



A community awareness campaign has started - putting hearts on trees to show they care

Council plan to sell Peninsula land

Central Coast Council plans to sell six parcels of land on the Peninsula "to assist with its financial position".

The land includes the Bullion St carpark in Umina and land occupied by a residential land lease "lifestyle village" in Fassifern St, Ettalong.

It also includes three blocks in residential areas: 23-23A Memorial Ave, Blackwall; 83-85 Brisbane Ave, Umina; and 7-9 Angler St, Woy Woy.

Two of the three sites contain established shade and habitat trees.

A treed area of one acre adjacent to Peninsula Plaza in Austin Butler reserve is also listed, which the shopping centre owner has offered to purchase.

The land parcels were part of a third "tranche" of land sales across the region.

Council staff recommended that the land be sold at the April 27 council meeting, without advertising or community consultation.

However, council administrator Mr Dick Persson decided to advertise the proposal after a protest organised by the Central Coast branch of the Australian Conservation Foundation was held in front of the Wyong Council chambers.

Branch president Mr Mark Ellis of Woy Woy said the rally was organised to protest the haste and lack of transparency in selling off these and other community lands



Mr Persson speaks to protesters

and assets.

He said the land on the Peninsula had more than 80 trees and included land that the community fought to protect in 2015.

"The loss of these lands and the trees would only add to the urban heat island effect, with the Peninsula already recognised as being the hottest on Coast."

He said the pocket parks needed to be retained to provide food and habitat for vulnerable local native species, such as the grey-headed flying fox, and for future generations of residents in an increasingly-crowded area zoned for medium-density development.

Mr Ellis said the Peninsula was already suffering loss of tree cover, habitat and open space due to the Council's planning policies.

"They are creating harsh, hot and

uncomfortable neighbourhoods that are unpleasant, unattractive and becoming unliveable.

"They are a recipe for social problems in the longer term and are quickly creating an environment that is unsuitable for raising children."

Mr Ellis said that, while the Administrator criticised some protesters for not having constructive suggestions, the council itself had no positive plans for the Peninsula.

He said the council should prepare a master plan for the future of the Peninsula in consultation with the community before it sells assets.

It should actively engage with the Peninsula community to discuss which assets and services the community wants to retain and which it is willing to relinquish, he said.

For example, the community may well prefer the council sold the Peninsula Leisure Centre than selling the pocket parks, he said.

Mr Persson resolved at the council meeting that the proposed sales "be deferred to allow for the conduct of community consultation for a period of not less than 21 days, with a further report to be provided to Council to consider submissions made during the exhibition period".

Submissions will be accepted until 5pm on Friday, May 21.

SOURCE:
Central Coast Council agenda
4.10, 4.11, 4.12, 27 Apr 2021

Government announces public inquiry into council

The NSW Government has announced a public inquiry into Central Coast Council to investigate its financial management and ability to serve the local community.

Minister for Local Government Ms Shelley Hancock said a public inquiry would provide an independent, open, and transparent process to help improve the council's performance and sustainability.

The inquiry will investigate whether the council maximised the success of gaining efficiencies and financial savings from the merger process.

It will investigate whether the council disregarded the financial consequences of its decisions, and whether decisions since 2017 contributed to the financial position

which the Council now finds itself in.

The commissioner may investigate "any other matter that warrants mention, particularly those that may impact on the effective administration of Council's functions and responsibilities or the community's confidence in the Council being able to do so."

The NSW Labor Opposition has called for the government to establish a broader inquiry.

Shadow Minister for the Central Coast, Mr David Harris, said the community had raised concerns about the terms of reference for the public inquiry being too narrow.

SOURCE:
Media release, 26 Apr 2021
Shelley Hancock, Minister for Local Government
Media release, 1 May 2021
David Harris, Shadow Minister for the Central Coast

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Peninsula News – and a supplement

For each issue of Peninsula News, we have more news than we have room to print.

This issue we had 72 articles, of which we were able to fit 41 into the printed edition.

Those articles not in the print edition are always included on our website.

Now, we have also started Peninsula News EXTRA to take these articles.

This is another eight pages in electronic form, produced as a PDF, which will be published on the Thursday following the print edition.

Peninsula News EXTRA will be emailed to local organisations, inviting them to print them out and/or distribute them by email to their members. If you would like a copy, please email distribution@peninsula.news with the request.

Peninsula News is owned and operated by a voluntary non-profit association, The Peninsula's Own News Service Inc.



Volunteer help and support are always needed, and community involvement is welcomed.

SOURCE:
Mark Snell, editor
4 Apr 2021

Our next issue:

**Monday,
May 17**

Email: contributions@peninsula.news

Tesch speaks against carpark sale

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch has spoken out against the proposed sale by Central Coast Council of the Bullion St carpark in Umina.

She has also called on the Minister for Local Government Ms Shelley Hancock to "ensure that

the community is not hurt by mass land sales and that residents have their voices heard".

Ms Tesch said: "The carpark at West St, Umina Beach, has been listed in the potential Central Coast Council sell-offs.

"The sale of the carpark would

be devastating for the community and local businesses and I will fight the proposal until it's off the list.

"Join in this race with me to ensure our assets aren't sold off."

SOURCE:
Social media, 26-30 Apr 2021
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford

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.

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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.

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 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.

Biscuit theme for Anzac Day



Anzac biscuits was the theme of the Umina Beach branch of the Country Women's Association meeting held on Friday, April 23.

Members tried two recipes for Anzac Biscuits.

Results of the taste test were "evenly divided".

SOURCE:
 Social media, 24 Apr 2021
 Rikki McIntosh, CWA Umina Beach



Folk club holds house concert

The Troubadour Folk Club will hold a house concert with Dingo's Breakfast from 2pm on Sunday, May 16.

Western Australian group Dingo's Breakfast Oz Music and Poetry Band are currently touring east coast folk venues, said

Troubadour president Mr Michael Fine.

"With amazing beards on their faces and decades of performance experience under their belts, they present an electrically eclectic dialectic selection of music, poetry and yarn-spinning, with the accent firmly on comedy," he said.

"Dingo's Breakfast concerts are a unique and wonderful mix of traditional and contemporary Australian and Irish songs, lavishly salted with an edgy slam of performance poetry."

SOURCE:
 Website, 1 May 2021
 Michael Fine, Troubadour Folk Club

Patchwork

Ettalong Beach Arts and Craft Centre president Mr Peter Mulholland says "show and tell is always a treat" at the centre's Monday patchwork group.

"The group has been very productive this year, completing many wonderful projects," he said.

Pictured is one of the projects displayed over the last two weeks.

SOURCE:
 Social media, 26 Apr 2021
 Peter Mulholland, EBACC



Bingo on Wednesdays

Woy Woy Bingo is continuing to hold Cash Housie in Ettalong from 6:30pm on Wednesdays.

Doors open at Ettalong Diggers at 5pm, with games starting at 7:30pm.

Proceeds go to the Woy Woy Catholic Parish for Mary Mac's Place.

SOURCE:
 Social media, 28 Apr 2021
 Bill Jackson, Ettalong Diggers

Umina CWA wins cookery trophy

The Country Women's Association's Umina Beach branch has won the Northumberland Group Cookery Trophy, with branch members taking out a number of prizes.

Ms Lin Griffiths won firsts with her Wagon Wheel Slice and GF Caramel and Walnut, and a third prize with her Peach Blossom

Cake.

She also won the Judges Choice of the Day with her Wagon Wheel Slice

Ms Kay Kennaugh won a first for her Donna Latter cake.

Ms Celia O'Meara won first prize for her carrot and ginger cake.

Ms Fiona Duckworth won first prize for her Spiced Fruit Chutney and came second with her Tomato Relish.

William McDonald won first prize for his Jam Drops, with Elizabeth McDonald coming second.

Third prizes went to Ms Coral Pawelko for her Steamed Pudding, Ms Brooke Law (Cherry Blush Cake) and Ms Doreen Moulds (Tomato Relish).

SOURCE:
 Social media, 16 Apr 2021
 Rikki McIntosh, CWA Umina Beach

Second driest April in 16 years

April rainfall on the Peninsula totalled just 13.5mm, the second driest April in 16 years.

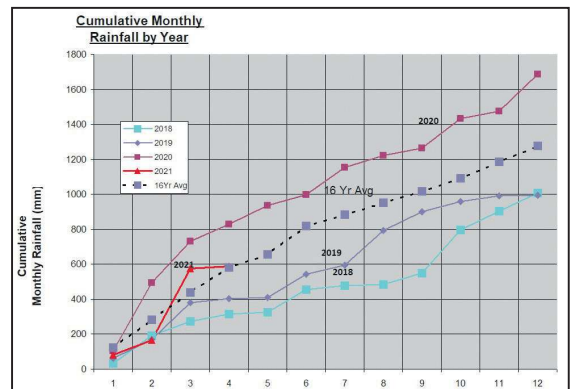
This followed a March total of 410.7mm, which was the second wettest March in 16 years.

The April total was less than one 10th of the month's average of 145mm.

The least rain for the month of April was 12mm recorded in 2006.

Despite the variations, the cumulative total for the year was 589.7mm, within two per cent of year-to-date average at the end of April of 583mm.

SOURCE:
 Spreadsheet, 30 Apr 2021
 Jim Morrison, Umina





Vietnam Vets join in impromptu march

Members of the Vietnam Veterans Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association Central Coast sub-branch took part in an impromptu march at Ettalong on Anzac Day, April 25.

The march followed a service at the Ettalong Diggers Club.

"The day is particularly memorable for the impromptu march from the Club to the foreshore memorial led by the

Re-enactment Unit group closely followed by ranks of Sub-Branch members," said sub-branch president Mr Alan Ball.

"Marching through Ettalong was a standard feature of past ceremonies.

"Members have proudly upheld the tradition customary for this day."

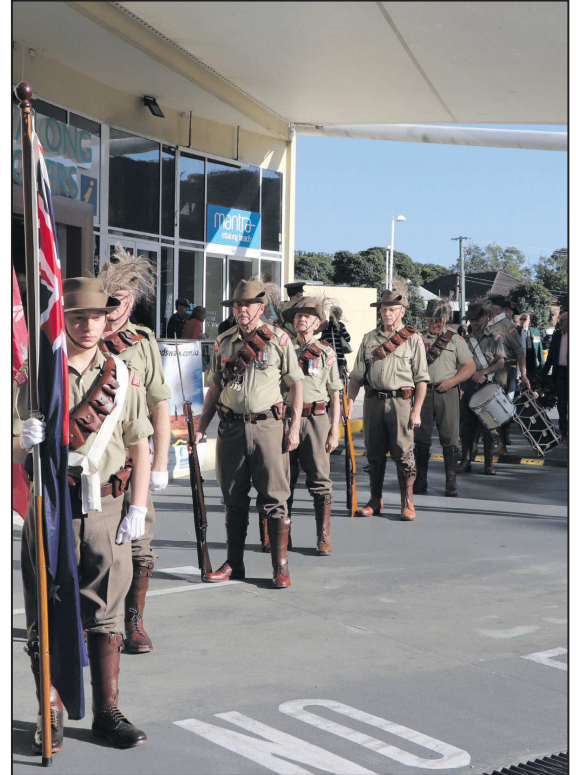
He said the veterans had defeated the challenges of Covid-19 to commemorate Anzac Day at Ettalong.

The sub-branch appreciated Club chief executive Mr Bill Jackson, the club's staff and "all those who assisted in the ceremony", he said.

Among the guests were local Members of Parliament Ms Lucy Wicks and Ms Liesl Tesch, pictured.

SOURCE:

Media release, 26 Apr 2021
Allan Ball, VVPPACC sub-branch
Photos: Larry Searle



Four-year intersection work in Council \$12.7M budget

Central Coast Council has budgeted to spend almost \$13 million on the Peninsula in the next financial year, according to a draft budget endorsed at its April 27 meeting.

The draft will be exhibited for public comment until May 26.

The budget reveals the Ocean Beach Rd-Rawson Rd intersection upgrade is expected to take four years and that major work on the Umina skate park upgrade is not expected to start before the 2022-23 financial year.

The council will spend \$6.5 million from general revenue on the Peninsula next financial year.

More than half of this will be spent on the Peninsula Leisure Centre.

The majority of the \$3.5 million allocated to the centre will be spent on replacement of the ventilation system, with \$300,000 spent on a gym equipment upgrade.

The next largest allocation from

general revenue is \$1.2 to be spent on sewer infrastructure renewal and replacement.

This includes \$580,000 for rising main replacement in Maitland Bay Dr and more than \$570,000 towards pumping station renewal at Cowper Rd, Umina, and Lagoon St, Ettalong.

A further \$1.8 million of sewer infrastructure spending is foreshadowed for the following two years.

Embankment stabilisation for Mt Ettalong Rd, Patonga Dr and Pearl Beach Dr will cost a total of \$305,000.

Another \$600,000 will be spent on the Castle Circuit and Homan Close escarpment.

Woy Woy Bay wharf will be replaced at a cost of \$395,000.

Ettalong, Umina and Woy Woy town centres will each get kerb ramp upgrades at a combined cost of \$138,000.

The Ettalong senior citizens centre has been allocated \$60,000 for roller door replacement and

flooring and ceiling work.

Patonga campground has been allocated \$30,000 to "reactive capital renewal" and the Woy Woy commuter carpark \$13,750 for "reactive works".

A further \$6.1 million of projects next financial year will be funded from grants.

Among these is an allocation of \$1 million towards the \$32.5 million intersection upgrade at Ocean Beach and Rawson Rds.

The intersection upgrade is anticipated to take four years to complete.

The other major road and drainage project is an upgrade of Springwood St at a cost of almost \$1.3 million.

Grants are expected to cover the cost of a \$1.4 million renewal of the Lemon Grove netball courts amenities building in Ettalong and the \$1.05 million renewal of the Rogers Park sportsground amenities building in Woy Woy.

A grant of \$720,000 is expected to cover the cost of a sports fields,

parks and playgrounds car park and road upgrade at Sydney Ave, Umina.

The renewal of the Umina Oval amenities building has been allocated \$210,000 from grant funding for the next financial year, with \$2.5 million foreshadowed for the following year.

Only \$15,000 has been allocated to the Umina skate park upgrade, with \$3.75 million foreshadowed for the following financial year.

The Esplanade shared zone project in Umina has been allocated \$282,000 and Mt Ettalong Rd safety improvements \$130,000.

A further \$130,000 will come from developer contributions to renew the Umina oval irrigation.

The draft budget is based on approval of a 15 per cent special rate variation by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Authority, which is yet to be given.

SOURCE:

Central Coast Council agenda 5.1, 27 Apr 2021

Projects

\$6.5M Revenue

- PLC ventilation
- Sewer infrastructure
- Bank stabilisation
- Woy Woy Bay wharf
- Town kerb ramps

\$6.1M Grants

- Rawson Rd intersection
- Springwood St upgrade
- Netball amenities
- Rogers Park amenities
- Sydney Ave carpark
- Umina oval amenities
- Esplanade shared zone



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Planning



Application to modify three-storey Blackwall Rd plan

Central Coast Council has received an application to change the approval of a development for 154 Blackwall Rd, Woy Woy, next door to the Anglican Church.

The application seeks to reduce the number of units from 10 to nine, and to change the use from residential flats to NDIS disability flats.

The section 4.55(2) application was submitted by way of a Social Impact Statement prepared by Sarah George Consulting and accompanying plans.

The statement said: "The proposal involves construction of a three-storey building, comprising nine fully accessible apartments, including four two-bedroom units, and five one-bedroom units."

It had "car parking on site for 10 vehicles, including eight dedicated accessible parking spaces, and one carer's space".

One motorbike parking space was provided.

"The appearance of the proposed development results in a less bulky form than the approved residential flat building.

"Each room comprises a kitchen, accessible bathroom, living/ dining room and laundry facilities.

"Each room includes private open space in the form of a balcony or courtyard.

Communal spaces such as a communal lobby, lift lobby, outdoor landscaped space bin storage and general storage areas are located on the ground floor.

"Pedestrian access to the site is off Blackwall Rd, while vehicular entrance and exit is via a combined driveway off an unnamed rear lane."

The statement makes reference to a further assessment of the applications against "the relevant statutory provisions" in a Statement of Environmental Effects accompanying the application to modify consent.

This statement did not appear on the council website.

The comment period for the application closes tomorrow, Tuesday, May 4.

SOURCE:
DA Tracker, 27 Apr 2021
DA 55285, Central Coast Council

Invalid application

An application for the development of shop-top housing and a commercial premises on the corner of Alfred and West Sts, Umina, has been rejected by Central Coast Council.

The proposal located at 1 and

3 Alfred St and 315 West St was estimated to cost \$5.2 million.

Council staff determined that the application was "invalid" on April 22.

SOURCE:
DA Tracker, 30 Apr 2021
DA61540, Central Coast Council

Two more townhouse proposals for Warrah St

Central Coast Council has received two more applications to build three-townhouse gun-barrel developments in Warrah St, Ettalong.

The applications for the townhouses at 16 and 21 Warrah St follow an application for a similar development at 18 Warrah St in March.

As with the previous proposal, both applications were prepared by planning consultants Clarke Dowdle and Associates and based on plans prepared by Knight Mapleton Design Partners.

Both developments are costed at \$600,000.

Both application seeks consent for the demolition of the existing dwelling and the erection of three three-bedroom town-houses with front courtyard fencing.

Vehicular access is proposed "via central driveway" to separate garages provided for each unit.

The proposed units provide sufficient areas to store mobile waste collection bins away from the street and clothes drying areas that would be screened from other dwellings and the public domain.

Neither application complies with minimum lot size requirements or setbacks.

Both exceed the maximum



length of a building of 25 metres.

The proposal for 16 Warrah St also fails to meet minimum open space requirement for two of the units, providing only 20 square metres and 24 square metres, instead of the required 50 square metres.

Both applications site numerous

multi-dwelling precedents, which they claim have "the same design scale, height, setbacks, site cover and parking".

SOURCE:
DA Tracker, 30 Apr 2021
DA61592, DA61386,
Central Coast Council

Panel appointments extended

Central Coast Council has extended the appointment of the current Central Coast Local Planning Panel members for two years.

Their appointments will stand until May 11, 2023, in line with the maximum term set out by the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979.

The panel was established following a regulatory amendment put in place by the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, Mr Rob Stokes, to ensure

independent review and increased transparency in determining development applications for Local Government Areas, according to council administrator Mr Dick Persson.

"In the first nine months since the commencement of the Central Coast LPP, the panel has met 14 times, determined 40 development applications and provided advice on two planning proposals," Mr Persson said.

SOURCE:
Media release, 27 Apr 2021
Dick Persson, Central Coast Council

Forum

'Improved planning outcome' test may still be subjective

Norm Harris asks whether approvals of non-compliant developments create a precedent under which similar non-complying developments are deemed acceptable ("Precedents take over from planning provisions", PN 517).

In fact, SEPP1 says that this applies where "the development standard has been virtually abandoned or destroyed by the council's own actions in granting consents departing from the standard", so, although SEPP1 has been rescinded, the principle seems to be in place.

What is important now is that the Minister is considering an amendment to clause 4.6 of the Standard LEP that would change the basis for approving a non-complying development, and it is crucial that any such change reflect best practice and protect community interests.

At present, the test for a non-complying development is that it "achieve the underlying purpose", even though it does not meet a specific standard in the LEP.

Of course, this is a completely subjective judgement, and there are no fixed criteria by which an application can be measured against the "underlying purpose".

It appears that most applications just make a platitudinous statement that the development meets the requirement (often, it seems, just boilerplate text from a computer template), and the outcome depends on the bargaining strength of the applicant.

Anecdotally, it appears that developers have little trouble in getting consents, where ordinary ratepayers can be refused requests for relatively trivial variations.

The minister is now proposing that clause 4.6 be changed to require that an application will bring about an "improved planning outcome", before it can be approved.

On face, this sounds like a significant strengthening of the provision, but, without specific guidelines as to what would constitute an "improvement", it is doubtful that it gets us much beyond where we now stand.

It is just as easy for a developer to say that a project will bring about

an improvement as it is to say that it meets the underlying purpose, and whose opinion will prevail in this situation?

Given the record of the kinds of projects that have been approved in the past, who could have much confidence that the community's interests will be any better served by the change in wording?

Anyone who is concerned about the development standards being applied to projects on the Peninsula needs to let his views be known to the Minister, while the amendment is under consideration.

We need to ensure that any change incorporates protections against arbitrary decision-making of the kind we see to date and that transparent processes are built into the system, to satisfy the community that all factors have been taken into account in issuing an approval.

Silence gives consent, so failure to voice an opinion will allow the present wording to go through unreviewed.

SOURCE:
Email, 22 Apr 2021
Bruce Hyland, Woy Woy

Planting 2000 seedlings in Umina dunes

The dunes at Umina Beach have benefited from the planting on April 21 of 2000 local native species, including coastal wattle, pig face, lomandra, scaevola, banksias, pelargonium and tea trees.

The plants, supplied to the Umina Community Group through Central Coast Council's landcare program, resembles the typical eco systems found originally along the beach, according to community group director Mr Tony Winch.

"The mix helps to support and encourage the local animal and birds, as well as assist in protecting the beach from coastal erosion.

"The plants have all been grown in Council's nursery at Erina, with local provenance seeds and cutting material," he said.

The group's dunecare volunteers had the guidance of team leaders from Central Coast Council in selecting the plants, planting locations and planting methods.

Mr Winch said the plants came from a donation of 10,000 plants to the Council by the Greater Bank, to celebrate its 75th birthday.

"We had a large team of Greater Bank employees rolling up their



sleeves and planting out the dunes," he said.

"It was an awesome way for the bank to give back to our community."

Mr Winch said Umina Dunecare volunteers would continue the watering and maintenance of the plants as part of their regular Dunecare program.

"New volunteers are always welcome," he said.

"Central Coast Council provides all the tools we need for our sessions and an experienced supervisor to lead the work.

"If people would like to become

involved you can contact us or come along to a session."

The program in Umina runs every Wednesday morning 9am-11am along the beach.

Meeting points are at Ocean Beach Road on the first Wednesday of the month, at Berith St (second Wednesday), at South St (third and fourth Wednesdays)

For more details, email contacts@UminaCommunityGroup.com

SOURCE:
Media release, 26 Apr 2021
Alison Winch, Umina Community Group



Search and rescue training for the Bays brigade

The Bays Rural Fire Brigade has undertaken search and rescue training at Charmhaven.

Captain Stephen O'Donohue said the training was at Charmhaven "smoke house", with Kariong communications and operations support.

"It was a great morning.

"The scenarios included a building being on fire and people

needed to be found and extracted, first aid rendered and the fire extinguished.

"The 'house' was smoke filled, needing specialist teams searching, with other members rolling-feeding hoses to those searching, and then first aid for people found."

SOURCE:
Social media, 24 Apr 2021
Stephen O'Donohue, The Bays Rural Fire Brigade



Liesl Tesch MP
Member for Gosford

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Forum

Sell-off should be paused for much deeper inquiry

Mr Persson's investigation concluded (Persson calls for administration while merger proceeds, Peninsula News, April 19) that "by far, the greatest reason the council became insolvent was due to mismanagement of their budget over the years following the merger".

You don't say!
Although he does acknowledge "unusual circumstances accelerated the collapse of the operating budget" that is, bushfires, floods, coastal erosion at Wamberal, the pandemic - and the advice council received about potential loss of income due to it.

He then goes on to state "nothing excuses the negligence of those in charge for their relative inaction".

Who does he mean?
The executive leadership team?
It was the use of restricted funds that caused councillors to be suspended, but Mr Persson said that was not the reason why the budget blew out.

"Even if those in charge thought those funds could be used for their

expanded spending, they must have known they would eventually run out," he said.

I understand that the councillors did not know the restricted funds were being used.

I very much hope a public inquiry does get to the bottom of this.

And I don't believe this financial crisis should be used to sell off the communities assets: our green spaces; our community land; our mobile home parks providing affordable housing; our car parks that support the small businesses of West St, Umina.

The sell-off needs to be paused and alternative financial solutions should be considered.

The State and Federal Governments could come to our aid.

It is not clear to me or to many other residents that the councillors are all at fault.

Many of us think the causes are much deeper and need to be explored in order to be avoided in the future.

SOURCE:
Email, 26 Apr 2021
Sally Joje, Umina Beach

Democracy should never be put on hold

Congratulations on your local news and community coverage for the Woy Woy Peninsula.

I have been a property-house owner in Umina Beach since 2012, and my partner an owner since about 2010.

We both love the area and, despite our voluntary work commitments in our offices in North Sydney, look forward to retirement as soon as possible when coronavirus is over and the economy back on track.

However in our irregular stays on the Peninsula, it appeared that the former Central Coast Council had priorities elsewhere, perhaps because of population densities in Terrigal and Gosford.

I have to admit that in almost a decade I have visited Gosford less than half a dozen times and Terrigal only once, but regularly Woy Woy as I train from Sydney and shop there frequently.

The beaches at Ettalong, Umina, Pearl Beach and Patonga have a unique atmosphere that I don't feel elsewhere on the Central Coast. It is hard to explain.

Perhaps it is the bus services which I use extensively.

Therefore it is very disheartening to read about the insolvency of the former Central Coast Council and the mismanagement by councillors of budgets following the forced merger of Gosford and Woy Woy Councils.

This new identity I and many residents opposed and still reject.

Now on your front page of April 19, there is the unseemly dispute between the Member for Terrigal Mr Adam Crouch, who is calling for support for a public inquiry into Central Coast Council, and the Central Coast Administrator Mr Dick Persson.

Mr Persson was defending his final report to Local Government Minister Ms Shelley Hancock, proclaiming that he is "an independent person with extensive experience" who has carried out the said inquiry-investigation.

I wonder what the Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch thinks about this "inquiry-investigation", as well as the Central Coast branches of the Labor and Liberal Parties.

Some years ago, unknown to myself at the time, the Peninsula News ran an article based on my communication with the mayor and deputy mayor suggesting a

50-year success story in North Sydney Council.

This was a precincts system where residents and ratepayers come together in about 16 sub-districts and gather through a Combined Precincts Committee to advise or criticise the council on local issues including decisions by the state and federal governments impacting the council.

While not perfect, such a structure for Participatory Democracy on the Central Coast may have more forcefully alerted councillors to the errors of their financial ways and thus avoided current difficulties highlighted by the Administrator in his report and the call for a further inquiry-investigation.

I agree with the views expressed by Mr Crouch and Mr Perssons that the currently suspended councillors should not be allowed to return to their positions or be re-elected without showing cause.

However, I disagree that the Central Coast Council election this September should be delayed.

Representative democracy should never be put on hold.

SOURCE:
Email, 22 Apr 2021
Michael Jones, Umina Beach.

Outrageous that local park sale is on agenda again

I am writing to voice my objection to the proposed reclassification and sale of Community Land and other lands of conservation value as proposed in the Council business paper for the April 27 meeting.

In 2016, the community held a major campaign against Gosford Council's proposed sell off of local parks and reserves.

The campaign was successful and we kept our local parks - no doubt something many appreciated in particular after Covid hit.

It is outrageous that this is now on the agenda again.

I believe that there will be strong opposition to the reclassification and sale of any conservation, open space and recreational land.

To base Council's recovery plan on this premise is, I believe, foolhardy as it is not an approach the community will support.

As a Peninsula resident, in particular I register my strong objection to the proposal to reclassify and sell the public reserves at 83-85 Brisbane Ave, Umina; 1 Austin Butler Ave, Woy Woy; and 7-9 Angler St, Woy Woy.

SOURCE:
Email, 30 Apr 2021
Sue Ellis, Umina Beach

Trees and cool open space are of more public benefit

The recent council agenda item exposed the plan for Peninsula Plaza to purchase a section of Lot 1 in the Austin Butler access road, Woy Woy, before the public had been consulted.

This land has been zoned for recreation for over 50 years, but now Council wants to do a deal with the plaza and sell it off to them for parking.

It is incredible to believe this can be proposed for a functional parcel of land which used to have playground equipment and tables and chairs until the council removed them, has over 30 mature original stand melaleucas which

is a food source for bats and is frequented by a myriad of urban fauna enjoyed by many.

In the council report, the council officers stated: "Given the proposed development by the plaza, the current zoning of the land does not support the upgrade to the plaza."

However, as the land is heavily flood affected, it is unlikely that the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment Land would support a rezoning of the land.

As such, it may be possible that the Plaza could seek an amendment to the Gosford Local Environment Plan for the land to be included as an Additional

Permitted Use to facilitate this ancillary use".

To achieve this, the plaza would need to demonstrate that there is substantial public benefit associated with the amendment to allow the change, which included providing a pathway that already exists and "beautifying" the flood channel.

The existing 30 mature trees and cool open space are more of an environmental and public benefit than a dodgy benefit for taking this parcel of land under the guise of job security.

SOURCE:
Email, 29 Apr 2021
Mark Ellis, Woy Woy

Bookkeeping



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We help you to implement the most cost effective and simple procedures that ensure your tax and payroll obligations are met on time, every time. You can trust Anytime Assist to streamline processes and hugely simplify your everyday accounting.

Jessica Kirkett
0431 604 609

Registered BAS agent 25276419

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.

Happy Tappers
Dance classes for people with special needs

Every Saturday
At 8:30am-9:45am. Cost \$5.

Tap dancing, jazz, hip hop

East Gosford Progress Hall
Cnr Henry Parry Dr & Wells St

Teachers
Madeline Stephenson
0438 033 039
Emma Kate De Henau 0417 686 665 or
Doone 02 4389 3126

Car Boot Sale
Woy Woy Peninsula Lions Club

May 30 

7am to 1pm
Great variety of stalls ~
BBQ, Tea & Coffee.

Vendors Welcome ~ \$20 per car
Now at Dunbar Road Car Park
NB stall sites not open until 6.00am
Cnr. Ocean Beach Road Woy Woy
Always Last Sunday
(no events in April or December)
Enq: 0478 959 895
COVID SAFE

Madeline School of Dance
Adult Tap Class
Peninsular

Come and have fun while you learn to dance

CWA Hall
Cnr Ocean Beach Rd & Sydney Ave,
Umina Beach

THURSDAY 9:30am - 11am
Cost \$10

Teacher: Madeline Stephenson
0438 033 039

Tesch seeks safer walking and cycling to school

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch has called for "safe infrastructure" that would encourage school children to walk or cycle to school.

"Kids should be able to feel safe on their way to school," she said.

"Kids and parents really do want to be active and walk or cycle to and from school but the measures in place are simply not good enough."

"Parents are angry and they so should be.

"They are not asking for much, just safe infrastructure to ensure their kids get to and from school safely.

"The red tape needs to be cut and changes need to be implemented at first instance to ensure parents don't have to refuse to let their children to get to their school (on their own) because of safety concerns."



She said there were "severely insufficient safety measures currently in place".

She was speaking in the lead-up to Walk to School Day

Ms Tesch, a former school teacher, invited Shadow Minister for Active Transport Ms Jo Haylen to a local meeting to discuss the safety concerns with the community.

She said representatives from Umina Beach Public School and

Woy Woy South Public School attended.

Ms Haylen said: "It won't come as a surprise that of the million or so school students that will be travelling to and from school today, only 30 per cent will get there by walking or riding, compared to 75 per cent 40 years ago."

SOURCE:
Media release, 27 Apr 2021
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford

Annabelle wins four Australian medals

Brisbane Water Secondary College athlete Annabelle Rodgers has won four medals in para competition at the Australian National Athletics championship.

She became Australian champion in Junior Para Javelin, winning the gold medal.

She won silver medals in both Junior Para Discus and Junior Para Shotput.

She also won a bronze medal in Open Para Javelin.

Competing for Team NSW, Annabelle took the Under-20 F20 Australian Javelin record with a throw of 25.42m.

SOURCE:
Social media, 19 Apr 2021
Rebecca Cooper, BWSC Woy Woy



Variety Night shows to be held on two dates

The Creative and Performing Arts faculties from both Woy Woy and Umina campuses of Brisbane Water Secondary College will unite to deliver Variety Night performances over two nights this month.

The shows will be held on Wednesday, May 26, and Thursday, May 27.

Each night will see 20 acts perform across a range of disciplines, including drama, dance

and music.

"The students have worked hard to this point and will continue to practice and refine their acts for what will be two fantastic shows," said Woy Woy campus principal Ms Rebecca Cooper.

"Variety Night is a free event, with tickets to be reserved through the front office of either the Woy Woy or Umina campus."

SOURCE:
Social media, 27 Apr 2021
Rebecca Cooper, BWSC Woy Woy

School opens gates to parents

Umina Beach Public School has opened its departure gates to parents to enter the schoolgrounds in the afternoon to pick up their children.

"These gates are the main Sydney Ave gate, the Sydney Ave

gate near the Kindergarten rooms and the Melbourne Ave gate near the library," said relieving principal Mr Chad Tsakissiris.

"There is an expectation that parents will still scan our NSW Services QR code upon entry to the school grounds in the mornings

and the afternoons.

"We ask that parents remain away from classrooms when picking their children up."

SOURCE:
Social media, 25 Apr 2021
Chad Tsakissiris, Umina Beach Public School

Umina starts to enrol for next year's kindergarten

Umina Beach Public School has started taking enrolments for next year's kindergarten classes.

"If your child is starting in kindergarten in 2022, you can enrol them now online," said relieving principal Mr Chad Tsakissiris.

Enrolments could be made on the Education Department website with a school code of 3995.

"Follow the instructions to enrol online.

"Please note that you will need to visit our office to complete your application within 30 days of doing

the online section.

"Early Bird interviews will take place at the end of July."

SOURCE:
Social media, 20 Apr 2021
Chad Tsakissiris, Umina Beach Public School

Leave wooded block intact for a hotter future

I noted the wooded block at 23-23a Memorial Ave, Blackwall, has been listed by the Council for sale as excess to requirements.

While many locals protested for many years against the destruction of the mature trees on the adjacent block on the corner of Wallaby St, those precious trees came down.

Here we are again, trying to give voice to our silent but valuable trees.

The council report says it is not habitat for threatened species.

However, paperbarks are a key food species for nationally and State listed, as vulnerable to extinction, grey-headed flying fox.

The national recovery plan was

adopted in March 2021.

This mature group is also home to birds, lizards, insects (pollinators) and provides a much needed cool shade canopy.

Why is the State Government promoting massive tree planting in Greater Sydney and yet our Council may put this small forest at risk?

Secondly, this cluster of trees actively helps suppress flooding from Blackwall Mountain through to Warwick St.

Leave this lovely little patch intact for our future in a hotter climate where trees will be truly appreciated.

SOURCE:
Email, 25 Apr 2021
Lesley Harvey, Ettalong Beach

Bush parkland was reason for buying in Blackwall

One of the reasons for buying my townhouse in Blackwall was the beautiful trees - paperbarks, swamp mahogany and blackbutts - growing partly on the two lots in Memorial Ave in danger of being sold by council.

There were many more trees on adjacent land belonging to a developer, who has since clear felled his part of the mini forest.

The trees that remain are doubly precious now, providing shelter to those birds, microbats, and other animals displaced by chainsaws as well as the original inhabitants.

As a volunteer for Wildlife Arc, I usually release birds found injured locally into this forest (when they are well enough), which is where many species live and breed.

The sale of these lots will make a relatively small amount of money compared to Council's debts.

At the same time, the people will have lost an irreplaceable green space, mature native trees, and the wildlife that live there.

The wildlife of course will have lost their homes, many their lives. The two lots in question are very low lying.

It would not be a propitious place to put high density dwellings.

Besides, the only access to this land is from a narrow, unnamed laneway.

About three years ago, Council agreed to retain these lots as a reserve.

There are two signs forbidding the public to do a variety of harmful things, and there are sandstone blocks to keep cars out.

Along with other residents of the Peninsula who love trees and wildlife, I felt the land was safe.

We intended, with Council's permission, to remove the non-native weeds and care for the existing trees.

The Grow Urban Shade Trees group has promised to supply native shrubs.

The plan was to create a native forest park, where people could walk and sit and enjoy nature.

One of the blessings of this location is that it is flat and easily accessible in an increasingly built-up area.

We would create a bushcare group to permanently look after the site.

SOURCE:
Email, 26 Apr 2021
Jane Henty, Blackwall

Forum

Sport



Siobhan wins three medals at Aussies surf competition

Umina Surf Life Saving Club's masters competitor Siobhan Clarkson, pictured on the right above, has won gold in the 55-59 years Masters Flags event at the Australian Surf Life Saving Championships.

She also won silver 55-59 years Beach Sprint and silver in the 200 years Sprint Relay, with Debbie Braddish, Richelle Ingram and Alison Tucker, also pictured above.

The club also won gold in the Open First Aid competition.

Bronte Smith and Hannah Murphy, pictured right, won the club's first ever Open First Aid medal.

SOURCE:
Social media, 19-21 Apr 2021
Umina Surf Life Saving Club



Lakes proved too strong for the Lions

The Lakes proved too strong for Woy Woy at Slade Park to record their first win round four of the Central Coast Rugby Union season to the tune of 57 points to 28 on Saturday, May 1.

Woy Woy opened the scoring in this match and took the early lead.

They led by 14 points to seven early in the match and seemed they were continuing their great

form from the previous Saturday. However gradually The Lakes took control and cemented a lead to demonstrate their best form for the year.

The Lakes quickly jumped ahead and by halftime had leapt to a very handy 26 points to 14 lead.

They played some great rugby and their mercurial backline was proving almost unstoppable.

The Lakes continued this form into the second half and were able

to post a further 31 points in the final 40 minutes.

Woy Woy did not stop however. They posted a further two tries to grab a valuable bonus point.

It was obvious The Lakes wanted their first win for the year.

Best performers for Woy Woy were No.8 Philip Shaw, lock Pita Pio and hooker Unaloto Tupou.

SOURCE:
Media release, 2 May 2021
Larry Thomson, CCRU

Roosters defeated in all grades

The Woy Woy Roosters were defeated in all grades against Kincumber at the weekend.

In first grade, Woy Woy went down to Kincumber 36-0.

In second grade, Kincumber ran out winners 54-6.

The under-19s only just lost 20-18, after a penalty goal to Kincumber in the last minute, in a well-played game.

The Roosters' Ladies League Tag side went down to Kincumber 48-0.

SOURCE:
Social media, 1 May 2021
Woy Woy RLFC



Trial game at Woy Woy

Woy Woy Junior Rugby League Football Club's under-13 Girls League Tag side had its first trial game on April 24.

The trial game was played against Umina Bunnies at Woy Woy Oval.

SOURCE:
Social media, 24 Apr 2021
Woy Woy JRLFC

Umina pennant bowls results

Umina Beach Men's Bowls Club reported two wins and a draw in its round eight pennants games on Saturday, May 1.

The Grade 3 side won 10 points to nil over Halekulani at home, with good wins by Rob Andersen's, Mark Hogden's and Tony Potter's rinks, according to club secretary

Mr Peter Springett.

Despite the great win, the third grade team remains in fifth place.

The Grade 6 side won by four shots and 8.5 - 1.5 points over Davistown at Davistown.

The team is currently in second place, half a point behind Ettalong Blue, who Umina will play in round 10.

The Grade 7 side drew with Davistown at Davistown, but went down 5.5 - 4.5 points.

The team is currently in second place, five points behind Davistown, which has a bye next week.

SOURCE:
Social media, 1 May 2021
Peter Springett, UBMC

Ettalong Eagles firsts lead in pennants

Ettalong Eagles Bowling Club has reported a good start to this year's pennants season, with its first grade team leading the Central Coast Conference after seven rounds with two rounds to play.

All other teams have three

rounds remaining:

The second grade side are third in its section.

The third grade side is leading its grade.

The fourth grade side is second in its section.

The fifth grade side is leading in its section.

The six Red side is third in its

section.

The six Blue side is second in its section.

The seven Red side is leading in its section.

The seven Blue side is fourth in its section.

SOURCE:
Social media, 27 Apr 2021
Ettalong Eagles Bowling Club

Netball association splits Junior Blue grade

Woy Woy Peninsula Netball Association has split its Junior Blue grade and created a new Junior Purple grade.

Junior Blue grade will now comprise Pumas, Pride, Stellas and Blue Bottles.

Junior Purple grade will

comprise Aquila, Devils, Jades and Flyers.

Association president Ms Sharon Bailey said: "This has allowed us to ensure a more even and enjoyable competition for all children involved."

She said the decision came "after lengthy discussions" by the

games and grading committee.

"It has resulted in a few changes to the draw for all grades."

She asked all players to check the draw prior to games for updated times and courts.

SOURCE:
Social media, 25 Apr 2021
Sharon Bailey, WWPNA



Umina hold junior presentation day

Umina Surf Life Saving Club held its junior presentation day on Sunday, April 11.

Sienna Scahill was named Junior Club Person of the Year.

She and Ronnie Jordan were Senior Pointscore Champions, while Sadie Martin and Callan Atherton were Junior Pointscore Champions, all pictured.

Carnival Competitor of the Year was Amber-Skye Stevenson.

State Medallists were Amber-

Skye Stevenson, Marli Hoyland, Mikayla Kearns, Ava Ayers, Madeline Cameron, Eliza O'Brien, Lily James, Kelsey Page, Bronte Scahill and Anwar El-Kurdi.

Rookie of the Year was Mitchell Ryan.

Lucy Marshall and Kai'zen Leggett were name Junior Club Captains for season 21-22.

SOURCE:
Social media, 11 Apr 2021
Umina Beach SLSC