



More debris could be washed ashore

More debris is likely to wash up on local beaches, following the recent Hawkesbury River floods, according to Clean4Shore co-ordinator Mr Graham

Johnston. "These big tides will float out debris, and with stronger outgoing tides, most of this will go seaward, and possibly back on the Central Coast beaches," he said.

"Not a good outcome. He said Clean4Shore had collected car tyres, larger buckets and crates.

SOURCE: Social media, 18 Mar 2022
Graham Johnston, Clean4shore

Inquiry recommendations focus on councillor training

Recommendations from the Public Inquiry into Central Coast Council have focussed on councillor training and on ensuring money is spent on the purpose for which it is raised.

While the report is critical of staff performance, as well as councillor performance, it contains no recommendations addressing staff performance or council processes.

"Those staff members who were most responsible have departed Central Coast Council," said Commissioner Ms Roslyn McCulloch in her report, released last Thursday, March 17. "Council now has a highly competent and experienced general manager and chief financial officer and appears to be on track to recover from its financial woes, albeit at great cost to the community of the Central Coast."

Ms McCulloch was appointed on April 26 last year to hold a Public Inquiry under section 438U of the Local Government Act 1993 into Central Coast Council.

She recommended that information sessions be conducted

for prospective candidates prior to the next Council elections, "to provide information about the obligations and burdens on future councillors".

She recommended that "mandatory training be provided to each councillor, including training relating to financial management specific to local government" within three months of the election.

She also recommended that consideration be given to introducing a mandatory requirement for all councillors to complete an accredited course for company directors, or a course of equivalent rigour developed specifically for local government councillors.

The course would have to be completed within the first year of their election, with refresher courses for councillors who have previously completed such courses.

In relation to "restricted funds", she recommended either a change to the Local Government Act or to enable the council to administer its water supply and sewerage services "in the same way as other NSW councils".

The Local Government Act 1993 could be amended "to eliminate any asserted ambiguity ... to make it clear that money received as a result of levying rate or charges under any other Act may not be used otherwise than for the purpose for which the rate or charge was levied".

"Alternatively, consideration be given to removing Central Coast Council as a water authority under the Water Management Act 2000."

Local Government Minister Ms Wendy Tuckerman accepted Ms McCulloch's recommendations that all civic offices at Central Coast Council be declared vacant, effective immediately, and that an administrator be appointed until the election for Central Coast Council scheduled for 2022.

Ms McCulloch recommended the administrator ensure the completion of the Business Recovery Plan as adopted and amended by Central Coast Council since October 2020.

SOURCE: Report, 17 Mar 2022
Roslyn McCulloch, Public Inquiry Central Coast Council
MORE: Pages 4 and 5

For the Peninsula community

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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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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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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.
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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.
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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.



Pictured are committee members Ms Teri Calder, Ms Ylenna Zajac, Mr Dean Wignell, Ms Carolina Schuiling and Ms Ally Chuang, with outgoing president Ms Gwynneth Weir holding the bouquet.

Community group re-elects most of current committee

The Bays Community Group has held its annual general meeting and returned most of its current committee.

Ms Carolina Schuiling was elected president following the retirement of Ms Gwynneth Weir.
Vice-president is Ms Ally Chuang, treasurer Ms Marie Davis and secretary Mr Dean Wignell.
Other committee members are Ms Rachel Morris, Ms Teri Calder, Ms Ylenna Zajac, Ms Lina Nguyen, Ms Vivian Cumbo and Mr Keith Weir.
Pictured are committee members Ms Calder, Ms Zajac, Mr Wignell, Ms Schuiling and Ms Chuang, with outgoing president Ms Weir holding a bouquet.
New president Ms Schuiling

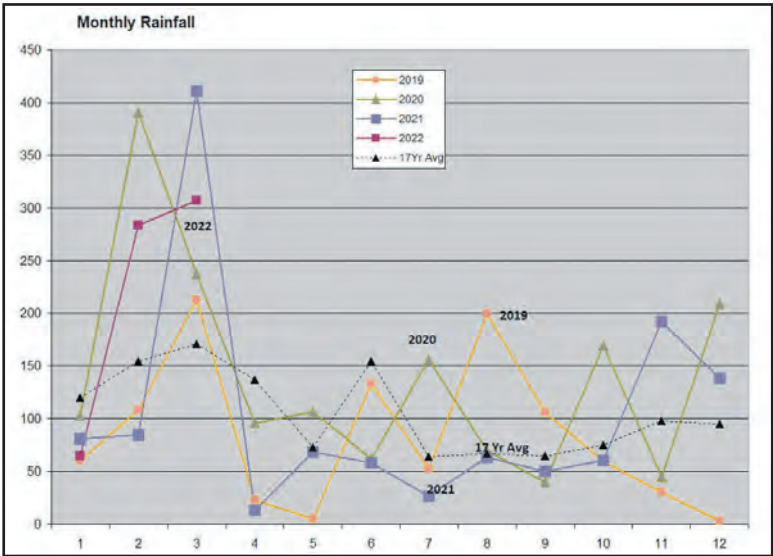
said: "The AGM took place and I am happy to say most of the current committee decided to stay on."
"I was elected President and have some big boots to fill after Gwynneth."
"The Bays Committee and community are very thankful for all her hard work."
"Gwynneth was instrumental in making the most of the difficult era of lockdowns and Covid restrictions."
"She focused on enabling The Bays community to socialise. And I, for one, have made friends because of it."
"Besides the familiar names and faces, the 2022 Committee has a couple of newbies in Keith

Weir and Rachael Morris."
Ms Schuiling said the group's "much-awaited" Art Show and Exhibition was successful.
"At last. It was great to have our first post-Covid event."
"We had a sold out opening night and plenty of visitors coming through over the weekend as well. And of course, plenty of amazing art changing hands."
Ms Schuiling said the community hall was now available for hire without any Covid restrictions, and the Bays Breakfasts were continuing on the last Sunday of the month.

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 11 Mar 2022
Carolina Schuiling, The Bays Community Group

More than 300mm of rain this month

The Peninsula has recorded 307.4mm of rain so far this month, making it the third wettest March in 18 years.
Average March rainfall is 171mm.
A total of 463.3mm fell in 16 consecutive days of rain between February 22 and March 9, according to figures supplied by Mr Jim Morrison of Umina.
Of this, 290mm was recorded in the first nine days of March.
Last year, the March rainfall was 410.7mm, including two daily totals of 98.5mm and 89.3mm.
SOURCE:
Spreadsheet, 18 Mar 2022
Jim Morrison, Umina



TIDE TIMES and Heights	Thu, Mar 24	Sun, Mar 27	Wed, Mar 30	Sat, Apr 2	Tue, Apr 5
	0148 1.11	0524 1.12	0207 0.19	0427 0.15	0528 0.22
	0854 0.23	1237 0.17	0819 1.19	1021 1.06	1112 0.80
	1429 0.74	1828 0.78	1502 0.11	1643 0.14	1707 0.21
AT ETTALONG	2011 0.29		2055 1.00	2245 1.10	2330 1.05
	Fri, Mar 25	Mon, Mar 28	Thu, Mar 31	Sun, Apr 3	Wed, Apr 6
	0254 1.10	0000 0.29	0258 0.16	407 0.17	0613 0.25
	1014 0.23	0631 1.15	0903 1.17	0957 0.98	1155 0.72
	1549 0.71	1332 0.14	1540 0.11	1610 0.15	1742 0.25
	2120 0.32	1924 0.86	2133 1.05	2218 1.10	
	Sat, Mar 26	Tue, Mar 29	Fri, Apr 1	Mon, Apr 4	Thu, Apr 7
	0409 1.10	0109 0.24	0344 0.15	0447 0.19	0011 1.01
	1130 0.21	0729 1.18	0944 1.12	1033 0.89	0705 0.27
	1715 0.72	1420 0.12	1613 0.12	1637 0.18	1246 0.65
	2242 0.33	2012 0.93	2210 1.08	2253 1.09	1823 0.30

Umina streets to be closed over nine weeks

Carpenter St, Glenn St, Connex Rd and Lovell Rd, Umina, will be closed in turn for nine weeks between Tuesday, April 5, and Tuesday, May 31.

The closures will be part of Central Coast Council work on Stage 5 of the Everglades Drainage Upgrade.

“Work is expected to start on the project on Monday, March 21, and will take approximately 14 weeks to complete, depending on weather and other circumstances,” council’s project delivery engineer Mr Steven Murphy has told residents.

“Although our contractor will endeavour to maintain access to properties during the works, vehicular access may be temporarily disrupted from time to time.

“We will endeavour to minimise any inconveniences or disruptions to traffic flow.”

Mr Murphy said temporary changed traffic conditions and road closures would affect Carpenter St between Ryans Rd and Veron Rd, Glenn St, Connex Rd and Lovell Rd.

He said Carpenter St would be closed between Tuesday, April 5, and Wednesday, April 27.

Glenn St would be closed between Tuesday, April 19, and Wednesday, May 11.

Connex Rd would be closed between Monday, May 2, and Monday, May 19.

Lovell Rd would be close between Thursday, May 12, to Tuesday, May 31.

Mr Murphy said: “During the period of the road closures, access will only be permitted for essential traffic including our contractor’s construction vehicles, local residents who live in the impacted streets, garbage trucks, police and emergency vehicles.

“All other non-essential traffic will need to use the detour routes during the period of the road

closures.

“The construction site will extend across the full width of a small section of the road where the drainage works are located, which will result in traffic not being able to freely flow through from one end of the street to the other.

“However, pedestrian access will be maintained through a delineated route adjacent to the construction site.

“Council’s weekly garbage bin pick up service will continue as normal during the works.

“The normal bus route along Carpenter St will be impacted during the Carpenter St road closure.

“Buses will use a detour route via Ryans Rd, Connex Rd and Veron Rd.

“Temporary bus stops will be installed in front of house numbers 16-18 and 19-21 Connex Rd and house numbers 38-40 and 47-49 Ryans Rd.

“These temporary bus stops will introduce parking restrictions adjacent to the residential properties, 20 metres on the approach and 10 metres on the departure.

“Other temporary changed traffic conditions will include trucks turning, road shoulder closures and a contraflow of traffic intermittently throughout the period of the works.

“The dates and durations are subject to change due to wet weather or unforeseen site conditions.

“Work will typically occur from 7am to 5pm Monday to Friday, with intermittent Saturday work between 8am and 4pm.”

Mr Murphy asked residents “not allow children or pets to play near works areas as heavy equipment may be present, obey all instructions from traffic controllers and site supervisors; and avoid entering work areas”.

SOURCE:
Letter, 17 Mar 2022
Stephen Murphy, Central Coast Council



Food van washed up at Patonga

One victim of the recent floods was a food van which had washed into the beach adjacent to the Patonga boat ramp.

It was removed from the water

with the help of local residents, according to Mr Graham Johnston, co-ordinator of the marine clean-up group Clean4Shore.

“The owner was contacted and a truck arrived at lunchtime to

return it to Sacksville, some 100km upstream on the Hawkesbury River.”

SOURCE:
Social media, 10 Mar 2022
Graham Johnston, Clean4shore

Comments sought about management of rare bushland

Central Coast Council is inviting comments about the management of Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland and, in particular, plans to consolidate informal tracks in two reserves until April 14.

Council administrator Mr Rik Hart said the remnant vegetation on the coastal sands of the Peninsula is unique and worthy of protection.

“Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland is a unique group of plants and animals that co-exist together on the coastal sands of the Peninsula, and is listed as an endangered ecological community,” he said.

“Council undertakes works

including access control, rubbish removal, weed control and bush regeneration, community awareness and education, which are funded through The Protection of the Environment Trust Management Committee.

“A number of informal access tracks have been developed throughout the area at Burrawang Reserve and Umina Oval which are impacting this vulnerable ecological community.

“To help protect, rehabilitate, and manage this area, while still providing the community with access routes, the track network will be consolidated, and some tracks closed.

“We need to strike a balance between access routes for the

community and ensuring this ecological community is looked after,” Mr Hart said.

“In addition to the works that Council undertakes, local environmental volunteers also dedicate their time to help maintain and preserve the woodland to ensure the unique flora and fauna is around for future generations.”

Council is seeking feedback from the community on the proposed plan for consolidating the network of informal tracks and seeking feedback on any other management actions or issues they consider to be impacting the Woodland.

SOURCE:
Website, 17 Mar 2022
YourVoiceOurCoast, Central Coast Council



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Council reports ‘designed to obfuscate’, inquiry finds

Central Coast Council’s investment reports, from October 2019 until the financial crisis, were designed to obfuscate rather than elucidate, the public inquiry into Central Coast Council has found.

“The staff of the Council responsible for those reports bear a significant responsibility for the lack of knowledge on the part of the councillors for the unlawful use of restricted funds,” said commissioner Ms Roslyn McCulloch.

However, Ms McCulloch made no comment about the consequences for those staff in bearing that responsibility.

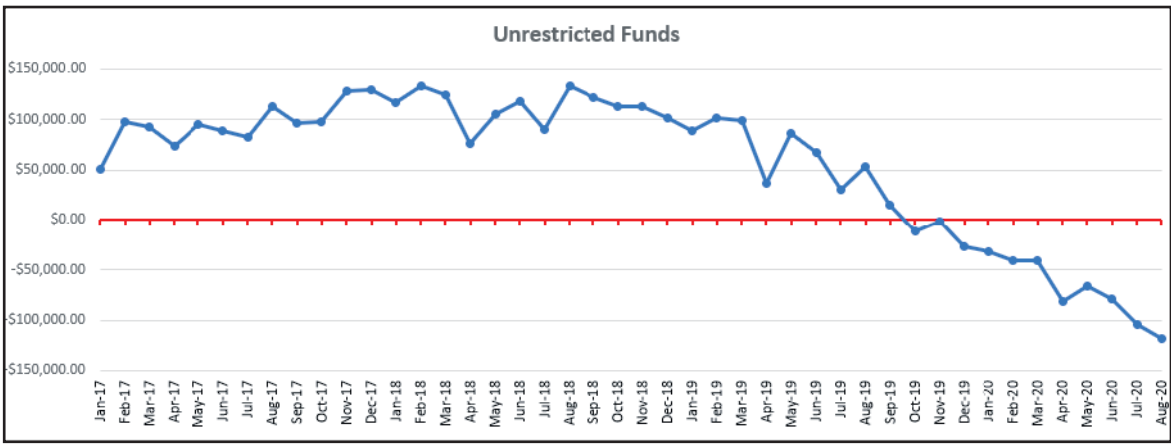
“The unrestricted funds represented the operating capital available to Council at any given time,” she said.

“The investment report for October 2019 changed in format in that it no longer included a row within the table describing the value of unrestricted funds.

“The likely reason for its omission was that in October 2019 unrestricted funds fell into the negative.”

Ms McCulloch used a graph in her report showing how “unrestricted funds can most easily be demonstrated”.

She said: “The financial information provided to councillors



was not easy to read and was sadly lacking in attention to trends.

“The information about the decline in Central Coast Council’s finances and the use of restricted funds was there, if one knew where and how to look.

“The balance of unrestricted funds could have been calculated by deducting restricted funds from the total of cash and investments as shown in the investment reports.”

Ms McCulloch said the author of the investment report for October 2019 was Mr Carlton Oldfield, who was the unit manager of Financial Services.

The executive responsible for that report was chief financial officer Mr Craig Norman, she said.

“Mr Norman had started as chief financial officer on May 27, 2019.

“He had experience in government but no previous

experience in local government.

“He frankly acknowledged that he was learning from his staff when he started and that he was not fully aware of the legislative requirements relating to restricted funds until some time into his tenure.

“Mr Norman was not aware of the change to the format for the October 2019 Investment Report nor was he aware that the balance of unrestricted cash had slipped into the negative.

“In fact, he was not aware of the continued deterioration of the unrestricted cash position until after he left Council on April 24, 2020.

“He did accept that the October 2019 Investment Report was signed off by him and that he should have known that the unrestricted cash position had fallen into the negative.

“Mr Norman could not explain why Mr Oldfield did not tell him that the unrestricted cash position had fallen into the negative, believing that Mr Oldfield had taken sick leave at that time.

“Council records show that Mr Oldfield did not take extended sick leave until late August 2020, well after Mr Norman’s departure.

“Mr Oldfield was appointed as the acting chief financial officer when Mr Norman left.

“However, he relinquished that role and returned to his position as unit manager of Financial Services on August 11, 2020.

“Regrettably, this Inquiry did not have the benefit of hearing from Mr Oldfield as he was not able to be located.

“It was at the time of Mr Oldfield’s departure that Mr Murphy reluctantly took on the role of Responsible Accounting

Officer.”

Ms McCulloch said the investment report for October 2019 did not contain any additional comment to alert the reader to the fact that unrestricted cash was in the negative. “Unrestricted cash remained negative until the Council was suspended in September 2020.

‘At no time was any notation made in an investment report to alert the councillors to that fact.

“Weekly briefings by Council staff were held with those councillors who wished to attend, about various matters, including upcoming reports.

“The councillors were never informed that the unrestricted funds had been exhausted nor were they warned about the consequences of having no unrestricted funds available.

“The general manager at the time, Mr Murphy, stated that he was unaware that the unrestricted cash position had been removed from the Investment Report for October 2019 and did not become aware of that fact until after he left Council on November 27, 2020.

“He also acknowledged that as chief executive officer he was responsible for the final agenda review for Council meetings.

SOURCE:
Report, 17 Mar 2022
Roslyn McCulloch, Public Inquiry into Central Coast Council

Councillors should collaborate, despite differences

Councillors should be expected to act collaboratively and with consensus, despite differences of political outlook and underlying values, accordingly to Commissioner Ms Roslyn McCulloch in her Public Inquiry into Central Coast Council.

“The TCorp report in 2013 identified what was needed for a sustainable council – good management and a good council working together with their community,” said Ms McCulloch.

“The governing body of Central Coast Council was not a council which worked together, particularly later in its term.

“The behaviour of some councillors was

very challenging for those chairing the meetings and often went unchecked.”

Where Commissioner McCulloch named staff members, she did not name individual councillors whose behaviour was “very challenging”.

Ms McCulloch said: “An indicator of the deterioration of relationships between councillors was the number and increasing frequency of Code of Conduct complaints made by one councillor against another.

“It is apparent from the nature of the complaints that the Code of Conduct procedures were weaponised in a presumed attempt to exclude, sanction or silence opponents within the governing body.

“The council meetings were unreasonably long and characterised by lengthy and often irrelevant debate, interruptions and points of order.

“The absence of consensus and the constant bickering may well have distracted the governing body from its role in managing the council finances and budgets.”

Ms McCulloch said industrial psychologist firm Elton consulting was commissioned to investigate the council dynamics.

“The key findings in relation to relationships and capabilities were concerning,” she said.

“A key issue for councillors was the lack of respectful and collaborative efforts between councillors.

“Greater enforcement of behavioural and procedural expectations between councillors was suggested.

“However, most councillors had no confidence that relationships between councillors could be improved.

“For the next term of Council, the report recommended better and continued training in formal protocols, consistent and robust management to promote and maintain the values of Council as an organisation and other measures to improve knowledge and transparency.”

SOURCE:
Report, 17 Mar 2022
Roslyn McCulloch, Public Inquiry into Central Coast Council

Inquiry ventures no opinion due to court case

The report on the public inquiry into the Central Coast Council has chosen to “not venture an opinion as to the state of Mr Murphy’s knowledge as to the use of restricted funds” prior to June 4, 2020.

Commissioner Ms Roslyn McCulloch was referring to former general manager Mr Gary Murphy.

However, she did say the Mr Craig Norman as chief financial officer at the time “ought to have had knowledge of the cash position of the council and the balances of restricted funds”.

In relation to Mr Murphy,

commissioner Ms Roslyn McCulloch said: “I am aware that this issue is likely to be determined by a Court of record.”

Directions hearings were listed for both March 17 and 24 for a defamation case launched by Mr Gary Murphy against Mr Dick Persson in the District Court before Judge Judith Gibson.

Referring to a report from former council administrator Mr Dick Persson, Ms McCulloch said: “Somewhat controversially, Mr Persson alleged that the former chief financial officer Mr (Craig) Norman and the former general manager Mr Murphy, were aware of this unlawful use of funds.

“In his oral testimony, Mr Persson was questioned about the emails and notes he relied on to reach that conclusion.

“The Inquiry also heard explanations from Mr Norman and Mr Murphy as to the meaning of the somewhat cryptic notes and comments.

“As I am aware that this issue is likely to be determined by a Court of record, I will not venture an opinion as to the state of Mr Murphy’s knowledge as to the use of restricted funds for unlawful purposes prior to his receipt of the Grant Thornton Phase 1 Report on 4 June 2020.

“Mr Norman, on the other hand,

as chief financial officer, ought to have had knowledge of the cash position of the council and balances of restricted funds.

“His evidence was that he did not become aware that unrestricted cash had fallen into the negative in October 2019 until after he left Council.

“Mr Norman resigned from Council and his last day was April 24, 2020.

“It is difficult to accept that a chief financial officer, in the role of a responsible accounting officer under the Local Government Act, could not have been aware of the true cash position of the Council for some six months.”

Ms McCulloch said: “Mr Persson said the Council (presumably referring to the councillors) did not know how much money they had from the outset and set out on a program of expanded capital works and services which they could not afford.

“Mr Persson said much of the expenditure was funded from restricted reserves either unlawfully or without approval of the elected body.”

SOURCE:
Report, 17 Mar 2022
Roslyn McCulloch, Public Inquiry into Central Coast Council

‘Perhaps’ no councillor had skills required, inquiry finds

“Perhaps not any (councillors) possessed the knowledge and skill to analyse the information provided to them,” according to the report of the inquiry into Central Coast Council.

Commissioner Ms Roslyn McCulloch said: “It is evident from the evidence of the councillors that not all councillors ... understood what was happening to the Council’s finances from May 2019 until the financial crisis in October 2020.

“A number of submissions to the inquiry claimed that councillors were ill-equipped and insufficiently trained to properly discharge those obligations, particularly in relation to financial management.”

However, she disagreed with the suggestion that councillors should be appointed on the basis of their qualifications.

“That notion is contrary to the democratic process and to the policy of the NSW Government which seeks diversity in age, experience, gender and background for local government councillors.

“Given the policy to encourage diversity amongst councillors and the significant obligations on them, proper training is essential to maximise the effectiveness and success of a governing body in performing its functions.

“Some submitters and witnesses suggested that councillors were akin to members of a company board and should be appointed based on their qualifications and experience.

“I do not subscribe to the view that councillors are akin to board members.

“However, I do think that councillors should be supported and trained so that they develop competencies to enable them to understand their role and responsibilities, including in relation to local government finance.

“At least the core components of that training should be mandatory and ongoing.

“To properly carry out their roles, councillors should be able to read and understand council financial statements, draft budgets, quarterly budget reports, investment reports and annual

reports.

“Mandatory professional development exists across most professions and there is no reason why councillors, some of whom might be new to the role, should not similarly be required to have specialised and ongoing training.

“Greater attention needs to be given to properly equipping councillors for the role which they assume once elected.”

SOURCE:
Report, 17 Mar 2022
Roslyn McCulloch, Public Inquiry into Central Coast Council

Two new council directors

Central Coast Council has appointed two directors to fill “key vacant roles”.

Ms Melanie Smith has been appointed Director for Community and Recreation Services, with Dr Alice Howe appointed Director for Environment and Planning.

General manager Mr David Farmer said the appointments followed an extensive interview process, with the aim to build on the existing experience and depth in Council’s capabilities.

“Melanie comes from a background in local government,

including in senior executive roles.

“She has extensive experience in strategic planning, operational leadership, financial, project and capital works management within the community services sector.

“Alice, similarly, has extensive local government experience, in particular the environmental and planning areas, including strategic land use, natural disaster mitigation, compliance and natural resource planning.”

SOURCE:
Media release, 7 Mar 2022
David Farmer, Central Coast Council

Teddies are ready

The Umina Beach branch of the Country Women’s Association has been busy making teddy bears.

“Our teddies are ready for the Easter Show,” said president Ms Rikki McIntosh.

SOURCE:
Social media, 10 Mar 2022
Rikki McIntosh, CWA Umina Beach



Liesl Tesch MP
Member for Gosford

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News

Individuals must ask for missing details, Panel told

Community participation in the planning process requires interested citizens to request missing information, Central Coast Council planners have told the Local Planning Panel.

The planners were commenting on a "procedural objection" about community participation and access to information, which was lodged for a development application in Killarney Vale.

Peninsula residents have made similar complaints about missing or inaccessible development application documents on the council's planning portal.

"It is noted that generally on review of development applications all the documents as part of the application are not displayed on the NSW Planning Portal," the planners told the Panel in their report.

"However, when requested the information is made available.

"In this instance, documents were made available as requested."

The report stated: "Community

participation was clearly achieved with over 100 submissions being received via the NSW Planning Portal."

The "notification period" was from November 11 until December 2.

"Some members of the community requested additional time to make submissions.

"Late submissions were considered as part of the assessment process.

"The development application is for demolition of the existing dwelling, removal of tree and construction of new dwelling on the subject property.

"This development application is required to be reported to Local Planning Panel due to 152 submissions have been received.

"All submissions have been considered carefully in this assessment.

"The application is recommended for approval with conditions."

SOURCE:

Central Coast Local Planning Panel agenda 3.2, 24 Mar 2022

Nominate a senior who helps our community

Seniors who make the Central Coast "a truly wonderful place to live" can be recognised for their efforts, according to Parliamentary Secretary for the Central Coast Mr Adam Crouch.

Mr Crouch has urged local residents to nominate senior citizens for the 2022 NSW Seniors Festival Local Achievement Awards.

He said nominations were now open for the awards program, which celebrated the work and achievements of seniors throughout our community.

"Seniors are invaluable as volunteers, carers and role models – even more so given the challenges of the last two years," Mr Crouch said.

"If you know a senior who helps make our community diverse, inspiring and active, then I encourage you to nominate them for acknowledgement of their contribution."

To nominate a senior or find further information on the program go to: www.adamcrouchmp.com.au/2022_nsw_seniors_festival_local_achievement_awards.

SOURCE:

**Media release, 16 Mar 2022
Adam Crouch, Member for Terrigal**



Soil turning for start of major aged care development

A soil turning to launch the first stage of extensions to a Woy Woy aged care home was held on Thursday, March 10.

"Stage One will deliver us the foundations for four new households within our facility, and provide an additional 20 beds to BlueWave Living," chief executive Mr Matt Downie said.

"This first stage is a significant \$12M investment for BlueWave, which will transform the built environment in which we care for our elders living here."

"Each of the new households will accommodate around 16 residents, and each household will have its own domestic-looking

kitchen, which residents will also be able to access and use.

"Dining, living spaces and courtyards are also included.

"It provides a more normalised home environment for our residents living here to enjoy.

"Familiar spaces and familiar layouts to one's own home have been well evidenced to provide a much better living experience in which to provide care for, and support for residents' independence and choice.

"It has also been shown to assist in reducing behaviours for residents who might be suffering from dementia or other cognitive impairments, by providing an environment which is familiar to

them"

"Stage One is expected to be completed by the end of 2022."

Further stages are planned over the coming years."

Pictured are Mr Joshua Sheather and Mr Nicholas McMaster from North Constructions, Member for Robertson Ms Lucy Wicks, with Ms Cathy Allen, Ms Kathy Murphy, Mr John Frost, Mr Ross Pearce, Mr David Hook, Mr Matt Downie and Mr Paul Tonkin from BlueWave Living, and also from North Constructions Mr Jared Savage, Mr Joel Price and Mr Colin Delaforce.

SOURCE:

**Media release, 9 Mar 2022
Matt Downie, Blue Wave Living**

Forum

Recent rain is a reminder of the need for good planning

The recent torrential rain reminded me two past events I witness during my 50 years as a Central Coast resident.

The first was a violent storm around 1973 where huge waves ripped yachts from their moorings and deposited them in the ditch beside the rail line along Tascott Straight and Woy Woy waterfront and flooded low-lying areas of Saratoga and Davistown.

We now see the area around Woy Woy waterfront frequently under water,

I haven't visited Saratoga or Davistown for many years, but I'm sure they suffer similarly.

Even in the 1970, affordable housing often required moving to the Blue Mountains or Central Coast and commuting to Sydney and suburbs to work.

As luck would have it, we were offered free accommodation for our first 18 months in a sleep-out at Saratoga, cold tank water outside shower.

I worked at Umina, a 50-minutes' drive each way, before the Rip Bridge, and we were expecting, all

incentives to quickly jump into the housing market.

We bought a weatherboard and fibro cottage in Kallaroo Rd in south west Umina, a decision we have never regretted,

To pursue a career required commuting to Sydney and suburbs, often spending three or more hours travel on crowded trains, often standing all the way - part of the price you pay, not just for affordable housing, but a great lifestyle, sand, surf, sports fields all surrounded by bush in the overlooking National Park.

We moved to South St, Umina, 15 years ago to be nearer shopping, doctors and other facilities.

The exact timing of the other major event I can only guess, but it was in early 1980s.

I walked through waist deep flood waters with my youngest son, now 40 years old, on my shoulders and he was only a toddler.

In 1970-80, Umina had lots of creeks, natural water courses and swamps to take run-off from the surrounding hills.

The area bordered by Neera Rd, Kahibah Rd and Lake View

Parade was locally known as Ettymalong Swamp and it used to act as a natural drainage collection point during heavy rains.

As I recall, the entire area was purchased by a property developer who somehow managed to get permission to fill in the swamp with rocks and waste from a major road construction between Kariang and Woy Woy.

It is now call North Pearl Estate.

Not long after that we had a major rain storm and king tide and water backed up, flooding all the local creeks and water courses to such a level that the foot bridge over Iluka and Kahibah creeks were totally submerged with only the hand rail above water.

Major works were undertaken with creek dredging, weirs and damming by the council, I suspect at rate payer's expense, to mitigate any future problems.

It is another case of poor planning with the main beneficiary being a developer, who no doubt made a fortune.

SOURCE:

**Email, 16 Mar 2022
Michael Emmett, Umina**

Public Notices

Car Boot Sale
Woy Woy Peninsula Lions Club

Mar 27

7am to 1pm

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BBQ, Tea & Coffee.

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Children’s story to create interest about Papua New Guinea

Horsfield Bay resident Mr Peter Comerford has recently a children’s adventure and survival story, suitable for 10-14 year olds, published in the United Kingdom.

“It is a story about Michael who travels to Papua New Guinea for a holiday on his uncle’s copra plantation on an offshore island,” he said.

“He is befriended by Natlik, his uncle’s house servant who teaches him how to spearfish and recognise stinging corals, poisonous plants and how to make a fire without matches.

“When Michael and his uncle fail to return home from a fishing trip, Natlik goes in search of them hoping to bring them back safely.”

Mr Comerford said he was trained as a teacher specifically to teach in Papua New Guinea when it was an Australian territory.

“My wife and I ended up spending a total of 15 years in Papua New Guinea and three of our children were born in Popondetta,” he said.

“Although Papua New Guinea is our closest neighbour people generally know very little about the people and the culture.

“We spent our final six years on the island of Bougainville until we were forced to leave in 1990 due to the Bougainville crisis and my school was taken over by the defence force.

“After returning to Australia I continued teaching but also began writing about our experiences.

“I turned to writing stories geared towards upper primary and early secondary aged students.

“I hoped that my stories would create some interest in this fascinating country as well as providing some entertaining

adventure and survival reading material for children.

“My aim is also to get some of these books into schools in Papua New Guinea.”

Mr Comerford’s book is entitled A Survival Story of Michael and Natlik, and is published by Austin Macauley in the UK.

It is available at The Book Shop Umina and online.

Mr Comerford said both he and his wife fell in love with the country, culture, jungle and the picturesque islands of Papua New Guinea.

“My wife and I and some of the children have made trips back to Bougainville, New Ireland and Popondetta with us.

“I will have another adventure story published towards the end of the year.”

SOURCE:
Media release, 14 Mar 2022
Peter Comerford, Horsfield Bay



‘Stunning quilts’ at crafts centre

Ettalong Beach Arts and Crafts Centre’s patchwork group have produced some stunning quilts recently, according to centre president Mr Peter Mulholland.

He said one piece had “standout” hand quilting.

“We love the back which features a lucky op shop tablecloth find.”

An example was a “gorgeous baby quilt in fresh mint and pink tones”.

Another was a completed multi hued “triangle” quilt, with “bright colours are so vibrant, light and cheery”.

There was also a “fabulous Japanese quilt”.

SOURCE:
Social media, 14 Mar 2022
Peter Mulholland, EBACC



The Bays art show had sold-out opening night

The Bays Community Group has held its “annual” art show, after having postponed it several times.

“The hall hosted a sold out crowd on the opening night,” said group president Ms Carolina Schuiling.

“Over the weekend, the exhibition was well attended and drew visitors from the Peninsula and beyond.

“Australian landscapes, flora, and fauna were the subject of many paintings and drawings.

“This year’s show also featured an eclectic array of sculpture, mixed media, and even some textile art.

“Naomi Veitch’s painting of a larger than life octopus titled Covid Sucks was a crowd favourite and garnered the most number of

votes as the People’s Choice.”

The group took a 20 per cent commission on sales by the 15 artists involved.

Ms Schuiling said: “Weekend attendees were generous with their entry donations.”

Members of the community also “generously donated the delicious morsels for our art show cafe and prizes for the raffle”.

Ms Schuiling said a team of volunteers helped to set up, breakdown, and staff the show.

She also thanked the artists for “enlivening our community with your imagination and vision”.

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 11 Mar 2022
Carolina Schuiling, The Bays Community Group

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Sport



Umina women hold presentation day

Umina Beach Women's Bowls Club's presentation day for the 2021 Championships, which were finally completed this year, was held on March 8.

Due to the extended lockdown last year the Fours, Minor Singles and Minor Pairs were not played last year.

Winners were:
Major Singles: Terry Causby, with runner-up Gale Hill, presented by vice-president Carol Boyd.

Major Pairs: Yvonne Gordon and Carol Boyd, with runners-up Lorraine Field and Lynne Gordon, presented by vice-president Yvonne Austin.

Triples: Lorraine Rynehart, Debbie Moore and Leila Gilmour, with runners-up

Kaye Cavanagh, Gwen Jarratt and Yvonne Gordon, presenter by president Gale Hill.

The Encouragement Award, decided by the Selection Committee, was won by Jan Ellery, announced by Chair of Selectors Lyn Kennedy.

Long-time member Lynn Higgins who had been unable to attend the club for a while due to ill health, was invited to the presentation day to celebrate her 80th birthday.

She was presented with a plant and members sang her Happy Birthday.

Life Member Lesley and Pres. Gale cutting cake for Presentation Day

Pres. Gale presenting Lynn with a lovely plant

SOURCE:
Website, 17 Mar 2022
Umina Beach Women's Bowling Club



Turn around Triples

The 2022 Umina Beach Women's Bowling Club's Turn Around Triples day was held on Monday, March 14.

"After the weeks of rainy weather, we were lucky to have a fine day," said club president Ms Gail Hill.

"It was lovely to see so many ladies on the green, with 20 teams contesting the event with players in a different position for each round."

Players from Everglades, Ettalong, Avoca Beach and Umina clubs participated.

Winners was Team 8 from

Ettalong with three wins, 28 ends and margin of 53; R Holden, K Croker, M Smith.

Second was Team 6 from Umina Beach with three wins, 22 ends and a margin of 31: J Moroney, L Gordon and J Brown.

Third was Team 17 from Ettalong with three wins, 20 ends and a margin of 19: R Keanan, A Jesaveluk and P Donnelly.

The Mystery Prize went to Team 9 from Everglades: G Baxter, A Dixon and J Mower.

SOURCE:
Website, 17 Mar 2022
Umina Beach Women's Bowls Club

Great day at Cessnock

Ettalong Pelicans Masters Swimming Club had a "great day" at Cessnock pool.

Five club members swam some excellent times, including two who won their age division.

The Pelicans finished sixth overall from 25 clubs, and won first place based on average points.

SOURCE:
Social media, 20 Mar 2022
Ettalong Pelicans Masters Swimming

Novice bridge team champions

Brisbane Water Bridge Club held its novice teams championships over two recent Wednesday.

The winning team of John Aldersley, Beryl Lowry, Marcelle Goslin and Meryl Duke (pictured) prevailed scoring four wins and a loss giving them an impressive final total of 86 international match points.

A tense final match was ensured

when after four matches the top teams were separated by the tiny margin of 0.03 victory points.

Team Serra filled the second spot with a 3-0-2 record.

Team Nicol won the final podium spot also with a 3-0-2.

Director Peter Hume officiated over the two weeks.

SOURCE:
Website, 18 Mar 2022
Brisbane Water Bridge Club

To celebrate its 20th season this year, Ettalong Eagles Netball Club is giving away two NSW Swifts Champions T-shirts.

They are small women's size 14 and size 16.

Entries should include a name or child's name and who the NSW Swifts defeated in last year's Super Netball grand final.

Entries may be made at the Open Day next Saturday, March 26. Winners will be announced on Saturday, April 30.

SOURCE:
Social media, 20 Mar 2022
Ettalong Eagles Netball Club

