



Cars queued the length of Brickwharf Rd, Woy Woy, and into North Burge Rd, in line for a drive-through PCR test in the Woy Woy oval carpark.

Case numbers grow by almost 1000 in a week

NSW Government figures have shown a total of 1217 “active cases” of the coronavirus in the Peninsula postcode areas of 2256 and 2257.

Staff have tested positive at both Peninsula aged care homes, forcing them into lockdown.

Other casualties include the Coastal Twist festival, which has been postponed until September, and a number of events planned by the Ocean Beach Surf Life Saving Club, which have also been postponed.

Central Coast Parliamentary

Secretary Mr Adam Crouch has urged people to “stay calm, despite cases rising each day”.

He said high vaccination levels had resulted low hospital admission numbers.

The most recent figures published were for Saturday, January 8.

Of the total, 948 were recorded in the previous seven days.

The greatest number of positive tests was 242 recorded on Wednesday with 217 on Friday being the next greatest daily tally.

The 2257 postcode area had 817 active cases, with 3208 tests conducted in the past fortnight.

A total of 1096 cases have been recorded from a population in that postcode of 30,793 in that postcode area since the start of the pandemic.

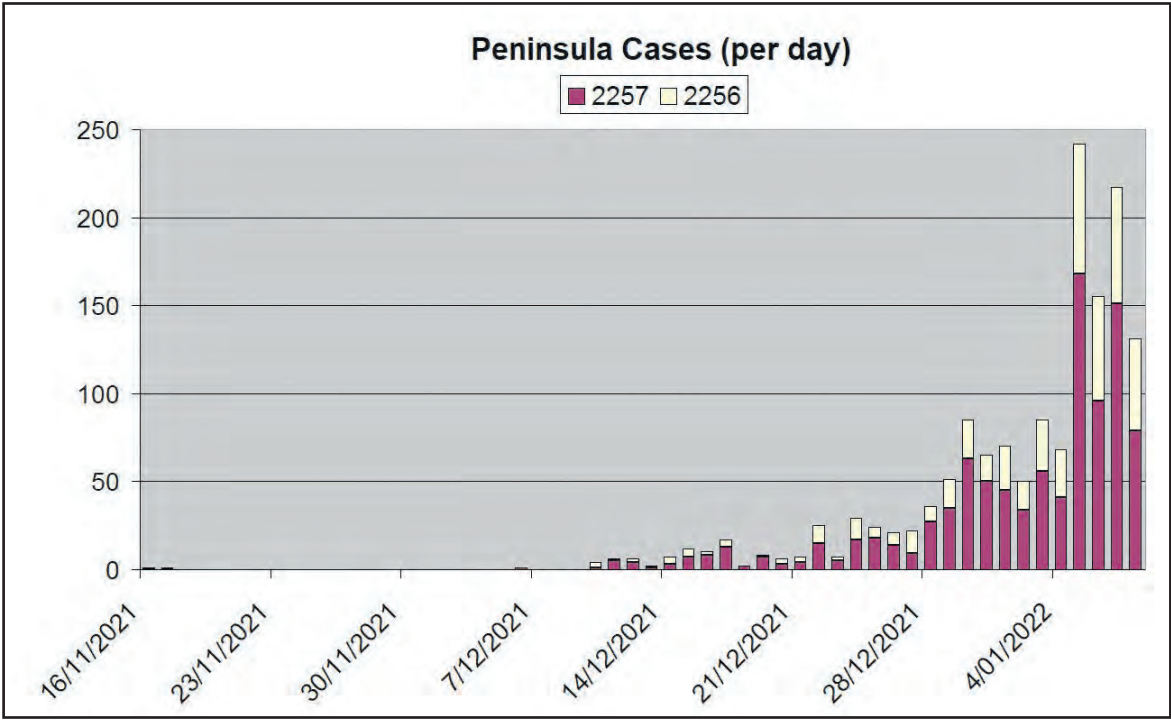
The 2256 postcode area had 400 active cases, with 1715 tests conducted in the past fortnight.

A total of 536 cases have been recorded in the 2256 postcode from a population of 16,310.

The data does not show hospitalisations by postcode.

SOURCE: 9 Jan 2022
Covid data and statistics, NSW Government

MORE DETAILS - Page 7



Supporting the Peninsula

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Our 23rd year

Peninsula News starts this year with issue 535 of our fortnightly newspaper, entering our 23rd year of publication..

The newspaper aims to provide comprehensive, insightful and constructive reporting to give Peninsula residents the information they need to determine their own future as a community.

It is a proud tradition that we are pleased to continue..

Mark Snell, 10 Jan 2022



Peninsula News EXTRA
Be notified. SCAN here.



Next issue: Monday, January 24

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.

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NEXT EDITION: Peninsula News 535
Deadline: Thursday, January 20
Publication date: Monday, January 24

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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.

Umina CWA Christmas activities

Umina Beach branch of the Country Women's Association has announced its Christmas raffle winners.

They were Jan Jenkins, H Collison and Jenny Dos Santos.

Branch president Ms Rikki McIntosh and the treasurer delivered our handmade cakes and puddings to Mary Mac's Place in Woy Woy for Christmas.

"We wish to thank those who donated ingredients to make this possible again this year," said Ms McIntosh.

SOURCE:
Social media, 8 Jan 2022
Rikki McIntosh, CWA Umina Beach



New head at aged care home

A Umina aged care home has appointed a new chief executive.

Mr Colin Osborne started at Peninsula Villages on December 13.

"Colin has a wealth of experience and expertise in the aged care sector," said acting chief executive Ms Jackie Bennett.

"We are very excited to have him join the Peninsula Villages team."

The home held a morning tea in

the Pam Palmer House main hall on December 13 at 10:30am to welcome him.

"We also welcomed Nicola Burton back to our team in the role of executive manager - quality and organisational development.

"Nicola will be responsible for overseeing quality, risk and compliance, workforce planning, business development, learning and development."

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 10 Dec 2021
Jackie Bennett, Peninsula Villages

Produce swap

Woy Woy Community Garden will hold its monthly Produce Swap from 10am to 11am on Sunday, January 30.

The swap will take place at the garden at 87 Moana St, Woy Woy.

SOURCE:
Social media, 6 Jan 2022
Woy Woy Community Garden

The Bays Art Show to go ahead

The Bays Art Show will go ahead from Friday, February 11, to Sunday, February 13, at the The Bays Community Hall.

Tickets purchased for the original opening night will continue to be valid for the new event from 7:30pm on the Friday and include a drink and nibbles.

Further drinks will be available to purchase with all proceeds going to The Bays Community Group.

Group president Ms Gwynneth Weir said the opening would provide the opportunity to "appreciate a wide variety of art while enjoying the lively social

atmosphere".

"Meet a new neighbour, take home a coveted piece of artwork, win a unique raffle prize," Ms Weir said.

"The doors of the hall will continue to be open 10am-4pm on Saturday and Sunday for a gold coin donation.

"A pop-up cafe will have a spread of homemade baked goods available for purchase."

A limited number of tickets are available at \$20 each from committee members or by email on thebaysemail@gmail.com.

Spaces are still available for artists to exhibit, at a cost of \$15.

Contact Naomi Veitch at naomiveitchartist@gmail.com or phone her on 0405 137 235 for more information.

"We will be complying with current Health Orders as set by the NSW Government and operating with Covid-19 Safety Plans in place at the time of the event.

"This may include capacity limits and QR check-ins.

"Please follow mask wearing rules as set NSW Government.

"Social distancing is encouraged."

SOURCE:
Website, 9 Jan 2022
Gwynneth Weir, The Bays Community Group

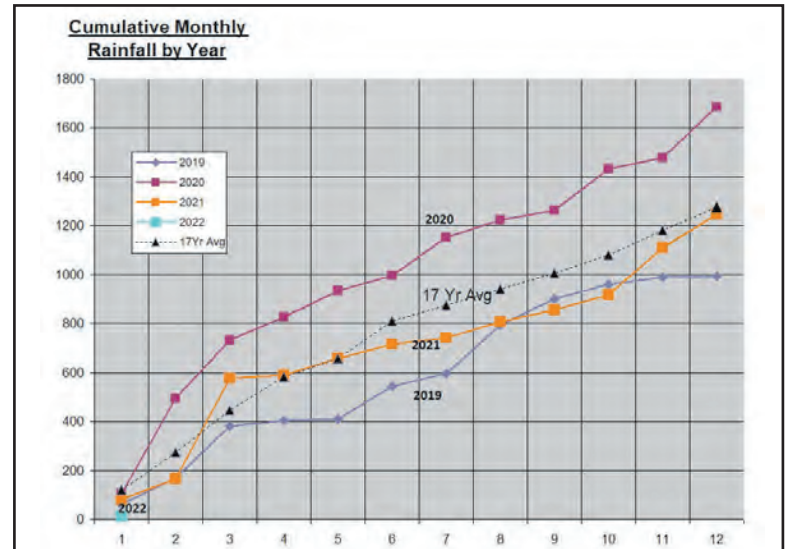
Two wet months make up year's average

The annual rainfall figure for the Peninsula in 2021 was only 2.4 per cent below average after two wet months to end the year.

A total of 1246.9mm was recorded last year compared to the annual average of 1278mm.

November with falls of 192.2mm was twice the monthly average of 93mm and December with falls totalling 138.3 was 50 per cent above its monthly average of 92mm.

Rainfall of 62.2mm was recorded in the last two weeks of December, with the wettest days in the month being recorded on December 10 (with 44.6mm), December 28 (with 23.9mm) and December 8 (with 17.2mm).



In the first week of 2022, a total of 13mm was recorded.

The January average is 120mm.

SOURCE:
Spreadsheet, 9 Jan 2022
Jim Morrison, Umina



Resident recognised as 'legendary community volunteer'

Peninsula resident Ms Eve Skulander has been recognised for her many years of service to several community organisations including to the Central Coast Mentoring Network Inc, the Country Women's Association and the Peninsula Women's Health Centre.

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch has presented Ms Skulander with a commendation certificate at a special recognition morning tea hosted at Brisbane Water Secondary College, Woy Woy.

"Eve is a legendary community volunteer who has dedicated so much of her time to helping others, supporting young people and providing guidance to residents during difficult periods" said Ms Tesch.

"Eve has faithfully volunteered 16 years to the Central Coast Secondary School Mentoring program at Brisbane Water Secondary College and 23 years to the Peninsula Women's Health Centre, a truly remarkable record".

Brisbane Water Secondary College principal Mr Paul Gilmore thanked Ms Skulander for her commitment to young people at the high school.

"Eve has mentored hundreds of vulnerable or disadvantaged students and guided them in realising what paths they would like to take in their lives.

"She has helped reform, reshape and enhance future

outlooks of many former students," said Mr Gilmore.

"After 16 years mentoring students here, Eve is well known for her polite, humble and diligent approach with students and we are so appreciative and thankful for her immeasurable support."

Ms Rhonda Richardson from the Peninsula Women's Health Centre said: "Eve is an empathetic, compassionate and exceptional listener who gave her undivided attention to others.

"She has really made a difference to women all over the Central Coast."

Former President of the Central Coast Mentoring Network, Mr Ken Bate, said: "Eve has been an integral part of this program at Brisbane Water Secondary College and I know hundreds of former students can reflect on the impact Eve has had on their lives." Mr Bate said.

Ms Tesch said Ms Skulander had decided to retire from her volunteering commitments and looked forward to a less busy schedule.

"I have so many happy memories from over the years, it has been a joy and everything I have done I have received more back helping others.

"I would recommend volunteering because it has broadened my life and made me see and realise humanity in all its forms" Ms Skulander said.

SOURCE:

Media release, 21 Dec 2021
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford

Online guide to wildflowers upgraded for holidays

An online guide to local wildflowers has been upgraded in time for visitors to make use of it before the end of the holidays.

The Wildflowers of Warrah Trig website includes pictures of 129 native plants which can be found at Warrah Trig, off Patonga Dr, between Pearl Beach and Patonga.

It features pages showing what is "in flower this month", "where to look" and a simple identification guide based on flower colour, shape and size.

The website is the creation of Peninsula News editor Mr Mark Snell, using photos and flowering times he has taken and recorded over a 20-year period.

"The area is a wildflower showcase, with more than 150 species of flowering plants identified," said Mr Snell.

"As many as 60 are in flower at any one time during the winter months, and as many as 30 in summer.

"Almost all of the flowers on the website can be seen from a car along the sides of the track in the few hundred metres of mostly level ground between Patonga Dr and



Native fuschia (epacris longiflora)

the trig point carpark.

"This makes Warrah Trig a great destination for the whole family – for the old, for the young and for the disabled."

He said the website aimed to enhance the appreciation of the great natural resource that Warrah Trig represented.

Improvements to the website included a redesign of the pages to make them more usable and accessible on mobile devices, as well as a map showing the

locations along the dirt road where particular wildflowers were likely to be found.

Mr Snell said he believed the website was the most comprehensive photographic guide to local wildflowers and the only one showing where the flowers may be found month by month.

The website can be found at <http://warrahtrig.info>.

SOURCE:

Media release, 9 Jan 2022
Mark Snell, Umina

Toastmasters return face-to-face

Ettalong Beach Toastmasters Club is returning to face-to-face meetings tomorrow, January 11.

Ettalong Toastmasters to its meetings held from 7.30pm to 9.30pm at Ettalong Diggers Club on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

Visitors aged 18 years and over are welcomed.

"Ettalong Beach Toastmasters is a local community club that teaches speaking and leaderships skills," said member Ms Gail Heggie.

"Whether you are looking to hone your leadership and communication skills, develop more confidence, or meet like-minded people in your community, we can help.

"Our members present prepared speeches, practice impromptu speaking (table topics), give toasts and run various aspects of the meeting."

Ms Heggie said Toastmasters helped develop confidence in a speaker or leader, improve leadership skills, speak capably at family celebrations and other occasions, gain experience at presenting to audiences, give effective feedback and run business sessions.

For further details, contact Ms Heggie by email at ge.heggie@bigpond.com by phone on 0403 280 882.

SOURCE:

Website, 6 Jan 2022
Gail Heggie, Ettalong Beach
Toastmasters Club

Woy Woy Bay wharf celebration

The Bays Community Group will celebrate the completion of the new Woy Woy Bay Wharf on Sunday, January 16, at 4:30pm.

"The work on Woy Woy Bay Wharf has been completed," said group president Ms Gwynneth Weir.

"We now have a fabulous new wharf, complete with solar lighting.

"We also have two new benches to sit on while we enjoy the view, along with several sandstone blocks which create additional seating."

Those attending have been invited to bring their own food and drink.

SOURCE:

Media release, 2 Jan 2022
Gwynneth Weir, The Bays
Community Group



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Kilcare, Daley's Pt, Ettalong, Umina and Pearl Beach, Patonga and Woy Woy



Two-storey dual occupancy proposed for Murray St

Central Coast Council has received an application from Provincial Homes for a new two-storey dual occupancy at 15 Murray St, Booker Bay.

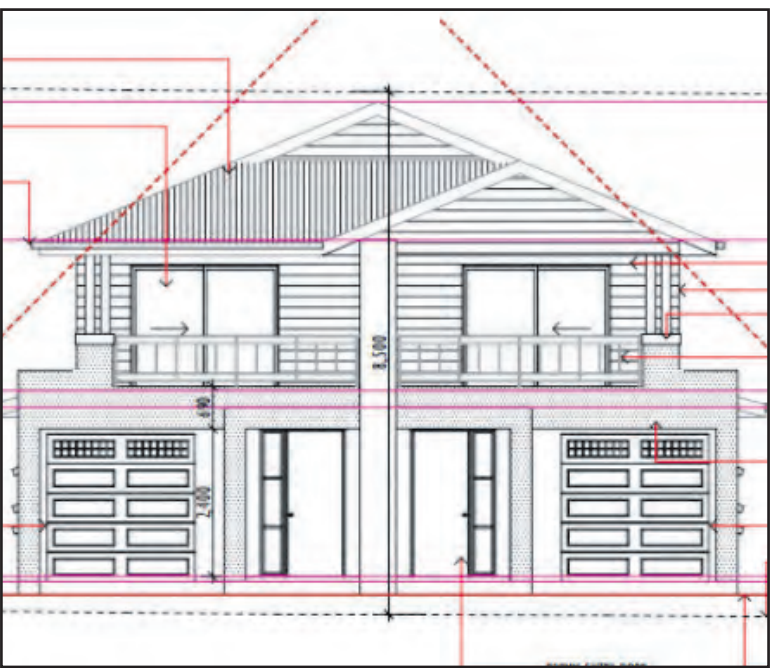
The application states that "careful consideration has been given to the exhibited design in order to comply with Council's DCP 2013 and LEP 2014 requirements whilst still maintaining the client's

budget as best as possible". "Visual features include a contemporary facade that compliments both old and new homes in the area. "This provides a positive impact from a home that was designed to blend in with surrounding homes. "The site area is 629.90 square metres giving a compatible floor space ratio of 59 per cent, which

is under the allowable 70 per cent. "The proposed overall height of the dwelling is approximately 8.035m. "The setbacks of the building comply with the streetscape to reduce visual impact. "The setbacks are 6.5m from the front boundary to the building line, 1m to the left-hand side boundary, 1.005m to the right-hand side boundary, 13.455m from the alfresco to the rear boundary and 16.455m from the first floor to the rear boundary.

"The site currently has an older domestic residence on it. "Most of the surrounding homes look about 40 to 50 years old." The application does not seek approval for demolition of the existing house on the site.

According to the application: "Landscaping will be done by the owners in accordance with the approved landscape plans. "It is acknowledged that the proposed building envelope does not comply with the Council requirements. "However the area of non-compliance is the eaves. "We believe that the design (despite the minor non-compliance) still achieves Council's main objectives: "(f) to facilitate design excellence



by ensuring the extent of floor space in building envelopes leaves generous space for the articulation and modulation of design, "(g) to ensure that the floor space ratio of buildings on land in Zone R1 General Residential reflects Council's desired building envelope," The "approved landscape plans" were not available on the council website for public viewing, nor are shadow diagrams which

would show any increase in overshadowing of the adjacent property on the South side cause by the non-compliant eaves. While the application has a current status of "Notification/Advertising" on the Council's "new look" eplanning portal, there is no indication of a closing date for submissions. Source: Website, 8 Jan 2022 DA63747, Central Coast Council

Council plans on show ahead of rate rise move

A raft of council plans and strategies will be on public exhibition and available for community submissions until Friday, January 21, as part of the requirement for requesting a special rates variation.

On exhibition are Central Coast Council's draft revised Community Strategic Plan, draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan, draft fees and charges, draft Long Term Financial Plan, draft Workforce Management Strategy and draft revised Asset Management Strategy "This is a step required by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal should Council make a submission for a special variation," said administrator Mr Rik Hart. "The documents reflect Council's situation, identify the need to apply for a special variation and outline scenarios that are available." He said Council had considered five scenarios and included three scenarios in the Long Term Financial Plan for the community to review and comment on the implications outlined for each scenario. "I encourage ratepayers and residents to review the materials and consider what is required for

their Council's long-term path to financial sustainability," Mr Hart said. "Through our community consultation about options for services, 82 per cent of survey respondents want Council's overall service investment to remain the same or more and 73 per cent would like to see investment in new assets remain the same or increase. "The consultation also shows that the community's view is split on whether to extend the existing special variation or reduce services. "Many have also made comment that Council should be held responsible for its financial situation and I have further explained the actions taken by Council in an explanatory video," Mr Hart said. He said Council would consider community submissions from the public exhibition of the plans in a Council Meeting on February 3 before adopting the plans and programs. Council will also formally decide at that meeting if it will make a submission for the current 15 per cent special variation to be maintained in the rate base for an additional seven years.

SOURCE: Media release, 20 Dec 2021 Rik Hart, Central Coast Council

Regenerative design talk at Pearl Beach

The Pearl Beach Environment Group will host a talk about Regenerative Design and Development at Pearl Beach hall at 5pm on Friday, January 28. The talk will be given by architect Ms Caroline Pidcock who described "regenerative design" as "a whole systems approach to design". "The term regenerative describes processes that restore, renew or revitalize their own sources of energy and materials," she said.

"It encourages communities to support and create positive relationships that will benefit society and our environments by evolving and adapting to changing circumstances." "The Pearl Beach Environment Group president Ms Mary Knaggs said: Ms Pidcock was "passionate about the importance of architecture, biophilia and regenerative design, and how they can contribute to a culturally rich, socially just and ecologically restorative future". "She combines her work as sustainability guide with roles on

a number of professional and community environment groups, advisory panels and teaching and talks. The group is asking \$5 donation to attend the talk, with students free. Attendees must be double vaccinated and wear a mask. For information and bookings, email the group at pearlbeachenvironmentgroup@gmail.com. SOURCE: Media release, 6 Dec 2022 Mary Knaggs, Pearl Beach Environment Group

No mention of Woy Woy in Labor fast rail announcement

A Federal Labor Government would give priority to "fast rail connections" between Sydney, the Central Coast and Newcastle with \$500 million allocated in its first budget, according to Labor candidate for Robertson Dr Gordon Reid. However, the announcement did not mention Woy Woy and the implications for the Peninsula are unclear. Dr Reid would not be drawn on questions of whether the project would include the replacement of the Rawson Rd level crossing, the removal of the scenic section along Mullett Creek between

Wondabyne and Hawkesbury River, or whether the route would even come through Woy Woy. "With regards to the finer details of the route, these specifics will be announced in due course," he said. "A Labor Government will always consider the needs of local communities in nation defining infrastructure projects," he said. Dr Reid said: "It was during Labor's last term in Government, Anthony Albanese as the then Infrastructure Minister commissioned the Phase 2 study report into high-speed rail. "This identified Sydney to Newcastle as forming the first component of an eventual line to Brisbane, so the groundwork has

been laid. "A Labor Government will establish the High Speed Rail Authority as a statutory agency and issue a clear statement of expectations to the Authority to begin work on the Sydney to Newcastle corridor as a priority. "This line would include stops in the Central Coast." Mr Albanese said Gosford and Wyong were "obvious possibilities". "We will work closely with the New South Wales Government that has already identified this project as a key priority," he said. "Given that this is a staged project with a long-term focus, the new High-Speed Rail Authority would work collaboratively with the

NSW Government to determine the best way of delivering the project, whether that be a phased faster rail approach or an immediate provision of High Speed Rail services. "We expect the High-Speed Rail Authority to identify and acquire a corridor of land that would accommodate either an initial fast rail line that could eventually be upgraded to high-speed rail, or move directly to build high-speed rail itself. "This line will be built with the capacity for trains to run up to and over 250kmh. "From Sydney to Gosford would take only half an hour." In 2013, the "Phase 2" report

was accompanied by detailed maps of a preferred route, with only one stop on the Central Coast, at Ourimbah. Calls by commuters at the time for a stop at Woy Woy were not taken up. The NSW Government's current stated "short to medium-term focus" for a staged approach to a "fast rail future" is to undertake track improvements on existing routes. Building dedicated tracks for new rolling stock with possible speeds over 250km/h was a "medium to long-term focus". SOURCE: Social media, 2 Jan 2022 Gordon Reid, Labor candidate for Robertson



Large field for bridge club New Year's Cup

Brisbane Water Bridge Club had 21 pairs entered in its New Year's Cup.

The first Red Point event for the year attracted the largest field for some time.

North-South winners Martin Johnson and David Snow and East-West winners Ed and Robin Vaughan made light work of it with convincing winning percentages of 64 per cent and 66 per cent respectively.

North-South results of the New Years Cup played on January 3 were:

1 Martin Johnson, David Snow 349.0 (64.63 per cent) 0.55 red points. 2 Christine Hadaway, Chris Hannan 327.8 (60.70), 0.39. 3 Meg McGregor, Hilary Owen 289.1 (53.54), 0.28. 4 Jorgen Boettiger, Julie Teague 281.1 (52.06), 0.18. 5 Judy Wulff, Marilyn Whigham 260.2 (48.19), 0.14. 6 Blair Glass, John Drew 255.9 (47.39). 7 Lorraine Lindsay, Richard Carter

255.6 (47.32). 8 Felicity Fane, Heather Brown 247.3 (45.79). 9 Graham Woof, Chris Spikesman 237.4 (43.96). 10 John Aldersley, Beryl Lowry 232.2 (43.00). 11 Tracey Dillon, Jim Routledge 227.9 (42.20).

East-West results were:

1 Ed Vaughan, Robin Vaughan 359.6 (66.58), 0.55. 2 Jacqueline Wilson, Chris Hasemore 295.0 (54.63), 0.39. 3 Hope Tomlinson, Barry Foster 288.8 (53.48), 0.28. 4 Jaan Oitmaa, Sylvia Foster 283.8 (52.55), 0.18. 5 Noel Crockett, Shirley Crockett 273.8 (50.70), 0.14. 6 David Howells, Sue Eastman 273.3 (50.62). 7 Marcelle Goslin, Ron Meaney 252.7 (46.79). 8 Susan McCall, Pamela Joseph 243.0 (45.00). 9 Bob Lowry, Dieter Mucharsky 222.3 (41.17). 10 Suzanne Harrison, Carolynne Mucharsky 207.8 (38.48).

SOURCE:
Website, 6 Jan 2022
Brisbane Water Bridge Club

The Grow Urban Shade Trees group has received a number of offers to take a native lemon myrtle bush that was destined for the mulcher.

"We are looking for a home for this beautiful backhousia citriodora, a lemon myrtle," said group member Ms Deb Sunartha.

"With a development application approved at its home, sadly it will end up in the mulcher if not rescued.

"It is an Australian native bush food with fragrant leaves, suitable for gardens where it attracts a multitude of nectar loving insects.

"This specimen is 1.4m high."
Ms Sunartha later said that the

group had received a number of offers to take the bush.

"We have a number of tree lovers wanting the lemon myrtle."

She said she would get back to

them in order.

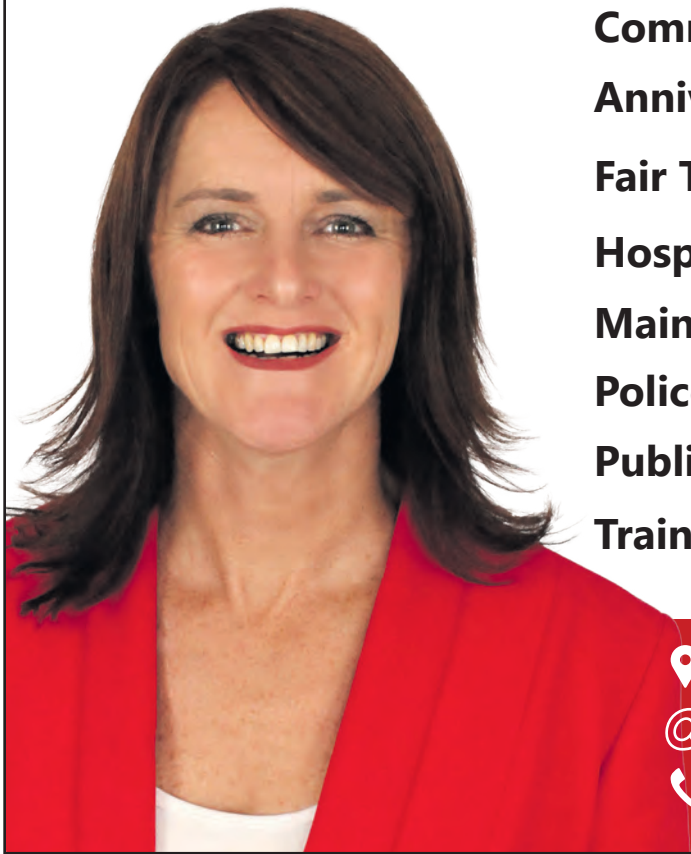
"If you miss out, we may have an alternative for you," she said.

SOURCE:
Social media, 4 Jan 2022
Deb Sunartha, GUST



Liesl Tesch MP
Member for Gosford

How can I help?



Schools and education

Community Recognition Awards

Anniversary & birthday messages

Fair Trading

Hospitals and health

Main roads

Police and Emergency Services

Public housing

Trains and public transport



20 Blackwall Road, Woy Woy NSW 2256



Gosford@parliament.nsw.gov.au



(02) 4342 4122



Forum

Book brings to life disadvantage of Stolen Generations

The book launch for *Daughter of the River Country* by Auntie Di O'Brien was a joyous occasion attended by over a hundred people at Mingaletta Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation at Umina Beach, to coincide with the delayed celebration of Naidoc Week, on December 10.

The book was launched by local resident Ms Benny Agius of Echo Publishing, the publisher.

Auntie Di signed copies for those who purchased her book, and said: "I wrote the book because I wanted my children to understand why I am like I am."

Auntie Di is a much-admired and respected community leader, especially well known as an elder and a tireless worker and advocate for the aboriginal community.

The book, co-authored with Sue Williams, is written in chronological order, comprising 27 chapters in three parts: Lost, Searching and Found.

We need to have a warning here. Although a gripping read, the subject matter is particularly traumatic. It can be difficult to read. So persevere.

Lost - Dianne was born in Wagga Wagga on July 3, 1946, and taken at birth from her aboriginal mother.

She was well cared for by her adoptive family but tragically lost the only mother she knew at 14.

She left school at 15, while living in Granville, to work in the nearby Armott's biscuit factory.

It is a vivid description both of her life and growing up in the



western suburbs of Sydney at that time.

Searching - Dianne had her first child, conceived through rape at the age of 15, and forced to marry in order to keep her child.

Dianne describes this period as an 'unending cycle of violence' (page 154).

By the age of 25 Dianne O'Brien had six children (three boys and three girls) to four fathers, she had been raped four times, been the victim of domestic violence, moved countless times, and run away so many times it was difficult to keep track.

It was also a period when she searched for her birth parents, and found that she had been stolen, like so many others. It is a harrowing read.

Found - In the lighter third part of the book Auntie Di, at the age of 36 discovers her aboriginal heritage as a Yorta Yorta woman, through Link-Up.

She subsequently connected with her aboriginal birth mother and found out about her deceased

aboriginal father, and extended family including her great grandfather, William Cooper, a prominent advocate and founder of Naidoc.

She then moved to her home with the Yorta Yorta people near Cummera on the banks of the Murray River and worked as an aboriginal health worker and eventually CEO of the Aboriginal Medical Service in her community.

Hence the title of the book, *Daughter of the River Country*.

In the early 2000s, she moved to Woy Woy and then to Blue Haven and has worked as an aboriginal health worker for the Central Coast Area Health Service, the Medicare Local, and currently with Coast and Country Primary Care, and in an honorary capacity on the board and volunteering three days a week at Mingaletta.

We recommend this book very highly indeed.

Daughter of the River Country really brings to life the cycles of disadvantage experienced by members of the Stolen Generations.

In doing so, Dianne O'Brien inspires us with the unbelievable strength of character and determination that enabled her to triumph over these evils ... as Auntie Di writes (page 262):

"... Yes, I'd been the victim of a great deal of violence but it made me stronger and more resilient, with the confidence to know I could withstand whatever life threw at me."

SOURCE:
Email, 6 Jan 2022
Stephanie Short, Woy Woy
Sue McCarthy, Ettalong Beach

Peninsula needs its own planning framework

There is, of course, no harm in having a planning workshop on the Peninsula ("Workshop likely on peninsula planning", PN 534), following on the similar workshop in West Gosford last month.

However, it would be naive to imagine that any ideas put forward at such a workshop would have any impact on the provisions of the 2041 Regional Plan which will be altered little, if at all, by any discussions now taking place.

At the moment, the references to the Peninsula in the draft plan are so vague as to be essentially meaningless, being largely repetitions of previous statements that have been obviously ineffective in the past, giving us no reason to suppose that the situation will be any different in the future.

What can any one make of a statement that "increased housing choices will be focused close to public transport and need to consider traffic impacts": perhaps, amongst the grammatical confusion, there is actually an idea buried in the verbiage, but I'm sure nobody could explain what it is.

It is obvious from the comments of Mr Farmer that his idea of consultations is not for Council to ascertain the wishes of the community but for the community to be persuaded of the superiority of the Council's ideas that have already been decided on and only require the changing of public attitude to be carried forward.

I do not discount the possibility that the Council's ideas are the best (although it isn't hard to understand widespread scepticism on this point, given the abysmal level of performance to date), but the persuasion will need to

be far more convincing than the platitudinous blather we have heard so far.

Truly, if I read "lifestyle and vibrancy" one more time, I doubt I shall be able to prevent myself from throwing up.

It is, also, easy to say that the 2036 Plan didn't contribute to one positive result on the Peninsula and didn't ameliorate one negative result amongst all that we have suffered, so why should we bother with this process, and it would be hard to argue with the position. However, allowing the 2041 Plan to pass unchecked is only to invite more draconian intrusions in the 2046 Plan.

Futile as the effort might seem, the writers of these plans (assuming they aren't just churned out by random word generators) have to be challenged to justify their proposals, to produce evidence to substantiate their conclusions and to demonstrate that the implementation methods put forward have some slight chance of working.

There is no convincing support in the Plan for any of these conditions, so these are the grounds on which the Plan can be opposed.

However, it would be fatal to fall into the all-too-easy course of just piling up vague or picayune objections that can be dismissed as merely narrow-visioned parochialism, so any review of a plan for the Peninsula needs a logical framework of its own.

I hope that somebody will put together such a framework, before any February workshop: otherwise, the whole exercise will be a waste of time.

SOURCE:
Email, 6 Jan 2022
Bruce Hyland, Woy Woy.

Farnell Rd lights will not help traffic flow

It is hard to understand how the intended traffic lights on the corner of Farnell Rd will in any way improve traffic flow on Blackwall Rd.

Any extra traffic diverted to Burge Rd will cause real problems.

It is narrow to the extent that where there is parking on each side, cars travelling in opposite directions have to give way to each other.

In both directions, the right hand turning bays from Blackwall Rd to

Allfield rd are perfectly adequate.

There are other intersections along Blackwall Rd and Memorial Dr which would be better served by traffic lights.

SOURCE:
Letter, 9 Dec 2021
WR Maynard, Woy Woy

Street sign advertising a waste

I recently noticed some local street signs have been replaced with a new style of sign that advertises the Central Coast Council.

Will this new style replace all existing street signs?

Everyone familiar with the farcical amalgamation with the many failures will scoff at this suggestion.

The logistics and costs associated with replacing and recycling all street signs in the local government area is information that senior council officers are unlikely to release.

It is unnecessary and wasteful expenditure.

However, the Australian Government and the Central Coast Council have used the road verge to advertise the Central Coast Road Package, among other things.

Neither the road verge advertising nor the new street sign advertising is in the interests of the



public. It is simply promoting the interests of those in power at both levels of government.

A Federal election is to be held before May and Robertson is up for grabs, being a marginal seat.

This roadside advertising shows the Federal Government has more interest in being re-elected than in supporting the Council to provide essential services at low cost to the unfortunate ratepayers.

Why are Peninsula road verges being used to advertise the Federal and Local Government actions that are essential day-to-day projects?

SOURCE:
Letter, 5 Jan 2022
Norm Harris, Umina

Public Notices

Car Boot Sale

Woy Woy Peninsula Lions Club

Jan 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

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'Stay calm' despite rising cases, says Crouch

Central Coast Parliamentary Secretary Mr Adam Crouch has urged residents to "stay calm, despite cases rising each day".

"I acknowledge the frustration felt by many across the Central Coast due to having limited testing labs open to the public at this time, two of which are the State-run clinics at Gosford and Wyong Hospitals.

"While I apologise for the delays, it is important to remember that the NSW Government has no jurisdiction over whether or not private testing clinics are open.

"Despite this, the NSW State Government is committed to providing whatever assistance, in conjunction with Central Coast Local Health District, is required in order to support our community during this time.

"Testing capacity across the

Central Coast and broader NSW is currently under enormous pressure and to assist in reducing this pressure, the only people getting a PCR (nose and throat swab) should be those who have Covid-19 symptoms, live in a household with a confirmed Covid-19 positive case or have been in a venue which NSW Health has advised there has been high transmission.

"Over the coming days we will begin to see additional private testing clinics reopen from one end of the Central Coast to the other.

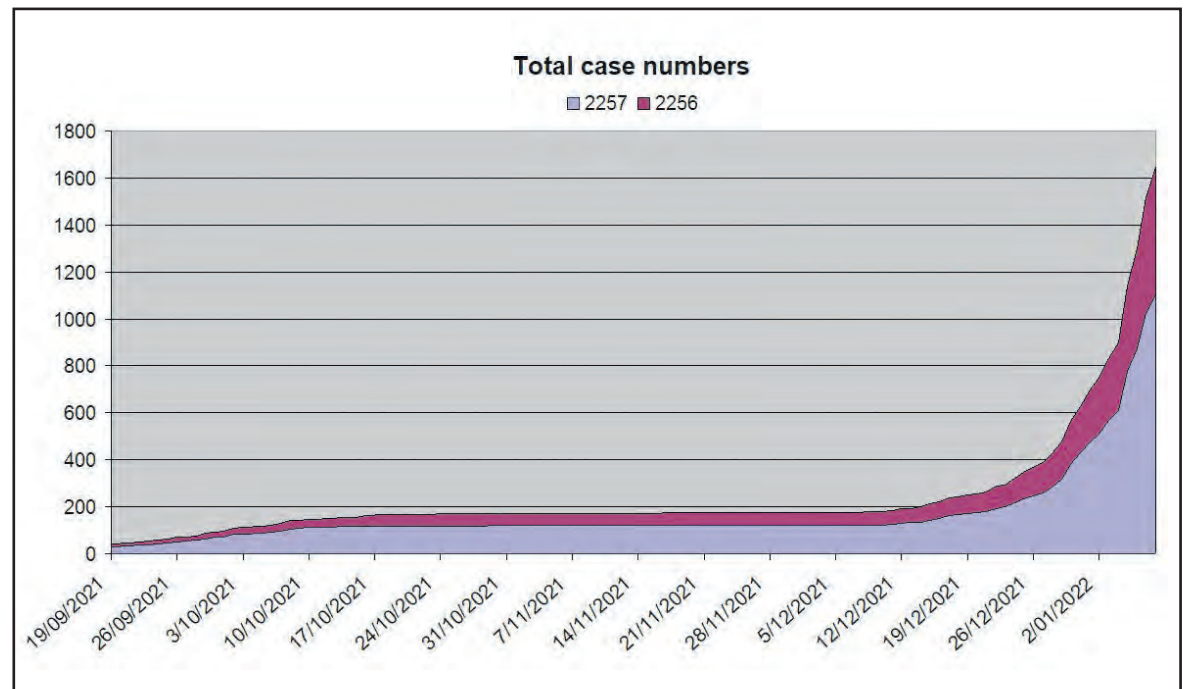
"We have done an outstanding job as a region to have high vaccination numbers.

"This is being reflected in the low rates of hospital admissions."

SOURCE:

Media release, 29 Dec 2022

Adam Crouch, Central Coast Secretary



Several staff at Umina aged care home test positive

Email address for families

An aged care home has created a dedicated email address for families to be able to write to our residents.

"The emails will be forwarded to our wellbeing team who will print and distribute the message to your family member," said Peninsula Villages chief executive Mr Colin Osborne.

"All families are welcome to email: visitors@penvill.com.au.

"It would be appreciated if you could pop the resident's name, room number, and building in the subject line."

Zoom calls will still be available to help keep in touch.

SOURCE:

Social media, 29 Dec 2021

Colin Osborne, Peninsula Villages

Several staff at a Umina aged care home have tested positive to coronavirus.

Peninsula Villages chief executive Mr Colin Osborne said: "This means, under Public Health direction, we have had to declare an outbreak and implement our lockdown procedures.

"Keeping our residents and staff safe is our top priority.

"Thankfully due to our vigorous infection control procedures and our staff completing a rapid antigen test before each shift, we

are happy to report all residents have tested negative to date.

"In order to protect our residents from the growing number of community cases, we are restricting visitors to essential services and end of life situations only.

"Our Zoom sessions are available for all residents and family, who should feel free to book an appointment."

SOURCE:

Social media, 29 Dec 2021

Colin Osborne, Peninsula Villages

Festival postponed at last minute due to Omicron

The Coastal Twist festival board has made a last-minute decision to postpone the festival planned for next week until later in the year.

It has been rescheduled for September 27 to October 3.

"A record number of cases surrounding us and close contact isolation and result times presenting too great a risk for the festival to take place amongst the chaos," said creative director Ms Glitta Supernova.

"Covid and how to handle it remains an ongoing challenge, given the evolving nature of the current Omicron outbreak.

"It's not just lip service when we say the safety of our artists, audiences, volunteers, crews and partners particularly our higher risk

groups is and always will be our number one priority.

"The Twist team has worked tirelessly over the past 12 months to reduce risk, put in place multiple plans and prepare for the worst.

"But this time round there was simply no way forward.

"There is a very real sadness of seeing a year's work snuffed out just two weeks from delivery.

Current ticket holders are expected to receive an email detailing their options, which include keeping their tickets for the new dates (nothing more to do), cancelling (and getting a full refund) or allocating a credit for "any activation we hold over the next 12 months".

SOURCE:

Media release, 3 Jan 2022

Glitta Supernova, Coastal Twist

Surf club postpones five events

Ocean Beach Surf Lifesaving Club has decided to postpone five events due to "the ever-changing and uncertain Covid environment".

The five events were the Australia Day photo exhibition at the Umina CWA hall, the gala dinner at Ettalong Diggers on Friday, January 28, the life members' lunch and the Ocean Beach SLSC Reunion both scheduled for Saturday, January 29, and the Ladies' Get Together on Sunday, January 30.

"Our aim is to reschedule these functions and events later in 2022," said club president Mr Dean Slattery.

The Central Coast-Hunter

Boat Series will still take place on Saturday, January 8, as well as a photo exhibition held in conjunction with the boat carnival on the same day.

"This early decision has been made with the safety and well-being of our members, sponsors and supporters as our priority," Mr Slattery said.

The club will proceed with plans to commemorate its 100 years at 12pm on Saturday, January 29, with a traditional reel line and belt rescue and a modern IRB rescue.

For further information, contact Ms Belinda Thompson at office@oceanbeachslsc.com.

SOURCE:

Newsletter, 5 Jan 2022

Dean Slattery, Ocean Beach SLSC

Woy Woy aged care home in lockdown

A Woy Woy aged care home has reported that a staff member who tested positive to Covid.

BlueWave Living chief executive Mr Matt Downie said the staff member tested positive our rapid antigen screening process.

"This is not unexpected given the extraordinary case numbers we are now seeing in NSW," he said.

"As a precautionary measure, we will be entering full lock down effective immediately, while we investigate this and begin contact tracing and assessing the potential risk.

"Only essential staff will be allowed on site.

"At this early stage we believe

the risk is at the lower end of the scale.

"We hope that this lockdown will be short-lived, but we expect to stay in lock down for seven days while we see if any other cases develop.

"We have systems and resources in place in preparation for such an occurrence.

"For now, residents will be asked to remain in their rooms and limit movements until we receive further advice and direction from NSW Health.

"We will be providing regular daily updates via correspondence and via our FaceBook page as further information comes to hand.

"It is unfortunate that we are now in this position.

"However, we have a fantastic team here who will work through this challenge as best as we can and ensure we minimise risk.

"While you may certainly call to talk to your loved one in care, please be patient, as we expect a high volume of calls coming through our main reception during this time as we manage this current outbreak, and our staffing resources are limited.

"We also encourage the use of video links via our tablets with Zoom or Facetime.

"For Covid-specific enquiries, you can email us at covid@bluewaveliving.org.au."

SOURCE:

Website, 6 Jan 2022

Matt Downie, Blue Wave Living

Exposure at Ettalong school

A member of the Ettalong school community has tested positive to Covid-19.

Relieving principal Ms Jodie Campbell said that some parents and children at school on Monday, December 13, and Tuesday,

December 14, were impacted by the exposure.

"NSW Education has advised that students in kindergarten and staff who worked with this group of students on these dates have been identified as casual contacts.

"Casual contacts are required to immediately get a nose and throat (PCR) test and to self-isolate until they receive a negative result."

SOURCE:

Social media, 19 Dec 2021

Jodie Campbell, Ettalong Public School

Sport

Soccer club seeks a gear manager

Southern and Ettalong United Football Club is seeking a gear manager for the coming season.

“This position has greatly been simplified with the construction of our new storeroom and designated gear manager compound area,” said president Mr Glen Balneaves.

“The role requires a responsible person to liaise with the executive to prepare and log training and match day kits for all teams, control equipment stocks and log returned training and match day kits at the conclusion of the season.

“The role as gear manager will require approximately 10 hours at the season beginning and approximately six hours at the season conclusion, with minimal time throughout the season. “This is an ideal minor role for someone wanting to get involved with the Peninsula No 1 Football Club.

“The role will see a detailed handover from past gear managers.”

With enquires, contact Mr Balneaves on 0407 454 963.

SOURCE:
Social media, 9 Jan 2022
Glen Balneaves, SEUFC

Canteen operator wanted

Southern and Ettalong United Football Club is calling for “expressions of interest” in operating its Roar Cafe-Canteen for the coming season.

“The position is financially remunerated and will require Saturday and Sunday trading hours,” said club secretary Ms Kylie Brown.

“The 2022 season will see our new canteen now fully fitted out ensuring a fantastic working environment.”

Email secretary@seufc.com with expressions of interest or call Kylie on 0433 117 280 for further information.

Applications close January 31.

SOURCE:
Social media, 30 Dec 2021
Kylie Brown, SEUFC

Call for athletes for regional championships

Woy Woy Peninsula Little Athletics is calling for athletes to register for the regional championships.

Juniors under-8 to under-11 may nominate for up to four events. Seniors under-12 to under-17 may nominate for six events.

The championships will be held at Mingara from February 4-6.

SOURCE:
Social media, 5 Jan 2022
Woy Woy Peninsula Little Athletics

Pre-season soccer training

Umina United Soccer Club men’s Division 1 and men’s 18s pre-season training starts tomorrow, Tuesday, January 11.

Any interested players wishing to attend should contact first grade coach Dave Brewer on 0421 522 185 or reserve grade coach Cameron Stone on 0429 018 209 for training times and venue.

SOURCE:
Social media, 5 Jan 2022
Umina United Soccer Club



Jaylen’s achievement

Southern Spirit Cricket Club representative player Jaylen Johnston scored 58 and took 4/35 from 10 overs in a dominant win for the Central Coast over Western Zone at the Bradman Cup carnival on

January.

The achievement was regarded as all the greater for Jaylen as he played a grade above his age group in the tournament.

SOURCE:
Social media, 4 Jan 2022
Southern Spirit Cricket Club



Southern Spirit senior cricket resumes

Southern Spirit Cricket Club teams in Youth League, senior and over-40s competition have resumed for the new year.

Results from games played last weekend were:

First Grade: Southern Spirit 9/172 (R Watson 51, J Leary 31, BN Duffy 30*) v Wyong.

Second Grade: Wyong 8/260 dec (KJ Handley 4/48, MR Wright 3/22) v Southern Spirit.

Masters - Over 40s: Southern Spirit v BYE.

Fourth Grade: Southern Spirit 4/118cc (PR Wright 53) v

Warnervale 8/117cc (JG Corbett 3/14, JF Taylor 2/28).

Male Youth League: Narara Wyoming Junior 8/72 (W Hawksley 3/11) def by Southern Spirit 5/132cc (B Willoughby 37, SR Sharma 28).

Sixth Grade: Southern Spirit v Kincumber

Seventh Grade: Southern Spirit 5/164cc (B Willoughby 54*, D Hancock 50*) v Northern Power 5/120 (D Hancock 2/5, B Willoughby 2/12).

Eighth Grade: Narara 80 (G Simon 3/10, MJ Donnelly 3/22, D Quitadamo 2/1) def by Southern

Spirit 4/84 (AP Byrnes 34, G Dillon 26*).

Ninth Grade: Southern Spirit v The Entrance White.

Womens 2nd Grade: Southern Spirit 4/166 def The Entrance 4/161cc (L Ford 2/24).

Glenn Rowland Shield competition starts on Sunday, January 16.

First Grade T20 starts on Thursday, January 20.

Junior cricket resumes on Saturday, January 22.

SOURCE:
Website, 8 Jan 2022
Southern Spirit Cricket Club

Annual eight-a-side day at Rogers Park

Southern Spirit Cricket Club will hold its annual Eight-A-Side Day on Australia Day, Wednesday, January 26, at Rogers Park.

Entry costs \$100 per team, with a maximum of 12 players per team and eight players per game.

All entry money must be paid before the day’s games commence to be eligible to play.

The day starts at 9am with a barbecue breakfast and lunch included in the entry fee)

The club is seeking help with extra shade tents and large eskies for the day.

Those attending are encouraged to bring gold coins for games throughout the day..

Phone Dory on 0404 034 249 to register an entry.

SOURCE:
Social media, 28 Dec 2021
Southern Spirit Cricket Club



One of last year’s teams in costume

Triples final at Umina bowling club

Umina Beach Men’s Bowling Club’s final of its Triples Championship was played on December 18.

The team of Paul Watson, Allan Rhodes and Mark Hogden defeated Grant Watson, Arthur Glynn and Paul Maher, 30-12.

“This was a classic game of good draw bowls and well weighted

shots,” said club secretary Mr Peter Springett.

“To rub salt into the wound (for all the other bowlers this afternoon), the Triples Final teams won both the winning and the losing rink prize money.

SOURCE:
Social media, 18 Dec 2022
Peter Springett, Umina Beach Men’s Bowling Club

Geoff wins Minor Singles

Umina Beach Men’s Bowling Club Minor Singles Championship Final was played on December 18.

Geoff Godwin defeated George Boni 30 - 15.

Club secretary Mr Peter Springett congratulated Geoff and George on making the final in “tough competition”.

The game was “well marked by Jim Phillips, last year’s winner of this title”, he said.

SOURCE:
Social media, 18 Dec 2022
Peter Springett, Umina Beach Men’s Bowling Club

