



In Melbourne Cup spirit

Residents at BlueWave Living aged care centre in Woy Woy got into the spirit ahead of the Melbourne Cup with their own horse race.

Residents were given caps with their horse number and the race progressed with the roll of the dice.

SOURCE:
Social media, 29 Oct 2021
Matt Downie, Blue Wave Living



Peninsula house prices jump 22 per cent, says Labor

The cost to buy a home on the Peninsula has jumped by about 22 per cent in the last 12 months, according to Labor's candidate for Robertson, Dr Gordon Reid.

Quoting from the Domain House Price Report for September, he said prices in Umina had risen 22.2 per cent and in Woy Woy by 22.6 per cent.

House prices in Umina had jumped 48.9 per cent in the last five years and the median price was currently \$880,000.

Prices in Woy Woy had jumped 35.7 per cent in the same time, with the median price currently \$760,000.

"That makes it harder and harder for young people to buy a home," he said.

"No wonder the number of first home buyers signing up for loans has dropped by 20 per cent since the beginning of the year.

"Twenty years ago, the average home cost four times the average salary.

"Now, it's almost twice that.

"It's harder to buy than ever before.

"It's harder to rent than ever before and there are more homeless than ever before.

"After almost a decade in Government, housing affordability has only got worse under the Liberals."

SOURCE:
Media release, 3 Nov 2021
Gordon Reid, Labor candidate for Robertson

Dcafe to start again in December

The cafe for people living with dementia and their carers run by the Rotary Club of Brisbane Water will start again at 10am on Monday, December 13, at the CWA hall in Umina.

"The cafe is designed to be a safe and welcoming social get-together where people with dementia can continue to be connected and engaged," said Rotary club president Ms Cherie Simpson.

The last Dcafe for the year will be a Christmas special held on December 13.

It will start in the New Year on January 10 and will run every second and fourth Monday from then on.

The club is also looking for volunteers to help Coast Shelter at gift wrapping stalls at Erina Fair from Saturday, November 27, to Friday, December 3.

"This has proved to be a successful fundraiser in previous years," said Ms Simpson.

"Coast Shelter is calling for expressions of interest for gift wrappers for four hour shifts, where money raised will go to Coast Shelter's support services."

For further information, contact the club via email at brisbanewater.rotary@gmail.com.

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 21 Oct 2021
Cherie Simpson, Rotary Brisbane Water

Supporting the Peninsula community

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All the news that didn't fit in print

For each issue of Peninsula News, we have more news items about the Peninsula than we have space to print.

Peninsula News EXTRA is an electronic supplement to printed edition, which contains these extra items.

This is produced with the same layout as the print edition, but is in PDF form only, published on the Thursday following the print edition.

As advertising support allows, these pages will be included in the print edition.

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

Offers of assistance are always welcome.

SOURCE:
Mark Snell, 1 Nov 2021



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Next issue: **Monday, November 15**

NEWS email: contributions@peninsula.news

Peninsula News
Community Access

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

Editor: Mark Snell
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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.

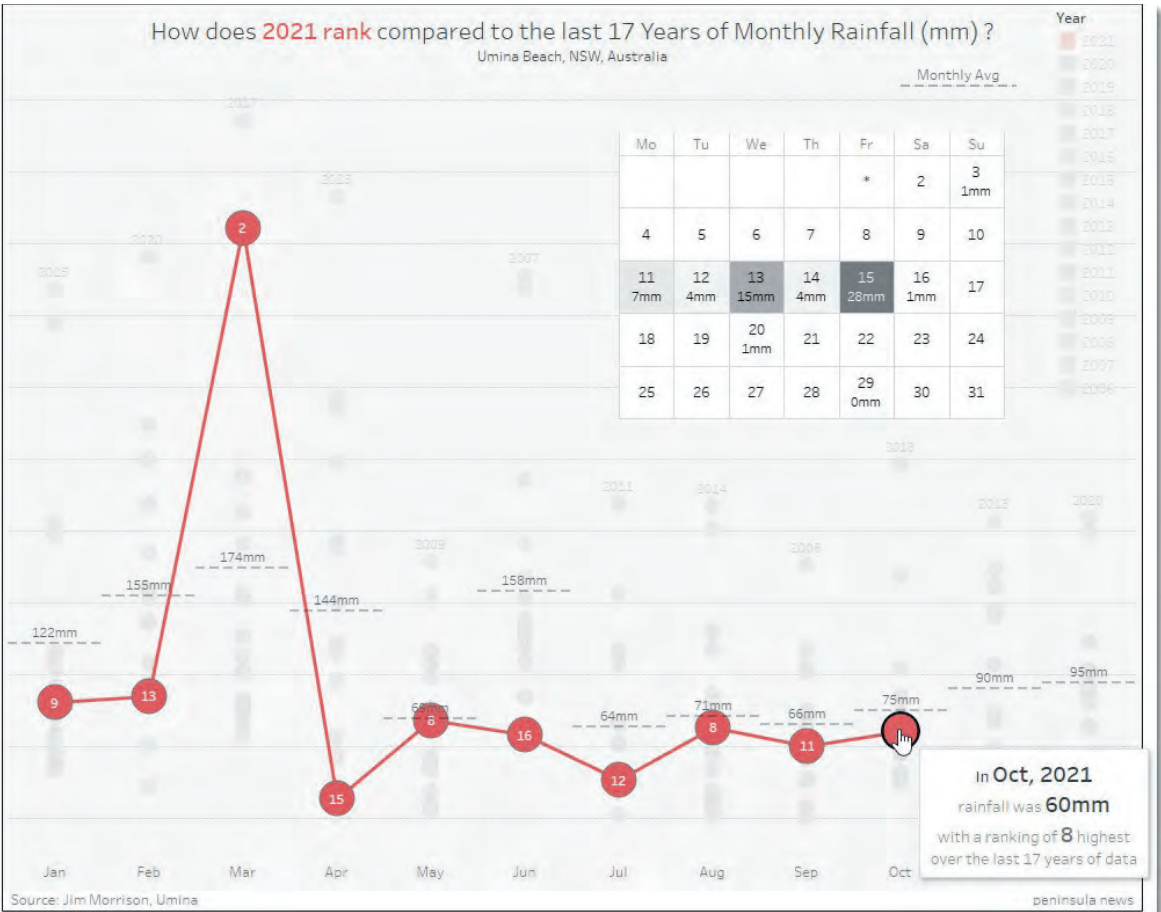


Good to be back

The Rotary Club of Umina Beach has resumed face-to-face meetings in the auditorium at the Everglades Country Club.

"It's really great to be able to socialise again," said president Mr Bruce Croft.

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 26 Oct 2021
Mike Curley, Rotary Umina Beach



Just two millimetres' rain in two weeks

Just two millimetres of rain have fallen on the Peninsula in the last two weeks, according to figures supplied by Mr Jim Morrison of Umina.

Total rainfall for the month to October 29 was 60.4mm, 19.5 per cent less than the October average of 75mm.

The median, or typical, rainfall for October is 60mm.

The year-to-date rainfall is 916.4mm, 16.2 per cent less than average for the end of October of 1093mm.

SOURCE:
Spreadsheet, 29 Oct 2021
Jim Morrison, Umina

TIDE TIMES and Heights

AT ETTALONG

Thu, Jul 29	Sun, Aug 1	Wed, Aug 4	Sat, Aug 7	Tue, Aug 10
0646 0.10	0208 0.69	0004 0.26	0225 0.15	0418 0.08
1240 0.81	0838 0.17	0538 0.60	0805 0.70	0955 0.80
1832 0.24	1510 0.84	1113 0.22	1337 0.17	1546 0.11
	2139 0.32	1750 0.98	1959 1.14	2200 1.18
Fri, Jul 30	Mon, Aug 2	Thu, Aug 5	Sun, Aug 8	Wed, Aug 11
0033 0.88	0310 0.63	0100 0.22	0303 0.12	0455 0.08
0720 0.12	0926 0.20	0639 0.63	0841 0.74	1034 0.84
1326 0.81	1606 0.88	1203 0.22	1420 0.14	1632 0.12
1925 0.28	2257 0.30	1835 1.04	2039 1.18	2242 1.14
Sat, Jul 31	Tue, Aug 3	Fri, Aug 6	Mon, Aug 9	Thu, Aug 12
0116 0.78	0423 0.60	0145 0.18	0341 0.10	0531 0.09
0756 0.15	1018 0.22	0726 0.67	0917 0.77	1117 0.87
1415 0.82	1700 0.93	1252 0.20	1503 0.12	1722 0.15
2027 0.31		1918 1.09	2118 1.19	2326 1.07

Monastir Rd in Phegans Bay may become an official road

Central Coast Council is investigating the possibility of making Monastir Rd, Phegans Bay, official.

The paved “accessway” is not gazetted as a road, despite the council using it to maintain services and acknowledging that it is the only vehicular access for a number of houses on the road.

The official access is an unmade, impassable gazetted road that runs behind the properties.

The council has written to The Bays Community Group about gazettal of the accessway.

“Council officers have commenced researching and carrying out investigations to determine whether it is a viable option for this accessway to be gazetted as Monastir Rd,” the letter said.

“The work involved in this matter is of some complexity with various stakeholders and a number of actions to be undertaken.

“This work will also include consulting with The Bays Community Group during this process.

“The matter is likely to take some time to come to a conclusion which may be up to 12-18 months.”

The letter stated that it was considering “gazettal of this road to assist in addressing various concerns for residents who reside in this area”.

“Council is aware of residents’ concerns in relation to accessibility, servicing, and the condition of the accessway, referred to as Monastir Rd.

“Council acknowledges that this accessway which allows Council to maintain services in the area also provides the only vehicular access to a number of residential properties.

“Over many years and as further residential development has taken place, increased usage and reliance on the accessway for pedestrian and vehicular access has resulted.

“The accessway is narrow and predominantly follows the top of the embankment with limited opportunity for turning or parking along and adjacent to the accessway.”

Bays Community Group president Ms Gwynneth Weir said: “Many of the residents on Monastir Rd will be pleased to hear this news as it has been a hot topic for many years.

“We will be contacting the council regularly to ask for updates.

“We will keep you informed and let you know about any opportunities to contribute to the discussion regarding the future of Monastir Rd.”

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 2 Nov 2021
Gwynneth Weir, Bays Community Group



CWA jams and pickles

Jams and pickles made by members of the Woy Woy branch of the Country Women’s Association are now available in a local cafe.

The jams and pickles, as well as local honey, is available from Cafe DMR in Deepwater Plaza Shopping Centre, Woy Woy.

“All jams and pickles are made by our members and the honey

is from our vice-president’s flow-hive,” said branch president Ms Jane Bowtell.

SOURCE:
Social media, 27 Oct 2021
Jane Bowtell, CWA Woy Woy

Christmas lunch and dinner

Pearl Beach Progress Association is organising a community Christmas Lunch and a Christmas Dinner on Saturday, December 11.

A fundraising raffle will be held during the meals.

Lunch will start at 12.30pm for 1pm and dinner at 6pm for 6.30pm at the Pearl Beach Memorial Hall and Back Deck.

The two-course dinner which includes dessert will cost \$45.

Dietary requirements will be catered to.

Full vaccinations and a Covid check-in will be required.

Numbers are limited and bookings must be made with Bev on 0439 623 818.

SOURCE:
Website, 25 Oct 2021
Pearl Beach Progress Association

Writers’ festival plan June event

The Words on the Waves Writers Festival is planning to hold a second event on the Peninsula from June 3 to June 5 next year.

The main program will be held at the Ocean Beach Surf Lifesaving Club, with an additional stream held at the Umina Beach Surf Lifesaving Club.

In addition to the main program, standalone events will be held across various venues including an opening launch, adult workshops, a family fun day, a cinema screening

and a literary cruise.

Organisers have released results of a survey taken following the inaugural event.

The majority of those completing the survey were female (91 per cent), with 64 per cent aged over 60 and 32 per cent aged between 42 and 60.

One quarter of those surveyed travelled from outside the region for the festival specifically.

Word-of-mouth was the most common way that they found out about the festival (40 per cent),

followed by social media (22 per cent) and other media (15 per cent).

A large percentage said they purchased a book (35 per cent), a beverage (35 per cent), and a meal.

Literary fiction and journalism were nominated as the top interests for the 2022 program.

All those surveyed said they would attend next year’s festival.

SOURCE:
Media release, 26 Oct 2021
Angela Bennetts, Words on the Waves Festival



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Planning



Panel rejects 18-unit Farnell Rd proposal

The Central Coast Local Planning Panel has rejected a multi-dwelling proposal for the corner of Farnell and Blackwall Rds, Woy Woy

The application by Apex Smarthomes Pty Ltd was for a two-storey multi-dwelling housing development including 18 residential units, secured garage parking, private courtyards and advanced landscaping and subsequent strata subdivision.

The proposal would have consolidated five allotments and would have been built in two stages.

The planning panel gave five reasons for refusal:

The proposal exceeds the Floor Space Ratio of 0.6:1.

A written request to vary the development standard had not been lodged and accordingly there was no power to approve the application.

"Insufficient information has been provided to adequately demonstrate that the new development does not compromise ... the intersection upgrade plan and requirements.

"The proposal does not comply with or has provided insufficient information to address car parking, articulation, open space, communal open space, residential address, facades, landscaped areas, stormwater, garbage

bin enclosures, preservation of trees or vegetation, water cycle management, car parking and waste management.

"Insufficient information has been provided, preventing a thorough assessment of the likely impacts of the proposed development, particularly having regard to engineering, access and parking, tree removal/retention, stormwater and drainage and waste management matters."

The panel also said the proposal's solar access was unclear.

SOURCE:
DA60666, 28 Oct 2021
Agenda item 5, Local Planning Panel

Intersection upgrades could affect setbacks

Changes to property boundaries resulting from upgrades to Blackwall Rd could affect development applications for properties facing the road.

Central Coast Council planners reported to the Local Planning Panel last week that plans to upgrade the intersection of Blackwall and Farnell Rds in Woy Woy would require a development proposal for property at the intersection to be redesigned.

The council recommended that the proposal for a two-storey 18-unit multi-dwelling development over five lots at the intersection be refused.

Transport for NSW had told the council: "The proposed intersection

upgrade will impact the subject development's proposed retaining wall.

"To avoid demolition of this structure as part of the intersection upgrade, all ancillary structures should be wholly located within the new property boundary resultant from the intersection upgrade."

The council report noted: "The proposed road widening boundary proposed by Transport for NSW would result in a change to the building setbacks to the resultant road reserve boundaries.

"The development would require redesign to address this proposed intersection and achieve compliant setbacks."

SOURCE:
Agenda, 28 Oct 2021
DA60666, Local Planning Panel

Boom gate proposal open for comment

A proposal to install boom gates on a Umina supermarket carpark is on exhibition for public comment until November 11.

A development application was lodged with Central Coast Council on August 4 and reported in the August 9 issue of Peninsula News.

The proposal includes number plate recognition and the removal

and replacement of three trees in the Aldi carpark in Trafalgar Ave.

"The purpose of the proposed modification is to enhance site security and to ensure sufficient car parking spaces for customers of the Aldi store and cafe," according to the application prepared by consultants Barker Ryan Stewart.

The application states that the proposal would provide "more queuing space by changing the entry-exit area and extending the landscaping areas".

It includes "modification to the crossover with new kerbs to be instated".

To retain the current number of parking spaces, two planter beds containing three trees will be removed from the car park.

A traffic report submitted with the application stated that the number plate recognition software would mean that "entering and exiting vehicles will not need to stop, unlike boom gates that issue a ticket".

The comment period started on October 20.

SOURCE:
DA Tracker, 28 Oct 2021
DA 36075, Central Coast Council

Shop-top housing proposal refused

A proposed three-storey shop-top housing development in Ettalong containing ground floor retail floor space and parking and 12 residential units on the upper storeys has been refused by the Central Coast Local Planning Panel.

The Local Planning Panel considered the proposal for 302-306 Ocean View Rd, adjoining Ferry Rd, on Thursday, October 28, prompted by the number of submissions received about it.

The Panel agreed with the council planners' 10 reasons for refusal.

"The proposal does not comply with the maximum height of building provisions.

"The proposal does not comply with the maximum floor space ratio provisions.

"The written request to vary the height and floor space ratio does not adequately demonstrate that compliance is unreasonable and unnecessary, that the objectives of the standard are achieved despite non-compliance and that there are sufficient environmental planning grounds to justify contravening the standard.



"The proposed development is not compatible with the character of the area."

The report said the proposal did not adequately address the design quality provisions for residential apartments.

It also did not adequately address the provisions of State coastal management policy.

"The proposal does not provide appropriately-designed accessible off-street parking for the residential component of the development.

"The development application does not adequately address waste management for the proposal.

"The site is not suitable for the proposed development."

The final reason, the report stated, was that "the proposal is not in the public interest."

It said the height and floor space ratio were not consistent with the objectives of the development standard or the zone.

"The proposal does not achieve a compatible bulk that is appropriate for the site and

it does not sufficiently integrate with the desired character of the area.

"The proposal does not achieve a harmonious relationship that is

compatible with adjoining land at the zone interface to land within the R1 zone."

The planning panel also added four other reasons for refusal.

Compliance with the solar access and cross ventilation provisions was not demonstrated, it said.

Floor to ceiling levels were inconsistent throughout the development, the plan view lacked clarity and consistency with the elevations.

The panel said this had implications for access to the building including for emergency evacuation and emergency services access.

It was unclear what part of the existing building fabric was to be retained and what was to be newly constructed, particularly in relation to the corner retail use.

There was a lack of clarity as to how the shop top housing and the adjoining dwelling would operate and whether the dwelling was to form a lot in a future strata.

SOURCE:
DA59732, 28 Oct 2021
Agenda item 4, Local Planning Panel

Tree day

The Grow Urban Shade Trees group unofficially celebrated National Tree Day with some planting at Sydney 2000 Park on Thursday, October 21.

A small group of volunteers planted natives to support our birdlife and add interest to "a fairly uninteresting park".

Two missing bottle brush bushes will be replaced.

SOURCE:
Social media, 24 Oct 2021
Grow Urban Shade Trees

Twilight carols at Pearl Beach

Pearl Beach Twilight Carols will be held on Wednesday, December 22, at the Pearl Beach Arboretum from 5pm.

Access will be via Tourmaline Ave and the tennis courts.

Those attending are invited to "come early and bring a picnic, chairs, rug and enjoy a sausage sizzle".

They will be able to sing along with the Pearl Beach Singers at 6pm, before Santa arrives at 6:30pm and packing up at 7pm.

With inquiries, phone 4344 2319 or visit the Pearl Beach Progress Association website at www.pearlbeachprogress.org.au.

SOURCE:

Website, 29 Oct 2021

Pearl Beach Progress Association



Group celebrates park upgrade

Umina Community Group has celebrated the completion of the upgrade of Guyangil Park in Australia Ave, Umina, with a post on its website.

Umina Community Group worked with the Grow Urban Shade Trees group and Central Coast Council, according to the

website.

Pictures showed the transformation of the old park to the new.

"The park was replanted and the council have added pathways and nature play equipment in keeping with the native habitat theme."

"Over 200 volunteer hours were

spent during the weeding, planting and watering stages of the park.

"The emphasis was on planting to support the Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland species which are endangered."

SOURCE:

Website, 26 Oct 2021

Umina Community Group

Stop the Covid spread

The Rotary Club of Brisbane Water has suggested five ways to help stop the spread of Covid-19.

"Disease prevention seems more urgent than ever with the Covid-19 pandemic and the highly infectious delta variant," said club president Ms Cherie Simpson.

"We know many of you might feel anxious and unsure of how you can keep your community safe."

"To help you, we've made a list of five ways you can help stop the spread of Covid-19."

Three ways were to educate people on the importance of vaccination, to advocate for fair

and equal vaccination distribution, and to address vaccine hesitancy by sharing accurate, fact-based information.

The other two ways were to encourage mask wearing and proper hygiene practices and to support health agencies' vaccine distribution efforts.

Ms Simpson said: "To learn about how Rotary members around the world are preventing Covid-19 from spreading, visit: <https://on.rotary.org/3ACbl9q>"

SOURCE:

Social media, 20 Oct 2021

Cherie Simpson, Rotary Brisbane Water



Liesl Tesch MP
Member for Gosford

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(02) 4342 4122



Designer wins award for Fishermen’s Wharf restaurant

St Huberts Island building designer Ms Louise Williams won a national award for best commercial design at the Australian Building Designers Awards night on Friday, October 22.

The award was for the Fishermen’s Wharf restaurant project at Woy Woy.

Ms Williams is the director and principal designer of the building design practice LAW Building Design.

“Louise is an accomplished building designer with over 30 years’ experience in design and drafting of architectural plans,” said proud husband Mr Mark Williams.

“Louise’s has a passion for environmentally-sustainable design and creates visually stunning buildings that are unique and integrate with the surrounding natural environment.

“Louise’s skills lie in her commitment to understanding best design solutions and has the ability to implement her designs from conception through to completion, ensuring a high-level product every time.”

The new structure was built off site by Parkwood Pre-Fabricated Homes and craned into position over the water, the interior of the building was fitted out by Xanthe Highland.

Mr Williams said the design brief was to modernise and expand the over-water restaurant.

“Construction time was critical and would involve the restaurant being closed.

“This had to be factored into the viability of the project.

“The build time must happen over the winter months.

“Parts of the existing structure needed to be utilised to save costs and to avoid a full demolition and rebuild which would prove costly and not sustainable.”

Mr Williams said: “Parkwood prefabricated homes built the majority of the structure off site and then it was craned into position in tandem with the existing wharf being dismantled and old pylons replaced.

“The building was designed in three modules that could be easily installed on site.

“The design is a play with shapes being two rectangles that are offset to form the irregular footprint providing a strong angular aesthetic: Clean lines with wide overhanging eaves, capped with a skillion roof that features clerestory windows.

“Below are wide openings that seamlessly flow from indoor dining to the outdoor balconies.

“This enables the perfect overwater dining experience for the customers.

“The renovation of the restaurant is a far cry from the original structure that was rickety, cramped, hot in summer, often damp, and cold in winter.

“The demolition of part of the existing structure was done by hand to maximise its recycling potential.”

SOURCE:
Media release, 26 Oct 2021
Mark Williams, St Huberts Island

Public Notices

The Peninsula Day Branch of the N.S.W. Labor Party meets the **2nd Monday of each month** from February to December

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

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

All interested persons are most welcome.

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CWA branch to appear on cooking show

CWA Woy Woy branch of the Country Women's Association will feature tonight on The Cook Up with Adam Liaw on SBS television.

Guests for the episode will be the branch's cookery officer Ms Amy Scott and Country Women's Association NSW president Ms Stephanie Stanhope.

"Adam and his guests share

their favourite recipes, tips and tricks all the while engaging in discussion about the diversity of food in Australia," said branch president Ms Jane Bowtell.

The series airs weeknights at 7PM on SBS Food and previous episodes are online with SBS On Demand.

SOURCE:
Social media, 29 Oct 2021
Jane Bowtell, CWA Woy Woy



Two awarded Arboretum life membership

The woman who has established the Pearl Beach Koala and Native Bee Group and a man who for six years co-ordinated volunteers to establish a wildlife corridor have both been awarded life membership of the Crommelin Native Arboretum at Pearl Beach.

Arboretum president Ms Victoria Crawford presented Ms Ann Parsons and Mr David George with their awards at the arboretum association's annual meeting on Sunday, October 17.

Ms Parsons joined the management committee in 2010, became secretary in 2015 and remained so until September 2019, when she took on the position of vice-president.

"As soon as Ann joined the committee, she set about researching the plants in the Arboretum and increasing her knowledge, particularly local threatened species," said arboretum secretary Ms Mary Knaggs.

"Ann has worked extensively with ecologist Mr Robert Payne to maintain the spreadsheet of plants and their location.

"One of Ann's early achievements was the establishment of the flowering shrub area which is a haven for small birds.

"More recently Ann has been instrumental in obtaining a grant from the Commonwealth Government to initiate research into the feasibility of re-introducing koalas into the Pearl Beach Area – a project that is still ongoing, with other stakeholders including the University of Sydney and Central Coast Council and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

"The grant also allowed the arboretum to provide habitat support for both koalas and native bees.

"Ann was also instrumental in obtaining Commonwealth funding to rebuild the arboretum's propagation area.

"Throughout her involvement with the arboretum, Ann has participated enthusiastically in

working bees, arranged guest speakers, managed anniversary functions, encouraged others to join and promoted the arboretum."

Mr George was treasurer from 2002 until 2005 and served on the committee from 2010 until 2012.

"David's greatest achievement was coordinating volunteers known as the ABC (Arbo Boys Club) who met Tuesdays and Thursdays every week to help establish the Wildlife Corridor," said Ms Knaggs.

"David was the leader of this group six years.

"David was on the wildlife corridor funding and fundraising subcommittee.

"He purchased plants for the wildlife corridor which were recorded in the day book by name, quantity and location planted making it easy to create a plant database.

"Although David has retired from the committee, he still maintains an interest in the arboretum."

SOURCE:
Media release, 20 Oct 2021
Mary Knaggs, Pearl Beach Arboretum
Photo: Pearl Beach Arboretum

Learning up-cycling skills

PCYC Umina Beach has started a new Fit for Change program.

This term, participants will be learning some furniture up-cycling skills.

Instruction will be given by vintage furniture shop Interiorwise, while one-on-one mentoring

will be provided by NSW Police Force Youth Command officers Senior Constable Witton, Senior Constable Jackson, Senior Constable Hughes and Senior Constable Armitage.

SOURCE:
Social media, 29 Oct 2021
PCYC Umina Beach



Codock is back

With a new engine and passing its AMSA survey, Central Coast Ferries' Codock II steamed back to Davistown under her own power from her annual slipping at Fenwick's Marina in Brooklyn.

All that is now needed is to freshen up the bulwarks and cabin, and she is expected to be ready for service in the New Year.

SOURCE:
Social media, 1 Nov 2021
Central Coast Ferries



Education



Arts and craft centre resumes classes



Ettalong Beach Arts and Craft Centre has been able to open up and commence its term 4 classes and sessions.

“Our Monday patchwork group was very happy to be able to attend again- to catch up with each other, to share stories, and of course “show and tell”, said centre president Mr Peter Mulholland.

One member brought in four quilts she had made for a charity organisation.

“Our silvercraft students are certainly happy to be back at classes.”

One student created a ring under tuition from Anita Reiman.

Another student made a Halloween quilt, using orange and black fabrics.

The back was a work of art as well.

SOURCE:
Social media, 27 Oct 2021
Peter Mulholland, EBACC



Structured online sessions appreciated by parents

A school survey has found that structured online video sessions were appreciated by parents during the lockdown.

The survey was taken at Woy Woy Public School at the end of term two.

“The vast majority of respondents were overwhelmingly positive about the amount and the content of the work set for their children, but there were certainly some practical suggestions received on how to better cater to the needs of students and their families,” said school principal Ms Ona Buckley.

“We were particularly interested to find out how well-received the Zoom sessions were.

“Early on in the piece we received some timely constructive feedback from one or two parents who felt that Zooms needed to be more structured and more

focussed on lesson content, as opposed to being an opportunity to ‘check-in’ with the teacher.

“This feedback was gratefully received and was passed on to teachers.

“From this point onwards, it seems that most parents and carers appreciated the way that teachers increased the number of Zooms that they offered over the course of the learning from home period.

“Results from the surveys indicated that across the various stages of learning, the majority of parents felt that the Zoom sessions the teachers delivered were well-organised and engaging.

“Some parents and carers commented that they would have preferred more sessions or multiple sessions per day.

“For every respondent who felt this way, there were as many or more parents who felt

that their children experienced ‘Zoom fatigue’, found it hard to maintain their concentration or felt slightly uncomfortable making contributions in this online environment.

“Overall, we were very proud of the way that our teachers adapted and refined their delivery of Zoom sessions and were able to support students to complete the work that had been set for them.

“We were also interested in whether the parents of children in Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 would have preferred to have had their children completing work online, in the same way that students in Years 5 and 6 did, using the Google Classroom platform.

“The vast majority of respondents indicated that they felt that Google Classroom would result in too much screen time for students in their early years of schooling, and that the booklets

promoted actual physical practise of handwriting and spelling skills that are crucial at this stage of schooling.”

The feedback resulted in changes to the delivery of the first weeks of learning-from-home in term four.

“The work in Year 3 and 4 booklets was changed so that it was organised in terms of work that needed to be completed each day of the week, whereas the work had formerly been organised into subject areas.

“Year 5 and 6 History, Geography and Science and Technology activities were simplified and pared back based on the feedback received in their survey.

“We also learned that although parents appreciated the fact that teachers sent handy tips and instructions to students via ClassDojo to help and guide them

to complete their work, these messages may have been more useful if delivered at the end of the previous day’s learning, so that families who wanted to hit the ground running the next day were able to do so.

“All-in-all, the survey results indicated that the school got a lot of things right in attempting to provide work and guidance to support our students to learn from home, using systems that were equitable, organised and engaging.

“That being said, we received some very useful constructive criticism, and this was acted upon to improve the learning-from-home experience for all concerned, including making things easier for parents,” said Ms Buckley

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 29 Oct 2021
Ona Buckley and Dan Betts,
Woy Woy Public School