

# Peninsula News

Community Access

EDITION 513

THE PENINSULA'S OWN NEWS SERVICE INC

22 FEBRUARY 2021

## Aged care long service

A Woy Woy aged care provider has presented service awards to staff who have served up to 25 years with the organisation.

BlueWave Living marketing manager Ms Kylie Scott said: "In 2020, we saw six staff reach five years of service.

"Another six have been with us for 10 years.

"We also had three staff members celebrating 15 years, 20 years and 25 years of working with us."

"Operations manager Ms Cathy Allen is our longest serving staff member at 25 years."

Other staff members to receive awards were: Michelle Quirk, Kristy Priddes, Christine Turner, Brodie Guttridge, Kerry Murphy, Sharlene Hardy, Angela Simpson, Leah Stafford, Laura Baber, Nish Werrasinghe and Leesa Hancock.

**SOURCE:**

Media release, 9 Feb 2021  
Kylie Scott, Blue Wave Living



## Helicopters inspect Umina powerlines

Helicopters flew over the Peninsula assessing power poles and powerlines on February 11 and 12 as part of Ausgrid's annual bushfire safety program.

General manager Mr Sam Sofi said the bushfire safety program was a vital part of Ausgrid's summer readiness plan.

He said the helicopter crews were using radar imaging equipment and high-resolution photographs to identify any

hazards on our poles and wires and trees growing too close to powerlines "with an accuracy of within two centimetres".

The helicopters flew between 18 and 55 kmh at about 1000 feet in urban areas.

He claimed the cameras on the helicopters were focused on pole tops only.

"No-one will forget the catastrophic fires of 2019 which caused so much loss of life and property destruction," Mr Sofi said.

"We will be using multiple

helicopters and drones as well as a plane this year so we can finish the patrols by the end of June.

Ausgrid's network covers an area of more than 22,000 square kilometres across Sydney, the Central Coast and the Hunter, from Waterfall in the South, west to Auburn and just north of Scone.

**SOURCE:**

Media release, 17 Feb 2021  
Sam Sofi, Ausgrid



## Empire Bay Marina to be assessed for contamination

The Empire Bay Marina is to be assessed for contamination, according to Member for Terrigal Mr Adam Crouch.

He said the detailed assessment was commissioned by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment Crown Lands division.

"Crown Lands is issuing a factsheet to keep local residents informed on what has occurred to date, and what is planned for the future."

The detailed assessment was expected to determine the type, extent and level of contamination on the site and advise on requirements for site remediation.

Together with building assessments, it would "help inform next steps".

Crown Lands has instructed boat owners to remove their vessels from the marina prior to the contamination assessment getting underway.

"Central Coast Ferries has committed to moving their vessel to an alternative mooring location.

"There will be no disruption to the regular ferry service."

Boat owners failing to vacate the marina face fines of up to \$1100 for individuals and \$2200 for corporations as well as the impounding of their vessels.

The "fact sheet" states that Crown Lands has taken over the

care, control and management of the Empire Bay Marina.

"Due to the site's history as a commercial marina, with associated slipway and fuel storage, there is the potential for contamination.

"Crown Lands will engage a consultant to investigate the site and determine the remediation actions that may be required."

The contamination investigation is expected to be completed by late March.

"We will continue to consult with relevant stakeholders on the future of this site."

**SOURCE:**

Media release, 16 Feb 2021  
Adam Crouch, Member for Terrigal

## Closure will not affect ferry

The closure of the Empire Bay marina, where the ferries for the Davistown service from Woy Woy are moored, will not affect the ferry service, according to Central Coast Ferries.

"We are relocating all three ferries, all within Cockle Channel, over the next four weeks," said owner Ms Bets Conway.

"This is temporary until the site at Empire Bay has been assessed.

"Once this process has taken place, we will be seeking more permanent solutions.

"We want to reassure everyone that the Ferry Service will not be disrupted.

"It is business as usual."

**SOURCE:**

Social media, 18 Feb 2021  
Bets Conway, Central Coast Ferries

## Fewer units in new Farnell Rd plan

An amended proposal for a development at the corner of Farnell Rd and Blackwall Rd, Woy Woy, has been published on Central Coast Council's planning portal.

The proposal reduces the number of units to be built on the site to 18.

**DETAILS - Page 4**

Supporting the Peninsula community

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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,**  
**March 8**

**NEWS email: [contributions@peninsula.news](mailto:contributions@peninsula.news)**

**COUNT THE NEWS:** This issue contains **38 articles**

**... and another 17 articles online at <http://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  
editor@peninsula.news

**Advertising:** Frank Wiffen  
advertising@peninsula.news

**NEXT EDITION:** Peninsula News 514  
Deadline: Thursday, March 4  
Publication date: Monday, March 8

## CONTACT DETAILS

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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 spelled 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.

## Bays group committee re-elected

**The Bays Community Group president Ms Gwynneth Weir and last year's committee have all been re-elected at the group's annual meeting on Wednesday last week, February 17.**

"One new person agreed to stand and was also elected to the committee," said Ms Weir.

Ms Ally Chuang was re-elected as vice president, and Ms Lina Nguyen and Mr Dean Wignell were re-elected as joint secretaries.

Ms Marie Davies agreed to take on the role of treasurer.

In her President's Report, Ms Weir said the group had remained solvent, despite the impact of the coronavirus.

It had not been possible to hold

any fund raising events between March and the end of September, she said.

Consequently, financial reserves from the previous year had been used to pay the regular bills and for the basic upkeep of the hall.

"During the latter part of the year the Bays Community Group had been able to start raising funds again by offering takeaway bacon and egg rolls on the last Sunday of the month and hiring out the hall for yoga classes," Ms Weir said.

"Both of these offerings had proved to be popular and will continue during 2021."

Ms Weir said that with restrictions easing, the committee had many ideas for fund-raising events this year.

She said she was optimistic that in 2021 sufficient funds would be raised to at least break even.

**SOURCE:**

Media release, 19 Feb 2021  
Gwynneth Weir, The Bays Community Group



## Cheque for Mary Macs Place

**The Rotary Club of Umina Beach presented a cheque to Mary Macs Place, Woy Woy, on Friday, February 5, for \$500.**

The money was collected in cash donations made at Woolworths Umina.

Two trolley loads of food and other products were also donated.

"Woy Woy Mary Mac's Place provides support and meals for

the homeless, transient and disadvantaged," said Rotary club member Mr Mike Curley.

"It relies on donations such as these."

Pictured are Mr Curley (left) and Mr Wayne Dowdle from Umina Rotary and Mary Macs Place manager Ms Catherine Pantehis.

**SOURCE:**

Media release, 8 Feb 2021  
Mike Curley, Rotary Umina Beach

## Suspended

**The Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch has been kicked out of the State Parliament for disruptive behaviour.**

She was suspended for 24 hours after pressing the Premier on why the Central Coast missed out on much-needed bushfire relief funding.

**SOURCE:**

Media release, 9 Feb 2021  
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford

## Companion award for research donor



**Rotary Club of Woy Woy member Ms Susan Tee has donated "just a few dollars I didn't miss" regularly every month over many years to support medical research at Australian Rotary Health.**

Over time the donations have accumulated until recently they passed the \$5000 mark.

This qualified Ms Tee, a medical receptionist and a past president of the club, for a Companion of Australian Rotary Health award.

Sue was presented with her

award by past district governor Mr Graeme Davies.

"Mr Davies gave an insightful presentation into the broad research undertaken by Australian Rotary Health," said club president Ms Joan Redmond.

"He thanked our club for being an equal funding partner with ARH and UOW and contributing \$33,000 to fund a PhD scholarship into dementia care."

**SOURCE:**

Social media, 18 Feb 2021  
Joan Redmond, Rotary Woy Woy

## Dry start to year continues

**The Peninsula has had a total of 67mm rainfall so far this month, continuing a dry start to the year.**

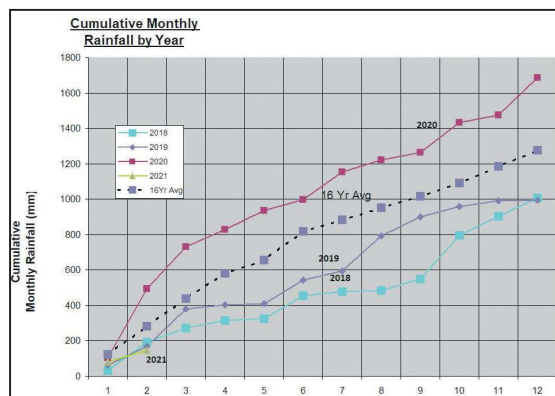
The total as at February 19 was 42 per cent of the February average total of 160mm, according to Mr Jim Morrison of Umina.

The total rainfall for the year to date is 147.7mm about half the average figure for this time of year.

Another 134mm is needed to reach the cumulative end of February average of 282mm.

**SOURCE:**

Spreadsheet, 19 Feb 2021  
Jim Morrison, Umina







## Tree destruction questioned

**Grow Urban Shade Trees group member Ms Lesley Harvey was one of a number of residents to question the need for felling trees on a block at the corner of Memorial Ave and Wallaby Way, Blackwall, on Wednesday, February 10.**

She described the felling as a "tragic demolition of loved, shady, old paper barks and other mature natives".

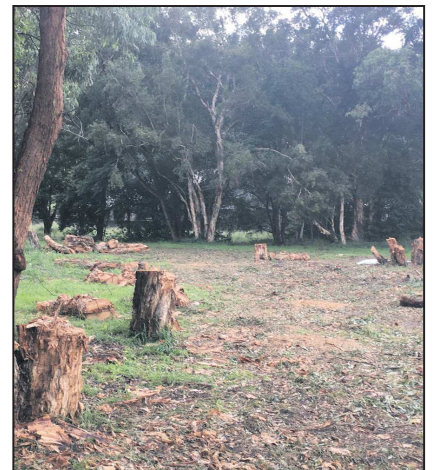
The action "highlights the deficiencies with Council planning,

which waves through such awful destruction on the Peninsula's hot coastal sand plain - despite years of protesting and questioning by locals".

"When Council is going to enact the Greener Places policy and/or the State's canopy guidelines to offset the effects of heat on our coastal area and our sand plain in particular - not to mention habitat and biodiversity loss?"

**SOURCE:**

Media release, 9 Feb 2021  
Lesley Harvey, GUST



## GUST seeks policy for 'Greener Places'

**The Peninsula's Grow Urban Street Trees group has written seeking a meeting Central Coast Council administrator Mr Dick Persson to discuss the draft Greener Places strategy.**

"The strategy is a fantastic snapshot of the issues we need to address but it is still in draft over a year after it was published," said group member Ms Michelle Chandler.

"There still is no policy behind it, supporting it or for its implementation.

"We still do not have an updated Significant Tree Register.

"We still have insufficient replacement and succession planting processes and resources.

"We still do not have a free tree for ratepayers, despite the vast majority of Councils having it.

"Street trees are still not 'business as usual' and are rarely planted as part of road upgrades.

"What will it take to make the dream of a cool, healthy, beautiful future a reality?"

**SOURCE:**

Social media, 17 Feb 2021  
Michelle Chandler, GUST



## Community input wanted for floodplain risk management plan

**Central Coast Council is seeking comment on to help prepare a Peninsula Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan.**

This follows a flood study completed for the Peninsula in 2010 and the completion of a Brisbane water risk management study and plan in 2015.

"The Peninsula is prone to nuisance flooding, especially from long-duration rainfall events," according to a flyer circulated to residents.

"Flooding occurs in the road reserves and in private property, where it remains until it infiltrates and evaporates.

"Flooding is also caused by creek flooding during large rainfall events, as well as inundation from ocean storms.

"The Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan will be looking at options to manage flooding and its consequences.

"This may include drainage upgrades, foreshore barriers, raising roads, property filling, drainage easements, planning and

development controls, community awareness programs or evacuation procedures.

"Council will be identifying potential options with the input from the community and will then assess the options and identify what actions Council, SES and the community can undertake to improve flood risk."

The council will accept comment until Friday, March 12.

**SOURCE:**

Letter, 11 Feb 2021  
Central Coast Council

## Aged care residents to receive Covid vaccine this week

**Aged care residents and workers at Woy Woy and Umina will be among the first Australians to receive vaccinations for Covid-19, according to Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mr Greg Hunt.**

Woy Woy and Umina were among a list of 240 locations where aged care residents are expected to receive the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine this week.

"People in priority groups who are most at risk and who need

protection the most will receive a vaccine first," he said.

"The initial priority groups include aged care and disability care residents and workers, frontline healthcare workers, and quarantine and border workers.

"The aim of the vaccination program is to save and protect lives, to keep people out of intensive care and off ventilators.

"Both vaccines approved for use in Australia do that very well."

**SOURCE:**

Media release, 18 Feb 2021  
Greg Hunt, Minister for Health and Aged Care



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## Amended Farnell Rd plan reduces number of units

An amended proposal for a development at the corner of Farnell Rd and Blackwall Rd, Woy Woy, has been published on Central Coast Council's planning portal.

The proposal reduces the number of units to be built on the site to 18, a reduction of 15 from the previous application which had 33 units.

The amendments were lodged on January 12, but details were not made public until last week.

The public comment period will be open until March 26.

The proposal is to build 18 two-storey residential units in two stages with separate buildings of nine units each, with 31 on-site car spaces, at a total cost of \$5.5 million.

On completion, the development is expected to be strata subdivided.

It includes 18 single garages, 11 car spaces "at grade" and two visitor spaces, with vehicle access by a single entry off Farnell Rd.

It involves clearing and ultimately consolidating five lots with existing dwellings.

The floor area of the development would be just over 2593 square metres on a total land area of 3721.5 square metres.

With a floor space ratio of 0.7:1, the proposal falls below the maximum permissible 0.85:1.

A landscape plan is described as having a theme and style which is intended to give the development "a high quality urban ambience".

The area set aside for landscaping is 1490.1 square metre, including deep soil zones, soft landscaping, communal areas, courtyard and alfresco areas, which is more than the required minimum area of 40 per cent.

Each courtyard generally provides for the required five metre



square area.

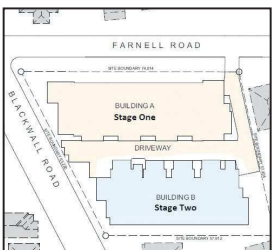
The proposed development has a design height of 7.617 metres, less than the height limit of 11 metre.

However, the development intrudes on required setbacks on three sides.

A statement supporting the application was submitted by consultant Wales and Associates on behalf of Apex Smarthomes Pty Ltd.

"The proposal is designed so that living areas open out to their respective alfresco courtyards and balconies rather than adjoining residential areas," the statement said.

The units would have "walls of windows that are shaded by framed balconies and verandahs



plus exterior sunscreens, painted finishes and some sheet or board cladding rather than extensive plain masonry", it said.

"Where facades face the street, provision has been made for a traditional street address with visible verandahs, living rooms and front doors.

"The design seeks to screen driveways, terraces, courtyards and balconies to protect the privacy and amenity of neighbouring dwellings.

"The proposed two-storey multi-dwelling housing development will have some effect on the local environment as will any medium density or multi-unit development project.

"However, the effect will be offset by the provision of a high-quality residential facility that will provide substantial benefits to the local community.

"The subject site is suitable for the proposed development in relation to the impact of traffic, vehicle access, parking and safety considerations.

The list of "positive socio-economic benefits" included "improvement to the socio-economic standard of the

immediate residential area" and "potential increase in local employment as businesses draw on the improved spending capacity of the new residents".

SOURCE:

DA Tracker, 19 Feb 2021  
DA60666, Central Coast Council

## South St period closes March 5

Central Coast Council is now advertising the comment period for a development application to build a 12-unit three-storey block of flats in South St, Umina, as open until March 5.

On page 4 of the last issue of Peninsula News, the comment period for the South St application was reported as closing on February 5.

Even by this date, the number of comments received was the second highest of any application in NSW, according to the Planning Alerts website.

SOURCE:

DA Tracker, 18 Feb 2021  
DA60728, Central Coast Council

## Comment sought on Umina drainage concept plans

Central Coast Council is seeking comment on its concept plans for stage five of its Everglades drainage upgrade between Lovell St and Carpenter St in Umina.

"The project includes cleaning and relining the existing storm water pipes between Lovell Rd and the outlet west of Carpenter St with a fully structural liner to prevent tree root invasion and blocking," residents were told in a letter from Council project engineer Mr David Mowll.

Existing storm water inlet pits would be replaced with new pits that "provide improved inlet capacity, sediment capture and

improved access for maintenance".

The project would "upgrade the existing outlet behind Carpenter St to improve outlet flows and prevent erosion".

Mr Mowll said the council had received grant funding but "construction timelines have not been finalised".

"The community will be informed of the proposed timing for construction once it has been determined."

Written comments will be accepted by the council until March 5.

SOURCE:

Letter, 17 Feb 2021  
David Mowll, Central Coast Council

## Planning panel knocks back six-storey Ettalong proposal

An application to build a commercial development with 26 "shop top" housing units in Ettalong has been refused by the Central Coast Local Planning Panel.

The panel decision went against the recommendation by council planning staff for approval in a resolution which split the panel three to one.

The \$9.6 million six-storey development was proposed by owner Jedaclew Pty Ltd over three lots at numbers 227, 231 and 233 Ocean View Rd.

Among the reasons for refusal were that it was "not in the public interest" as it was "not consistent with the objectives" of Gosford planning provisions and the NSW apartment design guide.

It also failed to "promote economically sustainable development" because it "would isolate the adjacent site at 235

Ocean View Rd, and may diminish the potential development potential of that property".

The panel reasoned that an amalgamated site would provide a higher density development, which would be more desirable.

"The isolated site would be of such a size that its potential floor space when redeveloped could potentially be half of the maximum floor space ratio of an amalgamated site," the panel stated.

Among other reasons given by the panel were that the application failed "to justify departure from ... the development standard for height of buildings".

It did not demonstrate that compliance with the development standard was "unreasonable or unnecessary in the circumstances".

"The height of the development does not provide an appropriate transition in built form, and

circumstances of the site do not justify the height standard being exceeded," the panel stated.

"The proposed development is not consistent with the objectives for development in the B2 Local Centre zone.

"An adequate range of retail, business, entertainment and community uses are not provided.

"The proposed development does not increase the quantity of commercial floorspace on the site.

"The proposed development provides poor amenity for future residents and visitors, and would have adverse impacts on the neighbouring low density residential properties.

"The development fails to meet, or adequately justify departures from, Gosford Development Control Plan 2013."

The panel comprising chair Ms Donna Rygate, expert members Ms Linda McClure and Mr Stephen

Leathley, and community member Ms Lyn Hunt were split three to one in their decision.

Mr Leathley favoured approval of the application.

Among the reasons given for his dissension were that the design was "considered to be of high quality and has been supported by both the independent architect and Council officers".

The height variation was "supported by the Council officers and was not raised as an issue by the independent architect during the SEPP 65 assessment".

"It will not impact on the streetscape or adjoining residential properties and will satisfy the underlying objectives of the standard," he said.

The planning provisions had no requirement for "height transition".

"The development provides adequate setbacks to adjoining residential properties to the east

and north, and a high level of landscaping.

"The amount of space proposed for the business premises is ... commensurate with the site's location."

While the isolated site was an undesirable outcome, "the owner of 235 Ocean View Rd has not objected to the development, and ... the site can remain as is or be redeveloped."

The application drew more than 70 objections when it was advertised for comment early last year.

The community group Residents for Responsible Ettalong Development was among those opposing the development.

Its spokesman Mr Peter Gillis addressed the panel as part of its consideration of the application.

SOURCE:

Minutes, 4 Feb 2021  
Central Coast Local Planning Panel

## Young man airlifted to hospital after fall onto rocks

A young man has been airlifted to Royal North Shore Hospital after falling about four metres down an embankment and onto rocks at Woy Woy Bay at about 4pm on February 14.

Rescue crews from Fire and Rescue NSW were called to a fire trail along with NSW Police and NSW Ambulance.

Using specialist equipment, crews made their way to the patient where he was assessed on scene by paramedics.

The patient, aged in his 20s, had suffered lower back injuries.

He was stabilised and moved to a more accessible location so that



he could be transported by a Toll rescue helicopter to hospital.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 14 Feb 2021  
NSW Fire and Rescue

## Charli presents proposal in Legislative Council chamber

Brisbane Water Secondary College student Charli Grant made a presentation in the Legislative Council chamber at Parliament House on Wednesday, February 10, to Education Minister Ms Sarah Mitchell.

She was one of 13 NSW public school students who presented a draft proposal on the formation of a Minister's Student Council.

Appointed by the Minister, the students had been working together since the start of Term 4 last year to help develop a structure, rules for governance and membership for the Student Council.

The student proposal included a 24-member council with three student representatives from every educational directorate or region across the State.

The representatives would also facilitate regional-based forums with students to ensure a diversity of views were able to be brought to the Minister's attention.

They would include students with disabilities, varying academic performance, and students with different living circumstances.

Ms Mitchell announced her plans for the Minister's Student Council in August last year saying



it would be the peak forum for interaction between NSW public school students, Education NSW and the Government.

"Our most important stakeholders aren't at the table when they need to be."

"I want to add the student council to this group to work together on policy reform."

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 16 Feb 2021  
Sven Wright, NSW Education

## Rotary club celebrates 45 years

The Rotary Club of Umina Beach has celebrated 45 years of local and international Rotary service.

The club was joined by Rotarians from the Rotary Clubs of Woy Woy, Brisbane Water, Sydney, Erina, and the Rotary e-club, and the Rotary District team.

The club was also joined by

student Dominic Hall, who has only just returned from his Rotary Exchange year in Slovakia.

The club heard a summary of the past year's activities.

During the evening several members received recognition for their loyalty to the club.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 8 Feb 2021  
Pat Lewis, Rotary Umina Beach



**Liesl Tesch MP**  
Member for Gosford

# How can I help?

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## Health

# Online business opens 'immersive' shopfront

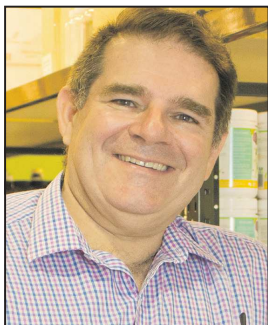
**A Woy Woy business that sells natural products online is opening a shopfront at its distribution centre in Ocean Beach Rd.**

"BuyNatural is one of Australia's Covid success stories," said founder Dr Matthew McDougall.

"Sales rocketed during the pandemic, so much so that the business moved to a larger distribution centre" in Woy Woy.

"We want to be the Amazon of Australia's natural and organic products; particularly for the small and medium brands that tend to be missed by the majors," Dr McDougall said.

"The Touch, Learn and Order concept store will take shoppers on an immersive experience enabling them to physically taste, test, smell and learn more about the products and brands for sale before they



buy."

The store would be the company's "flagship" store, "expected to be one of many set to roll out across the country".

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 19 Feb 2021  
Matthew McDougall, BuyNatural

## Forum

# We elect them to work for us and not against us

**I continue with my concerns about our democracy.**

I understand that the employees at our Council were able to access and redirect restricted funds which required the permission of Minister for Local Government Ms Shelley Hancock, or councillors.

It seems that that never happened.

The Administrator has admitted that using restricted reserves was either unlawful or done without the approval of the elected body.

If this is the case why isn't the Administrator pursuing this matter instead of telling us that we have to make up the shortfall with increases in our rates or the selling of our amenities?

Someone must be responsible.

How long have such matters been going on with our Council?

What is Mr Crouch doing about it, or Liesl Tesch, or the council's audit committee, or the State Government's Audit Office?

They have all failed us.

We were led along like lemmings to believe that the amalgamation of Gosford and Wyong Councils would be a great thing for us all.

Well it has failed. The Government has let us down.

People may say that Australia is so much more democratic than other countries.

At least I can write this letter, but I believe that we are heading in the wrong direction.

Ministers are found to have done questionable things such as

the Sports Rorts, the letter from Angus Taylor about Clover More, Michaela Cash sending in the AFP to the Union and many more and no one loses their job.

We need to watch carefully and we need to demand that the Administrator gets to the bottom of this matter and finds out what happened to all this money and who authorised it.

It's always the people at the bottom who end up paying the price.

It's up to us to demand an explanation and demand that the Minister help.

We elect them to work for us not against us.

**SOURCE:**  
Email, 19 Feb 2021  
Margaret Lund, Woy Woy Bay

## Bookkeeping



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# Meditation on Women's Day

**A meditation will be held at Ocean Beach at 6:30am on Monday, March 8, for International Women's Day, followed by a breakfast provided for attendees.**

The event is being organised by Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch and Making Meditation Mainstream Central Coast, dedicated to women and mindfulness.

Ms Tesch said women should be celebrated every day.

"Women's potential is often underestimated yet our power to persevere through adversity is something that cannot be overlooked by anyone.

"Women are the very backbone of our community and it is crucial we take a moment to stop and celebrate together the changes we have made and continue to make in our community and the world.

"The isolation caused by social distancing has been incredibly

challenging and this event is an opportunity to reconnect and welcome new residents to the Coast.

"Supporting women in my community through meditation and offering connection with other locals is a privilege.

"I am looking forward celebrating International Women's Day."

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 19 Feb 2021  
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford

# Clinic moves from Umina to Woy Woy

**A long-standing medical practice in West St, Umina, will close at noon on Thursday, February 25, and re-open with a new name in Woy Woy on Monday, March 1.**

Umina Surgery will become Woy Woy Family Practice when it opens in Deepwater Plaza Shopping Centre for existing and new patients.

The new practice will feature 13 GP rooms, a treatment and procedure room, and additional

rooms for more doctors and services, said practice manager Ms Barbara White.

"All current doctors and staff will relocate to Woy Woy, while a new doctor, Dr Mary Tran, will also be joining the practice next month.

"The practice's current services will continue to be offered – general health assessments, paediatrics, travel medicine, skin cancer checks and chronic disease management.

"Over the years, the needs of our patients and the practice have

changed, and our current site no longer meets the needs of a growing, modern practice.

"Our priority remains the health and wellbeing of our patients and the community.

"The practice will remain part of the network of Fullerton Health Medical Centres, which includes more than 60 clinics throughout metropolitan and regional Australia."

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 19 Feb 2021  
Barbara White, Woy Woy Family Practice

# Loss of every tree a huge loss

**The silence in Blackwall on Monday, February 8, started as any other day, until I heard the chainsaws start.**

There is a bush track that runs from Warwick St to Wallaby St in Blackwall filled with many shrubs, trees, birds and wildlife.

I have been a resident of Blackwall for over 20 years now.

I used to walk my daughter to pre-school through this bush track which in the winter time fills with water and mud. It also floods.

The blocks in this bush track have been subdivided and have been due for development for years now.

On Monday, the chainsaws took out every paperbark tree on the site as well as all the smaller trees.

Tuesday came and I was shattered when I heard the tree trunk crack of a 30metre tall gum

tree on the edge of the block.

This tree was not in the middle of the block and was not in the way of building on the block.

I was a wildlife carer for many years and released many birds onto this block over the years.

It was home to every species that we see here on the Coast.

Not one of those trees were checked for wildlife before they were put through the mulcher.

I spent my whole week crying over the total loss of our wildlife and our green spaces.

I wrote to Lucy Wicks MP and have asked her to check with the council who approved the removal of every tree on this block.

I am so scared with the Council now in great debt that they are now selling off our Coast to developers at a whim.

Under this Government, we

know they do not look after our environment or wildlife and we must hold them accountable.

I understand about development but we have had no vacancies for a doctor's appointment in Woy Woy for 10 years now so with all this new development going on where are the services they will need?

After the black summer of last year, we really should be protecting what green spaces we have left for future generations.

This is a huge loss and, even if they plant new trees, it will take 100 years or more for them to reach the stage of the ones they took.

It is up to all residents to look after our own backyard for the benefit of all in the future.

**SOURCE:**  
Email, 16 Feb 2021  
Joanne Roberts, Blackwall

## 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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## College prepares for 2022

The Umina campus of Brisbane Water Secondary College is preparing already for next year's Year 7.

Two parent information evenings will be held in March for parents of Year 6 students intending to start Year 7 at the campus next year.

The information sessions are being held over two nights due to coronavirus restrictions.

Parents of Empire Bay Public School, Ettalong Public School and Woy Woy Public School student will be invited to attend on Thursday, March 18.

Parents of students at Woy Woy South Public School and Umina Beach Public School or who attend primary schools not affiliated with the college will be invited to attend on Thursday, March 25.

Parents will be required to register their intention to attend, with a limit of one parent or carer per child.

SOURCE:

Social media, 19 Feb 2021  
Kerrie O'Heir, BWSC Umina

## College plans snow sports excursion

Umina campus of Brisbane Water Secondary College is planning a "snow sports excursion" for August 15-21.

The excursion will be limited to 110 students, with the school currently accepting deposits.

A waiting list will be created once the limit is reached.

The cost for skiing will be \$583 and for boarding, open to experienced boarders only, will be \$613.

The excursion will follow coronavirus guidelines and should these change parents and carers will be notified.

At the end of last week, only 40 places remained.

SOURCE:

Social media, 14 Feb 2021  
Kerrie O'Heir, BWSC Umina

## House captains

Umina campus of Brisbane Water Secondary College has elected its sport house captains for 2021.

For Booker, they are Kya Byrnes and Rachel Celea.

For Crommelin, they are Jacob Falconer and Jayde Findlay.

For Davis, they are Euan Murray and Liam Orlowski.

For Webb, they are Lahna Rhind and Mitchell Stocken.

SOURCE:

Social media, 15 Feb 2021  
BWSC Umina

## Woy Woy campus has morning cafe for students and staff

A morning cafe is open at Woy Woy campus of Brisbane Water Secondary College from 7:45 to 8:15am Wednesday to Friday for students and staff.

Students can purchase cards for coffee from the front office.

Pictured is student Max Hamstra making a cappuccino for one of his teachers.

Umina campus is offering students aged 14 and over a barista course on Friday, March 19, costing \$140 at the Ourimbah campus of Newcastle University.

Students must be 14 and have their USI numbers.

They must also bring photo identification on the day and their train fare.

SOURCE:

Social media, 11-12 Feb 2021  
Brisbane Water Secondary College



## Open days at St John's school

St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School has an open morning and open evening planned for the end of March.

The Open Evening will be held at 7pm - 8pm on Tuesday, March 30.

The Open Morning will be held at 9:30am - 10:30am on Wednesday, March 31.

The sessions aim to show prospective parents "how we're inspiring our students to love learning and be the very best they can be".

The school is described as "a close knit, supportive and nurturing community where the wellbeing of your child is pivotal to everything we do and plays a vital part in their learning success".

"We have a dedicated, talented and professional team who are proud of their commitment to the children's learning."

"Your child will gain a well-rounded education based on the Catholic values which underpin our curriculum."

"The school offers extensive green space enabling a wide range of sporting opportunities."

"Extra curricular activities include Greek and a comprehensive music program."

"Our kinder transition program enables new parents to meet other local families."

SOURCE:

Website, 19 Feb 2021  
St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School

## Trees survive summer holidays

Ten trees planted by students and parents of Umina Beach Public School outside the school on Melbourne Ave have survived the summer holidays.

Year 5 students planted four trees at the end of term last year, followed by a tree planting day on December 17, with families and students planting a further six large coastal banksias.

Families then adopted a tree to water it daily over the holidays.

Twenty students from Year 1 to Year 6 helped with planting trees and watering them over the holidays.

"Thanks to their efforts, the trees have survived and thrived over summer," said relieving principal Mr Chad Tsakissiris.

The project was the idea of parents Kelly Sunartha, Penny Jope, Sian Cox and Melissa Chandler, who saw the need for more shade on this side of the school, having waited at the gates in the afternoon sun.

Local community group Grow Urban Shade Trees supported the project with members volunteering their time and expertise.

SOURCE:

Newsletter, 16 Feb 2021  
Chad Tsakissiris, Umina Beach Public School



## Donation supports breakfast club

Ettalong Public School has received a donation to support its breakfast club, which started for the year last week.

The donation came from the Ettalong Beach branch of the Bendigo Bank.

Branch manager Mr Peter

McKeon, pictured, presented the school with a \$5000 donation.

"We truly appreciate your continued support of our school," school principal Ms Lynn Balfour told Mr McKeon.

SOURCE:

Social media, 12 Feb 2021  
Lynn Balfour, Ettalong Public School

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## Sport



### Umina Women's Triples championship

**A team led by Leila Gilmour has won the 2021 Umina Beach Women's Bowling Club Triples Championship, completed on Friday, February 19.**

In the semi-finals, Kaye Cavanagh, Gwen Jarratt and Yvonne Gordon defeated Barbara Bounty, Tanya Valli and Lorraine

Cooper.

In the other semi-final, Lorraine Rynehart, Debra Moore and Leila Gilmour defeated Carol Dickson, Jeanette Gaul and Carol Boyd.

"In a closely-fought final, Leila's team won over Yvonne's team 16-13," said club website editor Ms Lesley Swales.

"It was a great game to watch. There were some close

matches throughout the event and great bowls played."

Pictured above are winners Lorraine Rynehart, Debra Moore and Leila Gilmour. Below are runners-up Kaye Cavanagh, Gwen Jarratt and Yvonne Gordon.

**SOURCE:**

**Website, 19 Feb 2021**  
**Lesley Swales, Umina Beach Women's Bowling Club**



### New change rooms help for female sport

**Southern and Ettalong United Football Club has followed the official opening of its new facilities at James Brown Oval on February 5 with appreciation for those people who helped bring them to fruition.**

Club president Mr Glen Balneaves said it took five years of planning and hard work.

"The club is extremely proud of our new facility and would like to

thank all Federal, State and local community organisations who made this facility happen.

"Without the input and support of all entities, the infrastructure upgrade simply would not have been achievable.

Both local members of parliament said the new facilities, which include women's changing rooms, would make a significant contribution to women's sport.

Federal Liberal Member for Robertson Ms Lucy Wicks said:

"This upgrade is about enhancing team spirit, creating a pride of place and sense of belonging for players and ensuring women's sports are supported on the Peninsula."

State Labor Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch said the change rooms would "improve female participation and equity in sport in our community".

**SOURCE:**

**Social media, 11 Feb 2021**  
**Glen Balneaves, SEUFC**

### Valentines Day Pairs bridge results

**Brisbane Water Bridge Club played their Valentines Day Pairs on Monday, January 15.**

Winners were Blair Glass and Ian Newton in the novice section and George Boettiger and Chris Hasemore (N-S) and David Snow and Martin Johnson (E-W) in the open section.

North-south results in the open section were:

1. Jorgen Boettiger - Chris Hasemore 210.0 (62.50 per cent), 0.40 red points.

2. Christine Hadaway - Robin Vaughan 179.0 (53.27), 0.28.

3. Judy Wulff - Jenny Buckley 177.0 (52.68), 0.20.

4. Pauline Caust - Alan Bustany 175.0 (52.08), 0.13.

5. Lorraine Lindsay - Jan Davis

174.0 (51.79).

6. Felicity Fane - Tracey Dillon 145.0 (43.15).

6. Meg McGregor - Hilary Owen 145.0 (43.15).

8. Helen Hallett - Helen White 139.0 (41.37).

East-west results in the open section were:

1. David Snow - Martin Johnson 191.0 (56.85), 0.40.

2. Jaan Oitmaa - Sylvia Foster 188.0 (55.95), 0.28.

3. Susan McCall - Pamela Joseph 185.0 (55.06), 0.20.

4. Elaine Hume - Peter Hume 170.0 (50.60), 0.13.

5. Hope Tomlinson - Barry Foster 163.0 (48.51).

6. Faith Ross - Carol Long 154.0 (45.83).

7. Lynne Rainford - Edith Marshall 148.0 (44.05).

8. Marcelle Goslin - Ron Meaney 145.0 (43.15).

Results in the novice section were:

1. Blair Glass - Ian Newton 122.3 (72.82), 0.20.

2. Jo Ampherlaw - Linda Cunningham 92.3 (54.96), 0.14.

3. Caroline Nichols - Connie Lewis 90.3 (53.77), 0.10.

4. John Aldersley - Linda Brown 89.3 (53.17), 0.07.

5. Helve Beale - Jann Small 78.3 (46.63).

6. Robyne Reeves - Sandy Shapley 68.3 (40.67).

7. Beryl Lowry - Fay Cole 67.3 (40.08).

8. Vicki Halliday - Cesca Hannigan 63.7 (37.90).

**SOURCE:**

**Website, 17 Feb 2021**  
**Brisbane Water Bridge Club**

## Soccer coaching company withdraws training program

**A private soccer coaching company has told Southern and Ettalong United Football Club that it has withdrawn a training program that caused confusion with the club's activities.**

The Southern and Ettalong United Lions previously alerted parents that the MVP Football Lionesses were not affiliated with the club.

"MVP Football is a private consortium that is targeting junior girls on the Peninsula selling football development at a cost of more than five times club registration fees," said club president Mr Glen Balneaves. "SEUFC Lionesses have been playing football on the Central Coast over the past 45 years," he said.

He said the club "has invested a huge amount of infrastructure and development towards our junior girls and senior women programs over many years.

"We have our own internal girls development academy which is delivered at no cost to parents and carers and have recently built the

very first women's change room at a grassroots club level.

"We are extremely proud of our many junior girls who have participated in our development programs are currently making inroads at all levels of women's representative football.

"It is important that parents and carers are informed that junior girls' development and pathways can be delivered without necessarily paying private business development fees."

Mr Balneaves later said: "We have been contacted by MVP Football advising that their Lionesses Program has been withdrawn and they apologise for any confusion caused to our members and our current program."

He said that "MVP Football want to work with all Central Coast football clubs and are currently working on a new program to offer additional training for junior girls development."

**SOURCE:**

**Social media, 13 Feb 2021**  
**Glen Balneaves, SEUFC**

## Southern Spirit cricket results

**Results of games played by Southern Spirit Cricket Club over the weekend, February 20 and 21, were:**

First Grade: Southern Spirit drew with Northern Power.

Second Grade: Northern Power 8/141cc (S Higgins 3/28 JS Sibley 2/19) def by Southern Spirit 5/145cc (N Grainger 51\*).

Third Grade: Lisarow 5/111 (JD Johnston 2/24) def Southern Spirit 7/107cc (AA Witten 37).

Male Youth League: Southern Spirit 9/103dec (A Dickson 35) drew Narara Wyoming Junior 0/5.

Masters Over-40s: Southern Spirit 1/3 v Wyong 5/189cc (JG Corbett 3/24).

Fourth Grade: Southern Spirit 62 def by Lisarow 7/63 (JG Corbett 3/19, D Edmondson 3/24).

Fifth Grade: Southern Spirit drew Terrigal.

Under 16: Southern Spirit 4/122cc (B Willoughby 34\*,

JD Johnston 25\*) def Kincumber Green 109 (T Fry 4/22, K Warner 3/17, H Tomlinson 2/9).

Under 12a: Southern Spirit 49 def by Kincumber Green 7/94cc (A Roese 3/4, L Papps 2/2).

Under 14c: Southern Spirit drew Brisbane Water 2/106.

Under 11 - South: Southern Spirit 9/127cc def Kincumber Stars 15/97cc (L Dearing 3/6, D Silverstone 2/3, J Zadravic 2/7, E Zadravic 2/8, B Willoughby 2/10).

Eighth Grade: Kincumber 7/127cc (L McDonald 3/27) def Southern Spirit White 98. Southern Spirit Purple 85 def Wyong 63 (SJ Collins 2/13, G Simon 2/17).

Womens T20 - A Grade: Kincumber def Southern Spirit.

Womens T20 - B Grade: Southern Spirit v Lisarow.

**SOURCE:**

**Website, 21 Feb 2021**  
**Southern Spirit Cricket Club**

## Junior players wanted

**Southern and Ettalong United Football Club is seeking junior non-competition players aged from five to 11 years.**

In doing so, the club is promoting itself as a progressive, forward-thinking club.

Benefits included "a ground upgrade with new flood lights

getting installed, a big new clubhouse, new changing rooms, canteen, storeroom and bar facilities", as well as having "a great committee, additional experienced coaches joining the team and great team atmosphere," said club president Mr Glen Balneaves.

**SOURCE:**

**Social media, 19 Feb 2021**  
**Glen Balneaves, SEUFC**