

Centrelink move to Woy Woy heralds 'new era' - Wicks

The closure of the Centrelink office in Ettalong is the result of the owner of the building having received council approval to develop the property for other purposes, according to a media release issued by Member for Robertson Ms Lucy Wicks.

"Services and staff from the Ettalong Service Centre will be consolidated with the Woy Woy Service Centre so that we maintain the highest levels of government services and supports are not diminished for Peninsula residents."

"Services Australia has been searching for a suitable alternate property in Ettalong or surrounding suburbs for around two years but no alternative sites were identified."

"Services Australia will be advertising an expression of interest to establish an agent service in Ettalong to continue services to the Ettalong community."

The Services Australia service centre in Woy Woy would undergo "a transformation to a new offering, specially tailored to provide state-of-the-art government services".

Ms Wicks said: "Peninsula residents are set to benefit from a new era of government service delivery."



The Woy Woy Service Centre would be the first location on the east coast "to enjoy such a transformation".

"Woy Woy will provide upgraded self-service facilities and digital support, appointment-based services, and connections to specialist services including tailored assistance for older Australians."

Ms Wicks said "the full suite of new and improved services" would become available from February 15.

The current Ettalong Service Centre will open for the last time this Friday, February 12.

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch said that shutting down the Ettalong Service Centre would force Centrelink customers to use the already-packed Woy Woy facility.

"Cutting essential services for our community in the middle of a pandemic is disgusting," she said. "We've got a huge fight on our hands."

"Let's back our seniors and get back our Service Centre."

SOURCE:

Media release, 1 Feb 2021
Lucy Wicks, Member for Robertson
Social media, 29 Jan 2021
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford

Tesch condemns Ettalong service centre closure

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch has condemned the closure of the Ettalong Service Centre.

"The Liberal Government is cutting an essential service for our older residents in Ettalong, with many unable to go to the Woy Woy Service Centre or travel to Gosford."

She said consolidating the service with the Woy Woy centre and introducing an appointment-based, digital arrangement in an East Coast first was "beyond ignorant".

"Here on the Peninsula we know we have the highest number of people aged over 65 on the Central Coast and we know our seniors are not always digitally literate."

"Our seniors are not guinea pigs

for Australia and our community should not be treated as such," Ms Tesch said.

"We deserve the very best and this is unacceptable."

"The Liberal Government have already experienced the issues that were faced when they took away our fully-functioning Roads and Maritime Services Centre and eventually replaced it with a Service NSW digital kiosk."

"We all rallied against the closure with over 10,000 people signing the 2015 petition."

"Yet despite our community efforts the digital kiosk went ahead and proved to be an absolute disaster with locals struggling to access essential services."

Ms Tesch said now was not the time to limit and change our services.

"At a time when people are reeling from the onslaught of Covid throughout Australia why would anyone think it is a good idea to cut an essential service and change the way it is delivered?"

"The plans were announced with limited warning, with many still unaware of the changes."

Ms Tesch said she would keep fighting for adequate services.

"We already had to battle to get back our Roads and Maritime Services Centre and we are more than ready to get back our service centre in Ettalong."

"The Liberal Government cannot keep cutting our services on the Peninsula and using us as a test for digital-firsts."

SOURCE:

Media release, 28 Jan 2021
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford

Lions Club 'astounded' by cake sale success

Woy Woy Peninsula Lions Club has sold a near record \$11,285 in Christmas cakes and puddings this year, raising \$2800 for club projects.

"We were astounded at the success of our sales considering the impact of Covid-19 during the months of November and December," said club president Mr Ian Taylor.

"We donated some \$225 of cakes and puddings to local charities."

"We will now be able to disburse these monies to our many locally-supported organisations over the next few months."

"These funds were so vital to our club as we have not been able to hold our monthly car boot sales and the annual June long weekend Tea Cosy event since February last

year when Covid sent us all into lock down."

He said many local pharmacies, banks and other local businesses had helped with the sales.

The club set up a stall in Deepwater Plaza for three days during November and December and the sales from these days also far exceeded expectations, he said.

"We are coming back for our car boot sale on February 28 and the Tea Cosy will be on the long weekend in June."

"This year it will be different as we must comply with Covid-19 restrictions."

"That will mean having stall holders set up at least two metres apart and limiting movement around the site."

SOURCE:

Media release, 7 Feb 2021
Greg Head, Woy Woy Peninsula Lions Club

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Peninsula News – a community effort

Peninsula News is researched, written, produced and distributed by the local community for the Peninsula community.

It is produced voluntarily by our non-profit community group, The Peninsula's Own News Service Inc, and its supporters.

A voluntary non-profit group has owned and operated Peninsula News over the past 21 years, and continues under the leadership of its founding editor Mark Snell.

Although many offers have been made, more help and support is needed, and community involvement is welcomed.

Volunteer opportunities are available in all aspects of the newspaper's production, from news gathering and photography, through to seeking advertising and administration.

It will continue with the same editorial policies that have seen it develop an extraordinary level

of recognition, appreciation and support over the years: comprehensive and exclusive coverage of news relevant to the Peninsula, encouragement of well-informed discussion of issues affecting our future locally and support for the Peninsula community.

Peninsula News is distributed through shops and other local public venues, including Deep Water Plaza, Peninsula Plaza and Peninsula Leisure Centre in Woy Woy, Woolworths and Aldi in Umina, as well as Ettalong IGA, Ettalong Diggers Club and Ettalong Bowling Club, and a variety of smaller outlets.

SOURCE:

Mark Snell, editor
21 Jan 2021

Our next issue:

**Monday,
February 22**

NEWS email: contributions@peninsula.news

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
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NEXT EDITION: Peninsula News 513
Deadline: Thursday, February 18
Publication date: Monday, February 22

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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.

Recognition for Umina Community Group

Umina Community Group has received a certificate to mark the Community Recognition Statement made by Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch about the group in State Parliament in July last year.

The statement was made on July 28 last year, but the certificate was only delivered to the group last week on January 21.

In her statement, Ms Tesch said: "I would like to commend the Umina Community Group for its unwavering commitment

to beautifying the Woy Woy Peninsula and more recently the Runway Park on Trafalgar Ave, Umina Beach.

"Umina Community Group has coordinated a series of weeding and mulching works to maintain the Runway Park to ensure it is healthy and looking great for residents and visitors to the park.

"I would also like to commend the assistance the group provides to Central Coast Council in educating the community about correct tree planting methods and where to correctly plant trees.

"I look forward to continuing to

support the Umina Community Group and the work they do to improve the Gosford Electorate."

Group secretary Mr Peter Springgett said the statement was deserving recognition of the group's devoted and energetic Runway Park team and the Grow Urban Street Tree members "for the great work that they have achieved in our area over the past two years".

He thanked Ms Tesch for her support.

SOURCE:
Social media, 21 Jan 2021
Peter Springgett, Umina Community Group

Supplying a mower that can't be started

A lot of time at the Umina Beach Men's Shed is spent with mowers and whipper snippers, looking for a spark to get them fired up and running, according to Shed secretary Mr Vic Brown.

But when the dementia team at the Peninsula Village asked for a mower that couldn't be started, the Men's Shed took up the challenge.

The village was looking for a mower with no cylinder compression, no spark, no sharp edges or blades.

The fuel tank needed to be cleaned out and sealed, and comprehensively cleaned and detailed.

Mr Brown said an old retired mower had a rework and a facelift and is off for new life at the Village.

Shed treasurer Mr Bill Stedman is pictured



delivering the mower to the Village.

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 30 Dec 2020
Vic Brown, Umina Beach Men's Shed

New treasurer?

The Ettalong Beach Arts and Crafts Centre is looking for a treasurer.

"We are seeking an interested and appropriately skilled person to take over the Treasurer role," said centre president Mr Peter Mulholland.

"Pam Dennis kindly continued in the role for 2020, but will be stepping down at the annual general meeting on March 8.

"We will need someone to step up to continue as an organisation."

Anyone interested should call 0412 155 391.

SOURCE:
Social media, 3 Feb 2021
Peter Mulholland, EBACC

Real estate agent tells of Peninsula challenges

A Umina real estate agent has given an impromptu talk to his Rotary club about the challenges currently being faced by real estate agents on the Peninsula.

Rotarian Mr Tom Tregent, principal of the local Raine and Home agency, spoke at a recent meeting of the Rotary Club of Umina Beach.

Club president Mr Bruce Croft reported that Mr Tregent "gave an impromptu and very informative

talk on the current fragile circumstances of real estate on the Peninsula".

"One estate agent has recently shut up shop and Tom predicted that more could follow," he said.

"The main issue is lack of properties for sale and rent, and the high prices cashed up buyers are willing to pay to live on the Peninsula."

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 3 Feb 2021
Bruce Croft, Rotary Umina Beach

January rainfall one third below average

January ended with a monthly rainfall of 80.7mm, a third (33.9 per cent) below the average rainfall for the month of 122mm.

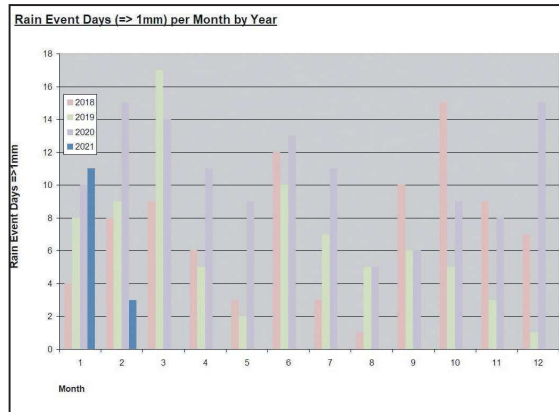
More than half of this, 46.1mm, fell in the last four days of January, according to figures supplied by Mr Jim Morrison of Umina.

Five days in January had more than five millimetres of rain, and another six days had at least one millimetre.

A further 14mm has fallen in the first five days of February, bringing the year's total to 94.7mm.

The average February rainfall total is 160mm, with an average cumulative total at the end of February of 282mm.

SOURCE:
Spreadsheet, 5 Feb 2021
Jim Morrison, Umina



January had 11 days with rainfall greater than one millimetre. This is more than each of the previous three years.

Crouch moots inquiry into Council

Parliamentary Secretary for the Central Coast Mr Adam Crouch has raised the prospect that a formal public inquiry could be held into Central Coast Council after the end of the administration period in April.

Mr Crouch said that, after the end of the Administrator's extended term on April 29, "legal constraints mean that the Minister can allow the councillors to return to their jobs, or alternatively, begin a public inquiry".

"It's obvious that our community has lost faith in the Council, and the Minister will be making a final decision closer to April," he said.

Mr Crouch also said he did not support the 15 per cent rate rise.

"What frustrates me is that I have no control over whether a rate rise is implemented... rate rises are controlled by Central Coast Council and IPART only.

"I have been urging everyone in our community to go online to the IPART website and provide reasons for why you do not support a rate rise."

Mr Crouch claimed that the State Government had asked the Council about its financial situation prior to the dismissal, "but information was not forthcoming".

"Many of the issues at Central Coast Council were kept hidden from the NSW Government," he said.

"There are also many things still unknown about Central Coast Council's financial situation which the Administrator is continuing to uncover."

SOURCE:

Social media, 1 Feb 2021
Adam Crouch, Member for Terrigal



Tesch calls for public inquiry into 'failed amalgamation'

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch has been joined by other Central Coast Labor members of parliament to call for a public inquiry into the "failed amalgamation of Central Coast Council".

"Central Coast Council is an amalgamated council established by the Liberals in the face of stiff community opposition," she said.

The Minister for Local Government Ms Shelley Hancock should "guarantee a transparent

and honest review of the Council's position", Ms Tesch said.

"They need to take responsibility for the mess they've created."

The joint media release with Member for Wyong Mr David Harris, as well as Member for The Entrance Mr David Mehan and Member for Swansea Ms Yasmin Catley, said that "structural problems were baked into the new organisation from Day One", when Wyong Shire and Gosford City Councils amalgamated "against the wishes of local residents" by the

former Baird Liberal Government.

Mr Harris said: "We are calling on the State Government to establish a public inquiry into the collapse of Central Coast Council."

Mr Mehan said: "It is not acceptable for the community to foot the bill for the ideological folly of a failed council amalgamation process which the Liberals persisted with in spite of significant public opposition."

SOURCE:

Media release, 5 Feb 2021
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford

Busy Australia Day for Marine Rescue

Australia Day was a busy day for Marine Rescue Central Coast.

Boat crews were busy from the moment they logged on for patrol.

Marine Rescue vessel Central Coast 21 and rescue watercraft jetski Central Coast 11 at about 9:20am by a group of people on a ski boat.

The boat was having some engine trouble and the occupants requested a tow back to Gosford ramp.

Central Coast 21, skippered by Mr Phil Page with crew Mr Kevin Sullivan and Ms Megan Loaney, towed them back to the ramp.

They continued their patrol along with Central Coast 11, operated by Mr Mitch Giles.

Both of our rescue vessels headed out into Broken Bay and returned to the base via the channel around St Huberts island.

Central Coast 11 was flagged down in the channel by the skipper of a runabout.

The outboard had been playing up in Woy Woy Bay.

The skipper decided to head back to his home on St Huberts when the outboard stalled just around the corner from his house.

Central Coast 11 set up the tow and got the runabout and skipper back home.

The rescue watercraft was being put back onto its trailer at around noon, when a call was

received from a group of women on a rented barbecue boat.

The vessel was beached on Pelican Island.

Both Central Coast 11 and Central Coast 21 were sent to the incident.

The boat was not able to be pulled off the sand and the occupants were told that they would have to wait until the change of tide.

At 1:30pm, a call was received from a runabout in Woy Woy Bay, experiencing electrical issues and requiring a tow back to the ramp at Correa Bay.

Training boat Central Coast 13 with Mr Doug Fitzgerald as the master, and Mr Bob Gilbody as crew were dispatched and completed the tow.

Soon after their return, a 21ft ski boat at Maitland Bay reported its engine would not start.

Central Coast 21 was tasked with skipper Mr Page and crew Mr Fitzgerald and Mr Gilbody.

The vessel was towed to Lintern St ramp at Davistown at about 5pm.

Central Coast 21 finished the day taking over a tow to Gosford by Marine Rescue Broken Bay at the Rip Bridge which was completed at 5:45pm.

SOURCE:

Social media, 26 Jan 2021
Marine Rescue Central Coast
Photo: Kevin Sullivan

'But the dog ate my ... cake'

It was a case of "the dog ate my homework" for Ms Lin Griffiths when she entered the Country Women's Association Umina Beach branch cake competition on January 30.

Ms Griffiths would have won second prize in the section for her peach blossom cake, if the dog had not eaten it.

Ms Margaret Key cooked the winning peach blossom cake.

In the fruit cake section, Ms Lucy Heighington won, with Ms Wendy Goswell second and Ms Kay Kennaugh third.
Plain Buttercake



Ms Celia O'Meara won the plain buttercake section, with Ms Fiona Duckworth second.

Ms Coral Pawelko came third and also won the steamed fruit pudding section.

Ms Doreen Moulds was winner of the tomato relish section, with Ms Duckworth second and Ms Pawelko third.

Ms Duckworth was winner of the orange tarragon jelly competition with Ms Griffiths runner-up.

Ms O'Meara won the spicy fruit chutney section with Ms Duckworth runner-up.

In the under-12s jam drop competition, William (10) came first and Elizabeth (11) came second.

SOURCE:

Social media, 30 Jan 2021
CWA Umina Beach



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Plan to add car spaces and mezzanine to Umina Mall

Modifications to plans for the new Umina Mall would see 15 more car spaces, more paved area cafe seating and a new 188 square metre mezzanine for the planned medical centre.

The changes have been requested in an application to Central Coast Council by ADW Johnson Pty Ltd on behalf of owners Laundry Exhibition Pty Ltd.

While the site area will increase by 711 square metres and the gross floor area by 233 square metres, the site coverage reduces by 2.4 per cent and the building height is reduced by 1.8 metres.

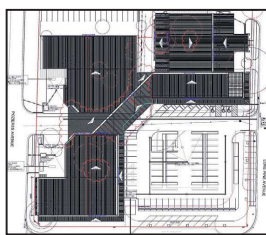
The application requests changes to the three proposed buildings on the site.

For Building A, it requests increased paved area in front of the cafe and fruit and vegetable tenancies to accommodate 32 square metres of cafe seating.

It also asks that an opening be added in the west wall of the bottle shop to create a drive-through window pick up.

For Building B, toilets would be relocated south closer to loading dock and out of direct pedestrian circulation.

A mezzanine level with 188 square metres of office space ancillary to the medical centre



would be added in Building C.

Floor areas for each tenancy have increased or decreased minimally to account for calculation errors in the original plans and to accommodate the minor internal changes to stairs, entries and

toilets, the application by ADW Johnson said.

The overall difference equated to an increase of 9.6 square metres.

Internal site access would be improved through additional paving across the junction of Buildings A, B and C to create a single level between buildings.

The roof line would be simplified and pedestrian awnings added to provide weather protection between the three buildings.

The amended plans also show a bus bay on the western side of Ocean Beach Rd, removal of the zebra crossing, as well as removal of nine angled parking in Ocean

Beach Rd and nine 90-degree parking spaces in Lone Pine Ave to comply with approval conditions.

One public submission had been received by the end of last week, objecting to the drive-through liquor pick-up window, saying it could cause conflicting and confusing traffic flow in the area.

"It's hard to see how you would accept or pass a carton of beer through a car window."

The application is open for public comment until February 17.

SOURCE:
DA Tracker, 6 Feb 2021
DA37199/2009, Central Coast Council

Council administration extended three months

The NSW Government has extended the suspension of Central Coast Council for an additional three months.

Minister for Local Government Ms Shelley Hancock said it followed a request from interim administrator Mr Dick Persson for more time so he could continue to develop and implement a recovery strategy to address the financial crisis.

"The interim administrator's

30-day report alone made a compelling case for more time to address the significant financial issues and dysfunction plaguing the council," Mrs Hancock said.

"In particular, Mr Persson is focusing on recruiting a new general manager and putting a new budget in place for next financial year."

SOURCE:
Media release, 25 Jan 2021
Shelley Hancock, Minister for Local Government

South St proposal attracts second-most comments

A proposed \$3.2 million six-unit development in South St, Umina, has attracted 23 comments on the Planning Alerts website and 18 submissions to Central Coast Council.

This is the second highest number of comments received in NSW for recent planning applications, according to Planning Alerts.

An application for a boarding house in Lane Cove West was the only application in the state to receive more, with 27 comments.

The comment period for the South St application closed last Friday.

Most submissions opposed to the development – objecting to the number of units proposed, its effect on parking and traffic, and to the hard surface area and lack of trees and vegetation.

A typical comment was: "South St already leaves no ability for residents to park outside their home during the seven days of the week."



"Bunnings staff, Bunnings shoppers, West St businesses and shoppers, beach-goers all fill up the current spaces."

"Six villas also leaves no room for significant gardens or trees to offset the increase in hard surfaces."

However, three submissions did support the application.

Development consultants Clarke Dowdle and Associates, which submitted the application, said: "The development entails six dwellings with basement parking."

"The residential flat building would include two storeys above ground with a basement to allow undercover parking for 10 spaces (including one disabled parking

space).

"The unit mix would include one three-bedroom unit and two two-bedroom units on the ground floor and two three-bedroom dwellings and one two-bedroom dwelling on the upper floor."

The consultants said the building would have reinforced concrete footings, timber framing, prefabricated roof trusses and colorbond roof sheeting.

"The external finished include a mixture of textured claddings and powder coating aluminum windows."

"The proposed units provide public open space area and landscaping around the perimeter of the ground floor."

It has "areas to store mobile waste collection bins away from the street and clothes drying areas that would be screen from other dwellings".

The proposal exceeds planning requirements for a floor space ratio of 0.6:1. The proposal has a floor space ratio of 0.75:1.

It does not comply with setbacks required by the planning provisions, and the basement carpark extends into the "deep soil" area, which is also not allowed under the provisions.

The maximum width and depth requirement of 25 metres is exceeded: 38 metres is proposed.

The maximum length of eight metres for unarticulated wall is exceeded with a proposed length of 19 metres.

Minimum sunlight and open space requirements are also not met.

SOURCE:
DA Tracker, 5 Feb 2021
DA60728/2021, Central Coast Council
Website, 5 Feb 2021
planningalerts.org.au

Referendum on councillors

Central Coast Council interim administrator Mr Dick Persson has formally resolved to hold a referendum in September about reducing the number of councillors to nine.

"It is my view that 15 councillors is too many for the effective operation of a council," he said.

"This large number does not facilitate collaborative and effective decision making, and often results in an adversarial environment

which does not benefit the Central Coast community.

"The question will include an option on wards," Mr Persson said.

The referendum is expected to cost at least \$214,700.

If adopted, the Central Coast would have one of the lowest levels of local government representation in NSW.

The change would not take effect until September 2024.

SOURCE:
Central Coast Council agenda 1.4, 3 Feb 2021



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Posthumous OAM to Geoff Melville

Long-term member of Umina Rotary Club and Empire Bay resident, the late Mr Geoff Melville was awarded a posthumous OAM in the Australia Day Honours list.

"Geoff had been a member of Umina Rotary for 40 years," said club secretary Mr Mike Curley.

"He had held every position on the board of the club and was president in 1984-1985 and in 2014-2015.

"He received an unprecedented four Paul Harris Fellowship Awards being the highest number of awards ever granted by Umina Rotary.

"Up until his death in mid-2019, Geoff had been chair of the Umina Rotary public relations committee and editor of the club's weekly bulletin," said Mr Curley.

"Each week, he produced a bulletin of 24 pages of Rotary and local information plus a great array of interesting and topical stories that was distributed to club members, other Rotary clubs, past Rotary exchange students and members of the local community.

"He was also active in fundraising for various local and international projects of the club.

"In 2017, Geoff received the Rotary International Avenues of Service Citation for individual



Rotarians awarded by Rotary worldwide in recognition of his outstanding Rotary service," Mr Curley said.

"Geoff was also very actively involved in the Empire Bay community where he ran his own real estate agency for many years," he said.

"Some described him as the Mayor of Empire Bay.

"He was patron and past president of Empire Bay School.

"He was a past president of the Empire Bay Progress Association, and he organised many local functions, including the local Anzac Day celebrations.

"He was also a member of Empire Bay Probus Club.

"He was a committee member of Peninsula Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal from 2001-2019 and was Peninsula Zone chairman from 2016-2019.

"His work in the Empire Bay community was recognised by the State Government earlier this year when he received a 2019 NSW Seniors Local Achievement Award.

"Geoff served as an honorary director of Peninsula Villages for 16 years and was very pleased and proud when he was made a life member of Peninsula Villages.

"As chair of its building committee, he was involved in the acquisition of a number of properties and survived long enough to see the new building start to emerge between Lone Pine Ave and Pozieres Ave in Umina that now provides additional aged care accommodation and facilities.

"Geoff had also been a great supporter of Brisbane Water Secondary College other local schools over many years.

"For his work on the Peninsula through Rotary, for Peninsula Villages and local schools, Geoff Melville was awarded a second 2019 NSW Seniors Local Achievement Award by the State Government," Mr Curley said.

SOURCE:

Media release, 3 Feb 2021
Michael Curley, Rotary Umina Beach

Service to women

Dr Denise Fleming of Pearl Beach has been appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours for "significant service to women in business through a range of roles".

Announcing the award in Federal Parliament, Member for Robertson Ms Lucy Wicks said: "Dr Fleming was a former chairwoman of the Special Olympics and the founder of a management and global coaching business.

"She has also served as a director of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority and the Darling Harbour Authority."

Dr Fleming was a councillor for the Chief Executive Women

organisation from 1991-1994.

Her government appointments have included being a director of NSW Adult and Community Education 2004-2005, the Darling Harbour Authority 1989-1994 and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority 1991-1994.

She was also a director of Employment National Ltd 1997-1999 and of Insearch Ltd 1995-1998, and a member of the Australian Archives Advisory Council 1984-1988.

She was awarded the Australian Sports Medal in 2000 and the Centenary Medal in 2001.

SOURCE:
Media release, 25 Jan 2021
Rob Ayling, Governor-General's Office

Peninsula events for women's festival

Two events will be held on the Peninsula in March as part of the Central Coast Festival of Women.

The Umina Beach branch Country Women's Association will hold "Snowball Afternoon Teas" will be held over two weeks in March.

The second event, Rayon Riot III, will be presented by the Naughty Noodle Fun Haus at Ettalong on Saturday, March 13.

"The festival is held each year, around International Women's Day on March 8," said Central Coast International Women's Day Combined Committee organiser Ms Margaret Heathcote.

It aimed to promote and celebrate the work of Central Coast women's groups, she said.

SOURCE:
Media release, 3 Feb 2021
Margaret Heathcote, CCIWDC



Liesl Tesch MP
Member for Gosford

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Health

Aged

Aged care CEO visits his parents

The chief executive of a Woy Woy aged care home says he knows what it is like to be unable to visit elderly relatives.

"Last week I was fortunate enough to finally visit my parents in regional Victoria," said Mr Matt Downie of Blue Wave Living.

"It has been more than a year since I have been able to last see them because of ongoing state border closures coinciding with when I had time off.

"While we have kept in touch via

phone, and shared photos, it's not the same as catching up in person.

"The changes that occur in people over time are never quite relayed via phone and photos.

"So I was very thankful that the border control relaxed enough while my children were still on school holidays."

Mr Downie said that visitor restrictions had now largely been lifted across the aged care sector.

"We welcome any family and friends to visit loved ones in care at BlueWave.

"Residents can now receive as many visitors as they like.

"Visits do have to occur during our visiting hours, and we do have to continue to screen and temperature check all visitors to site.

"Masks continue to be a requirement as it has been clearly established as one of the more effective defences against the risk of spreading Covid.

SOURCE:

Website, 2 Feb 2021
Matt Downie, Blue Wave Living



Testing at Sea Scouts hall

A new Covid-19 testing facility has opened at the Woy Woy Sea Scouts Hall at Lions Park, Woy Woy.

The walk-in clinic will be operated by 4Cyte Pathology from 9am to 4:30pm daily at the hall at 2 North Burge Rd, Woy Woy.

It is operated by the same organisation that operates the drive-in clinic in Manns Rd, West Gosford.

Testing available for all patients of all ages, and is bulk-billed on Medicare.

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch said: "Anyone experiencing symptoms should seek testing immediately and isolate until they receive their results."

Test results are usually received within 48 hours.

SOURCE:

Social media, 2 Feb 2021
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford

Rotary club continues music therapy project

The Rotary Club of Woy Woy will expand its "Music Therapy for Dementia" project.

The project provides headsets with a built-in memory card that can be programmed with music familiar to each patient to improve their

quality of life, said club president Ms Joan Redmond.

She said that Woy Woy aged care provider Blue Wave Living would introduce the headsets as part of its wellbeing program for dementia patients.

Rotary club vice-president

Mr Charles Brock was a former chairman of Blue Wave Living, and was responsible for getting the project underway, Ms Redmond said.

SOURCE:

Newsletter, 25 Jan 2021
Joan Redmond, Rotary Woy Woy

Forum

Democracy is a fragile thing

I wonder is it my age or is my naivete that I find some things difficult to understand.

I returned from a holiday and just couldn't find the Peninsula News.

I could only find some new paper on the patch.

When I did find the Peninsula News, it was a shadow of its former self and I presumed that the new bloke had cornered all the advertising.

I wondered just what had happened to loyalty, after all, the Peninsula News has served us well for almost 23 years.

We have heard a lot from the Peninsula Chamber of Commerce over the years but we have also heard from many ordinary people in the street.

Isn't this what democracy is about?

We don't yet live in a real democracy, for few of my views are represented by anyone in

power but we are hopefully moving towards it and hearing from ordinary people is a step in the right direction.

Then I found that we had yet another expensive Administrator instead of a Council and that we were half a billion dollars in the red.

I wrote to this Administrator asking how anybody could misuse or misdirect such a large amount of money.

Why had we been paying an auditor or a general manager?

Of course I have received no reply.

I understand from the papers that there are 27 other councils in a similar position, many of them being amalgamations like ours.

This is surely not possible.

I smell a rat.

Is the State government finding the lack of regular income from what we used to own, such as the Land Titles Office, a problem for Treasury?

Do they want more power?

Do they just want to sell off OUR assets and heritage?

I understand that we might have a choice between selling off our libraries and open space, or a rate rise.

After all why would anyone in power want the public to have libraries; people might begin to think and that is dangerous.

Despite the pandemic showing the essential value of green, open space for mental health, we have all been taught that open space is more important for development; that brings in money.

When I mention this loss of funds to other rate-payers, some of them seem unworried.

As they say, if they worried about every problem like this, they would slit their throats but isn't this what dictators depend on?

Democracy is a very fragile thing, under stress across the world.

Without independent journalists and papers such as the Peninsula News, we would never hear what those in power or in big business are up to.

Think of the businesses which have been mis-using Job Keeper whilst others are suffering and will suffer still more after Job Keeper goes in March.

Do I just accept that this is how the human species bumbles along or can I still retain some hope?

It's up to us to make our voices heard.

Write to this Administrator and ask for answers.

After all that is what he is being paid for.

Also be careful what you wish for when making a decision about open spaces and libraries, versus a few dollars extra in rates.

SOURCE:

Email, 29 Jan 2021
Margaret Lund, Woy Woy Bay

Display raised a record \$1956

We have a light display at Christmas every year at our home at 380 Booker Bay Rd, Booker Bay.

At the display, we raise money for Vision Australia.

This year, despite the Covid-19 pandemic, people were very generous and contributed a record amount \$1956.

Visitors obeyed the Covid rules and were pleased that the lights were on this year.

SOURCE:

Email, 25 Jan 2021
Shirley Crockett, Booker Bay

Open letter to acting Council CEO

I refer to your letter of January 13 concerning a possible increase in council rates.

It appears apparent that ratepayers are going to have to pick up the bill for the incompetence of council in recent times.

From your letter it would appear that an increase will have to take place no matter what - it is the amount that is in question.

As a ratepayer I understand the necessity to replenish funds given that it is unlikely the State government will intervene with "a bail out".

While I will have no alternative but to accept your end decision, I advise I will not pay any increased rate until such time as council publicly advises the following:

Who authorised the use of the so-called restricted funds?

Why were funds spent on "nice to have" projects instead of pressing items such as road maintenance - and did the full

council approve such use?

On what date will council release the unredacted minutes of all Audit committee meetings and correspondence for the period 1 January, 2017 to 30 December 2020?

What action - legal and/or otherwise - has, or will be taken, against persons both elected and employed for this use/misuse of council funds, and when is this action scheduled to be taken?

Council is employed by us ratepayers and we have a right to know the answers to these questions.

Hiding facts and actions under the guise of such information not being in the interest of council in general, employees and councillors is not acceptable and cannot be justified.

This matter is a public issue that requires immediate release of complete truth and openness.

SOURCE:

Email, 30 Jan 2021
Mike Hutton OAM, Umina Beach

Public Notices

The Peninsula Day Branch of the N.S.W. Labor Party

meets the

2nd Monday of each month
from February to December

The meetings commence at 1.00pm and are conducted in the **CWA Hall Woy Woy**, opposite Fishermans Wharf.

The meetings are well conducted and encourage interesting and diverse conversations.

All interested persons are most welcome.

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Talent agencies seek extras in Umina

At least two Sydney talent agencies held an open "casting call" for extras in Umina last week.

One agency was looking for people of both sexes aged over 18 years from within the area for what was described as a "huge TV show".

"We are looking for people ... who are willing and able to work for three days straight doing whatever the director may need them too, like eating the same food and drinking the same drinks for three days straight whatever that may be (burgers and milkshakes at a diner etc)," said ISpy Agency founder Ms Miriam Spry.

"This is an action scene and all extras must be comfortable being around armoured weapons and approve of the above before we see them."

"Once they are cast, they are locked in for three days."

Shooting would be in early March.

Another agency was looking for "Umina-Ettalong locals ... aged 50 plus ... couples welcome" for a "feature film".

SOURCE:

Website, 22 Jan 2021
Miriam Spry, ISpy Agency

Umina school holds swimming carnival on Friday

Umina Beach Public School's swimming carnival will be held on Friday, February 12, at the Peninsula Leisure Centre, without parents or carers permitted to attend.

"All primary children are expected to attend this event, as well as Year 2 students who turn eight this year and are competent 50m swimmers," said relieving principal Mr Chad Tsakissiris.

"Year 2 students who are not competing in swimming events will remain at school," he said.

"The age group for events is the age your child is turning this year, ie students turning 10 in 2021 will

compete in the Under-10s' events.

"All children will be travelling by bus to and from the pool.

"The cost of the bus plus pool entry is \$8 per child."

Online entries close on Wednesday, February 10.

"Students must wear sport shorts and appropriate house colour T-shirt."

"They will need to bring their swimming costume, towel, school hat, recess, lunch and two drinks."

"There will be no access to the pool kiosk this year."

SOURCE:

Social media, 2 Feb 2021
Chad Tsakissiris, Umina Beach Public School



Rotary club donates backpacks to Umina campus

Woy Woy Rotary Club president Ms Joan Redmond (right) and secretary Ms Annette Kartton (left) were pictured on a visit to Umina campus of Brisbane Water Secondary College on January 29.

"They donated new school backpacks for students who may need them," said principal Ms Kerrie O'Heir.

"This is part of a larger program run by Woy Woy Rotary called Good Start."

Ms Redmond said the club purchased the backpacks for

the project, which aimed to help disadvantaged students entering the college.

"Our club continues to fund students, 14 to 16 years, to attend the Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment camps."

"We have several students eager to attend the summer camp which this year has been adapted for Covid and will be held on-line over two weekends in February."

SOURCE:

Social media, 29 Jan 2021
Kerrie O'Heir, BWSC Umina Newsletter, 25 Jan 2021

Joan Redmond, Rotary Woy Woy

Grant to paint Patonga hall

The Patonga Progress Hall is expected to receive a coat of paint following an allocation from the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund.

A grant of \$19,250 has been made to paint the exterior and interior of the Patonga Public Hall.

The grant was made to the

"Patonga Public Hall and Bush Fire Brigade Land Manager".

The land manager was given two months to accept the offer and 12 months to complete the project.

SOURCE:

Media release, 29 Jan 2021
Adam Crouch, Parliamentary Secretary Central Coast

Celebrating 60,000 years of human history

Activities held at Pearl Beach on Australia Day, January 26, have celebrated the 60,000-year human history of the continent and raised \$1650 for the Mingeletta Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation in Umina.

The activities were organised by the Pearl Beach Aboriginal History Group and the Pearl Beach Progress Association, with proceeds going to Mingeletta for the fourth year.

History Group organiser Ms Peggy Todd said 20 families entered the sand sculpture competition this year.

Other competitions included the Aussie Beach best-dressed family or group, thong throwing and coo-ee calling.

"Volunteers toiled from 6am to prepare a Covid-safe environment," she said.

"Pearl Beach loves an inclusive community event and everyone, including the barbecue crew, worked hard for Mingeletta."

She said proceeds from the day would be presented to Mingeletta's Auntie Dianne Edwards to help fund the group's activities and programs.

Progress association president Mr Russell Grove said Mingeletta was "a great initiative worthy of our support", providing a range of activities, including health, welfare and educational programs.

He said lamingtons and watermelon, "traditional Australian treats", were also available for sale to raise funds for the Salvation Army.



A competition to guess how many Australian-invented Minties and Fantaes there were in the large jar was also held.

He said the progress association had organised activities on Australia Day for many years.

"This year was no different except for the restrictions and procedures in place as a result of Covid-19."

"It was a great morning of fun and laughter bringing enjoyment to all who participated."

SOURCE:

Media release, 2 Feb 2021
Peggy Todd, Pearl Beach Aboriginal History Group
Website, 1 Feb 2021
Russell Grove, Pearl Beach Progress Association

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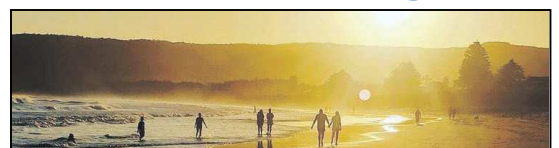


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Sport

Westcott named Ettalong bowler of the year

Ettalong Memorial Bowling Club held its Presentation Day on January 23, with the Ettalong Bowler of the Year 2020 trophy being awarded to Philip Westcott.

He won the award against 'some very high-quality competition', according to Bowls Central Coast secretary Mr Peter Springett.

"Last year, Philip won the Ettalong Major Singles championship and the Zone 15 Senior Singles championship and was runner-up in the Zone 15 Senior Fours and in the Ettalong club Triples championship.

The Most Improved trophy was awarded to Gary Eggleton.

Bowls Central Coast secretary Mr Doug Rose presented Bailey Meti with the Zone Under-18 Bowler of the Year badge and prize money.

"It would have taken a miracle for Bailey not to win the award,



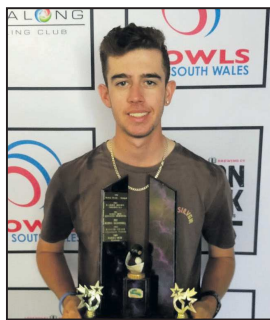
Philip Westcott

with his sensational grand slam of Under-18 titles," said Mr Springett. Bailey will turn 18 on October 21 this year.

"His record is outstanding.

"He has won four Singles, four Pairs and four Fours Championships.

"He won the Bowler of the Year



Bailey Meti

in 2016 at the age of only 13, in 2019 and in 2020 and undoubtedly will win 2021.

"In 2016 and 2021, he won the grand slam of all BCC Zone 15 Junior titles," said Mr Springett.

SOURCE:

Social media, 23 Jan 2021
Peter Springett, Bowls Central Coast

State bowls championship starts Wednesday

The State Bowls Championships will start at Ettalong Memorial Bowling Club on Wednesday 10th February 10, according to Bowls Central Coast publicity officer Mr Peter Springett.

The championships begin with the Champion of Champions Singles, which will run from February 10 to 15.

This will be followed by the Triples and Pairs Championships from February 15 to 19.

SOURCE:

Social media, 5 Feb 2021
Peter Springett, Bowls Central Coast

Everglades Men's Fours

The final of the Men's Fours competition was played at Everglades Bowling Club on Saturday, January 30, between Anthony Wakefield's team and Barry Cross's team.

Wakefield's team mates were Jim Haldane, Gary Anderson and Mark Robertson while Barry Cross had the support of Gary Clarke, Mal Hughes and Kevin Hughes.

"Wakefield's team got off to a great start and yet at the half way

mark it was 11-11," said Bowls Central Coast publicity officer Mr Peter Springett.

"With three multiple scores in quick time, Wakefield's team slowly pulled away winning the game 24-15."

Pictured are Anthony Wakefield, Jim Haldane, Gary Anderson and Mark Robertson.

SOURCE:

Social media, 30 Jan 2021
Peter Springett, Bowls Central Coast

Australia Day bridge

Brisbane Water Bridge Club played its Australia Day Pairs competition on January 26.

Results of the open competition were:

1. Christine Hadaway - Robin Vaughan (12) 190.2 (63.40 per cent), 0.60 red points.
2. Hope Tomlinson - Martin Johnson (8) 167.6 (55.87), 0.42
3. Elaine Hume - Peter Hume (3) 166.6 (55.53), 0.30
4. David Bowerman - Dasha Brandt (6) 163.0 (54.33), 0.20
5. Susan McCall - Pamela Joseph (1) 162.8 (54.27), 0.15
6. Joan Walsh - Julie Teague (5) 161.8 (53.93), 0.12
7. Barry Foster - Lorraine Lindsay (11) 160.2 (53.40)
8. Felicity Fane - Heather Brown (4) 137.4 (45.80)
9. Marilyn Jarrett - Jenny

- Buckley (10) 137.2 (45.73)
10. Meryl Duke - John Jensen (9) 130.6 (43.53)
11. Geoffrey Maltby - Edith Marshall (7) 113.6 (37.87)
12. John Drew - Alan Jones (2) 109.0 (36.33)

Results of novice competition were:

1. Blair Glass - Ian Newton (4) 76.0 (63.33), 0.20
2. John Aldersley - Beryl Lowry (5) 64.0 (53.33), 0.14
3. Denyse Stephens - Fay Cole (3) 60.0 (50.00), 0.05
4. Bob Lowry - Susan Pelham (2) 60.0 (50.00), 0.05
5. Helve Beale - Caroline Nichols (6) 58.0 (48.33)
6. Judith Lambkin - Connie Lewis (1) 42.0 (35.00)

SOURCE:

Website, 7 Jan 2021
Brisbane Water Bridge Club

Bridge events planned

The Brisbane Water Bridge Club has a number of events planned over the coming month.

Teams of Three will play on Thursday, February 11, with a midday start.

Valentines Day Pairs will be played on Monday, February 15.

Autumn Pairs will be played on Wednesday, March 3.

An Open Teams and Country Teams qualifier will be held all day on Monday, March 15, with a 9.30 start.

The Central Coast Bridge Club will hold a Mini Congress on Saturday and Sunday, March 27 and 28.

SOURCE:

Website, 4 Jan 2021
Brisbane Water Bridge Club

Ride from Woy Woy to Cowan

Central Coast Bicycle User Group will ride from Woy Woy railway station to Pie in the Sky cafe at Cowan and back from 6:30am on Sunday, February 21.

The six-hour ride is rated as medium-hard, with a distance of 95km and an altitude gain of 1800m.

Ride leader Mr Alan Corven said it would be "a moderate-paced ride through the picturesque Brisbane Water National Park and over the Hawkesbury River.

"Designed for more experienced riders, we mostly utilise the old

Pacific Hwy and include five longish climbs (Kariang, Mooney-Calga, PITS, Mt.White and Mooney-Somersby).

"There is nothing too steep, but you'll certainly know you've been up a few hills by the time you get home."

Cyclists may pick up the ride at Kariang about 40 minutes after the start and may opt out at Brooklyn for a train home.

For further information, call Alan on 0414 538 977.

SOURCE:

Social media, 4 Feb 2021
Alan Corven, CCBUG

Selected for university squad

Booker Bay Preschool staff member Ms Sharni Waters has been selected to play in the University of Newcastle Rugby Sevens squad.

"We are proud of you for being the only Central Coast girl selected in the squad," said preschool owner Ms Rhonda Waters.

"We are very lucky to have such a positive role model at Booker Bay Preschool."

SOURCE:

Social media, 1 Feb 2021
Rhonda Waters, Booker Bay Preschool



Southern Spirit cricket results

Results of games played last weekend, February 6 and 7, by Southern Spirit Cricket Club were:

First Grade: Southern Spirit1/4 drew Wyong 4/177cc (MR Wright 2/24, LE Cork 2/38).

Second Grade: Wyong 105 (JA Wilson 3/10, DA McInnes 2/11, LJ Bayliss 2/17) drew Southern Spirit.

Under 21 - Glenn Rowlands Shield grand final January 26: The Entrance4/109cc (LE Cork 2/16) def Southern Spirit 9/103 cc (ES Jones 43*, LJ Bayliss 29).

Third Grade: The Entrance 2/126 def Southern Spirit 9/125cc (S Dickson 32).

Male Youth League: Northern Power 9/89cc (JD Johnston 2/5, J Robertson 2/6) def Southern Spirit 55.

Masters Over-40s: Warnervale 138 (C Handley 3/16, J Jewiss 3/29) def by Southern Spirit 5/139 (A Hyland 41*, JG Doran 40*)

Fourth Grade: Southern Spirit 1/54 drew The Entrance.

Under 16: Brisbane Water 7/44 (JS Sibley 3/4, B McKellar 2/4) def by Southern Spirit 7/133cc (WJ Slater 37*).

Under 12a: Terrigal 4/52 (A Dunn 2/5) def Southern Spirit 50.

Under 14c: Southern Spirit 74 def by Lisarow 5/76 (R McInnes 2/2, B Duggan 2/9).

Under 11 South: Southern Spirit 12/89cc def by Kincumber Sixers 11/131cc (B Willoughby 3/18, C Karsten 2/12).

Eighth Grade: Warnervale White 82 (C Allister 4/11, A Leigh 3/24) def by Southern Spirit White 2/85 (J Skinner 31, AR Witten 28*).

Eighth Grade: Southern Spirit Purple 3/87 (S Collins 43) def Warnervale Blue 82 (S Markham 4/10).

Womens T20 A Grade: Southern Spirit Bye.

Womens T20 B Grade: Southern Spirit 4/84 def by Warnervale 4/94 (S Manuel 2/24).

SOURCE:

Website, 7 Feb 2021
Southern Spirit Cricket Club

Activities resume at PCYC

The PCYC at Umina Beach resumed many of its activities for the year last week.

These include gymnastics, archery, jishukan ryu and fitness.

Activities starting this week include junior, youth and senior boxing.

SOURCE:

Social media, 1 Feb 2021
PCYC Umina Beach