Life Saving Hero.

"With so many great people to vote for, it's really important that local communities rally behind their nominated 'Hero' to give them the best chance of moving through to the next round of voting." Mr Lammert said.

Voting takes place at www.telstraheroesoftheclub.com.au.

**Press release, 19 Feb 2008
Mitch Watson, Telstra Country Wide**



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Malibu contest

The Ocean Beach Malibu Club conducted its February contest on Sunday, February 10, at Umina beach.

In round one, Mark Williams, Mark Rylands, Brett Wakelin, Michael Baker, Ben Scully-Hawkins, Calyn Wilkinson and Hayden Emery came first in each of their respective heats.

Round one also saw Glen Wakelin, Ron Stockings, Ron Flight, Brian Cook, Mitch Bolton, Craig Coulten and Garry Halliday take out second place in each of their heats.

The second round saw Hayden Emery take out another first place for the day, while Garry Halliday improved to win a first place for his heat.

Craig Coulten and Glen Wakelin managed to come out in round two with another second place.

Ron Flight also improved in round two with a first place victory in heat five.

Also in round two Dave Wakelin, Mick Day, Bryce Williams and Harry Wall took out the top placing in each of their respective heats.

Round two also saw Phil Bruce, Kevin Dewar, Sean Cornwell, Len Wilkinson and Calyn Wilkinson take out second place in each of their heats.

The club's next meeting will be on Sunday, March 9, at Umina beach.

**Press release, 19 Feb 2007
Craig Coulten, Ocean Beach Malibu Club**

Disabled equipment for pool

Disabled access equipment costing \$25,000 has been installed in the Peninsula Leisure Centre.

A new electronic adult-sized change table, mobile electric lifting hoist and ceiling tracking system have been installed to make the 25m hydrotherapy pool more accessible to use.

Day coordinator Ms Robyn Black from disability services agency Coastlink said that Gosford Council had listened about the need for specialist equipment and acted on the concerns "promptly", allowing for clients like Jill Dainton to feel the water for the first time.

"When Jill was first hoisted into the lovely warm water, she cried with happiness," Ms Black said.

"It's been awfully hard for people like Jill to have to watch others enjoying themselves.

"Now she can get into the water like everyone else."

The adult-sized change table made it much more comfortable and dignified for people who need assistance, as well as safer for carers, Ms Black said.

"Everyone has the right to use community facilities and it is very pleasing that Council has seen this need and acted on it," Ms Black said.

"The staff have also been fabulous in ensuring the equipment is always in place for when we arrive at the pool."



Jill Dainton (seated) and Coastlink's Tracey Bickley use the PLC's new mobile electric lifting hoist designed to improve accessibility and comfort.

The centre already has disabled facilities including hearing loops, ramped entrances, recessed entrance counters, Braille signage, ramped pools, a wet wheel chair and a hydro chair.

**Press release, 13 Feb 2008
Kate Carragher, Gosford Council**

Veterans bowl at Ettalong

Ettalong Memorial Bowling Club and Toukley District Bowling Clubs will host the Veteran and Super Veteran Days on behalf of the Central Coast District Bowling Association on Monday, April 7.

Ettalong Memorial will play

host the southern-based clubs and Toukley District will host the northern-based clubs.

Veterans are classified as 70 years and over and Super Vets over 75.

Names are required by no later than March 21.

**Publication, 21 Feb 2008
Kevin Dring, Coast Bowls News**

Medallists train at Woy Woy

Olympians, Commonwealth Games and World Championship medallists from the Australian swimming team will call the Peninsula Leisure Centre home for four days in April.

In this time, they will prepare for the FINA World Short Course Championships in Manchester, England.

After looking at a number of options and regions, the training facilities, proximity to Sydney and standard of accommodation made the pool at Woy Woy the venue of choice, according to the Australian swimming team coach Mr Alan Thompson.

"It was important that after spending 10 days at the Olympic trials that we found a venue that was different in environment to the Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre," Mr Thompson said.

"The Peninsula Leisure Centre is a first-class regional facility that hosted a

leg of the Trans Tasman Youth series last year and I am sure the venue will cater for all of our team's needs.

"The team is looking forward to the camp and spending time on the Central Coast."

Point Clare resident Mr Kirk Palmer will join other members of the Swimming Australia team including Olympic gold medallists, Alice Mills and Adam Pine, as well as breaststroke world-record holder, Jade Edmestone, in training at the pool.

Mr Palmer was a member of the Australian 4 x 200m freestyle relay team that recently broke the world record.

The public had been invited to watch the team at an open training and autograph session at the centre on Tuesday, April 1, from 4pm to 6.30pm.

For further information, telephone Scott Attwood on 4325 8123.

**Press release, 13 Feb 2008
Kate Carragher, Gosford Council**

Ettalong Eagles on way to final

Lawn bowls team the Ettalong Eagles only needs to win its first two play-off games to be through to the grand final at Nelson Bay on March 7.

Never out of the top five all season, Ettalong is the only team of 13 to figure in every finals series since the inception of the competition and the only team to record three 16-nil wins in 2008.

Should the Eagles lose either of their first two away play-offs, their sudden death game will be at home.

**Publication, 21 Feb 2008
Bob Penson, Coast Bowls News**


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