

Council is suspended for three months

Central Coast Councillors were given five minutes notice at around 3pm on Friday, October 30, that they were to be suspended for three months by Local Government Minister Ms Shelley Hancock.

Cr Chris Holstein who represented the Peninsula as a Gosford West Ward councillor said he had been given five-minutes notice that his computer and phone would be disconnected.

The former State Member for Gosford and Gosford mayor said: "I was even told to return my Council pants, which I was wearing."

NSW Local Government Minister Ms Shelley Hancock issued an order for the three-month suspension of the elected councillors and appointed veteran public servant Mr Dick Persson as "interim" administrator.

Mr Persson was appointed administrator of the new Northern Beaches Council in 2016 at the same time Mr Ian Reynolds was appointed administrator of Central Coast Council.

Ms Hancock said the interim administrator would "restore the proper and effective functioning of the council".

"There is a clear need for greater oversight and control over the council's budget and expenditure to restore its financial sustainability and importantly re-instill the community's trust in the effective functioning of their council," Ms Hancock said.



Interim administrator
Mr Dick Persson

"Mr Persson is a highly experienced local government administrator with a proven track record of fixing council dysfunction," she said.

"He was appointed administrator following the dismissal of Warringah Council in 2003 and Port Macquarie-Hastings Council in 2008 as well as Northern Beaches Council when it was created in 2016.

"He has also held senior roles in the NSW, Queensland and Federal governments.

"Mr Persson will bring with him a highly experienced former local government general manager Mr Rik Hart to oversee the council's operational recovery.

"Mr Hart has nearly two decades of experience as a local government general manager at councils including the City of

Parramatta, Inner West Council and Warringah Council.

"Dick Persson and Rik Hart bring with them the knowledge, skills and experience needed to restore the financial sustainability of Council," Ms Hancock said.

"I am pleased that two such highly-experienced and qualified local government professionals are taking up these positions."

Ms Hancock said she made the decision to suspend the council after carefully considering a submission from the council in response to a notice of intention issued on October 21.

Ms Hancock gave the elected Councillors seven days to show why they should not be suspended following allegations that the Council was millions of dollars in debt following expenditure of restricted funds.

"The appointment of an interim administrator will provide independent governance to address financial, reputational and organisational risks," she said.

Suspension applies to the mayor and councillors but does not affect council staff and daily operations.

The administrator will perform the functions of the mayor and councillors for three months.

SOURCE:
Media release, 30 Oct 2020
Shelley Hancock, Minister for Local Government
Interview (Jackie Pearson), 30 Oct 2020
Chris Holstein, Central Coast Councillor

Diggers announces financial recovery

Ettalong Diggers Club has announced its financial recovery after seven years of "successful trading", despite a substantial downturn in profits in the last financial year.

Diggers' general manager Mr Bill Jackson said, in his report to the club's annual meeting on October 25, that, over the last seven years, the club had seven successful trading years.

"Having now taken control of our operations within the club's current footprint and having consolidated our financial situation and reduced our total debt to a more realistic amount, we feel that the time is now right for this club to step up and help our community

protect the assets that have been built up over many years across several sites on the Peninsula," Mr Jackson said.

"This assistance can take any form, not always amalgamation, that ensures the assets that have been built up on the Peninsula remain under the control of the Peninsula community," he said.

"We will also continue to work collaboratively with other local businesses to realise savings that cannot be achieved as individual businesses," he said.

"This covers many areas, but energy costs, insurances and these types of expenses present as the most likely to benefit all stakeholders."

He said that, during the past

two years, Ettalong Diggers' involvement with the community had expanded "to being involved beside the community with respect to the passenger ferry services and access to Brisbane Water via Ettalong Channel and Little Box Head".

"We have assisted in the formation of the Peninsula Waterways Committee which is chaired by Michael Allsop of Killcare and his capable committee who are fighting for the benefit of the Peninsula and Brisbane Water."

SOURCE:
Website, 25 Oct 2020
Bill Jackson, Ettalong Diggers Memorial Club

Page 3: Diggers has drop in profits

Peninsula News goes it alone

This issue of Peninsula News is produced entirely by the voluntary non-profit community group that owns the newspaper, and its supporters.

The long-standing arrangement we have had with Central Coast Newspapers came to an end last week.

The association's commercial operator advised us that it would no longer produce the paper on our behalf.

Many readers may not be aware that Peninsula News, despite being our community's dedicated and trustworthy local newspaper for over 20 years, is owned by a community group, The Peninsula's Own News Service Inc.

Our aim has always been to provide a news service to the people of the Woy Woy Peninsula, as important social infrastructure for a healthy community.

Over the years, association members and others have put in

thousands of hours of voluntary work to stay true to that objective.

Under Cec Bucello's ownership, Central Coast Newspapers was licensed to raise advertising in return for printing and distributing the paper, and covering running costs.

Since Cec has sold the business, we have been in negotiation with the new owner to reach an agreement to continue the previous arrangement.

Central Coast Newspapers has advised us on Tuesday, October 27, that it had decided it would no longer produce Peninsula News.

We were therefore placed in a position of having to produce the newspaper ourselves.

We were left without advertising or any news content that was sent to Central Coast Newspapers for inclusion in this edition of Peninsula News, and also without the support of their journalists who had previously helped.

Help and support needed for our own local newspaper

This issue of Peninsula News has been researched, written, designed, printed and distributed by our local, voluntary not-for-profit community group and its supporters, and it returns to its base on the Peninsula.

Our news team now consists of a previous Peninsula News journalist, Jackie Pearson, and editor, Mark Snell, both working in a voluntary capacity.

They will also be handling advertising inquiries, at least in the short term.

Your help and support is needed, particularly while we get ourselves back on our feet.

We would welcome volunteers in all aspects of the newspaper's production, from news gathering and photography, in graphic design, advertising and administration, through to

distribution.

Any support local individuals or organisations are able to provide would be greatly appreciated.

NEWS: Please send in newsletters, media releases, news items or photographs as contributions to future editions to contributions@peninsula.news.

ADVERTISING: Advertising rates will be no more costly than those under the previous arrangement. Please consider advertising and encourage local businesses to advertise with us. Contact us at advertising@peninsula.news for advertising or call us on 4342 5333

DISTRIBUTION: We are also looking for volunteers to help distribute the paper.

SOURCE:
Mark Snell, editor
Jackie Pearson, journalist
29 Oct 2020

New contact details

NEWS: contributions@peninsula.news

ADVERTISING: advertising@peninsula.news

PHONE: 4342 5333 - Please leave a message

Peninsula News

Community Access

Peninsula News is a fortnightly community newspaper for the Woy Woy Peninsula, owned by The Peninsula's Own News Service Inc, a local non-profit incorporated association. Its aims include providing a viable, non-partisan news medium and forum exclusively for the Peninsula and developing a strong sense of community on the Peninsula.

Editor: Mark Snell
editor@peninsula.news

Journalist: Jackie Pearson
jackie@peninsula.news

NEXT EDITION: Peninsula News 507
Deadline: Thursday, November 12
Publication date: Monday, November 16

CONTACT DETAILS

NEWS: contributions@peninsula.news
ADVERTISING: advertising@peninsula.news
PHONE: 4342 5333 - Please leave a message
POSTAL ADDRESS: PO Box 585, Woy Woy NSW 2256

Please note: Peninsula News currently has no paid employees, and it may take a little time for us to get back to you. Our volunteers usually have other jobs and commitments, which compete for their time.

EMAIL ISSUES?

When emailing us, you will note that the domain name is PENINSULA.NEWS only. There is no .com or .com.au. If your email bounces or does not appear to have reached us, please check the address and try again. If this still does not work, try our old fallback address or call us by phone and leave a message.

Fallback email address: editor@peninsulanews.asn.au

Editorial policy and guidelines

At its heart, Peninsula News is a community effort.

It welcomes and relies on the contributions provided voluntarily and at no cost by local organisations, groups and residents.

The newspaper aims to be accessible to the community - both through making its columns accessible to community groups and by having copies available in accessible locations, including through its website.

The following policies and guidelines are designed to support the aims and standards of the newspaper.

Locality

The newspaper's editorial policy reflects a desire to reinforce the Peninsula's sense of community.

To qualify for publication, articles must have specific relevance to the Peninsula. For example, they must be about activities or events happening on the Peninsula or be organised by or involving Peninsula people.

The newspaper is not regional or national in nature, so regional or national issues will not be canvassed except as they affect the Peninsula.

Regional sports will only be covered from the perspective of Peninsula clubs. Regional plans will only be aired in the context of their ramifications for the Peninsula.

Peninsula News aims to be inclusive of as much of the Peninsula community as possible.

Readability

To ensure that the newspaper serves its purpose, it must be readable and represent the interests and activities of the community in its content.

Contributions to the paper are edited to consistent standards of readability. Guidelines are available for intending contributors.

All items will be dated. They must contain the name of the author to whom the contribution may be attributed, with their first name spelt out, along with their suburb or organisation. Anonymous contributions will not be accepted.

Forum letters

The Forum section provides the opportunity for readers to express their views on any aspect of Peninsula community life, with the aim of reflecting the community's diversity of opinion.

Nevertheless, letters may be edited for readability, including for length, spelling and grammar, and to avoid legal liability on the part of the newspaper, or they may be declined altogether.

Contributors are asked to keep their

contributions to the matter at hand, and to focus on the issues and not abuse or insult others.

Other than in the case of holding public figures to account, criticism of others (as opposed to criticism of particular opinions) is unlikely to be published in the interests of facilitating the expression of a diversity of views.

All letter writers need to supply name, address and contact details. Only name and suburb will be published.

Contributors who do not wish the wording of their letter to be changed at all should make a note to this effect when submitting their letter. In some cases, this may result in the letter not being published.

Corrections

We try to be as accurate as possible. However, mistakes can still slip through.

If you believe we have got something wrong, whether an error of fact or interpretation, we ask that you write to us by email with details for publication. These corrections may appear as Forum letters or as news items and should conform to our requirements for news and Forum contributions.

Source lines

Peninsula News includes "source lines" at the end of each article which aim to provide readers with information about where and how we came across the information, so that they might judge for themselves the veracity of what they are reading.

It should not be assumed that the article is a verbatim reproduction of the source. Similarly, it should not be assumed that any reporter listed is necessarily responsible for writing the whole news item. Source lines are not by-lines.

Often articles come from a number of sources. They are edited for readability and reader interest and given different headings, and consequently can be expressed quite differently from the source material.

Peninsula News usually receives its information in three ways: It is sent to us by someone wanting to promote their activities; it is sent to us in response to our inquiries; or it comes from a newsletter or other document to which we have access.

Sometimes we may interview a person or report what they said at a meeting.

The following descriptions are used:

Media Release - unsolicited contributions.
Media Statement - sent in response to our questions.
Website or **Social Media** - information published online.
Newsletter or **Report** - published in print or online.
Interview or **Meeting** - statements recorded by a reporter.

Forum contributions may be: **Email** if sent electronically and **Letter** if written on paper.

An 87-year-old man dies after crash, 91-year-old charged

An 87-year-old man has died following an alleged fail-to-stop crash at Woy Woy earlier this year.

A 91-year-old man has been arrested and charged with driving offences relating to the incident.

Emergency services were called to Blackwall Rd, Woy Woy, on Saturday July 4, following reports an 87-year-old pedestrian had been hit by a white Toyota Corolla and the driver of the car had left the scene.

Police said they were informed

that the 87-year-old man died in hospital on Monday, October 26.

NSW Ambulance paramedics had treated the 87-year-old at the scene for suspected leg and hip fractures before being taken to Gosford Hospital.

The crash site was examined by members of the Metropolitan Crash Investigation Unit.

Following inquiries, police arrested a 91-year-old man at Gosford Police Station where he was charged with dangerous driving occasioning grievous

bodily harm, driving in a dangerous manner, negligent driving occasioning grievous bodily harm, and not giving way to pedestrian on a crossing.

The Koolewong man appeared in Gosford Local Court on Wednesday, October 19.

He is next due to appear at the same court on Thursday, November 19.

A report will be prepared for the information of the coroner.

SOURCE:
Media release, 27 Oct 2020
NSW Police

MP joins bicycle safety campaign

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch has joined in a road safety campaign to educate road users about bicycle safety.

She said the pandemic had seen more and more people jumping on bikes to safely socially distance, exercise and travel cheaply.

Joining with Bicycle NSW to launch the Safety on Spokes campaign, Ms Tesch said it would "help educate all road users about bike safety including safe passing,

heavy vehicle safety, road rules, safety tips, and door zone bike lanes".

Ms Tesch said she knew firsthand the perils of bicycle riding and the importance of bicycle safety.

"My life changed forever when I fell from my mountain bike when I was 19 years old."

The accident left her a partial paraplegic.

"While I wouldn't change anything, it has been a very challenging journey.

"I cannot stress enough how important it is for all road users to practice bicycle safety.

"One mistake can impact the rest of someone's life.

"Whether we're driving, walking or riding on the road, no one wants to be involved in an accident, and this campaign is a great reminder of the safety precautions we all need to take," said Ms Tesch.

SOURCE:
Media release, 28 Oct 2020
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford

Ready for School program is ready to run

The Ready for School program for next year's kindergarten students at Woy Woy South Public School will go ahead this term.

Principal Mr Matt Barr said: "Thankfully due to the lifting of some restrictions our program will

be able to go ahead this term.

"This is fantastic news for our 2021 kindy students and their families.

"The program will run for four weeks and will commence in week four of this term."

He said that anyone living in the

school zone who has kindergarten aged children for next year should contact the school office for further details of enrolment.

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 21 Oct 2020
Matt Barr, Woy Woy South Public School

October rainfall exceeds 160mm

October finished with rainfall of almost two and a half times the Peninsula's average for the month.

Rain in the last week of the month, including falls of 99mm recorded on October 26 and 28mm on October 25, brought the total to 164.2mm by October 29.

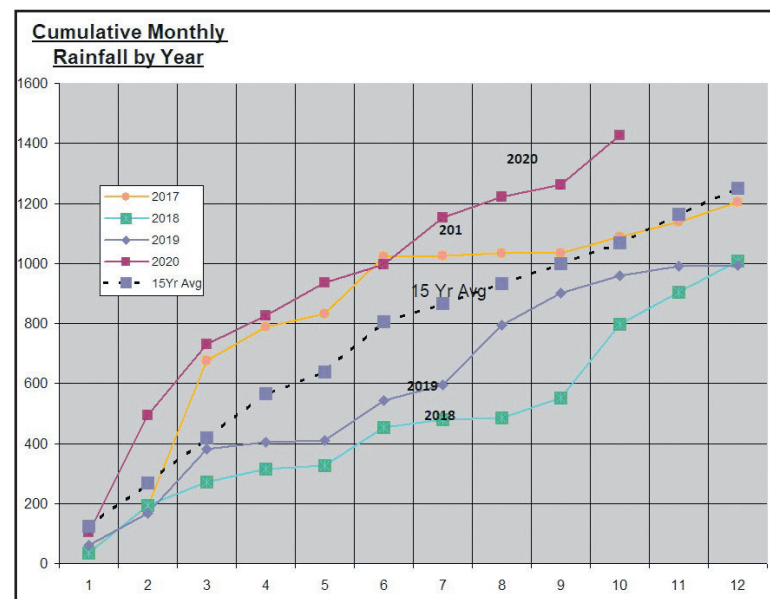
This was 2.38 times the monthly average of 69mm.

In the six days from October 24, figures totalling 149.4mm were recorded by Mr Jim Morrison and Lachlan Mottlee of Umina.

In the past 15 years, there was only one year where the October total was greater: 2018 when 246.3mm was recorded for the month.

Last month's rain brings the year-to-date total for the Peninsula to 1426.7mm, 33.5 per cent greater than the average cumulative total at the end of October of 1069mm.

It is the highest cumulative



total for this time of year in 15 years, with the next highest figure of 1378.3mm being recorded in October 2016.

The Peninsula's average annual rainfall is 1250mm.

SOURCE:
Spreadsheet, 30 Oct 2020
Jim Morrison, Umina

Ettalong Diggers reports \$2.2M drop in profits

Ettalong Diggers Club has reported a \$2.2 million drop in profits for the financial year to report a total profit after tax of \$6288.

Last year the comparable figure was \$2.21 million.

"When we look at the club's cash operations this year, the club operated with a net loss from operations of \$16,729," the club's general manager Mr Bill Jackson said in the club's annual report.

"After adding back depreciation (\$1,911,857) and Interest paid (\$494,020) along with income tax benefit of (\$23,017), our EBITDA comes in at \$2,412,165 (12.36%).

"I am proud that we have continued to exist.

"I am proud that we have continued to be relevant and I am proud that we have proven to one

and all that we have become part of the Peninsula Community.

"2020 has proven to be one of the most difficult years that our country, our community and this club have ever experienced.

"Never have I, in my 40 years in this industry, ever seen such a devastating year."

Mr Jackson said that, since re-opening in June: "We have approached each day with all the care and responsibility to ensure that lockdown did not occur due to any flaunting of the Health Orders or other rulings made by the NSW Government and that the health and wellbeing of our members and team remained the number one priority of Ettalong Diggers".

"Despite our major losses during April and May, [the club] returned in June 2020 with a

commitment to continue as much as financially possible to support the local Peninsula organisations requiring funding and we are very proud that we paid total Club Grants for the 2019 – 2020 gaming year amounting to \$241,800.

"An amount of \$124,600 was in the form of Category 1 Grants to local organisations.

"Another \$117,200 was paid out in the form of Category 2 Grants.

"Approximately 90 per cent of this amount was paid out to local Peninsula organisations and sporting bodies."

SOURCE:

Interview (Jackie Pearson),

30 Oct 2020

Kim Cole, Ettalong Diggers Memorial Club

Website, 25 Oct 2020

Bill Jackson, Ettalong Diggers Memorial Club



New application for Mrs Wilson's Shop

A "Stratum Torrens Subdivision" application has been lodged with Central Coast Council for a Woy Woy property.

Bruce Kerr Pty Ltd lodged an application for the subdivision of 68 Railway St, Woy Woy, on September 28.

The latest application follows the construction of two residential units and approval for demolition, restoration and conservation of the existing heritage building on the corner of Railway St and Charlton St.

Since that DA was lodged in August 2015, the residential component of the works has been

undertaken and jacaranda and exotic trees removed from the property.

The heritage building, known as Mrs Wilson's Shop, was to be restored as a useable commercial building.

At the time of publishing, no documents related to the Stratum Torrens Subdivision were available.

A strata subdivision is used to create separate titles to shops, commercial offices or residential units within the one building.

SOURCE:

DA Tracker, 9 Oct 2020

DA48230/2015, Central Coast Council



Work proceeds on carpark

Work is proceeding on the carpark at Deepwater Plaza.

Solar shade structures are being installed in the Coles car park, with resurfacing and line marking.

Improvements are also being made to the ground level of the multi-deck car park in George St.

Deepwater Plaza centre

manager Ms Marcelle Proper said Stage One works were complete, with parking available between the Coles entrance and The Pavilion.

"Stage Two works are complete to three bays of the Coles car park, which are open and accessible for parking," she said.

"Works have commenced in the final bay and to the car spaces

directly alongside the building of the shopping centre.

"Access to the centre remains open at all times," said Ms Proper.

"Alternative parking is available in the multi-deck carpark, located opposite Gloria Jeans."

SOURCE:

Website, 27 Oct 2020

Marcelle Proper, Deepwater Plaza

Woy Woy lanes may be declared alcohol-free

Pedestrian laneways in Woy Woy will be reviewed for inclusion the Council-declared alcohol-free zones.

Central Coast Council has re-established alcohol-free zones in previously identified locations around the Peninsula.

It decided to investigate the inclusion of the lanes, following community feedback which was sought between August 14 and September 11.

A full list of locations across

the municipality and associated maps can be viewed at the council website yourvoiceourcoast.com/afz.

According to the declaration, the aim of the zones is to reduce alcohol-related crime, violence and anti-social behaviour in identified locations to help create a safer environment for the whole community.

SOURCE:

Media release, 19 Oct 2020

Central Coast Council



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Kilcare, Daley's Pt, Ettalong, Umina and Pearl Beach, Patonga and Woy Woy



Detailed plans are now available for a three-storey development proposal with ground-floor retail and 12 "shop top" residential units on the corner of Ocean View Rd and Ferry Rd, Ettalong.

The development would partially demolish a commercial building, demolish a residential dwelling, and construct a three-storey mixed-use development at 302 to 306 Ocean View Rd, Ettalong.

A previous proposal for a boarding house on this site met with strong community opposition.

The proposed new building would contain ground floor retail and parking on the 2174 square metre block.

The site is occupied by a single storey fibro and brick commercial building with metal roof fronting Ocean View Rd and a single storey fibro dwelling fronting the foreshore reserve.

The portion to be developed under this application has an area of 1838 square metres.

The proposal involves the re-subdivision of two blocks, partial demolition of the existing single storey commercial building on the corner of Ferry Rd, and demolition of the existing residential dwelling



Plans available for three-storey Ettalong proposal

adjacent to the beachfront reserve.

The two blocks would be amalgamated and subsequently strata titled on completion of the development.

The developer is seeking variations to the floor space ratio across the site of up to over 10 per cent, beyond the provisions of the Gosford Local Environmental Plan.

A statement written by Wales and Associates to support the development said the variation to

floor space ratio was "considered to be justified due to the design merit of the building, its relationship to the future streetscape and the overall bulk and scale of the building".

"The floor space ratio variation is considered to be reasonable when considered within the context of the overall streetscape with its primary frontage to Ocean View Rd and high exposure to Ferry Rd and the intent of both the Gosford

Local Environmental Plan 2014 and the Gosford Development Control Plan 2013," the statement said.

"The variation to the ratio will not hinder the proper management and development of the Ettalong Beach retail catchment and the adjoining residential catchment.

"The proposal will improve the social and economic welfare of the local community and create a better environment by substantially

improving the livability and amenity of the locality by activating the Ferry Rd and Ocean View Rd frontages and the provision of good quality accommodation space that encourages people to live within the town centre precinct as well as in the surrounding urban catchment.

"The proposal ensures the highest and best use of the subject site by formalizing the trend to higher density accommodation utilising the natural features of the land and activating the primary street frontage (Ocean View Rd) together with the secondary frontage (Ferry Rd)."

The proportion of the proposed development that is located in the R1 general residential zone is also non-compliant for height, exceeding the maximum height limit of 8.5 metres by just under one metre or around 10 per cent.

This variance is described as minor.

The proposed development is on public exhibition until November 27.

SOURCE:
DA Tracker, 30 Oct 2020
DA59732/2020, Central Coast Council



Construction certificate issued

A construction certificate has been lodged for the nursing home development at 45 Hillview St, Woy Woy.

According to Central Coast Council's DA Tracker, the certificate, lodged on October 20, is for structural works only on the multi-level nursing home facility.

The principal certifying authority is listed as Philip Chun and Associates Pty Ltd.

The lodgement of the certificate means structural work can commence on the \$27 million nursing home development.

It has been the subject of contention since the early 2000s when the community fought its development due to the presence of endangered Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland on the site.

SOURCE:
DA Tracker, 20 Oct 2020
CC53784/2018, Central Coast Council

A construction certificate has been lodged so work can commence on the upgrade of a Umina shopfront.

The certificate was issued by a private certifier so work can commence on improvements to a shopfront at 204 West St, Umina.

The development application for the \$247,500 part demolition of a shopfront, a new shopfront infill and internal fit-out was lodged with Central Coast Council in November 2019.

The 1252 square metre site is located on the corner of West and Rickard St.

The site currently contains a three-storey brick building of mixed use, with residential units, a child care facility and commercial retail space.

The works are to be carried out for commercial tenancy number one.

They include part demolition of

the existing shopfront, shopfront infill and internal fit-out for a beauty and wellness centre.

The proposed fit out incorporates a retail and reception zone, waiting area, treatment and therapy rooms.

A Statement submitted to Council in support of the development said it was well justified and complied with the objectives of Gosford Local Environmental Plan 2013 and was consistent with the Council's relevant Development Control Plans.

The statement said: "We recommend that Council give consent to this development subject to appropriate conditions of development consent.

"It will improve the amenity of the site and therefore its effect on the surrounding area.

"It will create the opportunity for employment during both construction and operation.

"It will improve the streetscape appearance of the site from the existing development; and it has utility services available to support the development.

"The proposed dwelling will have minimal impacts on adjoining properties; the expected traffic impacts are minimal and adequate access to the road network exists.

"The existing parking and manoeuvring arrangements are considered adequate for the proposed use."

According to Council's assessment report, the subject site was zoned R1, general residential and B2 local centre.

The proposed development was defined as a minor addition to an existing mixed use building and the use and occupation of an existing commercial tenancy permissible in the zone with Council consent.

The assessment report acknowledged that the original mixed use development generated

a total demand for car parking of 33.9 spaces but only 25 were proposed, representing a shortfall of nine spaces.

"The developer paid contributions for a further nine spaces during the course of construction," the assessment report said.

"Later the plans were modified and a storage area was converted to a carparking space providing one space in excess of required, therefore it is considered the additional floor space proposed with the current application of 15 square metres would not generate a requirement for any further parking to be provided on site or any further contribution."

Accordingly, Central Coast Council granted consent for the works.

SOURCE:
DA Tracker, 20 Oct 2020
CC57569/2019, Central Coast Council

Meals on Wheels chief talks at Rotary club

Chief executive of Meals on Wheels Central Coast Mr Dennis Taylor has spoken to the Rotary Club of Umina about the work of his organisation in the region.

Mr Taylor told the club that Meals on Wheels had been on the Central Coast for 53 years.

He said it started at the Salvation Army then moved to Gosford Food Services.

Meals on Wheels provided a valuable service to the aged, needy and less mobile people who needed regular meals to eat at home, he said.

Not only is frozen food delivered

Monday to Friday, volunteers engaged with the householder and checked on their general health and welfare.

Fridges were checked to ensure that food is not being hoarded and options are provided for a change in diet.

Mr Taylor said the service offered more than 150 different meal choices.

The main food preparation kitchens were in Fairfield, Wollongong and Newcastle and between them, over 50,000 meals are prepared daily.

He said Meals on Wheels had packaged home delivery deals

with Government agencies and NDIS clients.

It ran a community restaurant on a Friday called "Evergreen" in Gosford, as well a another one in the community centre at Woy Woy, he said.

He said the service had stood down about 70 home delivery volunteers, who were also retired and deemed to be at risk during the coronavirus shutdown.

They were replaced by younger unemployed volunteers.

Mr Taylor said Meals on Wheels would be changing its name to Coastal Cuisine to make the service more appealing to

the community, and to avoid the perception that the service was only available for the elderly.

He said Meals on Wheels was funded by the Commonwealth but the organisation relied on the volunteer home delivery staff who received mileage allowance for their efforts.

New clients could be referred to the service by family, neighbours or a local doctor, and would be interviewed by client service officers to determine their suitability.

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 28 Oct 2020
Bruce Croft, Rotary Umina Beach

Driver airlifted to Sydney after Umina accident

A 25-year-old driver has been airlifted by CareFlight helicopter after her car was struck by another vehicle while reversing her car in Umina on Friday, October 23.

The woman sustained injuries and fractures to her chest, abdomen and leg.

The rapid response helicopter landed at Ettalong Oval, from where NSW Police escorted the clinical team to the scene of the incident.

NSW Ambulance paramedics had provided initial treatment

before CareFlight's doctor and critical care paramedic performed a clinical assessment on her, including an ultrasound.

The patient was airlifted to Royal North Shore Hospital in a stable condition under ongoing observation.

The helicopter went on to do two further back-to-back missions at Kurrabung Heights and Galston immediately after the Umina incident.

SOURCE:
Media release, 23 Oct 2020
CareFlight

Rugs donated for Clown Doctors



The Woy Woy branch of the Country Women's Association has donated some handmade rugs to raise funds for The Humour Foundation's Clown Doctors Program.

The rugs will be sold or raffled to give money to allow the Clown Doctors to continue their program.

A stall was planned at the Mingara Recreation Club to sell the rugs and to accept donations supporting the work of the Clown Doctors.

SOURCE:
Social media, 21 Oct 2020
Jane Bowtell, CWA Woy Woy

A local aged care provider has reported that the coronavirus has cost it at least one million until June alone.

Peninsula Villages' annual report, to June 30 this year, has attributed expenses of more than one million dollars to the "Covid-19 net effect".

While reporting an operating surplus of \$1.38 million on a turnover of \$27.8 million, the surplus would have been \$2.41 million without coronavirus, the financial statement showed.

This compares to an operating surplus of \$2.27 million on a

Covid 'net effect' costs provider \$1M

turnover of \$26.8 million last financial year.

The Villages' assets were reported to have increased by \$10 million, from \$119 million last year to \$129 million this year.

However, after liabilities, the net assets increased by \$1.38 million, equivalent to the surplus for the year.

Villages' treasurer Mr Daniel Smith said: "The organisation has reported a healthy asset and cash position, while progressing with the key strategy of improving the

quality of the facilities, including the recent completion of new residential aged care facility, Pozieres House.

"During the year, \$28.4m was committed to our new facility, Pozieres House and improvements to existing facilities throughout the Village and our seniors living.

"Cash reserves held reduced throughout the year to fund the improvements.

"However, cash reserves held exceed the forecasted requirements, keeping Peninsula

Villages in a healthy financial position.

"Positive cash flow was achieved through operational activities, as well as through financing activities, a great achievement in an environment where the profitability of the aged care sector has been in continual decline over recent years.

"Industry trends highlight a trend toward DAP's instead of RAD's resulting in cash flow issues associated with many operators within the industry.

"I note that the strong asset position of Peninsula Villages is solely due to the Bonds and Residential Aged Care Deposits (RAD's) held on behalf of the residents, which totaled \$67m as at 30 June 2020.

"There are strict regulations restricting the use of these deposits, to ensure that these funds cannot be used to fund the operations of the Village, and can only be invested, or used to improve and maintain the facilities," Mr Smith said.

SOURCE:
Website, 22 Oct 2020
Daniel Smith, Peninsula Village

Lifestyle

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News

James wins award for work

James Halliday-Jones is this year's recipient of the Rotary Club of Woy Woy Pride of Workmanship Award.

A couple of years ago, Mr Halliday-Jones joined a local family-run oyster farming and commercial fisher business which has been operating for three generations.

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch said he was a well-deserving recipient of the award.

Beginning as a temporary employee with Dale and Lynne Witchard, over Christmas, and had since flourished in his role, she said.

Mr Halliday-Jones had shown an interest in learning about the different types of fish, paying close attention to techniques used for each species while also presenting a friendly face to the community and putting his all into his workplace.

"James has shown impeccable workmanship and drive in his employment, taking every



James Halliday-Jones with Dale and Lynne Witchard

opportunity and working hard to deliver the best service to our community," Ms Tesch said.

"The reviews online about Dale and Lynne Witchard confirm the amazing work of James."

D and L Witchard is owned and operated by Dale and Lynne Witchard.

Ms Tesch commended the

Witchards. "You can really tell just how much Dale and Lynne love our community, as they are always striving to employ locals and deliver opportunities right here on the Peninsula."

SOURCE:
Media release, 29 Oct 2020
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford

Spanish flu book is here

An Empire Bay author is distributing her new book about the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic through local bookshops, as well as nationally.

Ms Trish Skehan said her book "Frontline of the Pandemic" contained letters and reports, dated 1919, from doctors, nurses, patients, chaplains, reporters and teachers, who lived and worked at the front line of the epidemic in Australia.

Nearly 15,000 Australians died in the Spanish flu epidemic within a year, she said.

"These stories uncannily mirror what is happening in our society and communities today.

"Schools and businesses shut, states in lockdown, borders closed – but with people trying desperate measures to get across – social distancing, wearing masks and protective gear, hospital intensive care wards filled with dying patients as doctors and nurses struggle to cope with the virus, while scientists desperately search for a vaccine."

Ms Skehan said she had first come across the material through



Trish Skehan

her involvement in the City of Canada Bay Heritage Society in Concord in 2013.

"When I heard whispers of the coming pandemic early in January, I gathered my research notes and expanded the story about what was happening then in NSW."

Ms Skehan said she had been invited to read extracts of the book for the official Remembrance Day ceremony, to be streamed from Martin Place on November 11.

SOURCE:
Email, 28 Oct 2020
Trish Skehan, P Skehan Publishing

Ettalong business expands despite pandemic

An Ettalong business is expanding and moving to new premises, despite the coronavirus pandemic.

Accom Holidays principal Mr Stephen Brooks said his business had expanded its operation on the Peninsula "due to a continuing demand by home owners and investors for premium property management services".

This has resulted in the business moving into larger premises, the former PRD Real Estate offices in Broken Bay Rd, Ettalong Beach,

with improvements planned to be completed by December.

Mr Brooks said that, along with the move, the business has employed additional experienced staff.

"The Accom team in Ettalong now comprises seven qualified industry specialists with services now including sales and rentals along with our holiday management base."

SOURCE:
Media release, 30 Oct 2020
Stephen Brooks, Accom Holidays



Stephen Brooks

Groups receive \$500 each

Two not-for-profit groups have each received a share of \$1000 donated by a Woy Woy business.

Brisbane Water Historical Society and Coast Shelter received \$500 each on Friday, October 23.

The donation was made by Woy Woy and Antiques Collectables, a voluntary non-profit business which opened in June to raise money for local charities.

The funds were presented to

the charities by store manager Mr Mitchell Gordon.

"Following a challenging year for many charities, we are pleased to support the vital work of Coast Shelter and the Brisbane Water Historical Society," he said.

The small business has shared its profits with charities affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

SOURCE:
Media release, 29 Oct 2020
Mitchell Gordon, Woy Woy Antiques and Collectables

Forum

What's Government's role in Council crisis?

There will be many opinions claiming to pinpoint the reasons for the Central Coast Council's financial crisis.

Its origins pre-date the failed administration of Gosford Council pre-amalgamation and related matters such as attempts to constrain councillors' freedom of speech and their right to acquire detail direct from Council staff members.

The State Government was behind these moves, and it has its hands dirty in this fiasco in other ways.

The Central Coast Regional Plan was released without essential detail about the infrastructure required - the destitute cousin of development.

There are questions about the regional plan that will never be answered by Government Ministers and agencies, making it impossible for those dedicated

councillors to carry out their duties responsibly and with the best advice possible.

It has now removed all development control from councillors, the representatives of our community, while council staff retain seemingly unfettered powers.

The greatest fiasco in this mess is the amalgamation of two local government areas that were in management distress.

Perhaps an even greater fiasco awaits.

If an administrator is appointed and has freedom to question council staff in a way that councillors did not, the public will demand to know why this privilege was not available to councillors.

It must be asked: What was the State Government's role in the Council's downturn?

SOURCE:
Letter, 27 Oct 2020
Norm Harris, Umina



Double standards on kerb and guttering

I am writing this to hopefully bring to light an issue at Ettalong.

It seems there is again a double standard between private developers and Council-owned properties.

When a change is made to the property, the council requires kerb and guttering along with footpaths to be installed by the owner of the property, when for example it is

redeveloped into units.

Yet when Ingenia Lifestyle Village, which operates on council land in Fassifern St, Ettalong, was redeveloped two years ago, the council did not install kerb and guttering or even footpaths.

This property has a restricted occupancy to those aged 55 and over.

There are over 100 residents between the age of 55 and 95,

many reliant on walkers and wheel chairs, yet there is no footpath.

I would appreciate it if council would provide an explanation of why footpaths were not installed when the major redevelopment of over \$3 million took place.

Is this discrimination or double standards?

SOURCE:
Email, 14 Oct 2020
Rob Meyer, Woy Woy

New school crossing supervisor for Woy Woy

A new school crossing supervisor will be appointed for Woy Woy Public School.

"The new supervisor will assist students and their families crossing at Park Rd, Woy Woy, while they walk to and from school," Mr Crouch said.

"We look forward to welcoming our new school crossing supervisor helping to keep primary school students safe.

"Recruitment will open shortly, and I would encourage local residents who are dedicated to serving their community to apply for the job."

Member for Terrigal Mr Adam Crouch said the school was one of 96 schools across NSW benefitting from an \$18.5 million student safety program.

"School crossing supervisors are part of a suite of measures to keep kids safe, including reduced speed limits in school zones, high-visibility safety treatments like signs, 'dragon's teeth' road markings and flashing lights."

SOURCE:
Media release, 22 Oct 2020
Adam Crouch, Member for Terrigal



Students make parachutes

Stage 1 classes at Ettalong Public School have been learning about push and pull forces in science this term.

These students were asked her class to design parachutes.

The parachutes were tested over the side of the balcony.

SOURCE:
Social media, 25 Oct 2020
Lynn Balfour, Ettalong Public School

Class placement requests open until November 20

Special requests for class placements at Woy Woy Public School should be made before November 20, school principals Ms Ona Buckley and Mr Dan Betts have asked.

"How we structure classes for 2021 will depend on the total number of students enrolled for 2021, the staffing entitlement the Department of Education allocates and numbers in each grade year," they said in the school newsletter, Namalata.

"Teachers are in the best professional position to make the decision about where a child should be placed for the optimum possible benefit of their educational progress.

"Children grow and change as they progress through school.

"They change socially and their associations with other children change.

"Academically they may need support or challenge.

"It is important to remember that students are placed in classes to enhance their learning opportunities with sound teacher professional knowledge backed

up with assessment, work task results and classroom teacher observation expertise on the educational, social and emotional growth of a child."

The principals said they welcomed parental input in the process.

"If you believe there are extenuating circumstances that need to be considered when placing your child in a class for 2021, you are welcome to make an appointment to meet with us to discuss this matter.

"Alternately you can put your concerns in writing and address the correspondence to the Principal.

"This process is totally confidential.

"All these requests will be taken into consideration but we cannot guarantee that it will be possible to fulfil these requests, as numbers, teachers available and professional educational judgement will determine the final outcome.

"Please ensure we have all of these concerns by November 20."

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 23 Oct 2020
Ona Buckley and Dan Betts, Woy Woy Public School



Enjoying ducklings at a distance

Parents of students at Woy Woy Public School have been asked to remind their children to enjoy ducklings present at the school from a distance.

"Now that we are experiencing some warmer weather, we are able to enjoy having ducklings wandering through our playground with their protective mothers," said assistant principal Ms Michelle Williams.

"Please take the time to hold conversations with your children about the ducklings and the importance of enjoying them from a distance.

"We are fortunate to have them choosing our school to raise their young and want it to remain a place where they feel safe."

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 23 Oct 2020
Michelle Williams, Woy Woy Public School

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Gordon Ferguson receives Paul Harris Fellow

The Rotary Club of Woy Woy has presented Mr Gordon Ferguson with a Paul Harris Fellow for his commitment and service to swimming.

"Mr Ferguson has been involved with the Woy Woy Swim Club since the mid-1950s when swimming races were held in the tidal pools at Woy Woy, before the original pool was built," said Rotary club president Ms Joan Redmond.

"He is a life member of the club and was President from 1969 to 1982.

"He was also a three-time president of Umina Surf Life Saving Club, club captain, three-time Club Person of the Year, the recipient of a Silver Medallion in 1986 and received his trainer qualifications in 1987.

"Mr Ferguson is a life member of Ettalong Pelicans Masters Swimming and a referee and official for Master's Swimming Australia.

"To this day he referees his



Joan Redmond, Bill Cook and Gordon Ferguson with Rotary District 9685 assistant governor Christine Owen

club's swim meets, as well as meets at school district level, and at NSW championship and open water swim meets," said Rotary club president Ms Joan Redmond.

Mr Bill Cook who nominated Mr Ferguson for the award thanked Mr Ferguson for his dedication and commitment to swimming on the

Peninsula and for his service to the broader swimming fraternity.

The presentation was made at the club's recent Community Awards Night held at Everglades Country Club.

SOURCE:
Media release, 30 Oct 2020
Joan Redmond, Rotary Woy Woy

Peninsula Ducks fields its own softball teams

Peninsula Ducks Softball Club will be fielding its own under-9s tee-ball and under-12s modball teams this season.

The club has the minimum numbers in both teams and is looking for more players to fill out each team.

The club has had some registrations for an under-16s junior softball team, but needs extra players to field its own team.

The club has received Club Grants funding from the Everglades Country Club.

"Last week I attended the Everglades Country Club where the Peninsula Ducks Softball Club was presented with a cheque," said club manager Ms Di Barrymore.

"We are grateful for the support Everglades Country Club has



Di Barrymore receives cheque

provided our club over the past three years.

"This funding goes a long way to giving more people access to our fantastic family-friendly sport."

SOURCE:
Social media, 30 Oct 2020
Di Barrymore, Peninsula Ducks

Bridge club to hold Melbourne Cup Pairs

Brisbane Water Bridge Club will play Melbourne Cup Pairs on Tuesday, November 3, at noon.

Members may enter their bookings online, on the notice board or at the club.

Members have been invited

to bring their own "nibbles" and lunches, with drinks being provided at a cost of \$20.

Entries to the GNOT gold point event on Wednesday, November 4, have closed.

SOURCE:
Website, 28 Oct 2020
Brisbane Water Bridge Club

Lions club plans its Christmas cakes

The Woy Woy Peninsula Lions Club is planning its regular sale of Christmas cakes and puddings, despite many of its activities being curtailed by coronavirus restrictions.

The club plans to make the cakes and puddings available for sale at banks, chemists and other retail stores from November 15.

The club plans to have a stall at Deepwater Plaza Shopping Centre in Woy Woy on each of three days in coming weeks: Friday November

20, Saturday November 28 and Friday December 4.

Prices are expected to be the same as last year.

The club hopes to resume its monthly car boot sale and barbecue on the last Sunday of each month from January 31, Covid-19 restrictions permitting.

It is also planning for its Annual Tea Cosy and Devonshire Tea on the long weekend in June.

SOURCE:
Website, 28 Oct 2020
Woy Woy Peninsula Lions Club



Alan Rhodes and Pat Neal



Shane Waddell and Yvonne Gordon

Yvonne and Shane are mixed pairs champions

Yvonne Gordon and Shane Waddell have become the 2020 Mixed Pairs champions at Umina Beach Bowling Club, winning the final played yesterday, Sunday, November 1.

They defeated Pat Neal and Allan Rhodes, 15-12.

"The final was played in cold, wet and windy conditions, not at all nice," said men's club secretary Mr Peter Springett.

"However, all four bowlers had to play in it.

"Despite the poor conditions, there were some good bowls played."

The semi-finals were played on Sunday, October 18.

Kaye Cavanagh and Glen Simington played against Pat Neal and Allan Rhodes, while Yvonne Gordon and Shane Waddell played against Tania Valli and Peter Springett.

In their game, "Kaye and Glen took the early lead over championship favourites Pat and Allan", said Mr Springett.

He said that once Pat and Allan

took the lead, they kept going to win, despite a late surge by Yvonne and Glen.

In the other semi-final, Yvonne and Shane took an early lead, but Tania and Peter hung in, drew level and then eventually took the lead, when Shayne played the bowl of the match.

"He drove both Tania and Peter's shot bowls out of the head to pick up three shots to win by two shots.

SOURCE:
Social media, 1 Nov 2020
Peter Springett, UBMB

More people in hall

The Pearl Beach Progress Association has taken advantage of changed government regulations to allow more people in its hall.

Community centres and halls were allowed to have 30 people at a hall from October 23, provided they also complied with the four square metre per person rule.

The association updated its Covid-19 Safety Plan to reflect the

increase from the previous limit of 20 people.

Wedding receptions and memorial services were allowed 37 people in the Pearl Beach hall based on the four square metre per person rule.

Still only 20 people plus an instructor were allowed for exercise classes.

SOURCE:
Website, 24 Oct 2020
Pearl Beach Progress Association