

Umina loses its last bank branch

Umina will lose its last bank branch on Friday, August 26.

The Umina Beach branch of the Commonwealth Bank will close, leaving just five bank branches on the Peninsula – one at Ettalong and four at Woy Woy.

Commonwealth Bank regional general manager Mr Norm Swift said: “Transactions at this branch have dropped by half over the five years before the coronavirus pandemic.”

“Our people from Umina Beach branch will be offered redeployment opportunities, including roles supporting customers over the phone and online, or other comparable roles where it suits them.

“There are no job losses as a result of this decision.”

“We’ve ensured customers who prefer over-the-counter service still have access to this option.

“For Umina Beach customers, we have a nearby central branch four kilometres away at Woy Woy.

“We’ve found 31 per cent of customers from Umina Beach are already visiting Woy Woy branch.

“We understand this change may affect the way some of our customers bank.

“The team at Umina Beach branch are available until Friday,

August 26, to help customers find the solutions that best suit their needs.

“For customers who prefer face-to-face options, Australia Post’s Bank@Post service is also available at the Umina Beach Local Post Office for personal and business banking transactions.

“Last year we renewed this service until 2032, so customers can continue to make withdrawals and deposits including passbooks during normal business hours.”

“Customers can also access their accounts 24 hours a day through NetBank or the CommBank app.

“We are also available for general banking enquiries, through our locally-based contact centres on 13 22 21, every day between 8am and 8pm.”

“We recognise some senior customers prefer to do their banking face-to-face and this is one of the reasons why the bank is proud to maintain the largest branch network in the country.

“Each year, we invest around \$50 million in our branch network, to upgrade and refurbish existing branches and open new branches where we see customer demand.”

Peninsula Chamber of Commerce president Mr Matthew

Wales said he was “extremely disappointed in the news that the Commonwealth Bank is closing the Umina Beach branch”.

“This is yet another sign that the big banks care little for local town centres as they continue to strive to cut costs and drive profits up often at the expense of local communities.

“Umina Beach is one of the busiest and most vibrant retail shopping strips on the Central Coast yet it appears that the Commonwealth Bank is more interested in saving dollars than looking after the interests of its local customer base.

“Sadly, I’m not surprised as we have seen a cavalcade of banks and buildings societies slowly withdraw from the main street with only brand ATM’s offering any form of banking service,” he said.

“This now leaves Umina Beach without any frontline banking services.

“This does nothing for the health and vitality of local town centres and is a sad reflection of changing times and big bank attitudes.”

SOURCE:
Media release, 21 Jul 2022
Matthew Wales, Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
Media statement, 21 Jul 2022
Monica Schubert, CBA

Woytopia stalls available

Applications for stalls at the Woytopia Festival on Sunday, October 30, are now open.

Billed as “the Central Coast’s biggest green event”, the festival will be held at the Woy Woy South Public School between 9am and 4pm.

“The idea of Woytopia is to create a great community day out that also gives local environment-focused groups and businesses

a chance to network with each other, promote sustainable living, showcase what they do to the local community, and find new members and customers,” said publicity officer Mr Mark Mann.

Stall booking applications can be downloaded from woytopia.org or email market@woytopia.org for more information.

SOURCE:
Media release, 18 Jul 2022
Mark Mann, Woytopia

Target met seven times over

Woy Woy South Public School has raised more than seven times its target through its Jump Rope for Heart appeal.

“The original Jump Rope for Heart goals were to raise \$1000 and to skip for 10 hours,” said principal Mr Matt Barr.

“The total amount raised was \$7534 and 66 Woy Woy South students skipped over 100 hours

during Term 2. “This included the four lunchtime skipping sessions that were held for our K-2 and 3-6 students.

“It was so amazing to see our community come together for such a great cause: the Heart Foundation.”

SOURCE:
Social media, 11 Jul 2022
Matt Barr, Woy Woy South Public School

For the Peninsula community

Only Peninsula advertising
Only Peninsula News

One copy free Ask us about more

Peninsula News aims to provide free news to as many Peninsula residents as possible.

Volunteers produce each issue of the newspaper, and advertisers, sponsors and donors currently cover the cost of printing to enable this to occur.

The newspaper is free on the basis that only one copy is taken per household.

Currently, we cannot afford to print more than this.

If you know of people we are not getting to, please let us know so we can make arrangements.

If you want to line bird cages or cat trays or to wrap rubbish, sometimes we have old copies available.

If you see people taking bundles of newspapers from our stands, please ask them to contact us on 0499 546 737 for extra copies.

Mark Snell, 25 July 2022



Peninsula News EXTRA!
Be notified. SCAN here.



Next issue: Monday, August 8

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, Apr 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.

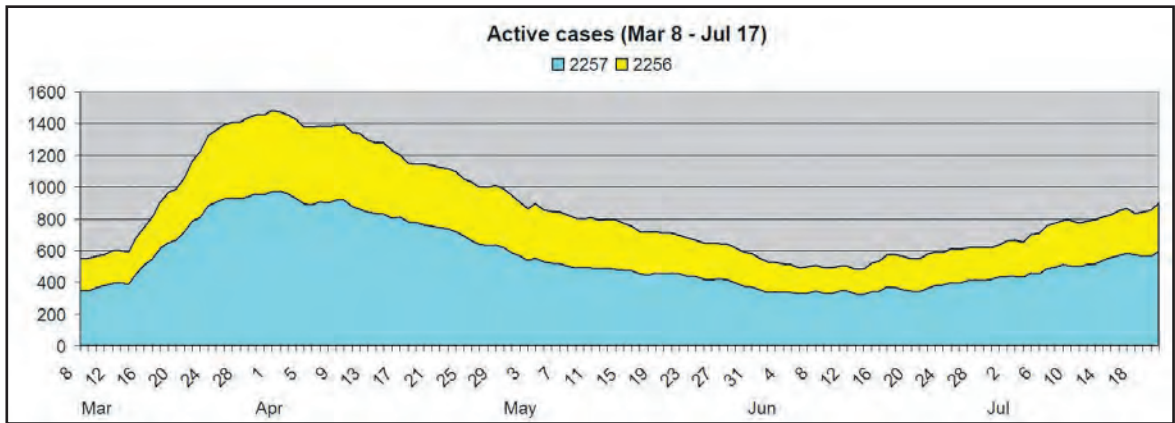
Often articles come from a number of sources. They are edited for readability and reader interest and given different headings, and consequently can be expressed quite differently from the source material.

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.



Case rate 20 per cent higher than region

Active coronavirus cases have continued to rise over the past two weeks with case numbers now standing at 948 or more than 2.0 per cent of the Peninsula population.

They have increased more than 20 per cent from 787 two weeks ago, according to the NSW Government's Covid data and statistics webpage.

Across the Central Coast, the active case rate is 1.6 per cent of the population, one fifth lower than on the Peninsula.

SOURCE:
Website, 23 Jul 2024
Covid data and statistics, NSW Government

Aged care home suffers virus outbreak

A Woy Woy aged care home has reported an outbreak of coronavirus in one of its wings.
Bluewave Living chief executive Mr Matt Downie said: "Unfortunately at The Shores, we have had a few more new cases over recent days.

"This area of BlueWave remains in effective lockdown whilst we manage this outbreak, and reduce risk of further spread.

"We continue to ask that visitors defer coming to see residents in The Shores – unless approved by the clinical management team.

"All residents who have currently tested positive for Covid have access to the Covid anti-viral medication, which has proven to be effective in minimising symptoms of Covid."

Mr Downie said: "We have had no new cases in Anzac wings now for some time, and there are currently no remaining positive cases either.

"Palm Sails wing also remains clear of any cases, as does our two Memory Support (dementia) wings.

"Visitors to any of these wings currently not impacted by Covid cases are allowed, in line with current guidelines, with a maximum of two adult visitors per day per resident.

"Other precautions remain in place such as a rapid test for all visitors on arrival and the wearing of masks.

"Visitors are not to attend at all if feeling unwell in any way, even with the mildest of symptoms of scratchy throat, headaches or runny nose.

"Visiting hours remain the same, from 10am to 4pm, seven days a week..

"Anyone wishing to book a video call, please email reception."

SOURCE:
Social media, 18 Jul 2022
Matt Downie, BlueWave Living

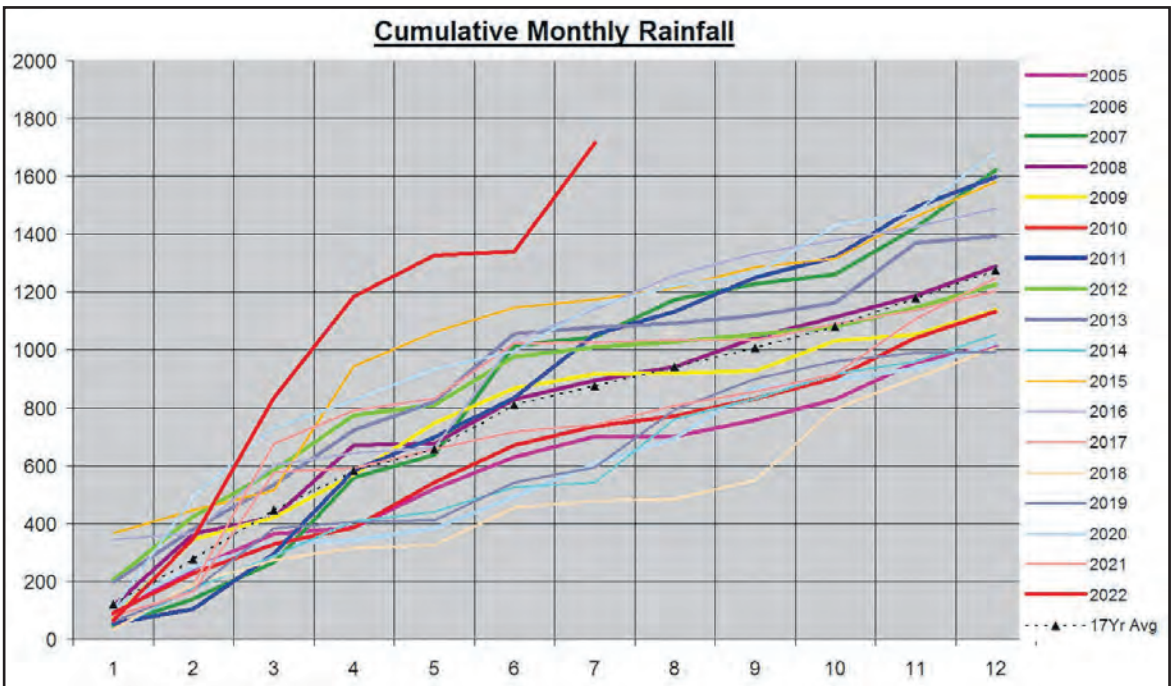
Boosters

Central Coast Health will provide Covid-19 vaccinations and boosters in Woy Woy on Wednesday, July 27.
They will be available at Woy Woy Community Health Centre, in the grounds of Woy Woy Public Hospital, between 11am and 5pm.

Pfizer vaccines will be available for all ages from five up.

No appointment is necessary.

SOURCE:
Social media, 14 Jul 2022
Central Coast Health



Wettest year recorded in 18 years

Falls of 91.9mm of rain in the last two weeks have brought the month's total for the Peninsula to 375.4mm, according to readings taken by Mr Jim Morrison of Umina.

The cumulative total for the year at the end of June at 1340.8 was already above the annual average of 1275mm.

The year's current total of 1716.2mm is now the highest in 18 years.

The greatest annual total recorded by Mr Morrison prior to this year was 1685.6mm recorded in 2020.

According to Bureau of Meteorology records from Everglades Country Club, only four years since 1965 have had higher totals, the highest being 1990 which had an annual total of 2119.5mm.

SOURCE:
Spreadsheet, 22 Jul 2022
Jim Morrison, Umina



Singers to hold concert

Pearl Beach Singers will hold a concert at the Pearl Beach community hall on Friday and Saturday, August 19 and 20.

It is described as a “Night of Song: A musical journey with a variety of local performers”.

Performances will be at 7:30pm on the Friday and 2:30pm on the Saturday, with doors opening 30 minutes before the performance.

“The Pearl Beach Singers are a group of Pearl Beach residents and friends who enjoy singing and wish to share their joy of song with the community in general,” said Ms Pauline Toohey.

“The Glee Club, as it was originally known, was started in 1950 in the era before television,

when families and friends made their own entertainment.

“Their performances included concerts with music, singing, comedy and sketches.

“This tradition continues today with locals continuing to display immense talent and deliver concerts that thrill and entertain the community.”

Adult tickets cost \$25 and may be booked online through the progress association website.

Cash tickets are available from Ms Toohey by phoning 0411 752 834.

With general enquiries, call 0401 968 947.

SOURCE:
Website, 11 Jul 2022
Pearl Beach Progress Association



Bruce Judd celebrates his 93rd birthday

The oldest member of the Rotary Club of Woy Woy, Mr Bruce Judd, recently had his 93rd birthday.

“At 93, it is difficult for him to get to Rotary, so Rotary went to him,” said branch president Ms Julie Jones.

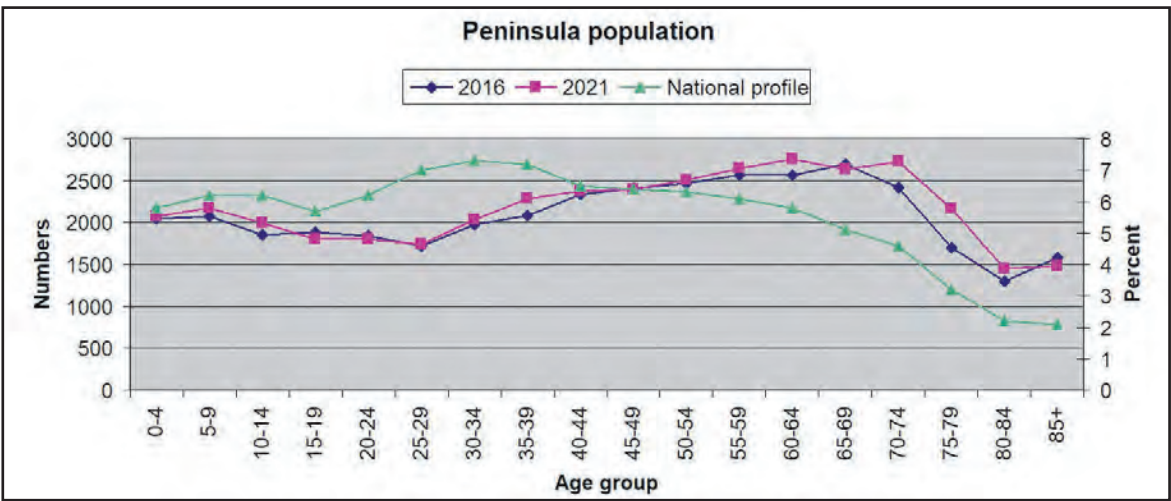
“How nice was it this morning to catch up with Bruce Judd for a

celebratory morning tea.

“It was a lovely morning and cake for his recent birthday went down a treat.

“It was our pleasure to come and visit.”

SOURCE:
Social media, 17 Jul 2022
Julie Jones, Rotary Club of Woy Woy



Census figures show increased skew to older age

Recently-released figures for the Peninsula from the 2021 Census show a relatively modest population growth rate of around four per cent in the last five years, compared to a national rate of 8.6 per cent.

Both population and dwelling numbers on the Peninsula have grown in the same proportion.

There continues to be a significantly higher number of older people than for NSW and nationally, with the numbers of 70-80 year olds increasing significantly.

The figures are for the Level 2 statistical areas for Woy Woy and Umina, which together comprise the Peninsula to its road boundaries at The Rip Bridge, Spike Milligan Bridge and Staples Lookout on Woy Woy Rd.

The figures show a lower number of married people and higher numbers of separated, divorced and widowed compared to 2016.

The Peninsula continues to be significantly under-represented in university student numbers, but have above-average participation in government primary and secondary schools and at TAFE.

We report a much higher level of Anglo-Celtic and Australian heritage than at a state or national level. Our aboriginal heritage is also higher than average.

More than three-quarters of us were born in Australia, 10 per cent

more than at a state or national level.

England is the next most common birth country, with five per cent of our population being born there - around twice the state and national averages.

Around 40 per cent of us say we have no religion, one third more than five years ago, and 10 per cent more than the national average.

About 21 per cent are Catholic on a par with state and national figures, but down by four per cent over five years.

Anglicans are the next most frequent at about 17 per cent, also down four per cent over five years, but much higher than the national figure of 10 per cent.

Most common languages spoken at home other than English include Spanish, Italian, Thai, Russian and Mandarin.

While incomes have increased by at least 20 per cent over five years, the averages remain at 83 per cent or less than the state and national averages.

Unpaid domestic work, child care and health, disability and aged care remain at around the national average, but involvement in voluntary groups has dropped four per cent to around 12 per cent.

Nationally, the figure is higher at 14.1 per cent, but down to three quarters of the level five years ago when voluntary involvement stood at 19 per cent.

The Peninsula has a high rate of chronic health issues, with around

50 per cent of the population affected.

Nationally, only 40 per cent of the population is affected by chronic health issues.

Rates of lung disease are 88 per cent higher than average.

Stroke and dementia are around two-thirds higher, and arthritis is 50 per cent higher than average.

Figures for six other conditions are 20 per cent or more higher than average.

Two thirds of us live in separate houses, close to the state average.

However, at 20 per cent, more of us live in semi-detached units and townhouses, almost twice state average of 11.7 per cent.

Around seven per cent of us live in flats and apartments, about half the national average and one third the state figure.

There are around 30 per cent more three bedroom homes than average, and around 30 per cent less homes with four or more bedrooms.

About 20 per cent more of us than average own our own home outright, and correspondingly fewer own a home with a mortgage.

The rental rate of around 33 per cent is close to the state average.

However, close to one half of renters are paying more than the affordability benchmark of 30 per cent of their income on rent, where around one third of people pay more than 30 per cent nationally.

SOURCE:
Website, 28 Jun 2022
QuickStats, Bureau of Statistics

EAT, DRINK AND PLAY AT THE WOY WOY HOTEL



JOIN US FOR BINGO!
Wednesday from 10am
pub cash to win!

DINE AT PELICAN'S RESTAURANT
\$15 menu available everyday for lunch & dinner



SIGN UP TO HARVEST GOLD FOR EXTRA BENEFITS & REWARDS

\$10 voucher, 5% off food & beverage, reward points for every dollar you spend, happy hour discounts & more!

(02) 4341 1013

33 THE BOULEVARDE, WOY WOY 2256

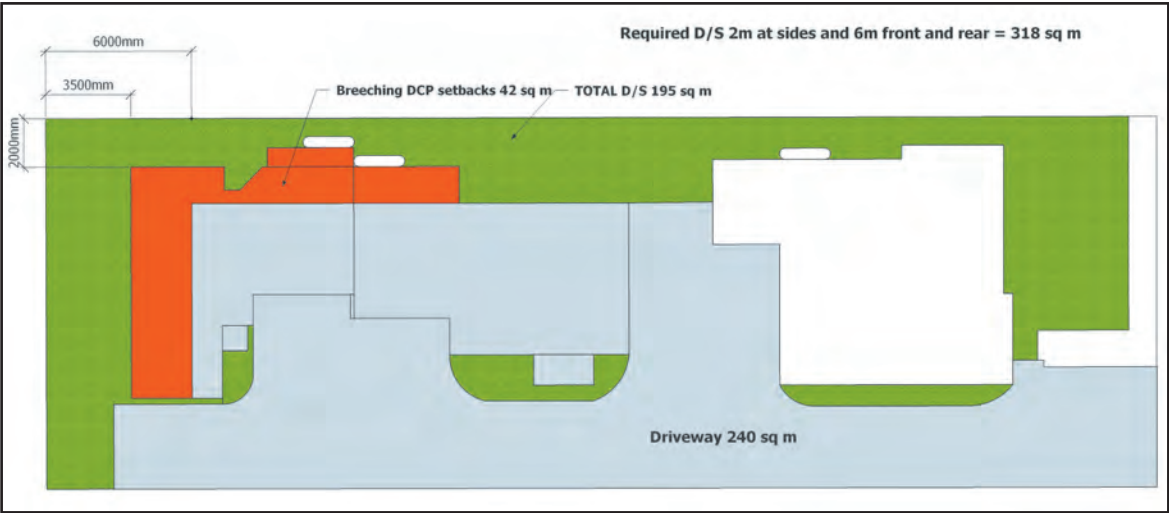
WOYWOYHOTEL.COM.AU

f

ig



Planning



Review of Paton St refusal sought

A review is being sought of the refusal by the Local Planning Panel of a development application seeking to build two units while retaining an existing house at 95 Paton St, Woy Woy.

Responding to objections raised by the panel, owner Mr Thomas Bowyer has amended the application to increase the deep soil area and landscaping.

Other changes include the partial demolition of the existing house.

In making the request for a review, Mr Bowyer stated: "The front landscaping-deep soil planting has been increased from 4.8m to 6.3m with 10 trees proposed.

"The landscaping-deep soil planting along the north-eastern boundary has been increased from one metre to 3.5 metres to accommodate 10 trees and continuous hedging for privacy.

"The landscaping-deep soil planting along the south western boundary has been partly increased from 0.3m to 0.6m to accommodate five trees and continuous hedging for privacy.

"The rear landscaping-deep soil planting has been increased from 3.2m to 3.5m to accommodate six trees and continuous hedging for privacy."

Mr Bowyer also changed the driveway design: "The proposed concrete driveway has been replaced by a grass paved driveway throughout the site.

"This means landscaping on the site has increased from 238.73sqm to 371.73sqm (53.34% of the site)," he said.

Mr Bowyer also noted the

considerable environmental benefits of retaining the major part of the existing dwelling, rather than demolishing and rebuilding.

The application also contained references to past decisions by Central Coast Council planning staff and legal proceedings in the Lands and Environment Court.

Mr Bowyer claimed that the Central Coast Council had virtually "abandoned the standard", perhaps implying that the council had been remiss in its legal responsibilities.

In the Panel's refusal of the application at its April 21 meeting, it stated that the applicant had not successfully made a case for exemption from provisions for "minimum lot sizes for attached dwellings, dual occupancies, multi dwelling housing and residential flat buildings".

The Panel referred to "environmental impact" that would result from the loss of deep soil area compared to what would be available with a larger lot size.

The Gosford Local Environment Plan which applies until August 1 mandates a minimum lot size of 750 square metres for a multi dwelling development where this lot is 698 square metres.

The new consolidated Central Coast Development Control Plan which comes into force on August 1 has virtually no controls in relation to deep soil.

The current plan mandates a minimum of two metres at side boundaries and six metres at front and back.

The new consolidated plan states that that at least "half of the landscaped area" must be deep soil.

However, it does not specify minimum areas of landscaping, rather "objectives".

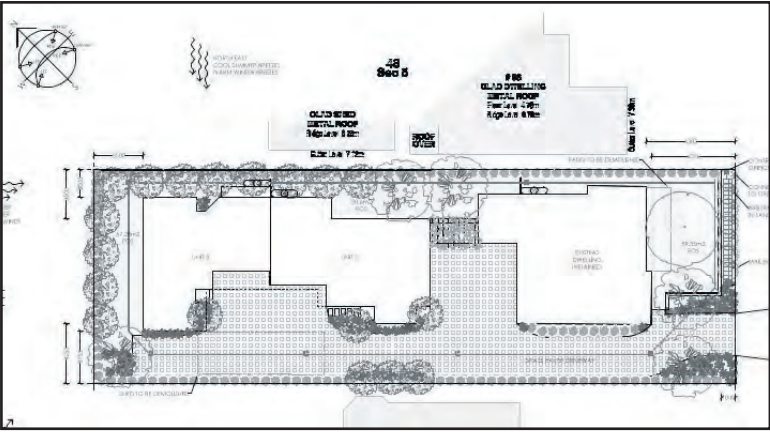
The new consolidated Local Environment Plan has removed the minimum lot size requirement altogether.

The rationale for this, as stated by the Central Coast Council, was that "there are enough controls in the DCP" in relation to this.

This application is currently on the Central Coast Council website and available for public exhibition and submissions until August 12.

This date was extended from July 22 due to late posting of some documents.

SOURCE:
DA Tracker, 22 Jul 2022
DA61493, Central Coast Council



ACF branch calls for Austin Butler sale to be rescinded

The Central Coast branch of the Australian Conservation Foundation has called on Central Coast Council to heed the information in the national State of the Environment Report, released on July 19, and rescind its planned sale of land at Austin Butler, Woy Woy.

Branch president Mr Mark Ellis said the report stated that "green and blue spaces" were considered "critical urban infrastructure" and that urban planners and governments should be increasing the extent of green spaces.

"Urban fragments of trees and land on Austin Butler Avenue must be retained as open space for nature and humans to coexist," said Mr Ellis.

"The release of the national state of the environment report highlights the failure to protect our environment.

"It is evident through this report the urgency to reduce urban heat, increase open space, and provide areas for trees and wildlife in urban settings."

He said the section of the report titled "Bringing nature and green

back" highlighted the growing recognition of the health and wellbeing benefits of being close to green spaces and biodiversity.

"Throughout this report, the urgency to reduce urban heat, increase open space, and provide spaces for trees and wildlife in urban settings is clear.

"Council has a chance to protect nature, reduce urban heat and keep open spaces by protecting the land at Austin Butler Ave from development," Mr Ellis said.

"Considering the financial position of the Council is regarded as much better, and the deficit of open space and tree canopy on the Woy Woy Peninsula continues, we request the Council cease any process of rezoning and withdraw the land from sale."

Mr Ellis said the council should not be expanding the commercial area of Woy Woy.

"At the moment, the compact city philosophy still holds as predominant planning principle to engage with climate change and urban development across urban design, transport, liveability and services for communities."

SOURCE:
Media release, 22 Jul 2022
Mark Ellis, ACF Central Coast

Petition started for Ettalong lighting

An Ettalong woman has started an online petition in an attempt to persuade Central Coast Council to install solar safety lighting on the Ettalong foreshore.

Ms Shery Stewart said she would like to see five safety lights on the promenade path and solar fairy lights in the three major tree trunks near the playground in front of the "Lest we forget" signs.

"This whole foreshore is in complete darkness from sundown, at a time when residents and tourists would like to enjoy the area, go to restaurants and cafes safely, and walk dogs and exercise for a few more hours after dark."

She said she had made a proposal to Central Coast Council with the support of the Peninsula Chamber of Commerce.

However, council staff had variously said the council had no money for them, that the lights would attract anti-social behaviour and that the council did not consider Ettalong to be a priority.

Ms Stewart said anti-social behaviour was happening now in Ettalong due to the absence of light, with the recent poisoning of banksia trees in front of the Atlantis being an example.

She said people working at the Diggers Club and the pharmacy could not walk safely along that area because it was "pitch black".

She said, if the council was paying \$1 million for solar lighting for tourist parks at Patonga Beach and Umina, it was warranted at Ettalong.

Ms Stewart, who runs an "I love Ettalong Beach" social media page, said a number of coastal towns had invigorated their foreshores with lighting and fairy lights.

Port Stephens was an example.

She said the lights could be on the beach side only, designed not to spill light and in keeping with the village character.

"The area has grown organically with cafes and pop-ups and is now the most densely populated area on the Central Coast.

"Lighting makes economic sense as well."

The petition for solar lighting on the Ettalong foreshore can be found at Change.org, and within a week of its launch had attracted more than 150 signatures.

"I want to see lights there by September, and make an event of it," said Ms Stewart.

SOURCE:
Media statement, 18 Jul 2022
Shery Stewart, Ettalong

Approval to remove 273 Peninsula trees

An analysis of applications to Central Coast Council has shown approvals have been granted for the removal of 273 trees on the Peninsula since the start of 2020.

While the detail was not provided in many cases, permits frequently appeared to be for the removal of mature local native species, including for 40 eucalypts, for 25 angophora floribunda and

for eight angophora costata.

Approval was given for the removal of 10 melaleuca quinquenervia paperbarks, as well as seven glochidion ferdinandi cheese trees.

Of non-native species, jacarandas appeared to be the most common, with 25 approvals.

In the same period, the council has approved 14 multi-dwelling developments for the Peninsula containing a total of 48 units.

It has also approved 15 development applications for dual occupancies.

Details of the data extracted from the council planning portal can be found on the Peninsula News website at <http://peninsula.news/portal.aspx>, which allows applications to be listed by approved status.

SOURCE:
Website, 21 Jul 2022
Peninsula planning portal,
Peninsula News

Council to discuss youth in community life

Central Coast Council is holding a Peninsula Youth Discussion “to discuss ways of including young people in community life”.

Council staff are “facilitating a youth-based discussion alongside key organisations and services in the Peninsula area ... to help make a positive impact on anti-social behaviour in the area”.

“Council is aware of reported anti-social behaviour around the Peninsula Recreation Precinct in particular, that is impacting some local businesses and residents,” according to council unit manager Mr Phil Cantillon.

“The aim of the discussion is to

strategically look for a collaborative approach to the issues, with agreed plans and actions.

“We would like to invite you to join in the strategic discussions to collaboratively explore solutions for local organisations and services to assist young people.”

The discussion will “initially be focused on the Peninsula” and will be held on Thursday, August 4.

Those interested in attending should register their interest via email to teresa.Bertoldi@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au.

SOURCE:
Email, 13 Jul 2022
Phil Cantillon, Central Coast Council



Brigade members help a neighbour

After assisting with flood relief efforts in past weeks, members of the The Bays Rural Fire Brigade were able to lend some local assistance helping a neighbour getting a car out of a boggy verge recently.

Shortly afterwards they assisted another local resident in changing a tyre blown out by a pothole.

Later, they found a “lovely note” on the brigade’s whiteboard and some chocolate to share.

SOURCE:
Social media, 16 Jul 2022
The Bays Rural Fire Brigade

Retired principal stands for Legislative Council

Retired school principal Ms Gab McIntosh, of Woy Woy, has announced she will be standing as an independent candidate for the Legislative Council at next year’s state election.

Ms McIntosh said she was motivated by “the dreadful mess that education has become in NSW”.

Ms McIntosh was principal of the Eagle Arts and Vocational College, which had a campus at Kincumber.

She said her school for school refusers was closed in 2018, even though it had passed a full inspection in July 2017.

“Thirty kids, school refusers, with no where to go, were simply tossed onto the streets of the Central Coast when Eagle Arts was closed by the NSW Education and Standards Authority. “These were kids trying hard to give schooling a chance.

“Of course none of them ever went near a school again.”



She said that Central Coast Members of State Parliament Mr David Harris, Ms Leisl Tesch, and Mr Adam Crouch did nothing to help.

“Research now says 50 per cent of teachers were keen to leave the profession and they cite ridiculous amounts of paper work, as a reason.

“Most people don’t know that

this paper work has nothing to do with the welfare of their kids.

“It is just bureaucratic nonsense. “Teachers are the new second class citizens,” says Ms McIntosh.

“And then there is TAFE.

“Successive governments have reduced TAFE to a skeleton.

“TAFE used to be a terrific provider of free quality education for both kids and adults, particularly those looking to improve their reading and writing or move to a better job in the work force.

“Not anymore. TAFE has been squashed as private providers have been elevated, but they only do a quarter as good a job,” Ms McIntosh said.

“No wonder so many do not want to vote for the major parties anymore.

“They feel betrayed by both Labor and the Liberals.”

Ms McIntosh was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in 2007 for her work in education.

SOURCE:
Media release, 19 Jul 2022
Gab McIntosh, Woy Woy

Umina man wins \$2.6 million

A Umina man has won \$2.6 million in a prize draw at Ettalong last Wednesday, July 20.

He held a Keno Classic 10 Spot winning entry in draw 699 and took home a prize of \$2,632,443.40.

His entry was purchased at the Ettalong Bowling Club.

“I was on my way home from the club and my brother called me and said someone has just won \$2.6 million on Keno.

“When I got home I checked my entry and realised that I’d won.

“I’d be lying if I said it didn’t send me into shock.”

Ettalong Bowling Club manager Mr Steve Bowie said the team felt

like they’d won the incredible prize themselves.

“It’s absolutely incredible to think that \$2.6 million was won in our bowling club,” he said.

“We’ve never seen a win like this here.”

SOURCE:
Media release, 21 Jul 2022
James Eddy, Keno

Missing children found safe and well

Three children missing from Umina have been located safe and well.

The children, aged 9, 8 and 5, went missing from Lakeview Rd, Umina, around 11.15am on Saturday, July 16, according to police.

After failing to return home, officers attached to Brisbane Water Police District and commenced inquiries to locate them.

Police made a public appeal and sent an SMS geo-targetted alert.

Highway Patrol officers found

the children in the company of their father, when they stopped a vehicle on the Pacific Highway, south of Emerald Beach at Coffs Harbour, about 7.30am on Monday, July 18.

SOURCE:
Media release, 18 Jul 2022
Media unit, NSW Police



Central Coast Friends of Democracy

ADVERTISEMENT

ICAC raises questions about the integrity of pork barrelling

On 3 June 2022 the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) held a Forum to examine the practice of pork barrelling, including whether it is lawful and ethical and whether it could constitute corrupt conduct.

The Guardian reported the outgoing ICAC chief, Peter Hall QC, telling the forum that the NSW Stronger Communities fund was on the “other side of the line” of what was permissible. This is particularly relevant to the Central Coast and the council merger process.

The \$252 million Stronger Communities fund was originally designed to help councils that amalgamated with the costs of merging. Mr. Hall referred the fund as an example of pork barrelling, where “almost its sole motive was political”. (The Guardian, 3/6/22).

In a 2018 briefing note, Berejiklian’s staff wrote that they were “working to get the cash out the door in the most politically advantageous way” (The Guardian, 3/6/22).

Perhaps the most notorious use of the Stronger Communities Fund was the awarding of \$90million to Hornsby Council—which wasn’t amalgamated.

There were no assessments and no guidelines - projects were identified by staffers in the offices of the Premier and Deputy Premier. These staffers asked government MPs to propose projects for funding.

The Central Coast was cited as an example of how this worked. In a parliamentary inquiry, a staffer from the Deputy Premier’s office described the process of identifying projects:

[T]he office ... spoke to local MPs about putting forward projects. A number of projects were put forward from the local member, Mr Crouch, and those were passed on to the Office of Local Government, as requested

In February 2022, the NSW Audit Office found that the assessment and approval processes for this program lacked integrity.

The Report from the NSW Audit Office listed twenty-

five projects on the Central Coast provided with a total of \$5,500,520. Of these 25 projects, 21 were located in the State electoral seat of Terrigal.

There is no doubt that most, if not all, projects and groups receiving funding are worthy - however, that is not the core issue. At question is the governance, probity and integrity of public processes and our politicians, at all levels.

What do you think about the future of our council ?



Complete our survey at:
www.surveymonkey.com/r/CCC_merger_or_demerge

Forum

Feature native vegetation for a better business plan

I refer to the alleged unauthorised poisoning of the majestic coastal banksias near the Atlantis Building at Ettalong.

There's always a reason (as pathetic as it may be) for such an extreme and illegal act.

You've got to ask why take such a risk of being caught for this type of criminal activity.

Is it to have a clear view of the beach by a selfish home owner or a commercial development?

Maybe they need to clear the land for more car parking along the beachfront.

So who will benefit from this action?

This will turn our beautiful waterfront into another Gold Coast or worse - a Rhodes by the Sea, if allowed. (Apologies to the good people of Rhodes.)

Residents and tourists don't want that.

A better business plan, to entice tourists to our wonderful beaches and unique coastal townships, would be to enhance the beauty of our coastline and not denude its precious greenspace.

Some Councils do this well, eg Cairns Council.

Just have a look at the beachside township of Palm Cove and how they worked around the natural vegetation by deliberately allowing some of the trees to be merged into the infrastructure.

To walk down their main shopping strip as a visitor is a delight passing various shops,

restaurants, holiday apartments and other tourist attractions lined with an avenue of large melaleucas, tall palm trees and many other tropical plants.

They even bend the escarpment pavement around their trees.

This clever development has a charm of old and new stylish architecture looking out through these magnificent trees.

It created or kept a unique experience that the locals, business houses and tourists embrace.

Central Coast Council and its administrator Mr Rik Hart please take note.

In our case, the council is on the verge of going down the wrong track by allowing some hideous developments, which are potential slums.

Development is fine and necessary.

But for goodness sake, consult with an architect whose brief is to capture and enhance a similar style and character of that era of our unique townships (like Ettalong).

Blending infrastructure, old and new, and the waterfront with existing old growth trees is not hard to do.

All the big players will still make money and everybody will benefit and be proud to work and live in a well-designed environment.

So we the people, ratepayers, want some answers in the investigation of this vandalism.

Who poisoned these trees and

why?

Until then, Central Coast Council could put in place of the dead trees a shipping container (or two), to hopefully discourage vandalism of this sort, just like other councils have done with some success.

Some of these banksias take hundreds of years to grow to this height, so you might have to leave the containers there for a long time.

You could consign a local artist to paint the containers with local flora just to soften the look until replaced with trees of equal species and height.

At least install some CCTV cameras for safety and security purposes.

These trees not only beautify the foreshore, provide shade, attract birds and habitat for wildlife, but are crucial and a cheaper alternative to the stability of the beachfront against coastal erosion.

Climate changes are real and storms and large wave surges are becoming more frequent and regularly impacting coastal foreshores and infrastructures.

We should be planting more trees on waterfronts instead of sneaking around like a rat in the night killing them.

One thinks of the legend of the Lost City of Atlantis sliding into the sea.

Hopefully that will not happen in our case.

SOURCE:
Email, 13 Jul 2022
Barry Macdonald, Umina

Council should have started work on rock pool safety

I am writing to you to express my concern of the unsafe access to Pearl Beach rock pool.

As a life member of the Umina Blue Swimmers Winter Swimming Club, we have been frequently utilising the facility at Pearl Beach since our establishment in 1968.

Over the years, the access to the pool has become unsafe due to the nature of the surface being compromised by its surroundings, which makes its inaccessible to not only our members but the broader community who wish to use the pool.

I am urging the community to get behind this project as I am a firm believer that the pool should be enjoyed by all without the risk of injuring themselves in the process.

We have had several members be injured by falling over on the slippery rock surface, and many members not being able to continue to swim with us as they cannot safely get to the pool.

We have approached the council who advised that a study had been done to upgrade the safe access to the pool and funds were allocated to carry out the project 16 months ago.

However no action has been taken to date.

A local company has confirmed that the study was in fact carried out and was assured that the

money would be put aside to commence the work.

However the council is yet to act.

In the interest of safety for the broader community, I want to shed light on the matter to make people aware of this issue.

I am a firm believer that, as the study was completed, this work should have already been commenced by the council to protect the community from harm when trying to access a heritage listed site.

I have also approached the Pearl Beach Progress Association who are in full support of this venture, as their aging population simply can't get across the current state of the surface to access the facility.

Please get behind us and support our local community to rectify this issue.

SOURCE:
Email, 14 Jul 2022
Robert E Lee, Ettalong

Will unenviable history repeat itself?

The Woy Woy Waterfront Masterplan has a similar history to Gosford Council's Sustainable Event Management Policy of May 2011.

This policy was rejected by the public because the policy did not address sustainability.

The questions raised by the public in 2011 are the same questions again in terms of process and local government administration.

Numerous attempts were made by residents to change the council's process in 2011 to no avail.

Will the process change from 2011 or does the same faulty process endure at this amalgamated council?

If the same drawn out process applied to the event management policy is repeat, residents can be expected to have the same reaction.

The Sustainable Event Management Policy has an unenviable history.

SOURCE:
Letter, 22 Jul 2022
Norm Harris, Umina

Expressions of interest

Committee member

The Peninsula's Own News Service Inc

Peninsula News is owned and run as a community service by a voluntary non-profit community group, The Peninsula's Own News Service Inc.

The challenges of running a local newspaper have increased as regionalism and digitalisation increase and as involvement in the local community through voluntary activity declines.

A recent Federal Parliamentary committee inquiry into the future of regional newspapers has recognised their social importance, and the need for them to show "resilience and innovation" and to "identify and implement alternative, sustainable business models".

From the start, Peninsula News has taken this approach and now seeks to build on its strengths and achievements for its second 25 years of operation.

We are seeking expressions of interest from people of any age to help provide the strategic direction which will enable the newspaper fulfill its aims:

- to provide a comprehensive news coverage of community life and forum for Peninsula residents
- to support and encourage active interest and participation in the community, including in the production of Peninsula News, and
- to strengthen the social fabric, the sense of belonging and health of the community

We know there are many talented people in our community, some of whom have retired to the Peninsula, and we ask you to consider contributing to the future of Peninsula News as a member of the association committee.

Please email editor@peninsula.news by August 17

Peninsula News

Community Access

A voluntary non-profit community service

Public Notices

Car Boot Sale

Woy Woy Peninsula Lions Club

Jul 31

7am to 1pm

Great variety of stalls ~ BBQ, Tea & Coffee.

Vendors Welcome ~ \$20 per car

Dunban Road Car Park

NB stall sites not open until 6.30am

Cnr. Ocean Beach Road Woy Woy

Always Last Sunday (no events in December)

Enq: 0478 959 895

Electrician

- Solar faults and repairs for home, boat and van
- General electrical repairs
- Hot water repairs
- Surge protection
- TV antenna repairs

ELECTROSUN Umina Beach

0477 911 724

Electrical Contractor Lic 93891C

Clean Energy Council Accredited

Office Services

- Print - copy - scan
- Email - fax
- Inks - toners
- Laminating - binding
- General stationery
- Custom stamps
- Passport - photo IDs
- Business machines

PENINSULAR OFFICE SUPPLIES

so much more than a stationery store!

296 West St, Umina Beach

02 4342 2150 info@penoff.com.au

Handyman/ Carpenter

40 years' experience

Fully-insured tradesman

All work considered

Pensioner discounts

Use a tradesman who knows what he's doing

0414 698 097

Trees planted in Lone Pine Ave for National Tree Day

The Grow Urban Shade Trees group celebrated National Tree Day on Sunday, July 24, planting street trees in Lone Pine Ave.

The group purchased the trees of species stipulated by Central Coast Council.

Council identified the locations along Lone Pine Ave where trees could be planted, and 41 residents were invited to have a tree planted on their verge if they were willing to care for it.

Of these, 15 residents took up the offer.

Group member Ms Deb Sunartha said the group was encouraged by the residents offering to care for a tree, recognising their contribution to a more liveable environment for future generations to enjoy.

She said reasons given for choosing not to have a tree included concerns about leaf drop, the possible impact on their lawns, a dislike of trees and needing their verge for car parking.

Ms Sunartha said the group was wanting to offset the huge loss of mature shade and habitat trees that the Peninsula has suffered.

"Our council planners have approved the removal of 253 trees since the start of 2020, as a direct result of development applications



for multi villa, secondary dwellings and new house builds,.

"If this rate of tree removals continues, many locals fear that the Peninsula will see even hotter summers, disappearing bird life, shadeless walks, poor air quality and less liveable conditions."

She said the Greener Places Strategy adopted by the council recommended the retention of trees to protect our environment and ensure sustainable development. "This strategy is being ignored."

Group founder Ms Jen Wilder said: "What prompted us to select

Lone Pine Ave for our National Tree event was the tree loss that resulted from the new Lone Pine Plaza development.

"Shade trees must be installed here to offset that loss and reduce urban heat."

"We hope that this project will inspire other Peninsula residents to plant a native tree in their yard or verge to increase canopy cover and enhance our local area."

Email gust@peg.org.au for tree suggestions.

SOURCE:
Media release, 24 Jul 2022
Deb Sunartha, GUST

Council planting event

Central Coast Council will be celebrating National Tree Day with a "planting event" on the dunes at Umina Beach from 9am to noon on Sunday, July 31.

"The event at Umina Beach will be aimed at revegetating the coastal dunes," said acting environment director Mr David Milliken..

"Dune vegetation plays an important role in our coastal environments as it reduces the impacts of wind and water erosion, meaning less sand will be blown on to roads and into properties,

and less sand lost during high seas and large swells.

"By restoring the dunes at Umina Beach, it will also provide habitat and a food source for many local species of small birds and local fauna native to the region.

"In the long term, established native vegetation helps prevent other unwanted species, such as exotics and environmental weeds like bitou bush, from thriving in sand dunes."

Residents should meet at end of Trafalgar Ave at 9am.

SOURCE:
Media release, 20 Jul 2022
David Milliken, Central Coast Council



Truck dumps garbage

A garbage truck dumped its load in Ettalong last week after it caught alight.

The rubbish was dumped on the road shoulder at the corner of Picnic Pde and Fassifern St, Ettalong.

The fire was extinguished by

Fire and Rescue NSW.

The rubbish was cleaned up later in the day.

SOURCE:
Social media, 19 Jul 2022
NSW Central Coast Incident Alerts, News & Information
Photo: Anton Kuzevski



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



Surf clubs hold pool rescue championships

Nearly 250 athletes from 25 surf life saving clubs across the state took part in the NSW Pool Rescue Championships at the Peninsula Leisure Centre last weekend.

Making its return to the Surf Life Saving NSW surf sports calendar after a two-year Covid-forced hiatus, the championships offered the state's best surf swimmers a test their technical skills in a unique setting.

"Events are based around speed and the ability to use that speed in a rescue, with obstacles and weighted items in place of real-life patients," said Surf Life Saving NSW director of surf sports Mr Don van Keimpema.

"The Pool Rescue Championships is a really unique event.

"It's not like anything else on our

calendar and it allows athletes and competitors to really focus on the skills required to save a life.

"It's not necessarily about being the fastest swimmer or the most athletic competitor.

"I think that's what makes it such an interesting event."

"It's so important in the off-season to be keeping active and working on our skills.

"The Pool Rescue Championships provides an excellent platform for volunteers to practice their skills in a competitive environment that we find brings out the best in everyone."

Events included line throw, obstacle races, and manikin and brick carry and relays.

Competing clubs included Ocean Beach and Umina.

SOURCE:

Media release, 20 Jul 2022
Surf Life Saving NSW



League Tag win against Terrigal

Woy Woy Junior Rugby League Football Club's girls League Tag Team 1 had a 24-10 win against Terrigal Black on Saturday.

SOURCE:

Social media, 23 Jul 2022, Woy Woy Junior RLFC

'Reserves win Terrigal game

Woy Woy Roosters won its reserves game 22-14 against Terrigal in the round 11 rugby league game played on July 17.

In the same round, First Grade lost to Terrigal 54-16, Under-19s lost 38-4 and LLT Lost 54-0.

SOURCE:

Social media, 17 Jul 2022
Woy Woy Roosters RLFC

Round one defeats in pennant competition

Umina Beach Men's Bowling Club has been defeated in round one of both Division Three and Division Four Pennant competition played on July 16.

Umina lost to Gosford 39-62

in Division Three, and Umina Blue lost to Ettalong Red 53-81 in Division Four (pictured).

Umina Red had a bye in Division Four.

SOURCE:

Social media, 16 Jul 2022
Peter Springett, Umina Beach Men's Bowling Club



Umina women finally complete Major Singles

The Major Singles were finally completed at Umina Beach Women's Bowling Club on Tuesday, July 12, after postponements due to weather.

The final was played between Aileen Robertson (above left) and Yvonne Austin (above right).

Neither had won the event before.

Aileen got off to a good start but Yvonne fought back and stayed within touch until Aileen shot ahead with a run of multiple scores, taking out the match.

SOURCE:

Website, 14 Jul 2022
Umina Beach Women's Bowling Club

Roosters to hold Old Boys Day

Woy Woy Roosters Rugby League Football Club is holding an Old Boys Day on Sunday, July 31.

All past players, friends and families have been invited to the game on July 31 and then to spin a yarn or two in the Roosters Perch Bar about the old days.

Games start 9am, with the First Grade game at 2:30pm

The clubs has asked anyone with photos of our past players to send them in.

It has asked past players, family members and club supporters to look through their photos.

"It would be great to see the clubhouse turned into a walk down memory lane for everyone."

SOURCE:

Social media, 15 Jul 2022
Woy Woy Roosters RLFC

Softball registrations open

Peninsula Ducks Softball Club is accepting registrations for the 2022-23 summer season.

"The registration button has been turned on and we can now accept registrations," said president Ms Di Barrymore.

"Click on the link to the registration page on our website.

"If you are using an Active Kids Voucher or the discount voucher, you will need to have them at the ready as it will need to be input during the registration process.

"If you do not add it at the time of registering you will be required

to pay the full registration fee."

With queries, phone Di on 0409 125 250 or email peninsuladuckssoftball@yahoo.com.

SOURCE:

Social media, 15 Jul 2022
Di Barrymore, Peninsula Ducks Softball Club

President's Cup attracts 11 bridge pairs

Eleven pairs contested the Brisbane Water Bridge Club President's Cup held on Thursday, July 14.

The Novice-Restricted pairing of Lynne Rainford and Hilary Owen, pictured right, topped the podium.

They left grand masters Noel and Shirley Crockett a good two per cent behind.

With a 61 per cent score card, they could easily have won on many other days. Long standing duo Hope Tomlinson and Barry Foster finished third.

Results were

1 Lynne Rainford, Hilary Owen 146.7 (61.11 per cent), 0.60 red points.

2 Noel Crockett, Shirley Crockett 143.3 (59.72), 0.42.

3 Barry Foster, Hope Tomlinson



129.0 (53.75), 0.30.

4 Christine Hadaway, Chris Hannan 128.9 (53.70), 0.20.

5 Karen Ody, Jim Routledge 126.7 (52.78), 0.15.

6 Geoffrey Maltby, Edith Marshall 120.0 (50.00).

7 Susan McCall, Pamela Joseph 117.8 (49.07).

8 Elaine Hume, Peter Hume

111.1 (46.30).

9 Marilyn Whigham, Judy Wulff 107.8 (44.91).

10 Alison Mackey, Helen White 106.7 (44.44).

11 Marcelle Goslin, Ron Meaney 81.1 (33.80).

SOURCE:

Website, 15 Jul 2022
Brisbane Water Bridge Club