

# Peninsula News

Community Access

EDITION 523

THE PENINSULA'S OWN NEWS SERVICE INC

12 JULY 2021



## Audit finds Woy Woy car spaces highest cost at \$211,000 each

An audit by the Australian National Audit Office has found the upgrade of the Woy Woy commuter carpark was 4.3 times the benchmark cost for the project.

Announced before the 2019 Federal election, the project costing \$30 million will provide 140 car spaces – a cost of \$211,000 per space.

The cost per space was the highest tabulated by the audit office.

The project was not included in a Ministerial briefing and it did not fall within eligibility criteria for funding, the audit report found.

The audit examined the “Administration of Commuter Car Park Projects within the Urban Congestion Fund” by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.

The audit found that the Woy Woy upgrade was one of seven projects “not included by the department in its briefing to the

Minister on the consultant’s report for which assessment work was completed between July and December 2020.”

“The department had not used the results of the benchmarking work to inform Ministerial consideration of whether Australian Government funding should be awarded to either scope or deliver car park projects.”

The audit also found that, while the department provided a “benefit cost ratio calculation tool for commuter car park projects” to Central Coast Council, “the department did not require proponents seeking funding for scoping or development work to provide a benefit cost ratio with their proposal”.

The audit also raised the question of whether the Woy Woy upgrade was eligible for funding under the National Land Transport Act.

“Of the 29 projects assessed by the department as being eligible, there were 10 proposed sites, or options, that were more than 130

meters from a rail station and not attached or readily attachable to that station.

“On 14 December 2020, as recommended by the department, the Minister approved the scoping phase of the Commuter Car Park Upgrade – Woy Woy project.

“This phase involves refining four site options to one preferred option.

“As per the extract of the scoping project proposal report at Figure 4.2 (above), some of the site options are not attached, or readily attachable, to the station.”

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch commented: “Scott Morrison and Lucy Wicks promised more car parking at Woy Woy train station before the 2019 Federal election.

“Two years on, we have no construction, only a plan to build Australia’s most expensive carpark at more than \$211,000 per space.”

**SOURCE:**  
Performance audit report, 28 Jun 2021  
Australian National Audit Office  
Social media, 30 Jun 2021  
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford

Table 4.3: Extent to which cost benchmarks addressed in project assessments completed after June 2020 (up to 31 March 2021)

| Date of brief | Project            | Project phase               | Funding approved | Cost per space | Within/above benchmark | Assessment report | Ministerial briefing   |
|---------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------------|--|
| 9 Sep 2020    | Berwick, Vic.      | Development and early works | \$5.5m           | \$115,000      | 190% above             | Not addressed     | Advised of expected cost per space to understand the market prices these costings the department |
| 30 Sep 2020   | Beaconsfield, Vic. | Delivery                    | \$2.35m          | \$31,333       | Within                 | Not addressed     | Not mentioned  |
| 2 Dec 2020    | Mango Hill, Qld    | Delivery                    | \$4.0m           | \$35,211       | Within                 | Not addressed     | Not mentioned  |
| 2 Dec 2020    | Ferry Grove, Qld   | Delivery                    | \$11.0m          | \$80,972       | 104% above             | Not addressed     | Not mentioned  |
| 10 Dec 2020   | Woy Woy, NSW       | Scoping                     | \$0.6m           | \$211,429      | 434% above             | Not addressed     | Not mentioned  |
| 10 Dec 2020   | Panania, NSW       | Scoping                     | \$0.6m           | \$166,000      | 522% above             | Not addressed     | Not mentioned  |

## Pearl Beach Challenge postponed due to lockdown

The 2021 Pearl Beach Challenge, a sponsored “Walk to Progress our Health and our Community”, which was to take place on Saturday, July 10, has been postponed “until further notice”.

The event, which aimed to redress the shortfall in income caused by coronavirus restrictions, was itself affected by the lockdown.

“The Pearl Beach Challenge Walk is to raise necessary funds to finance the Pearl Beach Memorial Hall’s rising costs and complete the extensive renovations being undertaken at the rear of the hall,” said Pearl Beach Progress Association publicity officer Ms Lynne Lillico.

“The continuation of the Covid-19 related restrictions to our community activities and consequences for our finances and

the unforeseen increase in the cost of the back deck hall renovations see the necessity to extend and expand fundraising activities.”

Ms Lillico said the Challenge was issued for groups and individuals to walk a set five kilometre course around the streets of Pearl Beach.

“A number of specialist groups have accepted the Challenge to promote heart ailments, orthopaedics and cancer.

“Walkers are looking for sponsorship and proceeds will go toward the completion of the hall’s finances and renovations.”

While the Challenge has been temporarily postponed, local residents are still able to register to participate or sponsor a walker, or to donate to the Memorial Hall Go Fund Me Campaign.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 30 Jun 2021  
Lynne Lillico, Pearl Beach Progress Association

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**SOURCE:**  
Mark Snell, 28 Jun 2021



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

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## News

# Peninsula News

Community Access

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

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

## EMAIL ISSUES?

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

Fallback email address: editor@peninsulanews.asn.au

## Editorial policy and guidelines

**At its heart, Peninsula News is a community effort.**

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

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

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

## Locality

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

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

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

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

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

## Readability

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

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

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

## Forum letters

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

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

Contributors are asked to keep their

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

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

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

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

## Corrections

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

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

## Source lines

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

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

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

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

Sometimes we may interview a person or report what they said at a meeting. The following descriptions are used:

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

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



## Pandemic winner

**There may not be many winners during the coronavirus pandemic, but this is one of them, according to the Umina Community Group.**

The group's dunecare site is flourishing with new plantings and fresh mulch.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 3 Jul 2021  
Peter Springett, Umina Community Group

## Four books for CWA book club

**Umina Beach branch of the Country Women's Association will discuss four books at its next book club meeting.**

The branch cancelled its book club meeting due to the lockdown, but announced the books to read in July.

These are And Then There

Were None by Agatha Christie and Truly Madly Guilty by Liane Moriarty.

"If everyone is happy, we can stay a little longer next month and discuss all four books," said branch president Ms Rikki McIntosh.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 5 Jul 2021  
Rikki McIntosh, CWA Umina Beach

## Egg and bacon rolls

**A Takeaway Bacon and Egg Roll Morning is still planned for Sunday, July 25, from 8am to 10am at The Bays Community Hall.**

The Bays Community Group will accept cash or card payment.

A home delivery service will be available and a coffee van will be on site.

Homemade marmalades and relishes will also be on sale.

Other events on the group's

calendar include a Drag Queen Bingo evening on Saturday, December 4, and a concert with Abby Dobson Live on Saturday, September 11.

Details are available on the group's website at <http://www.thebayscommunity.org/category/up-coming-events/>.

**SOURCE:**  
Newsletter, 8 Jul 2021  
Gwynneth Weir, The Bays Community Group

## Little rain for start of July

**Less than one 10th of month's average rainfall has fallen on the Peninsula in the first nine days of the month.**

Only 5.5mm was recorded by Mr Jim Morrison of Umina.

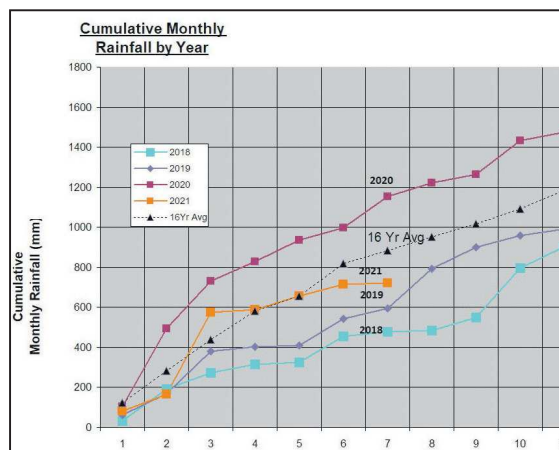
July is one of the three driest months of the year, with an average rainfall of 66mm.

The other two months are August with 67mm and September with 66mm.

The cumulative rainfall figure for the year to end of June was 716mm.

While this was more than half of the annual average of 1278mm, the average figure at the end of June is 819mm.

**SOURCE:**  
Spreadsheet, 9 Jul 2021  
Jim Morrison, Umina



## Plans to fly to England to see daughter

**A Booker Bay mother is planning to fly to England to see her daughter after having a lottery win.**

She won the guaranteed first prize of \$100,000 in Lucky Lotteries Super Jackpot draw 10476, drawn Tuesday, July 6.

The woman also won a consolation prize of \$1,000 boosting her total to \$101,000.

The winning entry was purchased at Ettalong Beach Newsagency.

The Booker Bay women said the money would also "go towards helping family and friends who are struggling right now".

Lucky Lotteries Super Jackpot and Lucky Lotteries Mega Jackpot are raffle-style games, with a set number of tickets in each draw.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 6 Jul 2021  
Anna Hobdell, The Lott

## Palm Beach ferries diverted

**The Palm Beach ferry service was diverted from Ettalong to Patonga over the weekend.**

The diversion for Saturday, July 10, and Sunday, July 11, was due to inclement sea conditions.

The Bureau of Meteorology had forecast up to 4.2 metre south-easterly rough swells and 45.4 km/h south-south-westerly strong winds.

"This exceeds the company's safe operating guidelines for the service," said ferry service manager Ms Elisabeth Styler.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 9 Jul 2021  
Fantasea Palm Beach Ferries





## Rotary awards honorary memberships

**Rotary Club of Woy Woy has awarded honorary membership to its former members Mr Vic Deeble and Mr Barry Freeman (pictured).**

"Both Vic and Barry each gave

nearly 30 years of service to Rotary as well as taking on major service roles during their years at our club," said outgoing president Ms Joan Redmond.

"We thank them for their

continued interest in Rotary Woy Woy and look forward to their company at future events."

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 29 Jun 2021  
Joan Redmond, Rotary Woy Woy

## Ferry service abandons pet restriction plan

**Palm Beach Ferries has backed away at the last minute from a plan to ban pets from its ferries unless they are in a carrier.**

The company announced the plan on Friday, June 25, to start from Thursday, July 1.

But on Wednesday, June 30, the company decided instead to "monitor usage" and "provide guidance".

"This means you can continue to use our services with your pets and animals like you have in the past, but we do reserve the right to refuse travel," said Palm Beach Ferries manager Ms Elisabeth Styler.

In the initial announcement, the company stated: "From July 1, staff will be enforcing the current NSW Passenger Transport Act and regulations."

"All animals and pets must be in a carrier to travel on ferries and be under control at all times."

"Animals and pets on leashes will not be allowed."

"Staff have the right to refuse travel."

"Assistance animals are permitted to travel without a carrier."

The social media post referred to the company's website which stated: "In accordance with the Passenger Transport (General) Regulation 2017, regulation 53 Control of Animals, pet animals must not travel on ferries unless they are suitably confined in a box, basket or other container."

"However, permission to bring pet animals on ferries is still required by the operating crew."

"This rule does not apply to assistance animals."

"In accordance with industry recognition, therapy animals, facility animals and emotional support animals are considered to be companion animals."

"These animals do not have public access rights and can only travel using the arrangements provided for travelling with pets."

However, at 5:30pm on June 30, Ms Styler posted: "We have been reading all your comments on our recent post regarding pets and animals onboard our services

and have decided to review the NSW Passenger Transport Act and regulations again to see if we can still allow you to travel with them."

"Rather than strictly enforcing the NSW Passenger Transport Act and regulations from July 1, we have decided to take the approach to monitor usage, provide guidance to customers and enforce if there is any risk to other passengers' safety or wellbeing."

"This means you can continue to use our services with your pets and animals like you have in the past, but we do reserve the right to refuse travel."

"This may occur when your animals or pets are not clean, appear vicious or likely to annoy, threaten or inconvenience other customers, or if the service has reached capacity."

"We do listen to your feedback and want to provide the best service possible and feel that the above approach is the best compromise going forward."

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 25-30 Jun 2021  
Fantasea Palm Beach Ferries

## CWA branch calls for council transparency on Pelican Park playground

**The Woy Woy branch of the Country Women's Association has called on Central Coast Council to adopt a "fair and transparent" process, following the threatened demolition of the Pelican Park playground.**

"Following community backlash, Council have advised that further community consultation will take place before the playground is demolished," said branch president Ms Jane Bowtell.

"As a community we must ensure that this process is fair and transparent."

"We urge Council to address the concerns of the community and explain exactly why the park must be demolished, instead of refurbished."

"We are very happy to lend our support to those fighting to keep the playground."

"At no time was CWA Woy Woy consulted, or advised, about the planned demolition of Pelican Park or the building of the new park which has now been hastily put together."

"We heard of this at the same time as the rest of the community."

"The new playground at Anderson Park Reserve has been hastily constructed."

"It was not planned to be built until July, but has now magically materialised overnight (June 27)."

"The gate for the new park does not lock correctly and, as such, is a safety risk to families planning on using the new facilities near the busy road."

"There is also no seating for families or people with disabilities and mobility issues."

Ms Bowtell urged residents to continue to sign the "Save Pelican Park" petition and to write to the administrator@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au "to voice your concerns".

"This is not the end of the fight," she said.

"Please continue to voice your concerns to Council so we can ensure the process is fair and transparent."

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 29 Jun 2021  
Jane Bowtell, CWA Woy Woy

## 'Keep playground and tree'

**The Central Coast branch of the Australian Conservation Foundation has called for the retention of both the Pelican Park playground and the cypress tree growing in the park.**

"Both the tree and various versions of the play equipment have lived in harmony for the past 40 years, and both should be retained," said branch president Mr Mark Ellis.

"This tree has grown in this position for over 40 years, is an excellent specimen tree providing shade in summer and allows the sun to shine through in the winter, as it is a deciduous conifer and is an excellent feature tree."

"The play space on Brick Wharf Rd should be maintained with the funds allocated in the Operational Plan"

Mr Ellis said the branch had

submitted three formal freedom of information requests to Central Coast Council.

The first asked for the arborist or horticultural report relating to the tree which is located in the Pelican Park at Woy Woy next to the play space, which the council intended to remove.

The second was a request for the report declaring the play space in Pelican Park unsafe and any documents relating to that.

The third asked for a copy of the report in relation to Pelican Park and any community consultation undertaken where the community had requested the park be removed.

Mr Ellis said: "Any decisions made by council need to include community consultation and fact-based decisions."

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 1 Jul 2021  
Mark Ellis, ACFFC



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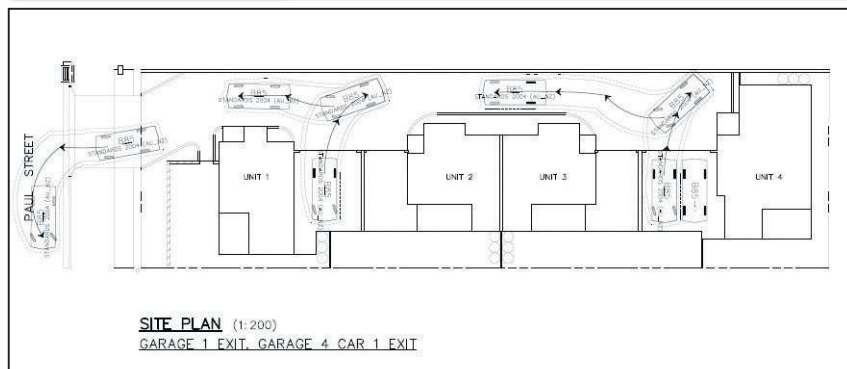


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## Planning



### Four-unit development proposed for Paul St

A development application has been received by Central Coast Council for a multi-unit housing development, estimated to cost \$800,000, comprising four dwellings at 37 Paul St, Umina Beach.

Although just five houses from Ocean Beach Rd, the site is described as "within the immediate proximity of the Ettalong CBD".

This application was prepared by Clark Dowdle and Associates on behalf of the owners of the land, based on the plans and information provided by Knight Mapleton Design Partners.

The application stated: "The area is characterised by a mixture of residential of development and small scale commercial,

retail, medical and educational establishments of varying height, bulk and scale.

"The site is located near public bus transport, recreational facilities, retail facilities, medical centres-hospitals and sporting grounds.

"The application seeks consent for four three-bedroom townhouses with front courtyard fencing.

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

The proposal is on a lot size of 808.3 square metres, has a height of seven metres and a floor space ratio of 0.49:1 that comply with planning provisions.

However, with a side boundary

setback of as little as one metre, the proposal does not comply with the minimum side setback of 3.5 metres.

A rear setback of as little as 1.37 metres does not meet the requirement of six metres.

With a length of 45.66 metres, it exceeds the maximum depth requirement of 25 metres.

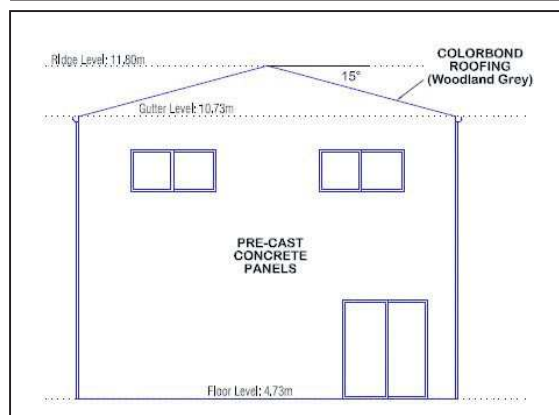
Three of the four units do not meet the open space requirement of 50 square metres, with units two and three having only 40 square metres and unit four having only 30 square metres.

The public comment period is from Friday, July 9, to Friday, August 6.

SOURCE:

DA Tracker, 9 Jul 2021

DA62203, Central Coast Council



### Planning comments may go unnoticed

Many comments submitted to Central Coast Council by residents on planning matters may be going unnoticed and unrecorded.

A recent application for the removal of three casuarina trees in Pearl Beach was posted on the Council's planning portal on the day it was approved.

Comments were submitted to the council via the independent Planning Alerts website and verified as "successfully delivered to the email server of Central Coast Council (Gosford)".

However, they were not acknowledged on the council's planning portal.

The portal showed the application for 34 Diamond Rd was completed on June 22 and approved the same day.

Mr Stephen Parsons submitted a comment: "A pity to rush the approval of such valuable trees. Inevitable demise of mature trees in Pearl Beach."

Another person commented: "Casuarina trees in Pearl Beach are a food source for black cockatoos and should be retained if possible. It is difficult to understand

why three casuarina trees located at the rear of the property would need to be removed."

A third person commented: "These posts are a waste of time. The alert came out and next morning the tree removal was taking place. Why bother, if this was already approved?"

Ms Mary Knaggs from the Pearl Beach Environment Group replied: "I agree the system is a little flawed."

"Those making the comment usually do not realise it is too late."

"I am heartened that at least some people care enough about our environment even if sometimes it is too late."

"I am hoping the concern may make proponents and those with an approval role think twice before considering actions that are not in accordance with the requirements of the LEP guidelines or the DCP."

"More importantly they are actions that are gradually eroding the special bushland village character of Pearl Beach."

Another application, for a residential demolition at 13 Lurline St, Ettalong, was approved with a complying development certificate by a private certifier.

The council portal showed a "lodged" date of July 5 and an approval date of June 29, but it did not show a resident's request through the Planning Alerts website: "Please retain trees that are on site to provide homes for birds, and shade to cool the properties."

In another case, a construction certificate was issued by a private certifier for a secondary dwelling at 4 Veron Rd, Umina.

A comment was lodged but not shown on the council portal: "I cannot see any documents that relate to this DA."

"Will the trees be spared?"

"We need these to support our birdlife and control the impacts of urban heat. Please save the trees."

The development application for the secondary dwelling was approved on December 12, four years ago.

Details of that application are still available on the council's planning portal, but no evidence exists on the portal that the comment was received or available to the public.

SOURCE:

Website, 9 Jun 2021  
DA12295, DA61705, DA53211, planningalerts.org.au

### Go ahead given for Mutu St factory

A new factory may soon be built in Mutu St, Woy Woy, following the issue of a construction certificate by a private certifier in June.

The new factory valued at \$100,000 will replace an existing industrial building at 5 Mutu St, Woy Woy.

The application, approved on August 17 last year, described the development: "The siting and scale of the new building would be commensurate with that of the existing building."

"Essentially the proposal seeks to shift the siting of the building approximately one metre to the

southern boundary to allow a slightly wider building by 0.35m and driveway by half a metre.

"The length of the building would be increased by three metres to the rear."

The new building will have a floor area of 228 square metres and a mezzanine area of 40 square metres.

Council's planning assessment stated the height of the new building would be 3.78m, but approved plans show a height of six metres.

SOURCE:

DA Tracker, 9 Jul 2021  
DA58460, Central Coast Council





## Group may ask for Bays roads to be 'shared zones'

A request may be made to have roads in The Bays area officially designated as "shared zones" if a suggestion made to The Bays Community Group committee is supported.

The share zones would give pedestrians equal priority with vehicle movement.

"Although the legal speed limit for The Bays is 50km, most residents agree that there are very few places in The Bays where 50kmh is a safe speed to drive," said group president Ms Gwynneth Weir.

"Many residents drive at safe speeds, approaching narrow sections and blind corners with caution.

"But we all have experienced vehicles travelling at a speed that might be legal but is certainly not safe.

"It appears that some drivers think that the 50kmh limit is a required speed, rather than the maximum speed allowed."

Ms Weir said the committee would make a submission based on "what the residents think could be done to make our roads safer".

Residents should contact the committee with their ideas, she said.

"The State sets the speed limits on roads everywhere in NSW but our local council looks after the actual roads in The Bays.

"In many areas of The Bays, there are no footpaths beside the road.

"What about asking the State to put in additional signage in these places to indicate that the road is shared by pedestrians and vehicles?

"These signs usually have a speed limit that is lower than 50kmh.

"What about speed humps?

"Do you think they would help?

"The State is considering reducing the maximum speed limit from 50kmh in certain residential areas.

"Should we be making a case to the State for at least some of the roads in The Bays to be included?"

Residents should send their ideas by email to thebaysemail@gmail.com.

**SOURCE:**  
Newsletter, 8 Jul 2021  
Gwynneth Weir, The Bays Community Group

## Garage sale marred by threat of rain

The Umina Beach Men's Shed garage sale held at Charlton St, Woy Woy, on Saturday, June 19, had a "good" financial result, according to Shed secretary Mr Vic Brown.

"But if we had had a good weather day it might just have been terrific," he said.

The owner of the premises, opposite the entrance to the Deepwater Car Park, allowed the group to use the sales yard and the office area.

With a forecast for rain, "we set up the sale of the majority of items within the office areas, and had a large gazebo outside with trays of smallish items.

"We got off to a really good start first thing in the morning: six o'clock to set everything up," Mr Brown said.



A team of six members helped with the set-up and another team that helped sort and unload items on the Friday.

"Just after 7am, the first customers arrived and despite the cold temperature and wind factor the customers and sales team kept moving right up to 12.40 when the

rain arrived.

"The temperature dropped further and, with that, the customers simply disappeared from around Woy Woy, not just Charlton St, so we closed at 2:30pm with it still raining, windy and very cold."

**SOURCE:**  
Newsletter, 30 Jun 2021  
Vic Brown, UBMSI

## More improvements to Patonga hall

The Patonga Public Hall will benefit from a \$57,600 facelift, with a grant from the NSW Government's Covid-19 stimulus funding for Crown Land reserves.

"The amenities building adjacent to Patonga Public Hall will undergo a range of upgrades, including the

installation of new fixtures, re-tiling, new flooring and electrical works," said Central Coast Parliamentary Secretary Mr Adam Crouch.

"This is on top of \$19,250 announced in February to paint the interior and exterior of the hall.

"Patonga Public Hall is regularly used by volunteers at the nearby

Rural Fire Brigade as well as the wider community."

Mr Crouch congratulated Mr John Quigg, Mr Dain Simpson and Mr Mark Austin for successfully applying for the stimulus funding.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 29 Jun 2021  
Adam Crouch, Central Coast PS



**Liesl Tesch MP**  
Member for Gosford

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## Health

# Access is 'main obstacle' to aged care staff vaccination

**The main "blockage" for Woy Woy aged care staff getting vaccinated has been the "very limited access" to the Pfizer vaccine.**

Blue Wave Living chief executive Mr Matt Downie said the Pfizer vaccination was preferred in aged care due to the short window of full vaccination – three weeks versus three months for Astra Zeneca.

He said there were extensive waiting times.

"Staff making appointments are being given dates in August for

their first vaccination jab."

Mr Downie said: "This is very poor for a group that was supposed to be part of 1A phase of the vaccination roll out."

"We are thankful that recently the NSW government has made a commitment to establish roving vaccination clinics to visit aged care facilities and help address this issue."

"We are hopeful this will get underway very soon, as it will enable better access for our staff to become fully vaccinated."

"This is what we had originally understood was going to happen

following the roving clinics vaccinating majority of residents in aged care, but it simply never eventuated."

"Until the recent announcement that it will become compulsory for staff working in aged care, it has been a choice for individuals to make, which combined with a lack of community cases in Australia until recently, has undoubtedly led to some deferring making a decision, despite our promotion of the need."

Mr Downie said: "The only path out of this Covid world is to have most of the Australian population

vaccinated."

"That way we can avoid both community lock downs and aged care facility lock downs."

"Sadly, we seem to have been let down in this regard."

"Australia ranks last of all the OECD countries in terms of percentage of the population vaccinated."

"We have only managed to vaccinate 4.7 per cent of our population, while other countries are now pushing past 50 per cent of their population."

"With aged care continuing to be very much on the front line, and at

risk of continued Covid outbreaks, I find this situation extraordinarily disappointing."

"As an Australian, I find this statistic quite devastating."

"We have done so well to limit the intrusion of Covid in this country, but have made so little progress towards a path out of the pandemic impact."

"We can only be hopeful that the current outbreak in NSW is short-lived, and we can re-open to visitors very soon."

**SOURCE:**

Newsletter, 9 Jul 2021

Matt Downie, Blue Wave Living

## 'We cannot afford to be complacent', says Crouch

**Central Coast Parliamentary Secretary Mr Adam Crouch has urged local residents not to be complacent about coronavirus after two cases were identified on the Central Coast.**

"The delta strain is highly contagious and spreads very quickly," he said.

"We cannot afford to be complacent."

Mr Crouch said: "The Central Coast's two active cases are located in the 2261 postcode."

"Fortunately the people who tested positive did the right thing

by self-isolating, which means they pose no additional risk to the community."

"Thanks to the cases getting tested and self-isolating, we have not had any community transmission yet."

"However, NSW Health remains very concerned about the possibility of a seeding event in our community," he said.

"Suburbs in the 2261 postcode include Bateau Bay, Berkeley Vale, Chittaway Bay, Glenning Valley, Killarney Vale, Long Jetty, The Entrance and Tumby Umbi."

"Regardless of where you live

on the Central Coast, please stay at home unless it is for an essential reason, wear a mask when you're shopping, and remember to check-in with QR codes."

"If you have any symptoms, no matter how mild, please get tested and self-isolate until you receive a negative result."

Mr Crouch said last Wednesday, July 7, the numbers were "wake-up call for everybody."

"There have been 357 cases of community transmission since June 16, which is when the first Bondi cluster case was reported."

He said 37 patients with the

delta strain were currently in NSW hospitals.

Of these, 14 were under the age of 55 and eight were under the age of 35.

Seven required treatment in intensive care units and two required a ventilator to keep breathing.

"While today's decision to extend the lockdown is a painful one, it has been taken to protect the health and safety of our community."

Earlier Mr Crouch had urged visitors to stay away from the Central Coast.

"If you are on the Central Coast right now but your home address is not a Central Coast suburb, please go home."

"The only reasons to leave home are shopping for essentials, medical care or compassionate needs, outdoor exercise, and essential work or education commitments."

"Taking a holiday is not a reasonable excuse" for leaving home."

**SOURCE:**

Social media, 5-7 Jul 2021

Media release, 28 Jun 2021

Adam Crouch, Central Coast PS

## Forum

### Short-term gain at economic, social and environmental cost

**"Amalgamation" is a euphemism for "collapse".**

I have been advised the council has shelved its climate change policy.

Have coastal hazard lines that prohibit development seaward of a prescribed line been updated? Will they be?

As the climate change policy is defunct, it might be assumed the need to have suitably qualified staff to assess DAs has passed.

This means a further downturn in staff numbers and services.

How many DAs have been and will be approved for perceived short-term gain that will have definite long-term economic, social and environmental cost?

It is accurate to describe the council's administration as "collapsed", and not "amalgamated".

**SOURCE:**

Email, 9 Jul 2021

Norm Harris, Umina

## No limit to high-handed council behaviour?

**It seems there is no limit to the high-handed behaviour of the Council and the bureaucratic machinery that adjudicate on the future environment of the Peninsula.**

The latest outrage is a proposal by the Planning Panel to increase building densities along the Ettalong beachfront, without even a hint or pretence of consultation with the community ("Planning panel supports 17m high beachfront rezoning", PN 522).

According to the report, this proposal "was not listed on the Panel's agenda" but was based on "material presented by Council officers (actually, servants) at the briefing meeting", so the plan was kept completely secret from the public and rushed to the subsequent Council meeting, before anybody could possibly raise an objection or make a comment.

According to the Panel, the proposal has "site-specific merit", but we are not told what this merit is, since all the related material is being kept secret from us.

The Panel, also, comments that any development should provide "acceptable" separations and setbacks, without saying what is acceptable, and that "design

excellence" should be a factor, without saying what this could possibly mean.

Given the horrendous examples of the Mantra and Atlantis buildings, it is not difficult to imagine the kind of monstrosities that will sail through approval on the basis of design excellence.

The two excrescences that we have now are bad enough, but imagine the entire waterfront overshadowed by similar structures: according to our LEP, Ettalong is supposed to have a village character, but what we're talking about is a mini Gold Coast.

Can anyone doubt that, if this action goes ahead, it will be

the basis for future proposals of a similar kind, based on "precedence"?

Can anyone doubt that the Panel will look favourably on such proposals?

This kind of out-of-scale rebuilding is completely unnecessary in Ettalong and merely reflects developer greed and Council disdain for local opinion.

If this is an example of our Administrator Mark 3's behaviour, the next 18 months don't look promising.

**SOURCE:**

Email, 5 Jul 2021

Bruce Hyland, Woy Woy.

## Public Notices

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Vendors Welcome ~ \$20 per car

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Always Last Sunday

(no events in April or December)

**Enq: 0478 959 895**

COVID SAFE

## Where are the commuter parking spaces?

**There is still no sign of the "fully-funded and properly-costed" commuter parking spaces at Woy Woy Railway Station promised by Federal Member for Robertson Ms Lucy Wicks prior to the 2019 Federal election (at a cost of \$5 million).**

The space is there. The need is there. The money is there. Lucy Wicks' commitment is there.

And the next Federal election will be held in or before 2022.

Where the bloody hell are they?

**SOURCE:**

Email, 7 Jul 2021

Stephanie Short, Woy Woy





## Learning from home this week

**Students across the Peninsula will be learning from home this week in the remote learning model.**

Brisbane Water Secondary College Umina campus principal Ms Kerrie O'Heir said the arrangement would stay in place until Friday, July 16.

"Our school will remain open for the students and families who need it, although parents are encouraged to keep their children at home," she said.

"There will only be minimal staff supervision and our school will provide one unit of work for students, whether they are learning from home or in the classroom.

"For those on site, all staff and students will be required to wear masks.

"This is consistent with current requirements for masks to be worn in office and workplace settings and on transport services.

"All staff and any visitors to our school will need to use the QR codes to check in and out of school premises."

Other principals of Peninsula schools send messages to parents and students.

**SOURCE:**

Social media, 7 Jul 2021  
Kerrie O'Heir, BWSC Umina

## Preschool celebrates Naidoc Week

**Booker Bay Preschool has celebrated Naidoc Week with a focus on the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.**

The children were invited to participate in a range of activities

to explore "connection to Country", through video presentations, songs, stories, arts and crafts.

Among the activities for the children was making hand prints.

**SOURCE:**

Social media, 7 Jul 2021  
Booker Bay Preschool

## Students sent letters about targeted programs

**Letters have been sent to Brisbane Water Secondary College Umina campus students who applied for "targeted programs" for next year, advising them of their outcome.**

The successful students

will move through to stage two interviews, testing and auditions.

Students who do not receive a letter in the school holidays have been asked to phone Ms Erika Rowe on 4341 9066 or to send an email to her at erika.rowe6@det.nsw.edu.au.

"The quality of the applicants

was of a very high standard and we commend all students on their commitment to completing the requirements of the application," said campus principal Ms Kerrie O'Heir.

**SOURCE:**

Social media, 28 Jun 2021  
Kerrie O'Heir, BWSC Umina

## NSW State Emblems

Can you name them?



\_ o \_ \_ b \_ \_ \_



W \_ \_ a \_ \_ \_



Did you know that the fossil emblem of NSW is a fish fossil called *Mandageria fairfaxi* – or popularly known as the Canowindra fish fossil

Draw the state emblem you would like.

## MP runs colouring and drawing competition

**Entries close today for a colouring and drawing competition being run by Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch.**

Ms Tesch said she was encouraging local children to get involved in the NSW state emblems colouring-in and drawing competition.

"The fun educational activity gives an opportunity to young artists to show off their talent and have a go at creating their own state emblem."

Ms Tesch said this was a great way to pass the time in lockdown.

"As a former teacher, I know the importance of keeping young minds active in fun and engaging way and I encourage parents to get the littlies involved in some

light-hearted and educational fun."

Three lucky winners will each win a colouring book along with "a bag of goodies" and a certificate from Ms Tesch.

Entries close today and winners will be notified by the July 30 of their success.

To enter all you have to do is email [goford@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:goford@parliament.nsw.gov.au) and submit your name, age, suburb, contact details and parent or guardian details.

A form to colour in can be found at <https://education.parliament.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/NSW-State-Emblems-Colouring-In-Competition-Parliament-of-NSW.pdf>

**SOURCE:**

Media release, 6 Jul 2021  
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford

## Arts

## Dates are set for postponed Bays art show

**New dates have been announced for The Bays Art Show and Exhibition.**

The show which was to be held this month will now be held over the weekend from Friday, October 22, to Sunday, October 24.

The Friday opening night will be a ticket entry event, while the art exhibition on the Saturday and Sunday will be by gold coin donation.

"We are hoping that by October the current situation will have changed significantly and we will be able to hold this popular Bays event," said group president Ms Gwynneth Weir.

"People should retain their original entry tickets for the opening night.

"Any tickets bought for the July

opening night will be valid for the opening night on Friday, October 22.

"Any artists who have booked space for the July dates will retain their booked space for the October event

"Anyone who wishes to receive a refund for their ticket or artist's space should send an email to [thebaysemail@gmail.com](mailto:thebaysemail@gmail.com) so that we can arrange a refund.

"In the meantime, let's all play our part by adhering to the NSW COVID restrictions which will help all our communities return to something closer to 'normal' as quickly as possible."

**SOURCE:**

Media release, 11 Jul 2021  
Gwynneth Weir, The Bays Community Group

## Bays' book

**A book about the history and unique features of The Bays is being sold by The Bays Community Group.**

"Our Beautiful Bays is a unique book written about this special place that we call home," said group president Ms Gwynneth Weir.

"Written by long-term residents Mr Brian Goodey and Ms Margaret Vidler, it contains a wealth of history and interesting stories."

The book is being sold for \$25 at the group's events and may be ordered by email at [thebaysemail@gmail.com](mailto:thebaysemail@gmail.com).

"It is a great book to give to any visitors you may have to remind them of the special time they have spent with you, or to send to friends and family who live far away," said Ms Weir.

**SOURCE:**

Newsletter, 8 Jul 2021  
Gwynneth Weir, The Bays Community Group

## Aunty Di's book launch is postponed

**The Mingaletta Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation has announced that the launch of Aunty Di O'Brien's book, Daughter of the River Country, has been postponed due to the lockdown.**

The book was to be launched last Monday, July 5, at the start of Naidoc Week.

A new launch date has not been announced.

In the meantime, Aunty Di is selling her book from home.

For further information, phone 0432 222 794.

**SOURCE:**

Social media, 28 Jun 2021  
Mingaletta ATISC



## Sport

### Bowls clubs proceed with Mixed Kingfisher carnival

**Umina Beach Men's and Women's Bowling Clubs have not changed their plans to hold their Mixed Kingfisher graded two-Bowl triples on Wednesday, July 28.**

Teams must include at least one woman and one man.

Entries, at \$20 per person, must be received by July 21.

The carnival has a prize pool

of \$2222, with the winners' prize being \$540, second \$450 and third \$390.

"We have availability for four more teams in this popular carnival," said men's club secretary Mr Peter Springett.

"This is obviously subject to further advice from NSW Health."

**SOURCE:**

Social media, 9 Jun 2021  
Peter Springett, UBMBC



### Cycling 'tour' continues

**The Central Coast Bicycle User Group is continuing its Tour de Central Coast during the lockdown.**

"It's not too late to join in," said group president Mr Alan Corven.

"Challenge course riders still have 2.5 weeks to attempt six stages, or as many as you can."

"And the Cruise course has been extended by two weeks due to the lockdown."

"With the lockdown, there is a lot less motor vehicle traffic on the roads, so it's a great time to ride your bicycle," he said.

**SOURCE:**

Social media, 7 Jul 2021  
Alan Corven, CCBUG

### Umina surf club opens online registrations

**Umina Surf Life Saving Club has opened online registrations for the 2021-22 season.**

Registrations are being taken for all levels from under-6s through to Masters.

The club is promoting registration as being an opportunity to "join the current NSW Club of the Year".

"We might be in the middle of winter but its time to think about warming up in the sun and getting down the beach."

Online registrations are taken at <https://sls.com.au/join/>.

Registration days will be held at the club on Sundays, August 29 and September 12.

**SOURCE:**

Social media, 8 Jul 2021  
Umina Beach SLSC

### Southern Spirit registrations start for all teams

**Registrations for 2021-22 cricket season have started at the Southern Spirit Cricket Club.**

The club is seeking new players for junior blast, juniors, women's and men's teams.

It is also wanting an "enthusiastic female cricket ambassador" to help grow female participation in the club.

The role could be shared.

For further information, phone Bec on 0404 017 897.

Other positions currently available are junior blast cricket manager, women's cricket coordinator and social event manager.

For further information, phone Anthony on 0415 454 079.

**SOURCE:**

Social media, 27 Jun - 7 Jul 2021  
Southern Spirit Cricket Club

### Tennis registration postponed

**Woy Woy Tennis Club has postponed its registration days for four weeks.**

"Due to the lockdown, our membership renewal days have had to be pushed back four weeks," members were told in a

social media post.

The days will now be held from 10am to 4pm on Saturday, July 31, and from noon to 4pm on Saturday, August 7.

**SOURCE:**

Social media, 16 Jun 2021  
Woy Woy Tennis Club

### Bowls club raises \$5000 on charity day

**The Umina Beach Men's Bowling Club's Ron Pursehouse Prostate Charity Day on June 24 has raised close to \$5000.**

"How lucky were we, despite the obstacles caused by the virus, to get the day in before the latest lockdown," said club secretary Mr Peter Springett.

"The turn out by our bowlers and those from other clubs was

excellent and the contribution from them all was outstanding.

"The auction of the Mariners jersey also raised \$230.

"It would appear that we may reach \$5000 with funds counted to date \$4725 and the money box from the TAB bar still to be counted."

**SOURCE:**

Social media, 4 Jul 2021  
Peter Springett, UBMBC



### Golf club publishes 10km map

**The golf committee of the Everglades Country Club has published a map to show the 10km limit of its catchment for golfer wanting to play at the club during the lockdown.**

"The new restrictions directly impact golf at Everglades," the committee said in a social media post.

"Most importantly group size is limited to two persons."

"Also you are not allowed to travel more than 10km to play, please see the image in this post."

"If you had a booking to play competition or social at any time in the future that booking has been cancelled."

"Please let your playing partners know in case they haven't checked emails."

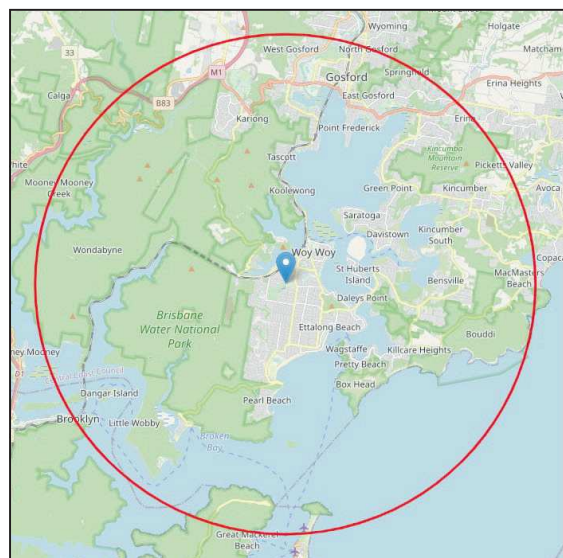
"Commencing Saturday, July 10, all competitions and pre-bookings for men and women including envelope bookings have been cancelled."

"Competition play on every day of the week will now be single medley in groups of two, all off the first tee, commencing from 6:48am, with the last tee time being 1pm."

"Social play will be available from 1:10pm."

"As the number of available playing slots is being halved, players will be limited to two rounds per week until we have a clear idea of course usage."

"You will only be able to book yourself and your playing partner, you may not book multiple groups."



"There is no walk-up option to play. All play must be pre-booked."

**SOURCE:**

Social media, 9 Jul 2021  
Golf Committee, Everglades Country Club

### Junior touch registrations

**Peninsula Junior Touch is accepting registrations for the 2021-2022 Junior Competition.**

Registrations can all be completed via the clubs web page.

Registrations close at 5pm on Sunday, August 8, or until all places are filled.

**SOURCE:**

Social media, 29 Jun 2021  
Peninsula Junior Touch