

Peninsula News

Community Access

EDITION 540

THE PENINSULA'S OWN NEWS SERVICE INC

21 MARCH 2022



Large tides have moved Hawkesbury River flood debris around, with more likely to wash up on local beaches, according to Clean4Shore co-ordinator Mr Graham Johnston.

"These big tides will float out debris, and with stronger outgoing

Large tides could wash more debris ashore

tides, most of this will go seaward, and possibly back on the Central Coast beaches," he said.

"Not a good outcome.

"The small litter present had masses of polystyrene about plate size on the higher tidal marks with

10 large bags collected on Friday.

"Car tyres, larger buckets and crates were also hauled on board."

Conditions on the "Sport and Rec" beaches included a large shore break, making loading difficult, he said.

"Large commercial plastic planter pots were also hauled on board, and placed beside the council skip bins at Patonga.

"Damaged plastic pontoons, drums, buckled aluminium cladding and more polystyrene were carried out from Little Pittwater Bay.

SOURCE:
Social media, 18 Mar 2022
Graham Johnston, Clean4shore
Photo: Mark Ellis

Government 'terminates' councillors

Minister for Local Government Ms Wendy Tuckerman has "terminated all councillors" as a result of the public inquiry into the Central Coast Council.

"Commissioner Roslyn McCulloch's report makes eight recommendations, including that an administrator be appointed to serve until the Central Coast Council election."

The date of the election will be determined in consultation with the NSW Electoral Commission.

Mrs Tuckerman said: "The Government accepts the Commissioner's remaining recommendations in-principle.

"The community rightly expects that its elected council officials adhere to the highest standards and this report makes strong recommendations to help improve

the council's performance moving forward," Mrs Tuckerman said.

"The Commissioner's report raised concerns about the financial management of Central Coast Council and makes practical recommendations to improve accountability.

Central Coast Parliamentary Secretary Mr Adam Crouch has welcomed the report from the public inquiry into Central Coast Council.

Mr Crouch said he welcomed all eight recommendations in the report.

"I absolutely welcome the first recommendation declaring all civic offices at Central Coast Council be declared vacant, effective immediately.

"The focus of elected Councillors needs to be about the betterment for our region, not about individual point scoring.

"This report has clearly identified that their behavior has played a contributing factor.

"I welcome the recommendation for rigorous and mandatory training for future councillors, providing those seeking to be elected into office with the necessary framework and understanding needed to undertake their responsibilities.

"It is important to note that Commissioner McCulloch's report reaffirms that the voluntary amalgamation of both Gosford and Wyong Council in 2016 did not contribute to Central Coast Council's financial issue," he said.

SOURCE:
Media release, 17 Mar 2022
Wendy Tuckerman, Minister of Local Government
Media release, 17 Mar 2022
Adam Crouch, Central Coast Secretary

Inquiry outcome 'disappointing', says Tesch

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch has described the recommendations from the Public Inquiry into Central Coast Council as "a pretty disappointing outcome for ratepayers".

"We actually don't have any great solutions moving forward.

"It is very clear that the Central Coast needs financial assistance as a result of this forced amalgamation, yet the government

is not coming to the party.

"There is also a need for clarity around when we will get our democracy back.

"They're saying 2022 but the Minister is looking into that.

"There is also considerable concern about the threatened sell-off of Central Coast Water, so we need clarity around that.

"Ratepayers of course should be very disappointed.

"We've got this amalgamated

council - two pushed together - and we've still got rate rise.

"We've still got threatened job losses from our council and we've got poorer services.

"Where is the solution-based financial support from the NSW Government?"

SOURCE:
Social media, 17 Mar 2022
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford

MORE: Councillors "not adequately supported" - Page 2

For the Peninsula community

Only Peninsula advertising
Only Peninsula News

Comprehensive coverage

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

Whether or not the Peninsula is part of an amalgamated municipality, our community of 40,000 has the population of an average local government area in NSW and faces the same challenges.

As founding honorary editor, this is the 23rd year I have taken on the responsibility for the news content of Peninsula News on behalf of the non-profit community group which owns it.

Peninsula News remains true to its tradition of supporting the Peninsula's community identity.

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

Mark Snell, 20 Feb 2022



Peninsula News EXTRA
Be notified. SCAN here.



Next issue: Monday, April 4

Email: contributions@peninsula.news

Peninsula News

Community Access

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

Editor: Mark Snell

editor@peninsula.news

Advertising: Frank Wiffen

advertising@peninsula.news

NEXT EDITION: Peninsula News 541

Deadline: Thursday, March 31

Publication date: Monday, April 4

CONTACT DETAILS

NEWS: contributions@peninsula.news

ADVERTISING: advertising@peninsula.news

PHONE: 4342 5333 - Please leave a message

POSTAL ADDRESS: PO Box 585, Woy Woy NSW 2256

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.

CWA branch holds 'big Easter raffle



The Umina Beach branch of the Country Women's Association is holding its "Big Easter Raffle" to be drawn on Easter Saturday.

"Our big Easter Raffle is now on sale every Saturday outside Stephenson's Real Estate in West St, Umina," said club president Ms Rikki McIntosh.

"First prize is all the goodies on the table including the tablecloth and napkins (pictured).

"Second prize is a tub full of goodies.

"Third prize is the complete set of Coles knives and chocolate."

Raffle tickets will be sold 8.30am until noon every Saturday until April 9.

SOURCE:
Social media, 12 Mar 2022
Rikki McIntosh, CWA Umina Beach

Dying with dignity

Guest speaker at the Rotary Club of Umina Beach on Wednesday, March 23, will be Professor Stephanie Short.

She will be talking about "Dying With Dignity".

Members and visitors are invited to attend the "informative evening" at 6pm at the Everglades Country Club.

Due to the absence of club president Mr Bruce Croft, president-elect Mr Wayne Dowdle will be in the chair.

For further information, email admin@uminabeachrotary.com.

SOURCE:
Media release, 20 Mar 2022
Rotary Umina Beach

Roads closed

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 take approximately 14 weeks to complete," council's project engineer Mr Steven Murphy said.

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

Comment on UCSW

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.

SOURCE:
Media release, 17 Mar 2022
Rik Hart, Central Coast Council

Canoe club helps with beach clean-up

Central Coast Outrigger Canoe Club helped the Clean4Shore team clean up Patonga and nearby smaller beaches on Sunday, March 20.

The 20 club members made their way around the smaller beaches, such as Flint and Steel, Hungry Beach, Possum Beach and Whitehorse Beach, said canoe club committee member Ms Debbie Sunartha.

They removed debris that had floated in with the tides and landed on the beaches or remained wedged in amongst the rocks, she said.



"Mr Graham 'Jono' Johnston from Clean4Shore was happy to have some strong paddlers to help move the heavy waste onto the boat.

"The rubbish collected was placed into skip bins at Patonga

ready for collection.

"Club members managed to find items that were able to be re-used in the community."

SOURCE:
Media release, 20 Mar 2022
Debbie Sunartha, CCOCC

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.

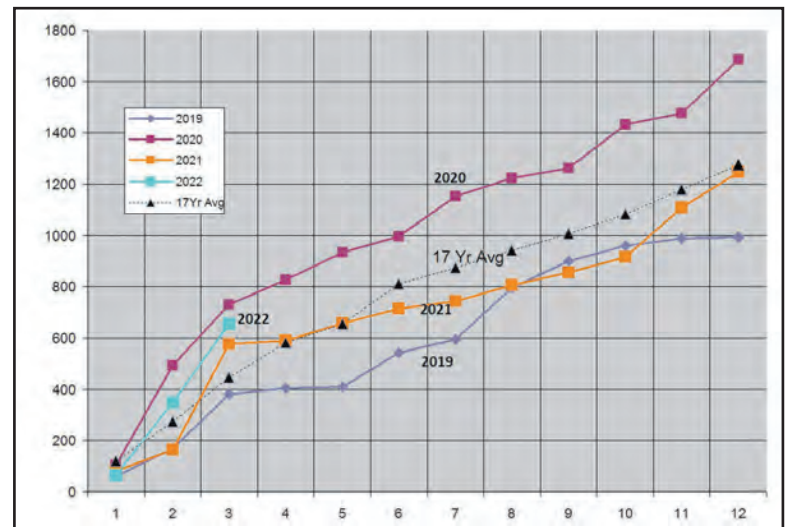
A total of 463.3mm fell in 16 consecutive days of rain between February 22 and March 9, according to figures supplied by Mr Jim Morrison of Umina.

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.

March 2017 was the wettest March in the last 18 years with 485.2mm recorded for the month, falling on 22 days.

Rainfall for the year to date



stands at 655.7mm, which is 47 per cent above the end-of-March average of 446mm.

SOURCE:
Spreadsheet, 18 Mar 2022
Jim Morrison, Umina

Social media must take responsibility, Wicks' inquiry says

A Federal parliamentary inquiry chaired by Member for Robertson Ms Lucy Wicks has found unanimously that social media companies should be required to enforce their own safety standards.

The Select Committee on Social Media and Online Safety found that the safety of people online was being threatened by individuals who engaged in harmful behaviour and conduct, Ms Wicks said.

The harms experienced by victims of online abuse left a long trail of trauma and suffering, as expressed by many witnesses in evidence to the committee, she said.

"For too long social media platforms have been able to set the rule", enabling the proliferation of online abuse.

"The balance of responsibility

for the safety of users online, which until recently has been primarily on users, must be flipped to ensure that social media platforms bear more of the burden of providing safety for their users.

"To protect Australians, social media companies have to take responsibility to enforce their terms of service, prevent recidivism of bad actors, prevent pile-ons or volumetric attacks, prevent harms across multiple platforms and be more transparent about their use of algorithms.

Over the course of the three-and-a-half-month inquiry, the Committee held 11 public hearings with nearly 60 witnesses, and received over 100 submissions from individuals, organisations and government bodies.

SOURCE:

Media release, 15 Mar 2022
Lucy Wicks, Member for Robertson



Sun shines on Opera in the Arboretum

The arboretum at Pearl Beach came alive with the sounds of music at Opera in the Arboretum on Saturday, according to Woy Woy Rotary club president Ms Julie Jones.

"The audience were treated to glorious voices, wonderful music, a taste of younger talent and those dresses," she said.

"Opera singers Jose Carbo, Jane Ede, Rosario la Spina, Clarissa Spata, Francis Greep, Kayla Lush, Kaito Deed were accompanied by Patrick Brennan

conducting the Central Coast Chamber Orchestra."

She said that more than 550 music lovers appreciated a Welcome to Country performed by Mr Gavi Duncan and his didgeridoo.

"After two years of having to cancel this event because of Covid, it was a nervous wait for all concerned as the rains kept falling throughout the week leading up to the event.

"On the day, the ground dried, the sun shone and the members of the Rotary Club of Woy Woy breathed a sigh of relief.

"The event could go ahead."

Ms Jones said event convenor Mr Wayne Jennings looked a happy man as the crowd "opened their chairs, spread their blankets and poured their wine ready for over two hours of wonderful music".

Proceeds of the day go to Rotary charities including the Central Coast Conservatorium string program, Umina Surf Club and Ocean Beach Surf Club along with other charities.

SOURCE:

Media release, 16 Mar 2022
Julie Jones, Rotary Woy Woy

Inquiry finds councillors 'not adequately supported',

The report of the Public Inquiry into Central Coast Council has found the "council's response to the financial problems it was facing was too little and far too late".

"Ultimately the responsibility for the fate of the Council rests with the councillors, but they were not adequately supported by a general manager who was able to provide strong leadership of the staff on financial matters at the time it was needed," said Commissioner Roslyn McCulloch.

She said that the absence of a permanent general manager and chief financial officer "contributed to a lack of leadership" and a "lack of financial direction".

The council had four different general managers between May 2016 and July 2018 which "contributed to a general lack of leadership and direction", she said.

"It also led to the absence of a

permanent chief financial officer between August 2017 and May 2019 due to the reluctance of the interim and acting general managers to recruit and appoint a person for that role."

Ms McCulloch said the council lacked financial direction from August 2017 until the time of the appointment of Ms Natalia Cowley as chief financial officer in July 2020.

"While the appointment process for Mr Murphy as general manager was appropriate and fair, with the benefit of hindsight, he may not have been the best person for the position given the events which the Council was about to experience.

"His background was in engineering, and he had previously been the general manager of two much smaller councils.

"He had no experience with a merged council and a reported dislike of conflict.

"His lack of financial qualifications or experience in an

equivalent-sized organisation, combined with the absence of a permanent chief financial officer for most of his term, created a situation in which there was no strong financial direction or oversight.

"Mr Murphy was responsible for the ill-fated appointment of Mr Craig Norman as chief financial officer in May 2019.

"Mr Norman was an accountant with no background in local government who never took control of the Council's finances.

"It is a sad twist of fate that the current chief financial officer, Ms Cowley, who has demonstrated an ability to re-float the sinking ship that was Central Coast Council, was looked over for the position."

Ms McCulloch said that Mr Norman said he had expressed to the councillors his preference was for a "long-term future where there would be either small surpluses or small deficits".

She said one councillor

responded to that suggestion by saying words to the effect of "as government, we are here to run deficits".

"That exchange is emblematic of one of the problems which beset Central Coast Council," Ms McCulloch said.

"The chief financial officer did not direct or lead the councillors in any meaningful way and at least some of the councillors behaved recklessly in the management of Council's finances.

"Mr Norman admitted that he ought to have known that unrestricted funds had fallen into the negative, that he did not know who else in Council might have known about that fact, that he was aware that, due to Covid-19, cash could be an issue for CCC, and that local government was not a 'good fit' for him.

"Mr Norman was at Central Coast Council for a relatively short but crucial period.

"Unfortunately, his presence did

not have a beneficial impact on the management of Council's finances and may have facilitated the lack of information flowing to councillors about the situation and lack of action to counteract the downward trend of Council's cash position."

Addressing what could have been done better, Ms McCulloch said: "The process for the appointment of the general manager could perhaps have benefitted from the inclusion on the selection panel of an independent person experienced in local government.

"Most of the councillors were first time councillors.

"An independent, knowledgeable voice on the panel may have assisted the panel and the councillors to understand the experience and qualities to look for in the candidates."

SOURCE:

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



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE SPECTACULAR RETURNS WE ARE CURRENTLY ACHIEVING ON HOLIDAY RENTALS?

Call Accom Holiday Rentals
Ettalong Beach Today on 4344 6152

ACCOM
HOLIDAY RENTALS

Planning



Appeal lodged against rejection of Ettalong proposal

Paul St multiple dwelling plan revised

Central Coast Council has advertised revised a proposed multiple dwelling at 37 Paul St, Umina, for public comment.

The revised application was prepared by planning consultants Clarke Dowdle and Associates

A large number of objections had been received to the original proposal.

The Local Planning Panel determines applications. If more than 10 submissions are received.

Most of the original objections came from residents of Harold St, a small street of 34 residences sandwiched between Bourke Rd to the north and Paul St to the south.

The residents of Harold St said that their properties were being overlooked and, in many cases overshadowed, by non-compliant multi-unit developments such as this one.

The revision reduces the number of dwellings from four

to three, and the height of the dwelling at the rear to one storey.

This means that the first floor setback from the rear boundary will now be 20 metres although, at ground floor level, the setback is listed in the application as 2.66 metres to 3.44 metres compared to a requirement of six metres.

Other non-compliances in the new proposal include side setbacks of 1.16 metres to 6.2 metres as opposed to the requirement of 3.5 metres minimum.

Building width and depth at 44.38 metres is almost twice the maximum of 25 metres and private open space for Units 2 and 3 is 20 per cent less than the requirement of 50 square metres.

In support of non-compliances, the application states: "In this instance, the site entails a single allotment that creates a constraint to designing multi-unit design and provides appropriate floor area and vehicular access.

"The single lot scenario has

been accepted by Council so long as proposed setbacks would allow the incorporation of appropriate private open space areas behind front courtyard fencing that would have direct access to the living areas with appropriate solar access.

"The proposal would be commensurate to the scale and design of multi-unit development within the medium density zone and would allow an appropriate area for the front and rear perimeter landscaping treatment as outlined within the objectives of the setbacks clause.

"The design and siting of the villas meet the overarching objectives of the setbacks clause.

The application claims its setbacks are similar to a list of approved precedents.

Written submissions can be made until March 25.

SOURCE:
DA Tracker, 18 Mar 2022
DA63281, Central Coast Council

Jedaclew Pty Ltd has lodged an appeal with the Land and Environment Court against the rejection of its proposal to build a six-storey "shop top" residential development at 227-233 Ocean View Rd, Ettalong

The court will hold a conciliation conference on March 31.

The proposal for a building that would contain 90.2 square metres of ground floor commercial space and 25 apartments has been twice refused by the Local Planning Panel.

The building height did not comply with planning provisions and was the basis of a Section 4.6 variation request.

In its present form, the proposal was first submitted in December 2019 as DA57779.

Central Coast Council planning staff recommended approval.

There were large numbers of written submissions from the public objecting to the proposal.

In February last year, the Local Planning Panel rejected it.

In August, the applicant asked the Panel to review its decision, restating its claim that "the proposal gives a better design outcome than

a compliant one".

The Panel again rejected the application in December giving a total of nine reasons for doing so.

The leading reason was: "The applicant's written statement submitted with the application fails to adequately address the matters in clause 4.6(3) and 4.6(4) of Gosford Local Environmental Plan 2014 (GLEP2014) sufficient to justify departure from clause 4.3 of GLEP2014 in relation to the development standard for height of buildings".

Wilshire Webb Staunton Beattie Lawyers will defend the appeal on behalf of Central Coast Council.

They have told objecting residents: "At the conciliation conference, a Commissioner of the Court meets with the parties, their legal representatives and any experts which the parties are relying upon to ascertain whether the matter is capable of resolution or whether issues can be reduced.

"You may be permitted to address the Court in relation to the proposed development at the conciliation conference."

SOURCE:
Letter, 2 Mar 2022
Cecilia Rose, Wilshire Webb Staunton Beattie Lawyers

Council recommends street tree planting

Central Coast Council has recommended street tree planting as a condition of approval for a development application in Booker Bay, in a rare example of council support for street tree planting on the Peninsula.

The application to build a dual occupancy on a 627 square metre site at 40 Webb Rd, Booker Bay, will be heard by the Central Coast Local Planning Panel on Thursday, March 24.

Council planners have recommended approval of the \$495,000 proposal.

A total of 15 submissions were received by Council during the notification period.

The proposal would see the removal of all trees on site, including "a mature apple gum centrally located on the site close to the boundary of 42 Webb Rd".

The council assessment states: "The proposal is consistent with the desired future character and densities of the area", but then quotes the character statement within the planning provisions that calls for "leafy gardens".

Sentences from the quoted character statement include: "These areas should remain leafy mixed-density residential neighbourhoods that retain some of the original mid-20th Century bungalows which remain distinctive elements of the Woy Woy Peninsula's identity

"Surround each development with leafy gardens to conserve existing visually-prominent trees.

"Maintain street setbacks



that are similar to surrounding properties, and minimise the extent of hard-paved surfaces."

The council planners reported that all 15 submissions received "raised concerns about the removal of the trees within the site, in particular a mature angophora floribunda commonly known as an apple gum".

The submissions said the trees provided shelter for wide life and shade for people, and enhanced the streetscape, its vibrancy and character.

They said the healthy mature shade trees, which were all situated close to the boundary, should be retained and incorporated into the design.

They said this would be in line with Council's Greener Places Strategy and that angophora floribunda was a species in the Urban Coastal Sandplain Woodland endangered ecological community.

The council assessment stated: "Single remnant trees within built up urban areas which are now isolated from areas of bushland are not considered to comprise the Endangered Ecological

Community.

"The removal of the tree is supported by Council's ecologist and tree officer and an arborist's report is not required in this instance.

"It is not considered that this tree has a significant impact of character or the scenic quality of the locality and retaining the tree would restrict reasonable development of the site.

"The nature of this particular development being located on a site that has frontage to two streets gives the opportunity for the replacement with a further four street trees to improve the streetscape and scenic quality surrounding the development.

"The proposal also includes significant landscaping within the site which will contribute to the softening of the visual impact of the development.

"It is considered that the proposed development will complement the locality and meet the desired future character of the area."

SOURCE:
Central Coast Local Planning Panel agenda 3.1, 24 Mar 2022

Changes requested for Centrelink site

Central Coast Council has received a request for an amendment to a development approval for a five-storey "shop top" residential development on the "Centrelink site" in Ettalong.

The development, with six commercial units and 52 residential units at 237-245 Ocean View Rd, was approved in February 2018 and since then has had three 4.55(1A) amendments approved.

If this one is approved, it will be the fourth.

The application for the amendment was prepared by Planning Lab on behalf of Abrotat Pty Ltd.

Proposed amendments are described as "minor".

Some of them reflect changing times and attitudes since this building was designed, such as an electric vehicle charging station now being proposed in the basement and solar panels on the roof.

The pool design is also being amended with "refined pool levels and internal stair to suit latest pool design".

There seems to be an intention to use less glass on the balconies with the application listing one of the changes as a "redesign of the balustrade of balconies on the



front elevation and some of the balconies at the rear to include a combination of a solid and glass component".

The exterior colour scheme would also be changed with "refined finishes and material palette".

"The improved design of the building's elevation in combination with the revised palette of materials, finishes and colours achieve design excellence," the application claims.

The application also refers to current progress in construction stating that "shoring and excavation for the new building are complete and the basement structure is well under construction".

SOURCE:
DA Tracker, 20 Mar 2022
DA49986, Central Coast Council



First overseas artist at folk club in two years

The Troubadour Folk Club is holding its next concert at the Everglades Country Club at 7pm on Saturday, April 2.

"We have two very special performing artists in the folk singer-songwriter tradition," said folk club president Mr Michael Fine.

"Gordie Tentrees is from the Yukon, our first overseas touring artist in over two years.

"We also have the very popular Jane Germain on banjo and guitar - all the way from the hills of the Central Coast.

"Gordie Tentrees is an authentic road poet, travelling North America, Europe, UK, Ireland and now Woy Woy, a highlight of his 2022 tour of Australia and NZ.

"He has performed 750 concerts in 11 countries during the past four years alone with foot percussion, harmonica, resonator/acoustic

guitar and masterful storytelling.

"His ability to hold an audience, weave melody, while juggling the dark truth with comedic light is infectious.

"Jane Germain has recorded six albums, as well as being in high demand as a session player on other projects.

"Jane plays guitar and claw hammer banjo, and swaps between instruments for different songs.

"She's played all the styles from folk to blues and bluegrass that express her emotions and musicality."

Tickets are \$20 and 25, available online through Trybooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/BXIIW>.

SOURCE:
Media release, 16 Mar 2022
Michael Fine, Troubadour Folk Club
Enquiries: 4342 6716

Gosford Rotary holds Mingaletta night

The Rotary Club of Gosford City is partnering with Umina's Mingaletta Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation to present a book launch for Ms Dianne O'Brien's memoir "Daughter of the River Country" on Wednesday, April 6.

The fundraiser for Mingaletta will feature Ms O'Brien, Aunty Di to many, in conversation with local aboriginal woman Ms Bobbi Murray talking about themes central to her story and so many other elders across Australia.

Gosford City Rotary club president Mr Paul Jones said "We feel very fortunate to be hosting Aunty Di, a respected Yorta Yorta elder and the chairperson of Mingaletta corporation.

"Funds raised will go to support vital programs connecting young, local aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to culture.

"A number of leading Central Coast aboriginal artists have supported this event with generous donations of their work which will be available for purchase and auction on the night.

"We thank and acknowledge them for their wonderful support," Mr Jones said.

"The event will be held in luxurious surroundings of the



Entertainment Grounds in Gosford and drinks will be available for purchase on the night."

Mr Jones said: "Gosford City is collaborating with our friends from Woy Woy branch of the Country Women's Association to provide a sumptuous dessert in addition to the fantastic catering at the Entertainment Grounds."

The event will be held from 6pm on Wednesday, April 6.

"It will be a great night."

Mr Jones said Mingaletta had a proud history of providing wonderful community-building programs on the smell of an oily rag.

Ms O'Brien said "We do our

best with the funds we have.

"Our programs are about strengthening our community and highlighting the role our elders play in the development of younger generations.

"The upcoming event with Rotary will provide much needed funds to support existing programs and help us to reach a broader audience.

"I encourage everyone to come along and support us."

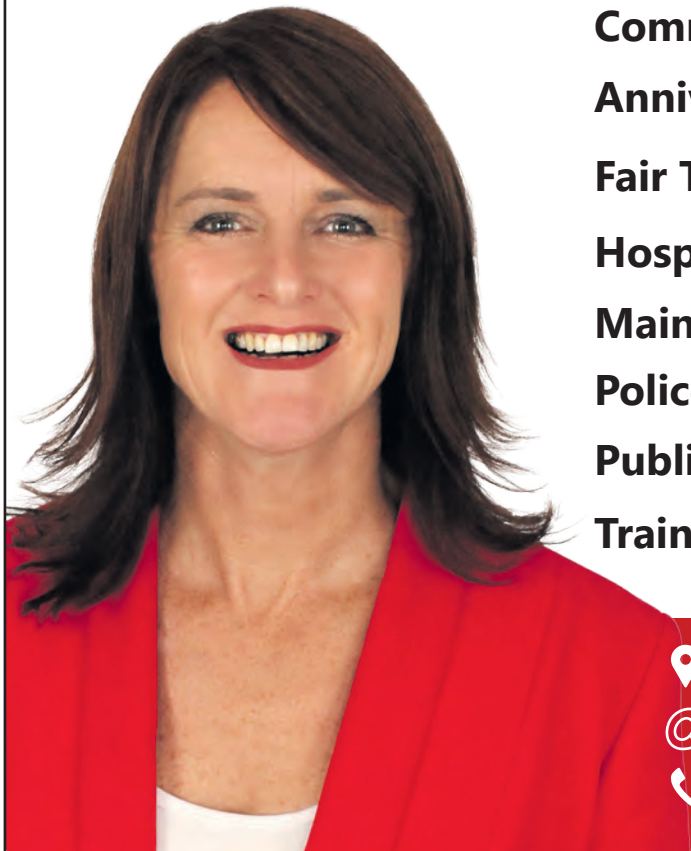
Tickets are available from the Rotary club's website at <https://www.gosfordcityrotary.org.au/>

SOURCE:
Media release, 18 Mar 2022
Paul Jones, Rotary Gosford City



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

Is there movement at the station?

There was movement at the station, for the word had passed around ... that something is going on at Woy Woy railway station.

Well it turns out that Transport for NSW is looking at alternate sites suitable for an additional commuter car park -- that is the car park that Luck Wicks MP promised to build in a pre-election commitment prior to the 2019 election.

Yes, that is three years ago. With apologies to Banjo Paterson, where is the Woman from Robertson, Lucy Wicks, when we need her?

Why has it taken three years to get to this scoping phase?

When will we actually see additional car parks at Woy Woy railway station?

SOURCE:
Email, 11 Mar 2022
Stephanie Short, Woy Woy

Are amalgamation problems caused by Labor?

Adam Crouch, Parliamentary Secretary for the Central Coast, has consistently blamed Labor councillors for the amalgamation disaster.

Is his opinion based on fact or self-preservation?

Last June, Professor Joseph Drew presented a different opinion at a public meeting in Gosford that challenges that of Mr Crouch.

The professor advised there are six other local government areas

in NSW dealing with the same amalgamation problems as the Central Coast Council.

Has Mr Crouch investigated all of those six administrations to determine the political mix of councillors?

If Mr Crouch does not prove all six councils are controlled by Labor councillors, his credibility is zero.

SOURCE:
Letter, 18 Mar 2022
Norm Harris, Umina

Planning must be strategic and must be centred around the health, wellbeing and lifestyle of existing and future residents of a location.

While I appreciate that the State Government is pressuring local councils to reduce planning regulations to enable developers to cram more and more onto what were once considered small housing blocks.

Now accommodating three units, tripling living capacity, developers now want the same areas to accommodate five units.

Plans to rezone vast areas to build three or five storeys with underground parking are totally insane.

We have recently seen that wealthy commercial constructions, such as Woolworths and Ettalong Diggers, cannot cope with constant rain filling underground car park.

What hope would residents of strata units have of running water pumps 24 hours a day for weeks

on end to keep underground car parks dry and usable.

The entire Peninsula, which is the guardian to the entire Brisbane Water is technically a sand bar, held together by a diminishing supply of large trees.

(Read Gwen Dundon's Shipbuilders of Brisbane Waters NSW and you will better understand.)

Throw in hundreds of underground car parks which will daily pump out the equivalent of three olympic swimming pools each which will lower the existing water table.

Currently, you can dig a post hole anywhere between Umina, Ettalong and Woy Woy, knock off for a cuppa and come back the hole is filled with water.

Locals have installed shallow bore water pumps to use that resource to water lawns and gardens for as long as I can remember.

Then also read the history of

Victoria's Mallee desert and what caused it.

It was once lush farming land, now poisoned by rising salt table, in which nothing will grow.

It doesn't take much imagination to see what will happen to Brisbane Water's guardian Peninsula, should the same happen here.

The solution to the State's demand for housing does not rest in building bigger and higher, robbing people of sunlight, greenery and a pleasant community.

It could be found in restoring country rail systems, adding rapid rail hubs, decentralising major businesses and industries to create communities where societies can flourish, not high-rise slums and endless traffic jams and flooded major roads.

I sincerely hope everyone on the Peninsula gets involved with the local residents' association and demand council hear your voice.

SOURCE:
Email, 16 Mar 2022
Michael Emmett, Umina

Planning is harder than rocket science

Michael Wilder's "10 Simple Ways to Solve our Development Problems" ("Plan for a liveable environment", PN 539) looks good on paper but, in fact, it's fiendishly difficult.

If it were straightforward, we'd have livable neighbourhoods throughout the country.

It is facile to say that there should be no high-rise development in Ettalong.

It is no longer possible to dig a moat around your castle and pull up the drawbridge.

Newcomers have just as much right to live on the Peninsula as people who have lived here for decades, and they have to be accommodated.

Many of them would, obviously, prefer to live in a high-rise building, as compared to the squat, ugly buildings that prevail at the moment, and why should they be prevented from doing so, just because some people who live here now don't like them.

It is arguable that young newcomers who are going to be here longer than old established residents should have the biggest say in what the place should look like, since they'll be enjoying it longer.

The idea that no more land should be cleared for development in Central Coast is patently ludicrous.

The corollary of this is that it would never be possible to build another single-family house in the city, because the only way to accommodate growing population would be by densifying existing areas, something that many Peninsula residents seem to be irrationally against.

You can't have it both ways: either built-up areas have to expand, or existing areas have to be redeveloped for higher densities.

You can't build a big, beautiful wall at the border to stop the inflow of people.

Of course, nobody would oppose there being improved public transport, except that the operation of public transport requires enough passengers to make the service viable.

More responsive public transport requires, mutatis mutandis, a denser population pattern to provide the required patronage.

Again, you can't have it both ways: you have to put up with the network as it stands or you have to accept a population increase to fund improvements.

It's no use burying your head in the sand and hoping that it won't be so.

There is no question that we'd all like to see the entire range of housing accommodation provided on the Peninsula (including high-rise), but wishing won't bring it about.

There would have to be mechanisms for achieving this goal, and nobody has yet put forward a proposal that comes anywhere near meeting the need.

Most ideas are totally impractical or so picayune that they'd have no impact.

Instead, what we get are motherhood statements about what should be, while the supply of housing is going in the opposite direction from the one that is required.

Does anyone think that our Council is capable of dealing with

this issue?

Planning is much harder than rocket science.

If you're building a rocket, you have specific goals, specific technical capacities, specific options that are open to you, and a clear direction.

By contrast, planning is a matter of balancing multiple competing interests, many of them incompatible, and trying to satisfy as many demands as possible, while financial, political and social pressures pull in different directions.

It is little wonder that the outcome is a hodge-podge that satisfies nobody.

This is not to say that the present arrangement is the best we can do: it would require imagination and technical skill (neither demonstrated to date), but planning could be better than the mess we have now.

While I'd never discourage community interest in our planning processes, I am highly sceptical that attempts to put forward alternative development visions will result in any change under the present system.

Already our pseudo-Council rides rough-shod over multiple wishes that the community has strongly expressed, and I should be astonished if planning measures turned out to be any different.

The pathetic efforts displayed in the Regional Plan and the Regional Housing Strategy are a fair indication of what we can expect in future, unless there is a sea-change in our political representation.

SOURCE:
Email, 15 Mar 2022
Bruce Hyland, Woy Woy

Play scripts and directors wanted for Flash festival

Woy Woy Little Theatre is seeking scripts and directors for its Flash Creative Short Play Festival.

The festival is scheduled for September 23, 24 and 25, but the deadline for applications is March 31.

This year's theme is "What if?" Plays must run between 15 and 20 minutes, with a maximum cast size of three to four people.

Play submissions must be new and original, not having previously been published, and will be limited to two per playwright.

Directors are also sought for the plays and will be given the support of mentors.

The festival is billed as "a great opportunity to showcase the outstanding local talent we have

here".

The theatre group's next production is Ben Hur which opens on May 27.

For further information, visit the group's website at <https://www.woywoylt.com/>

SOURCE:
Social media, 14 Mar 2022
Woy Woy Little Theatre Inc

Storytime

Storytime has resumed at Umina and Woy Woy library branches from March 1.

It is held at 10:45am at Umina on Tuesdays and the same time on Wednesdays at Woy Woy.

SOURCE:
Media release, 22 Feb 2022
Central Coast Council

Public Notices

Car Boot Sale

Woy Woy Peninsula Lions Club

Mar 27



7am to 1pm

Great variety of stalls ~
BBQ, Tea & Coffee.

Vendors Welcome ~ \$20 per car

Dunbar Road Car Park

NB stall sites not open until 6.00am

Cnr. Ocean Beach Road Woy Woy

Always Last Sunday
(no events in December)

Enq: 0478 959 895

Peninsula News

Community Access

offers

Classified advertising at affordable rates

Contact us for details:
4243 5333
advertising@peninsula.news

Seniors centre holds a free open week

Ettalong's senior citizens' centre will hold a free "open week" from Monday, March 28, to Friday, April 1, for Seniors Week.

The centre will be open each day from 9am to 3:30pm

The Ettalong 50+ Centre will offer indoor bowls, darts and table tennis, as well as art and craft projects including painting.

Cards and Scrabble will also be available.

Free morning and afternoon tea will be available each day.

For more information, visit www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/seniors or phone 4304 7222.

On Saturday, April 2, the centre will host a Silver Soiree Cabaret from 5:30pm to 7:30pm presented by the Naughty Noodle Fun Haus.

The event is promoted as a star-studded contemporary cabaret, featuring "three iconic femmes of the Australian music scene" – Nikki Bennet, Shauna Jenson and Sheba Williams.

Nikki Bennet is described as a "highly acclaimed singer, actress who has performed in 52 countries and is the creator of 11 internationally successful production shows including Invincible: The Helen Reddy Story.



Shauna Jenson has been "working for the majority of her career as backing vocalist touring with the likes of Jimmy Barnes, Cold Chisel, Noiseworks, Doug Parkinson, Richard Clapton, Hugh Jackman and Powderfinger.

Sheba Williams is described as "an internationally-renowned highly-acclaimed singer, actress, whose jazz, soul and pop renditions have been performed in 12 languages around the world."

The event is supported by NSW Government Seniors Festival Funding as is free to people aged over 60.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islanders over 50 will also be admitted free.

For others, tickets are priced at \$30 each.

Bookings are essential and may be made at <https://naughtynoodle.com.au/whats-on> or by phone on 4314 6004.

SOURCE:
Website, 10 Mar 2022
Seniors Festival, Central Coast Council

Come and 'have a cuppa with Gordon

Labor Candidate for Robertson Dr Gordon Reid is inviting senior citizens to "have a cuppa with Gordon" in Ettalong from 10:30am to midday on Saturday, April 2.

The morning tea will be held as part of Seniors Week at the Senior Citizens Centre at 5-7 Broken Bay Rd, Ettalong.

State Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch will also be present.

"The Umina Ettalong Branch of the ALP extends a warm invitation to senior citizens and their families and friends to come and have a cuppa with Gordon," said branch secretary Ms Sally Jope.

"This is an opportunity to meet with Dr Gordon Reid, the Labor Candidate for Robertson in the upcoming 2022 Federal Election.

"Dr Gordon Reid grew up in Umina Beach.

"Now working as a doctor at the emergency department of Wyong Hospital, Gordon is and has been serving on the front lines of the

pandemic and the healthcare crisis.

"Every day he sees the impact of local GP shortages, the neglect of the healthcare system, of aged care and the pressure on local hospitals.

"Gordon is standing for the seat of Robertson, as he wants to make it an even better place to live, to work and raise a family.

"You will have the opportunity to meet Gordon, ask questions and tell him about your experiences, good and the other, as you grow older here.

"You can tell him about your hopes for the future and ask about Labor's plans."

Bookings are free and should be made online at <https://www.trybooking.com/BYCCA>.

With inquiries, phone Ms Jope 0423 198 567.

SOURCE:
Media release, 17 Mar 2022
Sally Jope, NSW Labor
Umina Ettalong branch

Free group exercise program for women

A free group exercise program for women of all fitness levels and backgrounds will be held in Woy Woy from Wednesday, April 27.

The program involves a one-hour group exercise session every week for nine weeks, with an additional 30-minute health education session every fortnight.

The program is sponsored by Diabetes NSW-ACT.

The program is delivered in "a safe, non-judgemental and comfortable setting", by qualified exercise physiologists who have

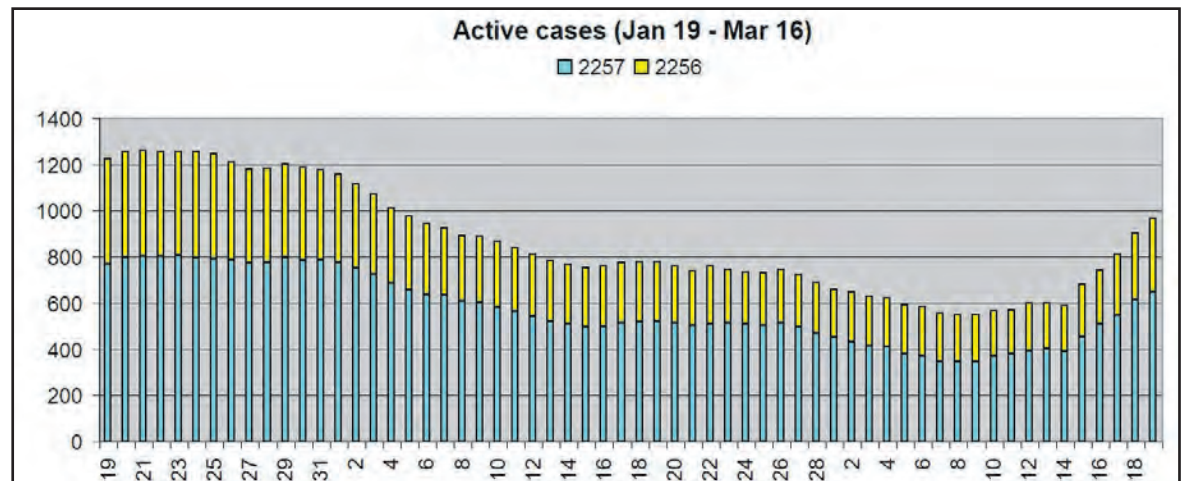
"experience working with groups of women in all different stages of life".

It will be held at I-fitness Exercise Physiology in Blackwall Rd, Woy Woy.

"This initiative is aimed at all women in the community.

"Unlike many of our other programs, you do not need to be diagnosed with diabetes to join." To register, visit movewithwomen.com.au/classes.

SOURCE:
Media release, 9 Mar 2022
Move with Women,
Diabetes NSW-ACT



Case numbers jump to six-week high

Active coronavirus cases on the Peninsula reached their lowest point for the year on March 8, with 548 cases identified for 2256 and 2257 postcodes.

However, in the 12 days since,

numbers have increased by 76.3 per cent to a total of 966 active cases.

This is the highest number of active cases in six weeks, since the number of active cases was 976 on February 5.

Over the five days, March 14 to 19, active case numbers have jumped by an average of 75.4 per day.

SOURCE:
Website, 20 Mar 2022
Covid data and statistics,
NSW Government

Aged care home closed to visitors after outbreak of gastro

A Woy Woy aged care home is closed to visitors after an outbreak of gastroenteritis.

"We have identified six residents with gastro over the last 24 hours, and four staff have also reported symptoms this morning," Blue Wave Living chief executive Mr Matt Downie said last Thursday.

"In line with health guidelines, BlueWave Living

will be closed to all visitors until we are past this current outbreak.

"Gastroenteritis is a common and highly infectious condition that affects the stomach and intestines.

"It can cause vomiting and diarrhoea.

"Gastro is not usually serious, but it can lead to dehydration.

"Viral gastroenteritis is highly infectious and

spreads through contact with contaminated hands, objects or food.

"It can also be spread through coughing and sneezing."

Mr Downie said video links were available to residents using tablets with Zoom or Facetime.

Bookings should be made via email.

SOURCE:
Social media, 17 Mar 2022
Matt Downie, Blue Wave Living

**Expert lawyers.
Passionate advocates.
Accredited specialists.**

TD Tonkin Drysdale Partners



Backed by over 60 years' experience, professional accreditations and a team of over 30 staff, Tonkin Drysdale Partners is one of the largest, most experienced law firms on the Central Coast.

When only the best will do:

P (02) 4341 2355

tdplegal.com.au

Accredited Specialist in Family Law
Accredited Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner
Nationally Accredited Mediator

ADVERTISING email: advertising@peninsula.news

Sport

Free sessions for Seniors Week

Peninsula Leisure Centre will hold a free Senior Strength Training Program between March 25 and April 3 as part of Seniors Week.

The centre's Senior Strength Training gym-based over-50s program includes a free fitness assessment.

Contact Peninsula Leisure Centre reception on 4325 8123 or through social media for bookings, which are essential:

The centre will also hold free tai chi between 11:15am and midday on Friday, March 25.

"The gentle martial art is known

for its health benefits, promoting serenity, balance, coordination and wellbeing."

The centre will hold a free Aqua Deep aqua fitness class in the deep end of the indoor 50m heated pool between 8am and 9am on Saturday, March 26.

"Participants use a buoyancy belt and equipment such as noodles and aqua dumbbells for a whole-body workout."

A free Active Over-50s Fitness session will be held from 830 to 9:30am on Tuesday, March 29.

The low impact, low-moderate intensity fitness class is designed

for over 50s. Classes vary with cardio, conditioning, strength, core training and balance components.

Another session will be held from 10:30-11:30am on Thursday, March 31.

On Wednesday, March 30, free yoga will be held from 10:30am to 11:30am.

The yoga session is a traditional practice involving a series of poses and stretches, floor and standing exercises with balance work and relaxation.

SOURCE: Media release, 17 Mar 2022 Peninsula Leisure Centre, Central Coast Council



Wicket was just too wet

Southern Spirit Cricket Club's under-16 boys did their best to get remove water from the wicket at Rogers Park to play their semi-final game on Saturday.

Unfortunately it was just too wet, so their season has come to the end.

SOURCE: Social media, 19 Mar 2022 Southern Spirit Cricket Club

Shane wins Major Singles final

Umina Beach Men's Bowling Club held its Major Singles finals on March 13, with Shane Waddell defeating Jim Phillips, 25-10.

Despite the rain that arrived at the commencement of play, both players drew very well.

Jim was a bit slow getting off the mark, but found his length to make this a great contest.

The game was closer than the final score suggests.

This was Jim Phillips' first Major Singles final and Shane Waddell's third final in three years.

He was runner-up two years ago, but won the Championship last year.



SOURCE: Social media, 13 Mar 2022 Peter Springett, UBMBC

Southern Spirit cricket results

Results of games played by Southern Spirit Cricket Club over the past two weeks were:

First Grade semi-final, March 12 and 13: Southern Spirit 141 (R Watson 38) def by The Entrance 3/142 (R Watson 2/28).

Male Youth League semi-final, March 17 and 18: Kincumber 4/132cc (JD Johnston 2/20) def Southern Spirit 8/121cc (B Goodall 40, RD Sharma 29).

Under 14b, March 12: Southern Spirit 4/92cc def by Warnervale 1/93.

Sixth Grade preliminary final,

March 13: Southern Spirit 95 (M Scanlan Jr 36) def by Wyong 6/97 (BJ Handley 3/20, JA Wilson 2/22).

Eighth Grade grand final, March 20: Southern Spirit 60 (G Dillon 26) def by Wyong 4/62 (S Markham 2/10).

Under 12b, March 12: Southern Spirit White 62 def by Central Coast Grammar School 7/81cc (E Zadravic 4/5).

Under 12b, March 12: Southern Spirit Purple 6/28 def Kincumber Sixers 27

SOURCE: Website, 20 Mar 2022 Southern Spirit Cricket Club

'Smiles on Dials' returns to Umina Beach

The Central Coast branch of the Disabled Surfers Association returns to Umina Beach on Saturday, April 2, with a Smiles on Dials event.

All surfers, carers and volunteers must pre-register as walk-ups will not be accepted on the day.

Surfers can choose an allocated time and there will be a short wait list. Participants bring their own water bottle.

Volunteering consists of helping surfers to and from the beach, assisting them in and out of the water, including tandem board riding.

Help is needed with set up and clean up.

Volunteers do not need to know how to surf. They just need to be willing to get wet.

SOURCE: Social media, 9 Mar 2022 Central Coast Disabled Surfers Association

Education



Harmony Week starts today at Woy Woy South Public School with Orange Day. Students are invited to wear a touch of orange with their school uniform. A week of activities is planned.

SOURCE: Social media, 20 Mar 2022 Matt Barr, Woy Woy South Public School

Busy week for Year 6 students

Year 6 students at Ettalong Public School have had a busy week, running the school's Gettalong program and helping with the school's Breakfast Club.

"Gettalong activities have recommenced and our playground has been buzzing with students mixing and playing together," said relieving principal Ms Jodie Campbell.

"Gettalong At Ettalong is our lunchtime positive playground

program that runs across our school every day.

"Teachers and Year 6 students operate a range of activities, extra curricular groups and games to offer something for everyone.

"Activities include Lego club, art club, gardening group, giant Connect 4, snakes and ladders, soccer, supervised dodgeball, volleyball, colouring in, library, chess and ukulele."

Ms Campbell said the school also opened its hall and canteen doors to our students for Breakfast

Club last week.

"Our Year 6 student volunteers, canteen volunteers, and our staff set up the tables, dusted off the toaster and their washing up skills to provide breakfast for students from 8.20am," she said.

"This program is generously supported by the Ettalong Branch of the Bendigo Bank and the Woy Woy Baker's Delight located opposite Woolworths."

SOURCE: Newsletter, 15 Mar 2022 Jodie Campbell, Ettalong Public School

Bullying awareness and strategies

Bullying awareness and the strategies children can implement to stop bullying are the focus for a week at St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School in Woy Woy.

"We have a zero tolerance for bullying," said school principal Ms Nicole Davies.

"The students will be encouraged throughout the week

to see how many acts of kindness they can do to make others, and themselves, feel good.

"During the week, the children will see a performance by Brainstorm Productions who provide educational theatre for primary students with a focus on anti-bullying, positive relationships, resilience and well-being.

"Later in the term, each class will participate in our quarterly

mindfulness sessions with a trained facilitator.

"In these sessions, the children learn self-calming and centring techniques to assist them when they are feeling anxious, nervous, worried, frustrated or overly-excited."

SOURCE: Social media, 14 Mar 2022 SJB Catholic Primary School Woy Woy

