

## March rainfall average increases two and a half times to 319mm

The Peninsula's six-year average March rainfall has reached 318.7mm, after a March total this year of 486mm.

This is two and half times the previous March average of 123.3mm for the 12 years 2005 to 2016, according to figures supplied by Mr Jim Morrison of Umina.

Rainfall on the Peninsula during March totalled 486mm, only just pipping the March 2017 total of

485.2mm to become the highest on record.

These March totals are higher than any March figures kept by the Bureau of Meteorology from the Everglades Country Club dating back to 1965.

The 45-year average (1965-2010) for the Everglades Country Club was 140.9mm.

The current March average of 318.7mm is the highest six-year monthly average of any month in

62 years.

The 17-year average annual rainfall recorded by Mr Morrison is 1276mm.

While close to the country club's 34-year average to 1998 of 1274mm, the Everglades' 34-year figures show a variability (777mm to 2119mm) much greater than in the last 17 years (993mm to 1685mm).

SOURCE: Spreadsheet, 1 Apr 2022 Jim Morrison, Umina



THE RAIN CONTINUED: Rain fell every day last week, turning the Umina Bowling Club greens into a lake.

## Budget gives 'more' money for lower-cost carpark

The Federal Budget has included "an additional \$8.2 million to deliver the commuter car park upgrade at Woy Woy station", according to Member for Robertson Ms Lucy Wicks.

"This funding is on top of the \$35 million we already have on the table for commuter parking at Gosford and Woy Woy stations."

However, the cost of constructing the car park appears to have dropped from \$30 million in June last year to \$13.2 million.

At that time, the National Audit Office found that the cost of \$211,000 for each of 140 car spaces was the highest in Australia and more than 4.3 times the benchmark of around \$49,000 per space.

The Urban Congestion Fund website now shows the project cost has more than halved to \$13.2 million, but at more than \$94,000 for each car space is still almost twice the benchmark quoted by the audit office.

The new spaces will be "located adjacent to the existing car park on Railway St directly south west of the station", said Ms Wicks.

"A new shared footpath along Railway St will connect commuters from the car park to the station, with the project also to include new



signage, line markings, new street lights and closed circuit television on the footpath for the safety of pedestrians and commuters."

Ms Wicks said that Transport for NSW expects to commence construction on the project by the end of 2022 and "will be a great economic boost to our region, supporting around 30 jobs".

If the carpark is to be of the same form as the existing carpark, it would extend down Railway St to Melba Rd and would remove of an avenue of substantial shade trees.

The 2021 audit found that the Woy Woy upgrade proposal, announced prior to the February 2019 election, was one of seven projects "not included by the

department in its briefing to the Minister".

"The department had not used the results of the benchmarking work to inform Ministerial consideration."

The audit also questioned whether the Woy Woy upgrade proposal at the time was eligible for funding under the National Land Transport Act.

"Of the 29 projects assessed by the department as being eligible, there were 10 proposed sites, or options, that were more than 130 meters from a rail station and not attached or readily attachable to that station."

SOURCE: Social media, 24 Mar 2022 Lucy Wicks, Member for Robertson.

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## 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



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Next issue: Monday, April 18

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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.

**Editor:** Mark Snell  
editor@peninsula.news  
**Advertising:** Frank Wiffen  
advertising@peninsula.news

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**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.

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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.

## Auditions this week

**Woy Woy Little Theatre will hold auditions this week for its August production of Travelling North by David Williamson.**

The play will be directed by Andrew Thomson.

Auditions will be held at 7pm today, Monday, April 4, and on Thursday, April 7, at the Peninsula Theatre, at the corner of McMasters and Ocean Beach Rds, Woy Woy.

Performance dates will be between August 5 and 21.

With queries, contact Mr Thomson on 0405 103 077 or email him on andrewthethomson@gmail.com

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 27 Mar 2022  
Andrew Thomson, Woy Woy Little Theatre



## Dedication at Anderson Park

**The official dedication and unveiling of the sandstone block installed by the Rotary Club of Woy Woy in Anderson Memorial Park, Woy Woy, will take place at 10am on Saturday, April 9.**

Family members of the late Bill Anderson will attend to mark the special occasion.

There will be a morning tea after the ceremony.

**SOURCE:**  
Newsletter, 29 Mar 2022  
Julie Jones, Rotary Woy Woy

## Flood relief charity day

**The Brisbane Water Bridge Club will hold a Flood Relief Charity Day next Monday, April 11.**

Table fees at the club's sessions at \$10 per person will be donated to fundraising for flood relief.

The flood relief sessions will be red point events.

Today, Monday, April 4, the club plays its Swiss Pairs Championship, commencing 9.30 am with director Mr Ronnie Ng.

**SOURCE:**  
Website, 30 Mar 2022  
Brisbane Water Bridge Club

## Pizza day raises \$950

**A pizza day at Umina campus of Brisbane Water Secondary College has raised \$950 for flood relief for the Lismore School community.**

"Our Vouch for Lismore pizza day raised \$950 which has been converted into grocery vouchers," said campus principal Ms Kerrie O'Heir.

"The vouchers will be distributed by the school to families in need.

**SOURCE:**  
Newsletter, 30 Mar 2022  
Kerrie O'Heir, BWSC Umina

## Easter raffle raises \$2000

**Woy Woy South Public School has raised \$2000 for northern NSW flood victims.**

The money was raised through the school's Easter Raffle.

The winners are pictured. School principal Mr Matt Barr thanked everyone who donated and purchased the raffle tickets.

"We have raised \$2000 for the Northern NSW flood victims. Great job."

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 1 Apr 2022  
Matt Barr, Woy Woy South Public School

## Rugby board to decide about round 1

**Central Coast Rugby Union will make a decision tonight, Monday, April 4, to "determine what happens to the Round 1 games" after ground closures by Central Coast Council prevented games being played last**

**weekend.**  
"Council made a very rare decision to close all grounds for weekend sport," said publicity officer Mr Larry Thomson.

Mr Thomson said the rugby union board had many options, including extending the competition, using a wet weather

weekend and deeming all games a draw.

"Assuming Council reopens the grounds, Round 2 will go ahead as per the draw on Saturday, April 9," he said.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 29 Mar 2022  
Larry Thomson, CCRU

## Peninsula's wettest March in 62 years

**The rainfall on the Peninsula totalled 486mm during March, the wettest month in 62 years.**

More than 5mm of rain fell on each of 19 days of the month.

The heaviest fall was 78mm on March 3.

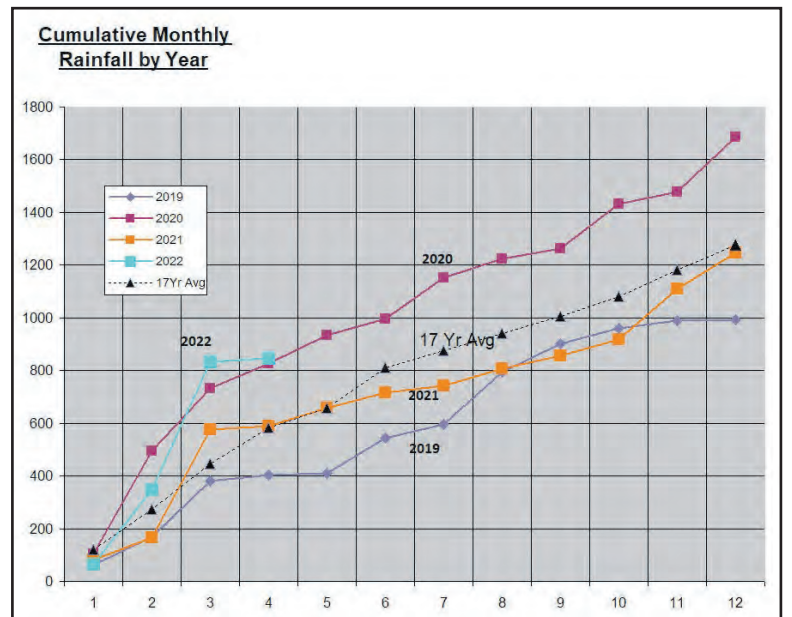
The next two heaviest falls were 63mm on March 9 and 47.7mm on March 26.

Six other days of the month received more than 20mm.

The month's rainfall was almost three times the average of 171mm.

Total rainfall for the year at the end of March was 834.3mm, 90 per cent more than the first quarter average of 446mm.

**SOURCE:**  
Spreadsheet, 1 Apr 2022  
Jim Morrison, Umina





# Council staff give reason for UCSW consultation

A public consultation about apparently trivial track closures in council bushland reserves on the Peninsula appears to have been caused by Central Coast Council staff perceptions of “general community concern in relation to track closures in other natural reserves”.

At least some of the tracks are already effectively closed or overgrown, according to bushcare volunteers.

Asked why the Council was undertaking an apparently trivial consultation, the council issued a media statement which said: “The current consultation was instigated following the release of funds by the Protection of the Environment Trust Management Committee, held in the Trust for Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland.”

The funds would be used “to undertake works including access control, rubbish removal, weed control and bush regeneration, community awareness and education and preparing management plans in the 2021/22 financial year”.

“The works were identified based on the high priority management actions detailed in the Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland Endangered Ecological Community Restoration and Rehabilitation Management Plan.

“This plan was prepared in 2007 to identify and prioritise the management actions to restore the community.

“Council undertook a track audit in November, considering a number of factors to determine which tracks should be closed to best rehabilitate and manage Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland.

“Factors considered included track usage for recreation and land management (including site management plans), track age (recently created or historical), track alignment relative to other tracks (i.e. duplicate), evidence of unauthorised activities (such as tree vandalism, dumping, unauthorised structures, or arson) along a track, total clearing footprint of a track and Council’s capacity to close tracks and maintain areas while regenerating in the current financial year.

“In December, Council’s project officer also met with the Burrawang Bushcare and Ettymalong Creek Landcare groups to discuss which tracks they use or would like to see closed.

“Wider community feedback is also now being sought, acknowledging general community concern in relation to track closures in other natural reserves.”

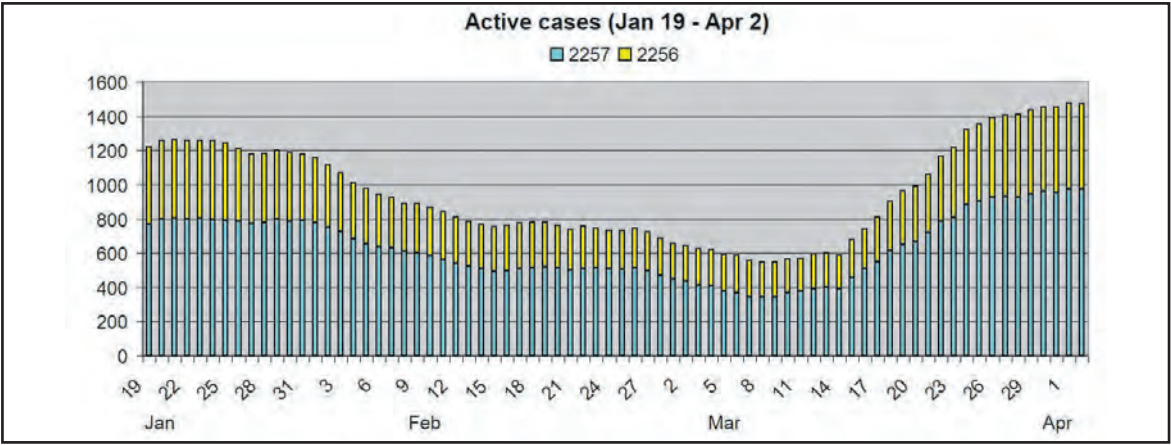
Announcing the consultation, Council administrator Mr Rik Hart said the remnant vegetation on the coastal sands of Umina Woy Woy Peninsula was “unique and worthy of protection”.

“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.

“I invite locals and other interested residents to participate in the consultation and share your thoughts on the management of these areas and the plans to consolidate informal tracks”.

**SOURCE:**  
**Media statement, 29 Mar 2022**  
**Sue Davies, Central Coast Council**



# Active case numbers reach highest figure yet of 1479

The number of active coronavirus cases on the Peninsula appears to have levelled off at around 1480, after 10 days in which numbers more than doubled.

Active case numbers now represent more than three per cent of the population, the highest proportion yet recorded.

More than one in six of the Peninsula’s population has now had the virus.

Figures from the NSW Government’s Covid data and statistics website show a total of 8333 cases, or 17.7 per cent of the population of the 2256 and 2257 postcode areas.

Total active cases more than doubled from 589 to 1323 in 10 days from March 14 to 24, an increase of an average of 73.4

cases per day.

Since then the increase has levelled out to 16.6 cases a day.

The number of active cases increased by more than 2.5 times within the space of a month, from a year low of 548 cases on March 8 to the year high of 1479 on April 1.

Saturday, April 2, recorded a drop of seven active cases to 1472 active cases.

The Peninsula’s figures are, however, significantly better than the Central Coast as a whole.

Across the Coast, almost one in five people (19.9 per cent) have had the coronavirus, around one eighth higher than on the Peninsula.

Currently, the number of active cases across the Coast is 3.7 per cent of the population, about one fifth more than the Peninsula’s 3.1

per cent.

In a joint statement with other Central Coast State Labor Members of Parliament, Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch advised residents to maintain established practices, including vaccination, social distancing and hygiene practices.

“Deltacron is not the first and will not be the last variant that we see here,” she said.

“Please remember to stay vigilant and keep yourself and your loved ones safe as we move into the cooler months.

“Getting vaccinated in our best defence and we urge all residents who have not had their booster to get protected now.”

**SOURCE:**  
**Website, 1 Apr 2022**  
**Covid data and statistics,**  
**NSW Government**

# Grant announced for Umina CWA hall upgrade

The Umina Beach branch of the Country Women’s Association has received a grant of \$49,500 to upgrade its hall.

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch announced the grant which will be used to construct new accessible bathrooms, a ramp and new hall entry.

Ms Tesch visited the branch to announce the grant from the 2021 Community Building Partnership program.

“This grant will make this long-awaited development possible and is much-needed for the members of our local CWA,” she said.

“Improving accessibility for everyone is vital for our community.

“Your continual service to the



community in times of need does not go unrecognised and we are so appreciative of the work you do,” said Ms Tesch

She said the improvement to

accessibility would mean that everyone in the community, no matter their mobility status, would be able to access the hall and join the CWA branch.

Branch secretary Ms Margaret Key said the project was an important change to the hall.

“The construction of the ramp and accessible toilet means it will be much easier for everyone in the community to enter the hall and use the toilet facilities.

“We want to provide a great space with low cost and full accessibility.

“This grant has allowed us to achieve that.”

Ms Tesch also presented the branch with tickets to the Premiers Gala Concert for Seniors in Sydney and was shown a beautiful quilt made by branch members.

**SOURCE:**  
**Media release, 21 Mar 2022**  
**Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford**



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## Plan for four ‘gun-barrel’ units in West St

**Central Coast Council has received a development application for a “gun barrel” development of four two-storey dwellings at 168 West St, Umina Beach.**

The application prepared by Clark Dowdle and Associates makes the assertion that “the multi-unit housing building design would not result in any adverse environmental, amenity, social or economic impacts to the site and surrounding area”.

“The proposal entails increase in development density that is commensurate with the locality and the land use zoning.”

There are several trees on and adjoining the site, which according to the landscape plan for the proposal are to be “retained and protected”.

However on the architect’s notification plans, there are five trees outlined in red with the legend “existing tree to be demolished”.

Some of these coincide with trees labelled as “protected and

retained” on the landscape plan.

One of the trees to be removed appears to be a large eucalyptus at the rear of the property.

The proposal is non compliant with planning provisions for setbacks and deep soil areas.

The west side and rear setbacks are non compliant, each being about a metre less than that required: 3.5 metres and six metres respectively.

Deep soil areas required for this site by the planning provisions are 402 square metres but only 266 square metres is proposed.

Although the application claims that all habitable rooms have the required minimum ceiling height of 2.7 metres, the elevations in the architects plans state that “Ground” is at RL 4.750 and “First” at RL 7.450 giving a total height between floors of 2.7 metres, not allowing for joists and precluding a ceiling height of 2.7 metres.

In attempted justification of the non-compliances, the application repeats a previous claim made by the planning consultants that the

Council’s former planning director Mr Scott Cox made a statement giving free reign to developers to encroach on setbacks.

The quoted statement does not appear to have been made by Mr Cox but was part of a planning assessment made in a different context.

In summary the application states: “The proposal would be commensurate 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 and is considered acceptable for the medium density residential zone.”

DA2144/2021 is open for written submissions until April 8.

**SOURCE:**  
**DA Tracker, 31 Mar 2022**  
**DA2144, Central Coast Council**

## Ettalong ambulance station still needed, says Tesch

**Closure of the Ettalong ambulance station, without a commitment to employ staff at the new Woy Woy station, is concerning when Gosford Hospital service levels are declining, according to Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch.**

She said the latest figures from the Bureau of Health Information showed only 43.8 per cent of Priority 1 calls to ambulances was responded to within 15 minutes, a decrease of 10.2 per cent on the previous year.

The figures, from the October-December quarter last year, also showed a 6.9 per cent decrease of patients transferred by paramedics to Emergency Department staff within 30 minutes.

At the same time, numbers attending Gosford Hospital from 17,663 to 19,224, Ms Tesch said.

“This is dangerous for everyone in our healthcare system – not only for the patients but also for the staff who are pushed to extreme levels as they try to serve the needs of our community.

“It is unconscionable to close down a vital piece of our healthcare infrastructure when the system is clearly buckling under pressure and in desperate need for more funding.

“Premier Perrottet cannot even blame Covid for these results.

“It has been brewing for years because of the Liberal Government’s lack of investment in our essential services.

“The pandemic has simply

escalated the situation with hospital presentations reaching record levels, making our already struggling healthcare system even worse.”

Ms Tesch said the data also showed only 53.9 per cent of treatment is started on time, decreasing by 7.3 per cent, and only 49.4 per cent of patients leave the Emergency Department within four hours, a decrease of 6.1 per cent.

The data also showed a 17 per cent increase to 3253 patients on the waiting list for elective surgery.

Ms Tesch said she welcomed the news of 300 additional nurses and recent graduate doctors at our local health services, but “more needs to be done”.

“After two absolutely gruelling years dealing with the pandemic, our doctors and nurses deserve appropriate patient-to-healthcare professional ratios, and so does our community.”

“While an increase in nurses and doctors is desperately needed here, I know that this doesn’t mean a better ratio.

“Simultaneously the Government is taking away our Ettalong Ambulance Station, where the staff are not guaranteed a position at the new location.

“It is blatantly clear more needs to be done to fix our struggling health services and staff.”

Ms Tesch said the Perrottet Government should commit to resolving this crisis.

“Closing down key parts of our local healthcare system is not the way to do it.”

To find out more on the Bureau of Health Information’s Healthcare Quarterly results, visit <https://www.bhi.nsw.gov.au/data-portal>.

**SOURCE:**  
**Media release, 22 Mar 2022**  
**Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford**

## Panel adds tree conditions to Webb Rd approval

**The Local Planning Panel has approved an application for the construction of a four-bedroom dual occupancy development at 40 Webb Rd, Booker Bay.**

The Panel added extra consent conditions aimed at ensuring that proposed tree planting occurs.

The structure will be a mixture of single and double storey with a cost estimate of \$950,000.

This application attracted 15 objections, mainly due to the planned destruction of all trees on the site including a large angophora floribunda, at least two large jacaranda trees and three crepe myrtles.

In the Council assessment which recommended approval, all trees were approved for removal by the Council tree assessment officer.

The Council’s ecologist was consulted to provide clarification: “Angophora floribunda is not listed as a threatened species in NSW.

“It is included as a characteristic canopy tree species within the Umina Coastal Sandplain

Woodland endangered ecological community.

“However, 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 Panel hearing was held online on March 23, and the decision was published on Monday, March 28.

Woy Woy resident Mr Frank Wiffen spoke against the proposal, saying that no attempt appeared to have been made to retain a single existing tree.

“It is just this sort of ‘it’s too hard’ attitude that is speeding up the destruction of the environment and the onset of climate change.”

Mr Wiffen asked: “What species will the street trees be?

“Will they be provided as advanced trees and watered regularly until established?

“Will they provide sufficient canopy to shade large areas of road and impervious surfaces and therefore reduce the now well-documented Urban Heat Island effect?”

Mr Wiffen drew the planning panel’s attention to the large multi-dwelling development that adjoins the site at the rear.

He said the Landscape Plan for this development at 48-54 Murray St, Bookers Bay, which bore the approval stamp of Gosford Council 2016, listed 16 large trees and 21 shrubs that were supposed to have been planted.

He said that there was no sign of any of this planting on the site.

If landscaping and remedial planting could not be guaranteed, it should be discounted completely when considering an application, he said.

Ms Sandra Trad from Red Apple Design spoke for the application and said that the owner regretted having to remove the trees but could see no alternative.

They also promised to carry out all remedial planting, she said.

In its decision, the Panel added extra conditions of consent in an attempt to guarantee the planting and survival of the street trees.

They were to: “Plant a minimum of three replacement trees (advanced specimens minimum

45 litre pot size) within the road reserve along Eastern Rd and one replacement tree along Webb Rd.

“Replacement trees are to be evenly spaced and adequately staked and protected to prevent vandalism.

“Street trees must be a native species such as water gum capable of achieving a minimum height of 10 metres.

“Maintain all works associated with the approved landscape plans for a period of 12 months from the date of any occupation certificate to ensure the survival and establishment of the landscaping.

“Replace all damaged, dead or missing areas of lawn and plantings at the completion of the landscaping maintenance period, including adjoining road reserve areas that are in a state of decline, to a healthy and vigorous condition in accordance with the approved detailed landscape plans and development consent conditions.”

**SOURCE:**  
**Local Planning Planning Panel**  
**minutes, 24 Mar 2022**  
**DA63281/2021, Central Coast Council**

## Flash festival deadline extended

**Woy Woy Little Theatre has extended its registration deadline for registration for this year’s Flash Festival.**

Interested writers, directors and actors now have until Friday, April 15, to register.

This year’s theme is “What If”, with four performances in late September.

Maximum cast size will be four people, with a limit of two submissions per playwright.

Directors will be appointed in mid-June, with actors’ auditions on August 10.

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

**SOURCE:**  
**Social media, 30 Mar 2022**  
**Woy Woy Little Theatre Inc**



# Jonathan Holmes to speak at Everglades

Journalists and media commentator Mr Jonathan Holmes will be guest speaker at a function to be held at the Everglades Country Club in Woy Woy this Wednesday, April 6, from noon.

It is the first function to be organised by the Central Coast branch of Friends of the ABC after several cancelled functions over the last year due to Covid.

“Mr Holmes is currently chair of the ABC Alumni, a group of

former ABC staff members who support well-funded and vibrant public broadcasting in Australia,” said branch convenor Mr Ross McGowen.

“He has been a former executive producer at various times of Four Corners, Foreign Correspondent and the 7.30 Report, a reporter with Foreign Correspondent and Four Corners, and from 2008 to his retirement from the ABC in 2013, the presenter of the popular Media Watch.”

Mr McGowen said members and friends of the group had maintained their interest and support despite essential restrictions on meetings and planned events.

Entry will be by paid ticket, but numbers were limited.

With inquiries, email [rossmcgowen61@gmail.com](mailto:rossmcgowen61@gmail.com) or phone 0400 213 514.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 25 Mar 2022  
Gillian Telford, ABC Friends Central Coast



## From Patonga to Pearl Beach

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service will start its new series of guided Discovery tours with a stunning four-hour, six kilometre guided walk from Patonga to Pearl Beach, and then back again on Wednesday, April 6.

The Service has described the walk through Brisbane Water National Park as “one of the Central Coast’s most beautiful walks”.

“From the end of Patonga beach, we’ll head towards Warrah Trig, following the steep trail up

and over the hill.

“We’ll stop there for a snack break, while enjoying spectacular views of the Hawkesbury River and Pacific Ocean.

“As we continue our trek towards Pearl Beach, we’ll pass sandstone caves with amazing natural hanging gardens of native ferns.”

The walk is classified as Grade 5 Hard, will start at 9am and will cost adults \$15 each, with concessions available.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 29 Mar 2022  
Shani Milgate, NPWS

## Ferries diverted to Patonga

The Palm Beach-Wagstaffe-Ettalong ferry service was diverted to Patonga from Thursday, March 31, until yesterday Sunday, April 3.

Forecast weather conditions exceeded the company’s safe operating guideline for the service, resulting in the diversion.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 30 Mar 2022  
Fantasea Palm Beach Ferries

## Doonas for the unhoused

The Woy Woy branch of the Country Women’s Association has donated an assortment of blankets, quilts, doonas, scarves, beanies and gloves to Coast Hands.

“They will be distributed amongst the unhoused populations of the Central Coast and Wolloomooloo,” said branch president Ms Jane Bowtell.

“With the cooler weather approaching, donations like these

are vitally important for those who do not have a stable and secure place to live.

“Our members took the time to craft these pieces, and supportive members of the public donated some as well.

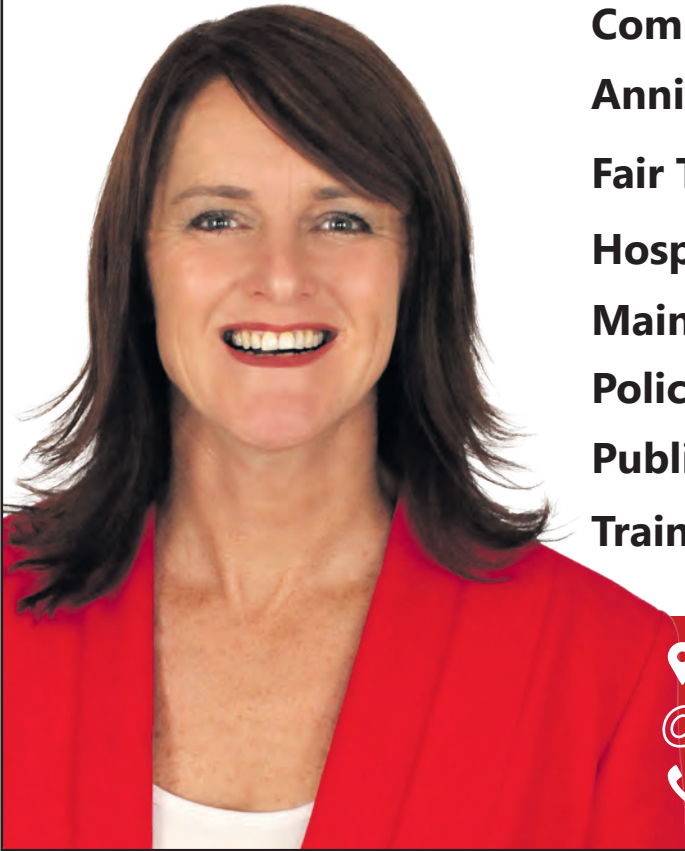
Pictured are four bags overflowing with a mixture of blankets, scarves, quilts and doonas.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 27 Mar 2022  
Jane Bowtell, CWA Woy Woy



**Liesl Tesch MP**  
Member for Gosford

## How can I help?



- Schools and education
- Community Recognition Awards
- Anniversary & birthday messages
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- Main roads
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Authorised by Liesl Tesch, 20 Blackwall Road, Woy Woy NSW 2256. Funded using Parliamentary Entitlements.



Forum

## Rational and consistent LEP needed

**Now that we have the results of the public inquiry into Central Coast Council, what is striking are the Commissioner's comments about the behaviour of the councillors, when they were dealing with Council business.**

Rather than seeking collegiate consensus, they seemed to be focussed on factional conflict and disagreement.

Rather than dealing with the substance of issues before them, they were more concerned with personal grandstanding and political point-scoring.

They seemed more interested in raising points of order and lodging Code of Conduct complaints than doing their job of running the city.

Is it any wonder that so many bad decisions were made, not only on financial matters but on technical matters where some concentration is required, in order to understand the implications of what is being decided?

A case in point is the consolidated Local Environment Plan that had to be drawn up to reconcile the differences between the old Gosford and Wyong regulations that applied to the

separate municipalities.

Since the format of these documents is largely laid down by the State Government, this isn't as onerous a task as it might seem to a layman, but there are always some variations that have to be brought into alignment.

There are examples in the draft Local Environment Plan where this has been done so badly that even our councillors should have been able to see the inconsistencies and contradictions, if they had been giving the matter any proper consideration at all.

Instead, with its flaws intact, the draft document has gone to the Minister for approval, although it is not clear when the Minister will actually pass judgement on it, so that it can come into effect.

In my view, this document should be withdrawn from the Minister and held in abeyance until a newly-elected Council of competent individuals can reconsider it.

The present document re-incorporates all the shortcomings that lead to the constant breaches of standards by developers that so many residents are incensed about.

So all we are going to see is a continuation of the ongoing litany of community complaints, if this

draft is approved.

The opportunity of rewriting the Local Environment Plan should have been an occasion for introducing logic and consistency into the process, but, instead, we have a lazy and thoughtless rehashing of the same old errors that have led to the development mess that we see around us.

If we care as much about the environment that we are going to live in for the rest of our lives as we do about our rates and charges, we should be demanding that proper standards be observed in the development-control document that will decide the form of our city in our lifetimes.

We should require that the provisions be rational and consistent, and that we can rely on them for the foreseeable future.

Squabbling over whether a particular building should be a high-rise or not is fatuous and self-defeating: If you have no defensible standard to start with, you have no basis for argument, so, of course, expediency will always prevail.

Does anybody care about our neighbourhoods enough to make an issue of this?

**SOURCE:**  
Email, 29 Mar 2022  
Bruce Hyland, Woy Woy

## Neither Crouch nor Tesch talk about ward system

**Readers of Peninsula News (edition 540) will be familiar with issues at Central Coast Council and our inadequate form of governance and subsequent interventions by the State.**

It is comforting that the commissioner appointed by the State has got it sorted with her eight recommendations for our salvation.

Guaranteeing our salvation is Central Coast Parliamentary Secretary Mr Adam Crouch welcoming the report from the public inquiry into Central Coast Council.

Crouch continues: "It is important to note that 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".

Well I'm glad we've got that sorted.

Interestingly in the following piece from the State Member for Gosford, "Inquiry outcome 'disappointing', says Tesch", she declares: "It is very clear that the Central Coast needs financial assistance as a result of this forced amalgamation ..."

Voluntary or forced amalgamation?

I was at the council meeting the night that the amalgamation was decided and I can tell you that while a few councillors expressed reservations about merger, the vote was not forced.

Our representatives agreed to the merger.

It is worth noting that all of the councils that rejected the merger eventually forced the State Government to back off.

Shame on our councillors.

Either way, it is passing strange that neither Crouch nor Tesch want to talk about the corrupt five ward system that "government" has forced us to suffer.

Could it be that this undemocratic, ill-thought system ensures that one of the big parties gets the chocolates, with small parties and independents forced to scrap for the third place in each ward.

One of Labor or Liberal needs only two seats in one ward to guarantee government, or a deal with a friendly independent or stooge party, of which there are many.

And this passes for democracy?

**SOURCE:**  
Email, 31 Mar 2022  
Bryan Ellis, Umina

## Complete woodland survey, says GUST

**The Grow Urban Shade Trees group is encouraging residents to complete a council survey about Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland endangered bushland reserves.**

The council consultation on its Your Voice Our Coast website asks for comments about closure of tracks within Council reserves in Woy Woy and Umina.

It also asks for comment on "other management issues".

"Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland is one of the smallest and most endangered of rare bushland," said group member Ms Jennifer Wilder.

"It is limited to the Peninsula area where precious remnants still exist in several small pockets.

"Nowhere else in the entire world does this unique ecological

community exist.

"For many years, there has been a plan to limit the tracks within these remnants to pedestrians only and to install interpretive-educational signage.

"It would be great to see this idea come to fruition," said Ms Wilder.

"GUST would like council to adopt formal, detailed management plans for each UCSW area."

She said that more was needed than just making reference to a State advisory document, which was not a formal management plan with legal obligations.

"We believe closure of tracks should be considered with a survey of track use in the context of a formal management plan."

She said that the council has neglected McEvoy Oval surrounds and residents were rightly

complaining about the spread of weeds.

"Slashing and poisoning should not be contemplated as solutions in an endangered ecological community like this, however.

"It would be great to see council spending more of its maintenance money for this oval, on maintenance of the surrounding bush."

Ms Wilder said the council's survey at <https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/ucsw> was able to be completed in just a single comment box.

"It doesn't take too long to have a look at the maps and provide your thoughts.

"Please complete it by April 14."

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 29 Mar 2022  
Jennifer Wilder, GUST

## Thoughts wanted on local car charging stations

**I love reading the Peninsula News.**

I have observed over many years, many residents commenting on how we have the highest petrol prices on the Coast.

Since acquiring a few new petrol stations and revamps, for a while there, there was some good competition in prices.

Obviously, with the situation overseas, we now have the same if not higher petrol prices than ever before.

This leads me to the next observation on renewable energy and electric charging cars.

It would be great if residents got behind a think tank, or council conduct a comprehensive survey on what people's thoughts are.

What are the key benefits of moving towards this outcome and what are the key issues holding us back from moving forwards in this direction?

It would be very interesting to know people's ideas, for and against.

**SOURCE:**  
Email, 30 Mar 2022  
Sandra Campbell, Umina

Public Notices

Car Boot Sale

Woy Woy Peninsula Lions Club

Apr 24

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

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## When evacuation is needed, it is not 'nuisance flooding'

**In February last year, Central Coast Council held an open day for the public to view the iWoy Woy Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan.**

The terminology in its handout is inaccurate as published.

It contained the statement that "Woy Woy Peninsula is prone to nuisance flooding" with associated actions including "community awareness programs or evacuation procedures".

For the resident faced with

evacuation, it is unlikely they would see it as "nuisance flooding".

The reference to "social and economic damages" needs to be expanded to include references to health, education, recreation, disruption and uncertainty.

There is no doubt this matter is of interest and should be discussed by the community, informed by competent opinion of climate change experts.

**SOURCE:**  
Letter, 28 Mar 2022  
Norm Harris, Umina



## Mountain bike wins

Brisbane Water Secondary College year 7 student Katarina Carlsson has won first place in four cycling events at the Australian Mountain Biking Interschools competition at Thredbo in early March.

She won All Mountain, Flow, Downhill and Pump Track events and also competed in the Cross Country event.

Campus principal Ms Kerry O'Heir said: "Katrina was also awarded Queen of the Mountain for her age division."

"Katrina individually represented team BWSC Umina and came 27th out of more than 200 school teams based on her scores alone."

**SOURCE:**

Social media, 31 Mar 2022  
Kerrie O'Heir, BWSC Umina



## School bus route change for April

The school bus service 2528 for Ettalong Public School, Woy Woy South Public School and St John the Baptist Primary School is to be diverted for most of April due to drainage works in Carpenter St, Umina.

Bus operator Busways has announced a "change a path of school bus 2528" due to the works between Veron Rd and Ryans Rd.

"School bus 2528 will operate the current route from schools to Veron Rd and Carpenter St then via Veron Rd, right at Connex Road, right at Ryans Rd, left at

Carpenter St then continues to the current path to Ocean View Rd and Memorial Ave.

"In lieu of the bus stops being missed on Carpenter St, there will be temporary bus stops located on Connex Rd near Veron Rd and on Ryans Rd near Connex Rd.

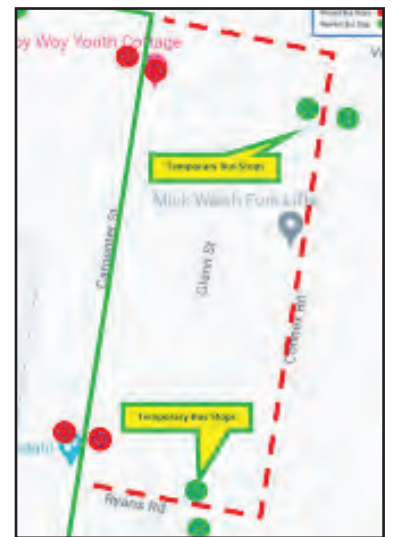
"Please note that dates are subject to change without notice."

The changes also apply to the standard Route 57 bus service.

For further information, contact Busways Customer Service on 1300 69 2929.

**SOURCE:**

Newsletter, 30 Mar 2022  
Matt Barr, South Woy Woy Public School



## Promoted to principal role near Newcastle

Umina Beach Public School's former relieving principal Mr Chad Tsakissiris has been appointed as principal of a school in the Newcastle suburb of Dudley.

"Pending an appeals process, Mr Tsakissiris will take up this position in term two," said Umina principal Ms Karen Wardlaw.

"Our school staff are delighted to congratulate Mr Tsakissiris on his appointment as principal at Dudley Public School."

**SOURCE:**

Social media, 24 Mar 2022  
Karen Wardlaw, Umina Beach Public School



## Mara recites pi to 314 places

To celebrate Pi Day, Woy Woy South Public School held a competition for students to recite as many decimal places of the number pi as possible.

Mr Jerome Favand was proud of his daughter Mara Hatfield Favand who topped the school when she remembered pi to 314 places.

"Mara really excited the teachers when she stopped at 314, which coincides with the first digits of pi: 3.14," he said.

Pi Day is an annual celebration of the mathematical constant pi, the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter.

**SOURCE:**

Media release, 21 Mar 2022  
Jerome Favand

## Colour Run fundraiser

Umina Beach Public School will hold its Colour Run fundraiser on Wednesday, April 6.

Students have been collecting sponsors during March.

The day will start with a family barbecue from 11:15am to midday.

"Families are invited to come in for a special lunch with their children," said principal Ms Karen Wardlaw.

Food and drinks will be on sale from a sausage sizzle and cake stall. Cash or card is welcome.

The canteen will also be open. The Colour Run starts at 1pm.

"Families can stay to watch the Colour Run on the oval behind the hall," Ms Wardlaw said.

"Each year group will take turns to run the course."

"Parents and guests can enter the Colour Run for a small fee

payable on the day."

Sponsorship forms should be returned to the school by today, Monday, April 4.

**SOURCE:**

Newsletter, 8 Mar 2022  
Karen Wardlaw, Umina Beach Public School

## Little aths

Woy Woy Peninsula Little Athletics will hold its presentation night on May 13 at Ettalong Diggers.

A light meal will be provided for all athletes.

The club is also looking for "someone to do our social media".

**SOURCE:**

Social media, 26 Mar 2022  
Woy Woy Peninsula Little Athletics

## Health

## Professor talks about dying with dignity

Woy Woy's Professor Stephanie Short has addressed the Rotary Club of Umina Beach about the NSW Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill, currently before Parliament.

She was introduced by Ms Olwyn Lewis, wife of Rotary club member Mr Pat Lewis.

Ms Lewis is a member of the Central Coast Dying With Dignity Group of which Professor Short is chair.

Besides being an active supporter of the legislation, Professor Short is a health sociologist and political analyst at Sydney University.

"Stephanie's discussion was both balanced and informative and engaged all in open discussion," said club president-elect Mr Wayne Dowdle.

"We were fortunate to have Professor Stephanie Short and her husband, Valentine, attend our meeting."

Professor Short said debate in



the NSW Legislative Council on NSW's Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill had commenced.

"There were two and a half hours of debate on Wednesday, March 23, with 12 speeches in all, eight in favour and four against, including Fred Nile and Mark Latham," she said.

"Incredibly Mark Latham was opposed because he said the Bill was too complicated and no one

could understand it."

Professor Short said: "The NSW Bill is based on the legislation that has already been debated, amended and passed in all the other states in Australia."

She said the Rotary meeting had "very lively" discussion and "members of the club were brought right-up-to-date with the law reform process in NSW".

After last week, the Legislative Council does not sit again until May.

"The word is that the debate in the NSW Legislative Council could drag on until June."

She said Dying With Dignity had organised a well-attended rally in Macquarie St to speed up the debate.

She is pictured (centre) at the rally outside NSW Parliament House on March 23.

**SOURCE:**

Media release, 27 Mar 2022  
Dr Stephanie Short, Woy Woy  
Newsletter, 30 Mar 2022  
Wayne Dowdle, Rotary Umina Beach

## Parishioners ask about voluntary assisted dying

With the Voluntary Assisted Dying bill being considered by State Parliament, Broken Bay Uniting Church minister, the Reverend Patti Lawrence, has revealed parishioners have asked her about the issue.

She prefaced remarks in a recent church newsletter, saying "The Uniting Church does not have a statement on every issue."

She said the church did not have a statement on voluntary assisted dying.

An Assembly meeting in 2018 discussed a proposal for a 12-month period of consultation and discussion, she said.

She referred parishioners to a 42-page document Our Vision for a Just Australia 2021, which "includes 16 points on what we believe are key to building a just and compassionate Australia".

The 2021 NSW Synod was presented with a discussion

paper about voluntary assisted dying, in which the working party acknowledged synods in different states had taken different positions – support in Victoria-Tasmania and opposition in Queensland.

The working party did not suggest the NSW Synod make a decision, but said it took a similar position to the WA Synod which "acknowledges that within the Church there is a diversity of faithful Christian understandings and responses to dying and to 'voluntary assisted dying' and we seek to live respectfully together in that tension".

Ms Lawrence told parishioners: "If you would like to know about any aspect of the Uniting Church belief, statements, or procedures, please ask, and I will do my best to answer."

**SOURCE:**

Newsletter, 27 Mar 2022  
Patti Lawrence, Uniting Church Broken Bay



Sport

Lachlan Cork becomes ‘overseas cricketer’

**Southern Spirit Cricket Club all-rounder Lachlan Cork has accepted the position of “overseas cricketer for 2022” with Calverley St Wilfrids Cricket Club at Pudsey near Leeds in West Yorkshire, England.**

“He’s arriving here on the back of a T20 grand final win, also winning player of the match,” said Calverley St Wilfrids chairperson Mr Ashley Benson.

He told his club members:

“Lachlan is a 20-year-old all-rounder from New South Wales, Australia, playing first grade cricket in the Central Coast Cricket Association for Southern Spirit Cricket Club, also representing the league side.

“I’m sure you’ll all give him a warm welcome.

“We can’t wait to get the season started with you mate.”

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 23 Mar 2022  
Ashley Benson, Calverley St Wilfrids Cricket Club



Basketball season awards announced

Bridge club holds open teams championship

**Brisbane Water Bridge Club had 12 teams sign up for its 2022 Open Teams Club Championship, the club’s premier event for the year.**

The tournament was held over two sessions played on Monday, March 21.

Team Clarke (Sally Clarke, Garry Clarke, Di Coats, Jan Clarke) won the day with five wins and a loss.

Team Foster (Sylvia Foster, Jaan Oitmaa, Lorraine Lindsay, Chris Hannan) picked up second spot.

They looked likely winners leading at the completion of most rounds but were overhauled by the winners in the final moments of the competition.

Third spot went to Team Whigham (Marilyn Whigham, Joan Walsh, Judy Wulff, Christine Hadaway).

They played steadily throughout the tournament finishing with a 3–0–3 record.

The competition included some novice and restricted players, who “acquitted themselves well and made the most of the learning opportunity”.

The championship was directed by Ronnie Ng.

Results of the championship, which was a Country Teams qualifying event, were:

1 Jan Clarke, Di Coats, Sally Clarke, Garry Clarke 125 (92.32 VPs), 5 wins-0 draws-1loss, 1.80 red points.

2 Sylvia Foster, Jaan Oitmaa, Lorraine Lindsay, Chris Hannan 121 (91.54), 5-0-1, 1.80.

3 Marilyn Whigham, Joan Walsh, Judy Wulff, Christine Hadaway 24 (66.24), 3-0-3, 1.08.

4 Marcelle Goslin, Ron Meaney, Karen Ody, Jim Routledge 0 (64.14), 4-0-2, 1.44.

5 John Aldersley, Beryl Lowry, Dasha Brandt, David Bowerman, Jorgen Boettiger, Julie Teague 5 (61.62), 3-0-3, 1.08.

6 Noel Crockett, Shirley Crockett, Ed Vaughan, Robin Vaughan 0 (59.88), 3-0-3, 1.08.

7 Anne Grayden, Julie Sadler, Barbara Grant, Louis Koolen -3 (59.20), 3-0-3, 1.08.

8 Jurate Laisve, Trish Byrnes, Alma Van Der Walt, Kathryn Ivits 0 (57.01), 2-0-4, 0.72.

9 Susan Mccall, Pamela Joseph, Jenny Buckley, David Adams -38 (51.75), 3-0-3, 1.08.

10 Hope Tomlinson, Barry Foster, David Snow, Chris Hasemore, Martin Johnson -50 (46.19), 2-0-4, 0.72.

11 Heather Brown, Felicity Fane, Elaine Hume, Peter Hume -96 (35.55), 2-0-4, 0.72.

12 Blair Glass, Alan Bustany, Chris Williams, Elizabeth Lawrence, Diane Nichols, Ian Newton, Carolynne Mucharsky, Meryl Duke -88 (34.56), 1-0-5, 0.36.

**SOURCE:**  
Website, 24 Mar 2022  
Brisbane Water Bridge Club

Annual meeting

**Peninsula Junior Touch Association Inc will hold its annual general meeting in the Ettalong Diggers boardroom next Monday, April 11, at 7pm.**

The meeting will hear annual reports, decide board positions and discuss any general business.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 7 Mar 2022  
Peninsula Junior Touch

**Social mixed basketball regular season awards were announced last week.**

Most valuable male player in the Peninsula Leisure Centre competition was Tristan Stewart.

Most valuable female player was Amara Kapiogeno.

Defensive player of the Year was Kaine Hickson.

Rookie of the Year was Kai

Ramos.

Most improved player was Mitchell Leete.

Sixth Man of the Year was Baz Lovell.

Three-point King was Jacob Pearson.

Skills challenge male champion was Dave Savelberg.

Skills challenge female champion was Georgia Leslie-

Fitch.

Dunk champion was Harry Marsden with the assist from Mase Potestas.

Anyone interested in playing in social basketball competition at the centre may email plc@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 31 Mar 2022  
Peninsula Leisure Centre

Netball representative teams selected

**Woy Woy Peninsula Netball Association has named its final selections for its representative teams.**

The following players were selected for the WWPNA Under-17s representative team: Bronte Fardell, Alicia Harle, Milly Liley, Hannah O’Neill, Sofia Perl, Laura Reeves, Lexi Sounness, Lenkhia Szostak, Lily Westerman and Ruby Wright.

Coach is Anne Dufty.

The Under-14s representative team is: Abby Burns, Jumoke Dedeigbo, Ella Mills, Tamara

Napier, Lily Scholte, Lara Sgaravizzi, Jessica Skehan, AlexBobbi Smith, Olivia Stevens and Reiss Walker.

Coaches are Donah Elliott and Jodee Skehan.

The Under-12s representative team is: Talia Afif, Felicia Biju, Summer Bushby, Lucy Burgin, Sophie Gordon, Annabel Griffith, Tilly Henry, Erin Kearns, Marcie Lane and Danika Szostak.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 30 Mar 2022  
Woy Woy Peninsula Netball Association



Personal bests at nationals

**Woy Woy Little Athlete Sienna Scahill has recorded three personal best times while taking places at the Australian Athletics National Championships in Sydney as part of the NSW state team.**

She was first in the Under-16 women’s 3000 metres, second in the Under-16 women’s 1500 metres and fourth in the Under-16 women’s 800 metres.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 31 Mar 2022  
Woy Woy Peninsula Little Athletics  
Photo: Athletics NSW

Boardriders hold Point Master event

**Umina Boardriders held their Point Master event yesterday, Sunday, April 3, in two heats.**

Competitors in heat one were: Talin Taylor, Billy Davis, Jake Monsalve, Jarrod Hayne, Glen Alston and Jye Jewiss.

In heat two, competitors were Drew Courtney, Jedd Golledge, Mason Reinker, Nathan Shanks, Brett Sailey and Darrin Stapleton

Final positions were: 1 Talin

Taylor, 2 Jedd Golledge, 3 Jake Monsalve, 4 Billy Davis, 5 Nathan Shanks and 6 Drew Courtney.

Drew hurt his back just before the final so had pull out.

Prize money was offered for the best tube and first place.

Talin won \$200 for taking both prizes.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 3 Apr 2022  
Umina Boardriders