

Peninsula News

Community Access

EDITION 564

THE PENINSULA'S OWN NEWS SERVICE INC

6 MARCH 2023



Pictured from left are Peninsula Residents Association representative Mr Michael Wilder, former Member for Gosford Ms Marie Andrews, current Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch and Chamber of Commerce president Mr Matthew Wales.

Call for council to reconsider carpark sale

A group of Peninsula community representatives has called on Central Coast Council to reconsider its decision to sell the Woy Woy commuter carpark.

The group includes Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch, former Member for Gosford Ms Marie Andrews, the Peninsula Chamber of Commerce and the Peninsula Residents Association.

Central Coast Council resolved on Tuesday night to begin the negotiations to sell off the Woy Woy Commuter carpark and its rights to expansion.

The resolution allowed Council chief executive Mr David Farmer to negotiate the sale of the 700 space car park at 93 Blackwall Rd with Queensland developer Raptis.

He will also negotiate the sale of Council's \$1 option for an additional 220 car spots in December 2032.

Ms Tesch said the decision was made with no consultation with local residents, community groups, the Peninsula Chamber of Business or herself.

"This decision is bad for commuters, shoppers and our community. It is short-sighted to hand a hugely valuable publicly-owned asset and our rights to its expansion over to a private developer for a short-term revenue hit", said Ms Tesch.

"Our community stands united in opposition to this decision by Council and we call upon Council Administrator Rik Hart to reconsider this short-term decision

about this long-term community asset.

"We know that putting a public asset into the hands of one private provider has had disastrous consequences for electricity and toll roads, so why would car parks be any different?"

"This developer will only pay once but our community will be paying forever."

Ms Andrews said that in her last term the then-Labor Government committed \$19.8 million to upgrade the carpark, increasing its capacity by 300.

"As the former Member, I am outraged about the suggestion that this car park is sold off," said Ms Andrews.

"This was a big investment by a former State Labor Government of nearly \$20 million to create more publicly owned parking spaces, not only for commuters but for shoppers as well.

"It's a shame on Council for thinking of selling it and I urge all local residents to get behind this campaign to save it from privatisation."

Chamber of Commerce president Mr Matthew Wales said: "There was no warning that Council was going to sell off the commuter car park.

"There was no dialogue. The problem is the lack of community consultation."

"This is all about Council's balance sheet and dumping a depreciating asset to improve their financial position.

"They were not concerned

about how our community local businesses would feel about this.

"That's unacceptable. We need to know what the sale price is, whether commuters and shoppers are protected in the future and if Raptis would charge for parking in the future."

"There has been no transparency whatsoever."

"This is all subject to confidentiality, so we don't know how that value is being determined and that is of great concern."

"For such a valuable community asset, we need to ensure the ratepayer gets good value for their dollar."

Speaking on behalf of the Peninsula Residents Association, Mr Michael Wilder said he would not be happy if the carpark was sold.

"Our community wants to know what's going on."

In a statement issued by the association vice-president Mr Julian Bowker said: "This decision seems to have been made in a rush, without any community consultation."

"There was only four days notice of this proposal created by Council staff."

"This was subsequently supported by the Administrator in spite of public objection delivered on the night of the Council decision via the only available channel – a three-minute address."

SOURCE:
Media release, 2 Mar 2023
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford

COUNCIL TO SELL CARPARK - Page 8

Dog owners urged to remain vigilant for baits

The Pearl Beach Progress Association is urging dog owners across the Peninsula to remain vigilant after suspected poisonous baits were found at Pearl Beach and an off-leash area of Umina Beach.

In the week following the baiting of a locally-owned dog at Pearl Beach three weeks ago, residents found a number of baits at Pearl Beach and at Umina Beach.

The association co-ordinated a search by 25 local residents to clean up the beach and surrounding parkland.

Baits were found in several areas, with a dozen baits found in just one day, according to association president Ms Karina Stafford.

Residents reported dead wildlife including birds, snake and rats.

The dog which took the initial bait, a cavoodle named Minnie, was out for a walk with owner Ms Catherine Hyland.

The dog was rushed to the vet, accruing a bill of more than \$5000.

"She nearly died, and most certainly would have, had she not received immediate very expensive veterinary care," said Ms Stafford.

"Her treatment will be ongoing for some time."

"Fortunately it seems she may have been the only dog who has suffered, but the impact on her and her owner has been enormous."

Ms Stafford has set up a crowdfunding page to raise money to help cover Minnie's vet's bills: <https://gofund.me/c4479fb5>

SOURCE:
Media release, 20 Feb 2023
Lynne Lillico, Pearl Beach Progress Association

Produced on the Peninsula

Peninsula news & advertising for the Peninsula community

A sense of belonging in our community

Peninsula News is our local community newspaper, and has been for 24 years.

It aims to contribute to a warm and welcoming community, where residents take an active interest and participate in community activities.

We hope to foster a sense of belonging and well-being within the community.

We are keen to help publicise the activities of Peninsula community groups and to celebrate the achievements of their members.

We would like to see the Peninsula community have the opportunity to get behind its sporting teams and community groups.

Whether your group is wanting more members or players, or seeking support in other ways, we are here to help.

If your club or group would like

to talk about ways your group might get your message out through Peninsula News, please get in touch.

If you would like us to speak to your committee or your members about how Peninsula News works and how it can encourage participation in your activities, please let us know.

Mark Snell, 8 Jan 2023



DOWNLOAD this issue. SCAN here.

Next issue: Monday, March 20

Call us on 4342 5333
Email: contributions@peninsula.news

Peninsula News

Community Access

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

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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.

Performers' night and house concert

The Troubadour Folk Club will hold a performers' night at 7pm next Saturday, March 11, at the Empire Bay Progress Hall.

It will hold a house concert with English folk singer Martin Wyndham-Read the following Saturday, March 18.

"The performers' night is an opportunity for our Troubadour regulars and local people to perform longer sets in front of a supportive audience in a lovely hall and a cafe style setting," said organiser Mr Hugh Worrall.

"There are still some 15-minute slots available to perform but you have to book in beforehand.

"Or you can perform one song, poem or story on the blackboard part of the program by letting us know when you arrive on Saturday night."

Tea, coffee and biscuits are available for a gold coin donation, but patrons are encouraged you to bring your their snacks and drinks to enjoy at their table.

Entry costs \$10.

Call MaryAnne on 0407 917 117 to book a spot or Hugh on 0402

529 474.

The house concerts with Martyn Wyndham-Read will be held in a private house by the Woy Woy waterfront.

"These concerts are special events bringing some of the most respected traditional folk touring artists to Woy Woy," said Mr Worrall.

The address will be supplied after booking at: <https://www.trybooking.com/CFQFW>

SOURCE:
Media release, 1 Mar 2023
Hugh Worrall, Troubadour Folk Club

Free 'life writing' workshop at Woy Woy library

A free Life Writing Workshop will be held at Woy Woy Library between 10am and 1pm starting on Friday, March 17.

The workshop is described as a "community storytelling project that develops true stories from older writers and connects them with young artists to illustrate".

"The first workshop will help you reflect on your experiences and craft stories that crackle with truth and life," according to presenter Ms Adrienne Ferreira from Bravewords..

"In the weeks following, you'll be invited to join a guided writing group to develop a story for

publication.

"Your story will be illustrated by a local emerging artist and these collaborations will culminate in an exhibition showcasing true stories from our region."

The workshop aims to provide the company of other writers and build writing confidence in a supportive atmosphere.

Bookings for the free event are essential.

Further information is available from Woy Woy library or by phone on 4304 7555.

SOURCE:
Website, 1 Mar 2023
Woy Woy Library, Central Coast Council

Disco, barbecue and raffle

Ettalong Public School's parents' and citizens' association has held its first meeting for the year.

The association will be supporting the school's first disco of the year on March 8, the Election Barbecue and the Easter raffle.

Volunteers are wanted to help out at any of these activities and in the canteen and uniform shop.

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 21 Feb 2023
Jodie Campbell, Ettalong Public School

Month's rainfall was one third average

Rainfall on the Peninsula during February was around one third of the average, according to figures supplied by Mr Jim Morrison of Umina.

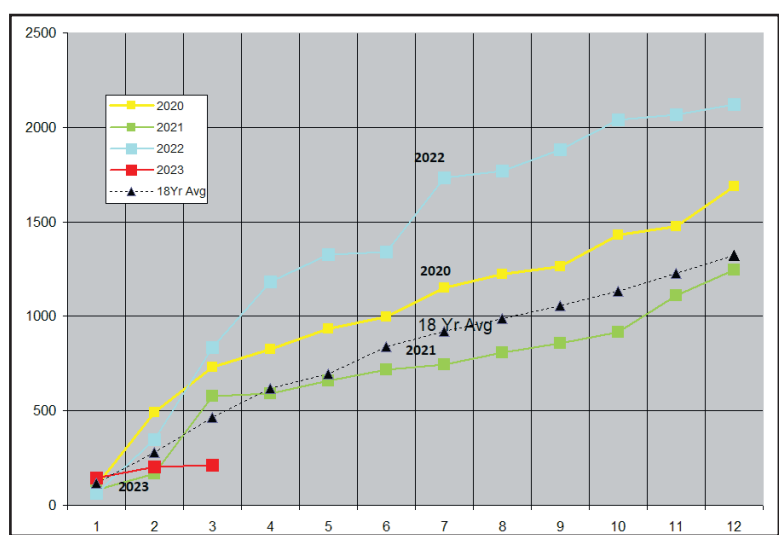
A total of 61.5mm was recorded for the month, 38 per cent of the month's average of 162mm.

It was less than half the month's median rainfall over 19 years of 138mm.

Of the total, 22mm or about one third was recorded on just one day, Wednesday, February 22.

The next highest daily total was 7.7mm on February 9, with only three other days recording more than five millimetres.

The year's cumulative total at the end of February was 203.9mm,



73 per cent of the average figure of 279mm.

SOURCE:
Spreadsheet, 3 Mar 2023
Jim Morrison, Umina

TIDE TIMES and Heights	Mon, Mar 6	Thu, Mar 9	Sun, Mar 12	Wed, Mar 15	Sat, Mar 18
	0244 0.17	0443 0.13	0022 0.97	0302 1.02	0638 1.18
	0857 1.06	1042 1.05	0653 0.22	1016 0.27	1344 0.14
	1546 0.12	1716 0.10	1240 0.84	1549 0.66	1929 0.83
	2137 0.80	2309 0.92	1845 0.20	2118 0.31	
	Tue, Mar 7	Fri, Mar 10	Mon, Mar 13	Thu, Mar 16	Sun, Mar 19
	0324 0.14	0523 0.15	0106 0.99	0416 1.05	0109 0.21
	0931 1.08	1118 0.99	0747 0.25	1138 0.24	0737 1.24
	1616 0.10	1745 0.13	1330 0.75	1715 0.68	1434 0.10
	2206 0.84	2345 0.95	1921 0.24	2239 0.31	2019 0.92
AT ETTALONG	Wed, Mar 8	Sat, Mar 11	Tue, Mar 14	Fri, Mar 17	Mon, Mar 20
	0403 0.13	0606 0.18	0159 1.00	0530 1.11	0211 0.15
	1006 1.07	1157 0.92	0855 0.27	1246 0.19	0830 1.28
	1646 0.10	1815 0.16	1432 0.69	1830 0.74	1520 0.07
	2237 0.88		2011 0.28	2358 0.27	2105 1.00

Uniting Church continues despite shortage of ministers

Broken Bay Uniting Church Congregation will continue as long as it has a Church Council with good leadership and is financially viable.

That was the response from representatives of the Sydney Central Coast Presbytery when asked its view on the viability of the Broken Bay Congregation recently.

The Broken Bay Church Council had asked about "the possibility of any plans in the foreseeable future to close the entire congregation",

according to its chair Ms Margaret Read.

Ms Read said the term "parish" has been replaced by "congregation", which may have several "worship centres"

"The response was quite clear that while the Congregation (which included Kincumber, Umina and Ettalong worship centres) was still able to form a Church Council with good leadership and was financially viable, there would be no consideration of closure."

However, she said there remained no ministers for Sunday morning services and no possibility of finding anyone to fill a supply position.

"There are no students graduating this year and there are quite a large number of congregations in the same position as Broken Bay."

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 26 Feb 2023
Margaret Read, Broken Bay Uniting Church



Peninsula's oldest resident celebrates 106th birthday

The person thought to be the Peninsula's oldest resident, Ms Biddy Abrahams, has celebrated her 106th birthday.

The Peninsula Villages resident spent her birthday at the Umina aged care facility.

A Peninsula resident since the 1980s, she has lived at Peninsula Villages for over eight years, where she has her own space and spends time with her knitting, crochet and embroidery.

Biddy Abrahams was born on February 24, 1917, under the bridge at Warren, about 120 kilometres north of Dubbo.

"My mother decided to go for a swim and I decided it was time to jump out," Ms Abrahams said.

Biddy was raised by her grandparents and spent the first 14 years of her life either droving sheep or being fostered out when times were difficult.

At the age of 14, she was sent to a private school in Eastwood where she received four years of education then later trained to be a

nursery help for a nanny.

In 1941, she joined the Women's Land Army.

Initially, she picked cabbages and fruit before being transferred into a role where she delivered mail to different farms.

"Because I didn't know how to ride a bike, I was given a horse to complete my rounds," she recalled.

Ms Abrahams looks back at this time in her life fondly as it gave her an opportunity to be back in the bush, acting resourcefully and feeling valued.

After the war, she became a cook at the Tresillian Home for unwed mothers in Vaucluse and later worked at David Jones.

She met her husband Eric after the war, dating him for six years before marrying.

Together, they travelled around Australia and enjoyed many a holiday to Umina Beach.

They retired to Umina in the early 1980s.

SOURCE:
Media release, 28 Feb 2023
Nicola Leggat, Brilliant Logic

Solar panels installed at courthouse

A new rooftop solar system has been installed at Woy Woy courthouse.

Parliamentary Secretary for the Central Coast Mr Adam Crouch welcomed the completion of works.

"The newly-installed technology helps reduce emissions, as our State works towards achieving its objective of delivering a 70 per cent emissions reduction by 2035,"

Mr Crouch said.

"The sustainability upgrades include installing of solar panels and smart metering systems to maximise energy efficiencies and minimise the impact on our environment.

"Investing in renewable energy technologies substantially saves on running costs and substantially contributes to a cleaner

environment."

Stage 2 of the NSW Government's courthouse solar project will see further upgrades including the installation of energy saving LED lighting and motion sensors in non-court areas, such as meeting rooms and bathrooms.

SOURCE:
Media release, 21 Feb 2023
Adam Crouch, Central Coast Secretary

Gurdon Reserve playground to be upgraded

Play equipment will be upgraded Gurdon Reserve in Woy Woy Bay, Central Coast Council has announced.

The new equipment will include a new "shop front", two slides, a junior swing, a nest swing, a rocker and "sensory play".

"New park furniture, landscaping and rubber softfall into and around the facility will also be constructed to promote accessibility and

inclusion," according to council director Ms Mel Smith.

She said the renewal program would have regular reviews and a programmed schedule of works to maintain, upgrade and where necessary remove old, vandalised, or broken equipment.

"The physical location of playspaces and how they are spatially distributed across the region are important in determining how frequently they are used by

the community," Ms Smith said.

"Council aims to ensure that there is a network of well designed, inclusive, enjoyable appropriately sited playspaces that provide diversity in play experiences.

"Foremost, our priority is to ensure that all our play spaces are safe and meet Australian standards."

SOURCE:
Media release, 28 Feb 2023
Mel Smith, Central Coast Council

Colour run at Woy Woy South

Woy Woy South Public School's parents' and citizens' association will hold a Colour Run on Thursday, April 6.

A meeting will be held at the Everglades Country Club at 6pm on Tuesday, March 7, to organise the event.

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 2 Mar 2023
Matt Barr, Woy Woy South Public School

Club plans tea cosy expo

The Woy Woy Peninsula Lions Club is planning for its annual Tea Cosy Expo which will be held this year on Saturday and Sunday, June 10 and 11.

The expo will be open from 9am to 5pm both days at the Umina Beach Surf Club.

The special theme this year will be African Safari.

Entries are open for both the general and special sections and

close on Friday, May 26.

Entrants have the choice of selling their tea cosy with a 20 per cent commission to the Lions Club, donating it to the Lions Club for sale, or displaying the tea cosy only.

For further information, email teacosyexpo2023@gmail.com or phone Lin on 0422 419 669.

SOURCE:
Media release, 28 Feb 2023
Greg Head, Woy Woy Peninsula Lions Club

The Bays group elections

The Bays Community Group has elected its committee for 2023.

President Ms Carolina Schuiling has been elected for a second year.

Ms Teri Calder returns to the committee as vice-president.

Ms Marie Davies returns to the committee this year as secretary.

New committee member Ms Shmonie Darro takes the role of

treasurer.

Returning to the committee are Mr Keith Weir and Ms Viv Kumbo.

Following a one-year hiatus, Ms Zoe Anderson and Ms Sue Douglas return to the committee.

New committee members are Mr Victor Tysoe and Sam Bunyan.

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 23 Feb 23
Carolina Schuiling, The Bays Community Group

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Bendigo Bank

Council agrees to rezone Ettalong foreshore land

Central Coast Council has agreed to rezone a section of The Esplanade in Ettalong facing the foreshore at its meeting last week.

The decision sees the maximum building height at 43-45 The Esplanade increased from 11.5 metres to 17 metres, about five storeys.

It also sees the maximum floor space ratio increased from 1:1 to 1.75:1.

The staff report for the meeting lists 95 submissions objecting to the proposal, one neutral submission and 23 supporting the proposal.

Mention was made of a petition of almost 2000 signatures presented to then Planning Minister Mr Rob Stokes and representations by community groups.

Council planning staff did consider some of the suggestions, one resulting in indexing the funding made by developers for community improvements.

However, most concerns from the objections were dismissed and the rezoning was approved by Administrator Mr Rik Hart.

He approved a site-specific Development Control Plan, with amendments arising from the public exhibition, along with changes to the Local Environment Plan.



It also approves a planning agreement for "an indexed monetary contribution of \$250,000 ... for the purposes of funding public domain improvement works in the vicinity".

As a result of public submissions, lot consolidation will be required as part of a development application.

An objective "to minimise overshadowing of the beach and public open space" has also been added.

However, no other controls or numerical constraints have been added to limit overshadowing of

public open space.

An objective was added "to allow for commercial development of sufficient size to support a wide range of uses".

Another objective was added "to improve and enhance the existing laneway to the west of the site by integrating it into the design for the public domain around the site".

The approval paves the way for a development application on this site for buildings of 17 metres in height.

SOURCE:
Central Coast Council
agenda 2.12, 28 Feb 2023

Summary given of support for rezoning

A Central Coast Council staff report about the proposed rezoning of 43-48 The Esplanade, Ettalong, gave a summary of three examples of unqualified support offered in public submissions.

Reasons for the support were that the rezoning would revitalise Ettalong Beach, the proposed building was well-designed, that the proposal would create new

jobs and investment, and that the proposal would increase the supply of housing.

One other submission supported the proposal as long as the apartments were owner-occupied and not rental or "even worse" AirBnB.

Yet another agreed the proposal increased housing supply "but disagree that it will provide choice and more housing options".

The council response to most

of these was "noted" except for the last one on which they commented:

"The proposed development is expected to provide additional one, two and three-bedroom apartments within the Ettalong Beach local centre to cater to those wishing to downsize or live in a serviced centre close to the waterfront."

SOURCE:
Central Coast Council
agenda 2.12, 28 Feb 2023

Housing strategy to be exhibited

A draft Central Coast Local Housing Strategy will be exhibited for a period of not less than 60 days, following last week's Central Coast Council meeting.

The draft follows the public exhibition in February last year of an "existing conditions report" and a housing strategy discussion paper.

"The draft Local Housing Strategy identifies a range of issues affecting the Central Coast," council staff wrote in a report for the council meeting.

It listed the top 10 issues.

"Continued and rapid population growth is placing pressure on the housing market," the report stated.

There was a "shortage of low cost rental accommodation".

"Current housing stock is not diverse enough to accommodate future demand.

"Housing design and location needs to respond to changing housing preference.

"Demand for housing elderly and people with a disability is on the increase and supply is low.

"There is increased demand for smaller more affordable dwellings and the supply is low;

"Our changing environment amidst climate change presents long-term challenges to quality of life and risks to livelihood."

There were "implications of housing affordability and housing stress", the council meeting report stated.

"There is a low supply of undeveloped residential land that

is unconstrained and serviced.

"It is challenging to balance the need for increased housing stock with the attributes that are desirable about living on the Central Coast."

The report said that the Strategy would "influence a range of Council policy and advocacy positions over the next 20 years to ensure the successful achievement of the adopted housing vision and objectives".

The draft strategy was included in attachments to the council agenda, and is expected to be available through the council's Your Voice Our Coast website soon.

SOURCE:
Central Coast Council
agenda 2.10, 28 Feb 2023

Planning proposal attracts 95 objections

There were 95 submissions objecting to the Planning Proposal for the rezoning of 43-46 The Esplanade, Ettalong.

Some of the objections and council responses were:

Objection: The building shadow that will be cast over the beach and over dune vegetation will be significant and not in the public interest.

Response: "Council has prepared a site specific Development Control Plan, exhibited with the Planning Proposal, which details urban design controls to limit the overshadowing of the beach, public open space and bushland in the area."

[The only urban design control relating to building shadow appears to be the objective: "To minimise overshadowing of the beach and public open space."]

Objection: This height increase will be detrimental to the character and atmosphere of the Ettalong village and foreshore.

Response: Council staff quoted the Character Statement for Ettalong which concludes: "At the western end, a substantial four-storey club building forms a local landmark, adjacent to an eight-storey resort hotel building facing the waterfront, proposed as two stepped wings separated by a central landscaped courtyard."

"As such, the proposal is not dissimilar to the existing character of the Ettalong Beach local centre."

Objection: There will be no boost to the economy due to this development

Response: "The proposal is expected to enable activation of the centre by providing new mixed-use development opportunities and public domain improvements (to the laneway and frontages) with flow-on effects to the economy, businesses and employment."

Objection: The proposal is dangerously close (19 metres) from the delicate and eroding foreshore.

Response: "The site is located landward of The Esplanade and is not subject to immediate coastal hazards."

Objection: Problems caused by basement parking.

Response: "The revised concept plans dated June 2022 indicate the 52 parking spaces sleeved behind commercial frontage at ground level, with no basement parking proposed."

Objection: Congestion to the laneway

Response: "At development application stage, Council may require improvements to the rear laneway to mitigate the impact of additional vehicular access."

Objection: The owners of the 14 Ocean View apartments will suffer significant financial loss as the value of their homes plummets.

Response: "The two upper levels of the proposed development has been setback and incorporates a central communal landscaped terrace to allow for view sharing from neighbouring developments."

"The draft DCP will apply to the proposal and includes controls to ensure view sharing from neighbouring developments."

Objection: The proposal makes little to no allowance for the impact of other large DAs in the locality that have been approved or are in progress.

Response: "The higher density development in Ettalong Beach is located within an established urban centre (zoned B2 Local Centre) to reinforce a compact settlement pattern, optimise the use of existing infrastructure and services and reduce car dependency."

"The current planning controls were developed following the Peninsula Urban Directions Strategy and Character Statements, which included extensive community consultation."

An exhaustive list of objections to the Planning Proposal was provided as an attachment to the agenda for the Council meeting.

SOURCE:
Central Coast Council
agenda 2.12, 28 Feb 2023

Street design manual open for comment

A draft Street Design Manual and draft Landscape Works Specification are to be made available for public comment over a period of 28 days.

"The draft Central Coast Street Design Manual and accompanying Landscape Works Specification form the first set of public domain guidelines for the Central Coast," council staff stated in a report for last week's council meeting.

"The purpose of the manual is to provide cohesive design guidance and construction standards for built works within our streets and public spaces separate to but coordinated with all other engineering works.

"Local councils commonly

develop and utilise a set of public domain guidelines to ensure the delivery of high-quality public domain works within their towns, streets, and local centres.

"The manual and specification have been developed to ensure a consistent and coordinated approach is taken when delivering public domain projects across the local government area.

"These documents have been developed in consultation with relevant Council units and in consultation with NSW Government."

SOURCE:
Central Coast Council
agenda 2.14, 28 Feb 2023

Rotary club raises funds for youth theatre

The Rotary Club of Brisbane Water has raised more than \$1300 for a new theatrical youth program.

The club raised the money through a High Tea With A Cause held at Hatters Tea House in Ettalong.

Club president Ms Cherie Simpson described it as “a lovely spread” and “a great effort toward fundraising”.

“We raised over \$1300 which will directly benefit our community through the new youth program at Woy Woy Little Theatre,” she said.

SOURCE:

Social media, 19 Feb 2023
Cherie Simpson, Rotary Brisbane Water



Beach sunrise meditation to celebrate Women’s Day

A sunrise beach meditation will be held at Ocean Beach Surf Club at 7am on Wednesday, March 8, to celebrate International Women’s Day.

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch is inviting women and men of all ages to “The Sit Ocean Beach” for the third year running.

Ms Tesch said: “I’m grateful to have this wonderful occasion to bring all people together to celebrate this important day and what could be a better location than our very own picturesque Ocean Beach.

“With our busy lives, we often don’t make the time to sit, contemplate and enjoy nature.

“That’s why I’ve been an advocate for The Sit Ocean Beach since it started on the Peninsula in 2020.

“I am proud to be co-hosting our third International Women’s Day sunrise meditation and cuppa get together.

“This is the perfect opportunity to celebrate women, form new connections and discuss what embracing equity means to you.” said Ms Tesch.

“I really look forward to seeing everyone there and hearing your stories.

“Together, let’s unite as men and women and embrace equity.”

SOURCE:

Media release, 23 Feb 2023
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford

Teachers hope to run alternative school

Four Central Coast teachers, including two from Woy Woy, are hoping to establish a new alternative school.

The school would be for school refusers, “our most vulnerable teenagers”, said teacher Ms Gab McIntosh of Woy Woy

Ms McIntosh, who was awarded an OAM for her work in education for disadvantaged youth in 2007, said a special kind of a school was needed.

“Struggling teenagers need lots of help with reading and writing, and lots of time for sport or art.”

She said they usually had high levels of anxiety and depression due to their poor educational experiences.

Constant assignments, tests and exams were often to blame.

“When they are forced into this type of learning their anxiety and depression issues invariably grow worse,” said Ms McIntosh.

“When kids refuse to go to school at all as a result, they are in danger of getting into trouble with the police as they hang around with their mates doing nothing all day.

“For some, it will lead to

incarceration and the State tells us indigenous kids have a much higher chance of being locked up.

“Kids can be different from each other.

“Some kids may love the classroom, tests and all the structure but for others it is simply a torture.

“Some will do better with less time in the classroom.

“There should be the freedom to cater for both types.”

Ms McIntosh said: “That is why our school wants no tests, exams or assignments.

“It will be the kind of school that really struggling teenagers can thrive in.”

Aboriginal teacher Belinda Huntriss, of Woy Woy, is also one of the team.

She said more must be done to ensure schooling is relevant and engaging for aboriginal students.

With many having low attendance rates in mainstream schooling, she said an alternative educational environment could be more tailored for individual students.

Ms McIntosh said: “The amount of paperwork required for a new school is huge and extraordinary

complex.

“We have to have extensive documentation on just about everything that could ever go wrong in a school.”

She gave examples.

“A risk assessment policy is required, which could easily run to 10 pages.

“We have to have a 20-page financial certificate, which will need professional help, before we begin.

“We will be lucky if we can keep our enrolment form down to 15 pages, as again there are so many mandatory requirements.”

Ms McIntosh said an extensive document would be needed from a clinical psychologist which stated that “some students are actually harmed by lots of tests and exams and being in the classroom all the day”.

“Fingers crossed we make it and our struggling teenagers on the Coast do get another chance at a school with no exams but lots of art and sport and much help with reading and writing too.

“It will be a miracle if we make it.”

SOURCE:

Media release, 2 Mar 2023
Gab McIntosh, Woy Woy



Basic tools workshop held

The Umina Community Group has held its first Basic Tools Workshop for women on Saturday, February 25.

Supporters and volunteers included Mingaletta Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation and Shore Thing Handyman.

Another workshop is planned for two months time.

For further information, email benchworks@uminacommunitygroup.com.au.

SOURCE:

Social media, 26 Feb 2023
Umina Community Group



Central Coast Friends of Democracy

ADVERTISEMENT

Administrator wants to give the community a say - to reduce their representation

The Council Administrator has revived his attempt to reduce community representation on the Central Coast.

In June 2021, the same Administrator, Rik Hart, resolved to spend over \$1.9 million on an optional referendum to be held that year. This was at the same time that the community was being told that there was a serious financial crisis, staff needed to be sacked and community assets sold.

The referendum did not proceed at that time - but Hart has now put it back on the agenda. The referendum aims to reduce the number of Councillors from 15 to 9, and reduce the number of wards to 3. If successful, this move would weaken representation and weaken our democracy.

The previous Administrator (Mr. Persson) acknowledged that the Central Coast community did not want the Council merger—and does not want it now. **If there is a referendum, the question must be whether Council should stay as is—or demerge with shared services.**

On 13 May 2021, there were amendments to the Local Government Act in relation to de-amalgamations. A new Council may, within 10 years of a merger, submit a written business case to the Minister setting out a

proposal for a de-amalgamation and reasons. The Minister must, within 28 days, refer the de-amalgamation proposal to the Boundaries Commission with a direction that it conduct an inquiry and report on the proposal. A process then follows - and the Minister can refuse a de-amalgamation proposal. However, if it is supported - the Minister must give a timeframe and fully fund the cost of any de-amalgamation.

The Administrator should abandon the referendum proposal - and instead, submit a proposal to the Minister for a de-amalgamation.

Table: Comparison of representation ratios

Period	Approximate ratios
Before merger	1 Councillor : 16,000 residents
After merger and before suspension	1 Councillor : 23,500 residents
If referendum is successful	1 Councillor : 39,167 residents
With 9 Councillors— by 2036	1 Councillor : 46,000 residents

What do you think about the future of our council ?



Forum

One more example of ratepayers being kept in the dark

The astonishing news that the Administrator is planning to sell off the municipal parking in Woy Woy is just one more example of the way in which ratepayers are being kept in the dark about long-term decisions with potentially dramatic effects on their future.

It might well be that this is a sound decision, but who can know, when there is no information on the transaction and no analysis of any benefits that are supposed to flow from it.

It is notable that, when private interests buy property from Council, the price always seems to be low, whereas any property

bought by Council from private owners always seems to be significantly overvalued.

This is community property that is being sold, but history suggests that, in many cases, not much effort is made to negotiate a proper return to the community on its asset.

Furthermore, the Council does not have a sterling record on protecting the public interest when there is a conflict with private benefit.

Anyone who recalls the turgid response of Council to the "Taj Mahal" episode at Koolewong will wonder whether anybody at the Council offices really cares at all about the community at large.

There is a vague promise that

the commuter and shopper parking will be maintained, but how much stock can we put in that?

The ineptitude of the Council in negotiating with private companies is well documented, and who knows what loopholes might be found in any agreement reached by Council with a buyer, if the legalities are tested down the track?

Let us have a full and open discussion of this proposal, so that, when all objections are overridden by the Administrator (which is what we'd expect), we are, at least aware of all the facts and can reach our own conclusion on the merit of what transpires.

SOURCE:
Email, 4 Mar 2023
Bruce Hyland, Woy Woy.

Planning system at stake: COSS protection is urgent

Another higher level of confusion has been added to the planning and development assessment process by the chair of the Darkinjung Aboriginal Land Council, Mr BJ Duncan (Peninsula News, February 20).

Essentially Mr Duncan has commented that the Land Council is seeking "to have self-determination for how they use their land" at Kariong.

Exactly what this implies is mind-boggling.

It is obvious that now is the time to revisit the rezoning of Coastal Open Space System land to protect it in perpetuity before vital environmental land is traded-off for development.

If the Land Council believes it has the right to "self determine how they use their land" then every other land owner can claim

the same right, which of course will lead to total breakdown of the planning system.

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch has recommended residents refer their objections to the Regional Planning Panel.

If the Panel is not committed to ecological sustainability and is persuaded by the "self-determination" argument, the proposal will be approved.

Such a decision is sure to be used as a precedent in appeals to the Land and Environment Court.

This threat to the planning system alone is good reason to support public objections. There are many more.

The pressure to develop now easily exceeds the ability to provide ecologically sustainable development - now a dream only for optimists?

SOURCE:
Letter, 28 Feb 2023
Norm Harris, Umina

Chemical Clean-Out missed

Peninsula News readers have missed the opportunity to dispose of unwanted hazardous chemicals at Kincumber tip.

Central Coast Council issued a media release about the Chemical Clean-Out event after the last issue, for the clean-out which was held Saturday and yesterday, March 4 and 5.

If readers have chemicals to dispose of, they will now have to go to Bateau Bay next weekend.

The event is being held at the Council's Depot, at the corner of The Entrance and Wyong Rd, on Saturday and Sunday, March 11 and 12.

The Peninsula Residents Association last week decided to ask the council to reinstitute Chemical Clean-Outs on the Peninsula.

Council unit manager Mr Andrew Pearce said he was encouraging residents to responsibly dispose of any unwanted, out-of-date or unused household chemicals that may be sitting in homes, garages and sheds.

For the full list of chemicals that can be dropped off call 131 555 or visit cleanout.com.au.

SOURCE:
Media release, 21 Feb 2023
Andrew Pearce, Central Coast Council

At our expense?

Dom Perrotet and Chris Minns are the Premiers for Western Sydney.

What if you live somewhere else in New South Wales?

Take our Peninsula as a great example.

No better transport, no improved hospitals, no repairs to our schools, no money to fix potholes.

We get nothing. I don't know why we pay our taxes really, because we sure don't get our fair share.

Perhaps if we were a bit more marginal our voice might be heard.

SOURCE:
Email, 2 Mar 2023
Laurie Powell, Woy Woy

Thank you for article on joint rally

I am Auntie Colleen Fuller, elder of Darkinoong/Yuin mobs.

I am running for the Upper House in the NSW State Elections 2023.

I thank you for printing the article on our joint rally (page 1, Peninsula News 563).

I am not a Guringai elder but a Darkinoong/Yuin elder.

Also there was a head count done at over 120 more closer to 150 as a large number stood across the road due to the hot sun.

This was an information rally and I thank you for stating this, not like NBN who called it a protest.

SOURCE:
Email, 21 Feb 2023
Colleen Fuller, Kariong
Editor's note: Apologies for the wrong identification.

Noticeboard - Public Notices

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Tickets sell for Opera

The Rotary Club of Woy Woy is selling tickets for its annual Pearl Beach Opera in the Arboretum which will be held at 3pm next Saturday.

Club president Ms Julie Jones said she had been selling tickets.

A woman from Booker Bay bought tickets and asked: "Why would you not want to see such high calibre entertainers right here on the Coast?"

"Why indeed?" said Ms Jones.

"The audience, seated under a canopy of eucalyptus, will be presented with entertainment for one and half hours by world class singers Rodney Earl Clarke, Louise Callinan, John Longmuir and Lorina Gore," she said.

"Accompanied by the Central Coast Chamber Orchestra led by the Coast's own Patrick Brennan and the additional talent of Alicia Poon on the violin and Donna Balson on piano, you are in music heaven."

Ms Jones said the audience could bring their chairs, their cheese and biscuits and their wine.

"Close your eyes and leave the worries of the world behind.

"This is Pearl Beach at its finest.

"The Arboretum is lovely on its own. Filled with such wonderful music, it is a true experience."

Tickets may be booked online at www.trybooking.com/CEAUX.

SOURCE:

Media release, 1 Mar 2023
Julie Jones, Rotary Woy Woy

Umina artist exhibits landscapes at the Erina Centre Gallery



Umina artist Ms Carolyn Purtle is currently exhibiting her landscapes "From the Peninsula and Paroo" at the Erina Centre Gallery until March 11.

Ms Purtle, a naturopath, has painted the landscapes in between helping women have healthy babies.

A recent trip to the Paroo River is shown in two of her works on display.

Others are from Brisbane Waters National Park.

"Expressible" shows the work of six artists from the Gosford Regional Gallery's Developing Expression studio group, under the mentorship of leading artist Mr Jon Ellis.

The exhibition is open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and from 9am to 1pm on Saturday.

For further information, phone Ms Purtle on 0417 287 221.

SOURCE:

Media release, 21 Feb 2023
Peter Moulding, Ettalong

Opera singer flies in

Bass-baritone Rodney Earl Clarke will travel from England to perform with his wife at Opera in the Arboretum at Pearl Beach on March 11.

Rodney Earl Clarke will be singing with his wife mezzo-soprano Louise Callinan as well as soprano Lorina Gore and tenor John Longmuir.

Artistic director Ms Michaele Archer said: "We are so happy to be able to coordinate with Rodney and Louise's travel plans.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for our event and audience to hear these beautiful international singers."

Opera in the Arboretum was a charity event hosted by the Rotary Club of Woy Woy.

This year's recipients will include the Umina Surf Lifesaving Club, Beyond Blue, Central Coast Conservatorium and other Rotary charities.

SOURCE:

Media release, 22 Feb 2023
Michaele Archer, Opera in the Arboretum

Crafts centre offers floristry workshop

The Ettalong Beach Arts and Crafts Centre will offer a floristry workshop later this month.

"This is a class for beginners with Amy Harrison and for those looking to enhance their floristry skills," said organiser Mr Keith Weir.

You will be creating an orange themed arrangement, featuring fresh seasonal flowers and foliage.

Orange has been chosen because this workshop will be held on Harmony Day.

Harmony Week is a celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds.

It is about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

"Orange has often been worn to promote Harmony Day since it

was first celebrated in Australia in 1999."

The workshop will be held from 10am to noon on Tuesday, March 21.

Cost is \$85, including \$25 to cover flowers, tools and material.

Members pay \$25 less.

For bookings, phone Keith on 0420 722 529.

SOURCE:

Media release, 22 Feb 23
Keith Weir, EBACC

PEARL BEACH

Opera

IN THE Arboretum

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RODNEY EARL CLARKE
BASS-BARITONE

LOUISE CALLINAN
MEZZO

JOHN LONGMUIR
TENOR

LORINA GORE
SOPRANO

SATURDAY 11 MARCH 2023
3.00–5.30 pm

VENUE
Crommelin Native Arboretum, Pearl Beach, Central Coast NSW

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Council decides to sell Woy Woy commuter carpark

Central Coast Council has decided to sell the Woy Woy commuter carpark and its interest in the adjacent shopper carpark at 52 Railway Rd to prospective new owners of the Deepwater Plaza Shopping Centre.

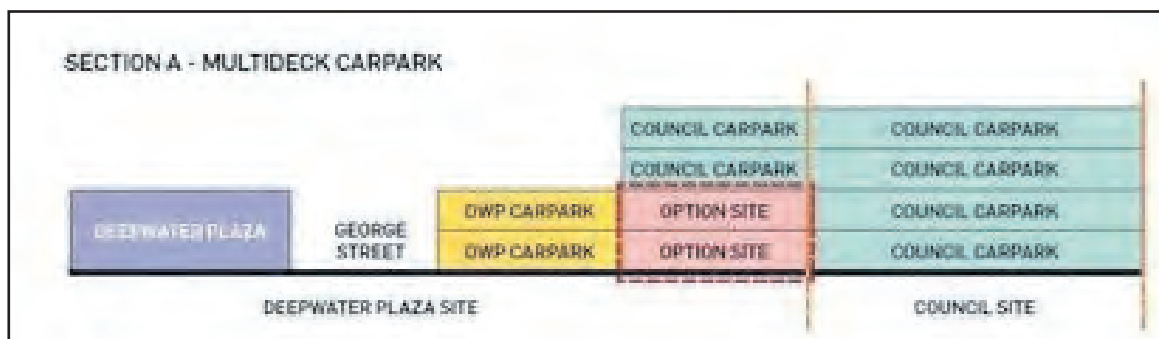
Transport for NSW will retain a lease over the 700-space commuter carpark until 2065.

Council's interest in the shopper carpark is an option to acquire 220 car parking spaces in 2032 for "a peppercorn fee".

The sale of the carpark would be at a price "not less than" the net value to Council.

This would be calculated on the land value, the book value of improvements, future depreciation and maintenance charges and the nominal income from the Transport for NSW lease at \$1 a year to 2065.

Council staff reported: "The area of the land on which the car



park sits is 6457 square metres and the most recent valuation of the land by the Valuer-General is \$3.3 million."

No indication is given of how the option would be valued.

The council decided: "That extinguishment of the Option be conditional on the owner of Deepwater Plaza shopping centre entering into a simultaneous agreement to purchase the adjacent commuter carpark, if required to do so by Council, within 12 months of the date of extinguishment."

An "assessment of the value" was attached to the council staff report, and was kept confidential on the basis that "it includes information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business".

The resolution stated that the option was "surplus to Council's requirements" and that "the transfer of ownership of the car park would retain commuter access".

The staff report about the proposed sale stated: "Council has

no direct need for either of these car parks."

It stated: "Dexus is in the process of selling Deepwater Plaza shopping centre to Raptis Investments."

"Raptis has approached Council seeking to purchase both the Option over part of the shopper car park and the commuter car park, and is prepared to commit to retaining both the commuter and shopper car parks."

"Raptis has identified exercise of the Option Deed as a major risk to the future value of the shopping

centre.

"The sale hinges on a satisfactory outcome in relation to the Option Deed."

"The offer provides a unique opportunity to retain or enhance both commuter and shopper parking in Woy Woy CBD, while simplifying management and ownership arrangements."

The report stated that the option in the council's favour arose with the original developer of the shopping centre in about 1982.

"The Option Deed was entered in to following a land swap and leaseback, which involved a number of Woy Woy CBD sites."

"There are about 220 car spaces in the balance of the shopper car park that are owned by the owner of the Deepwater Plaza shopping centre."

SOURCE:
Central Coast Council agenda 2.15, 28 Feb 2023

Residents call to 'genuinely consult' on car park sale

The Peninsula Residents Association has called on Central Coast Council to reconsider the sale of the Woy Woy commuter carpark and to "genuinely consult" with the community before it does so.

"This decision seems to have been made in a rush, without any community consultation," said Association vice-president Mr Julian Bowker.

"This has been a public asset

for many years.

"While there may be good commercial options being offered now, the public must be consulted for such a significant decision."

"There has been only four days' notice of this proposal created by council staff."

"This was subsequently supported by the Administrator in spite of a public objection delivered on the night of the council decision via the only channel available - a three-minute address."

Mr Bowker said the council

should genuinely consult the public on significant matters affecting their future as is the obligation of council under the Local Government Act.

"It is timely to remember that the Local Government Act, Chapter 3 Principles of Local Government, Section 8A(2) states many things."

These included that councils should consider the long-term and cumulative effects of actions on future generations, that they should consider the principles of ecologically sustainable development, and that council

decision-making should be transparent and decision-makers are to be accountable for decisions and omissions.

"The sale is premature and inappropriate in the light of Council's foreshadowed strategic planning exercise for the Peninsula."

"That exercise may well suggest a range of options which could take advantage of it being a public asset, and options that would be prevented if it was not."

"This carpark and the

associated commercial agreement are significant community assets, and the council should be much more circumspect in selling it."

"There appears to be no great urgency to make this decision and, at a minimum, it should be delayed until we have an elected council."

"In the light of the recently-exhibited floodplain risk management study, we would like its potential use for emergency planning assessed," he said.

SOURCE:
Media release, 2 Mar 2023
Julian Bowker, PRA

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for the Upper House**

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for Gosford**

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- Massive boost to social housing to end rental crisis

Authorised by Aunty Colleen Fuller & Gab McIntosh,
2 Dandaloo St, Kariong, 2250

Yoga for Coast Shelter

A yoga class will be at 4:30pm on Saturday, March 18, to celebrate International Women's Day and to raise money for Coast Shelter.

The monthly yoga classes are being offered to build community and connection, said organiser Ms Helen McNair.

"Our February community class, celebrating World Pride 2023, raised \$201."

"We are not deducting any costs."

"Teachers from Umina Beach Yoga are teaching for free and I am providing the space and teas," she said.

"Students can donate whatever they can afford."

"That might be nothing or \$20, and all proceeds will be donated to Coast Shelter."

"We are hoping to easily reach our fund-raising goal of \$1000 by the end of the year."

"Each class, held on the third Saturday of the month, will be led by one of the team of experienced, professional teachers and will highlight a national or international event to increase awareness, educate and help make the world

a better place.

"This month we are raising awareness of International Women's Day."

"As a small business, with a team of 10 women, we want to celebrate women's achievements and to embrace equity."

"These informal classes are designed to make you feel nurtured and nourished."

"We want our beautiful yoga studio to be a space where community can come together and feel welcome, to support physical and mental health with a free yoga practise and to share tea and chat with friends."

"Yoga teaches us non-violence and compassion."

"It has love, acceptance, and peace at its very core."

"Let's use yoga to help make a difference."

"Giving back through yoga is a wonderful way to show gratitude for all that we have."

Book through the live timetable on the website: uminabeachyoga.com

SOURCE:
Media release, 27 Feb 2023
Helen McNair, Umina Beach Yoga

New aged care wing to open in weeks

A Woy Woy aged care home is expected to open a new wing in a matter of weeks.

"We anticipate being able to open the new North East wing by late March now," said Blue Wave Living chief executive Mr Matt Downie.

"Initially a small number of new bedrooms will become available, along with a new lounge area.

"The space will also include a new kitchen and dining area – however these will not be officially activated until mid year once more of the works is completed."

Mr Downie said stage one works for the eastern end extension off The Shores building was almost completed.

"The long-awaited landscaping is finally gathering momentum, which is a big part of what is left externally.

"Internally we are working through defects to finalise the eastern side."

Mr Downie said furniture had arrived.

"We are in the process of commissioning internal infrastructure, such as NurseCall, fire protections systems and access control and other IT systems."

The western side extension and internal rebuild was progressing

well, according to Mr Downie.

It was still on track for completion around the middle of this year, he said.

"On completion of the western side, we will be asking residents located in our two southern wings at The Shores (rooms 20 to 43) to relocate into one of the newly built bedrooms."

Mr Downie said a "wonderful feature" of the new works was a number of new courtyard and outdoor spaces.

"Each of these spaces are a little different and contain different points of interest.

"There will be plenty of areas to sit, or in some spaces external tables and seating, most located under pergolas providing some shading."

He said there would be raised garden beds for residents use in some courtyards, and one courtyard would feature a traditional water tank.

"There will be a long circular pathway extending from the middle of our site, around the eastern end and across back into the northern end of our building for residents to enjoy longer outdoor walks as well.

"We are also creating a new space for our maintenance team."

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 28 Feb 2023
Matt Downie, Blue Wave Living

Club gives medical gowns to little heroes

The Ettalong Diggers Club has donated \$5000 to a project that will provide more than 100 super-hero themed medical gowns for children in the paediatric ward at Gosford Hospital.

Staff members will be hold a "Supertee team building packing event" on March 15 to pack the gowns and related super-hero activities for delivery to Gosford Hospital.

They will also write get-well cards for inclusion in the packs.

The T-shirt style gowns have shoulder and side press studs, underarm openings for temperature access and side



openings for tubes and access lines.

Ettalong Diggers marketing manager Ms Kim Cole said the

organisation would be the first on the Central Coast to donate to the project.

"We would love to get the word out there about his wonderful charity and that hopefully more Central Coast businesses will jump on board," she said.

She said each pack would contain a Captain America or Captain Marvel Supertee medical gown, an activity booklet and stickers, a character bookmark and Hero ID Card, a fellow Avengers secret message, a "note from your biggest fan", all packed in a Supertee tin.

SOURCE:
Media release, 3 Feb 2023
Kim Cole, Ettalong Diggers

Coronavirus numbers level off

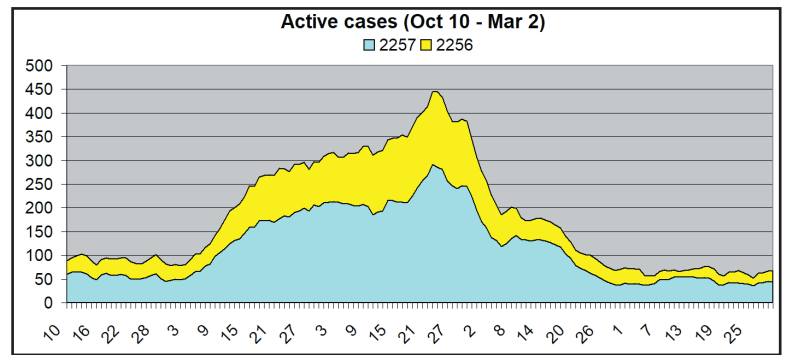
The number of active coronavirus in the Peninsula postcode areas has levelled off to around 65 over the past month.

This represents about 0.15 per cent of the population.

Numbers have fluctuated between about 56 and 76 in the 2256 and 2257 postcode areas.

Active case numbers in the 2256 area have averaged about 20, while in the 2257 area they have averaged 45.

The most recent total figure is



68 active cases on March 2.
On February 2, the number was 72.

SOURCE:
Website, 3 Mar 2023
Covid-19 cases, Data NSW



LIESL TESCH MP

MEMBER FOR GOSFORD

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Authorised by Genny Murphy 18 Carrington Ave, Woy Woy NSW 2256

Education

Five artworks in regional exhibition

Umina campus of Brisbane Water Secondary College has had five artworks selected in the annual "A Central Vision" exhibition.

The artworks are selected from Department of Education High Schools across the Central Coast.

The five artworks involved six students.

Libby Stephanou was selected for her surfboard painting "Shadows of the sea".

Ami Oakes was selected for her ceramic "Balinese Demon mask".

Joby Connaughton was selected for painting "Frog in Pointillism".

Ruby Burdett was selected for painting "Umina Beach landscape".

Maddie Downie and AJ Newcombe were selected for joint photographs entitled "Bystanders".

Maddie and AJ also took out



this year's Year 9 Art Award.

They attended the opening night at the Gosford Regional Gallery at East Gosford.

"It is an incredible honour to be selected in this exhibition and we

are so very proud of our student's achievements," said campus principal Ms Kerrie O'Heir.

SOURCE:
Social media, 4 Mar 2023
Kerrie O'Heir, BWSC Umina

New assistant principals

Ettalong Public School has two new assistant principals for curriculum and instruction, Ms Renee Robertson and Mr Aaron Johnston.

"This new leadership role is designed to work alongside assistant principals and deputy principals in providing high levels of support to teachers in literacy and numeracy," said relieving principal Ms Jodie Campbell.

"They will work collaboratively with the leadership team in the implementation of the new English and mathematics syllabus next year.

"They will provide guidance and professional learning to staff.

"They work alongside teachers in classrooms to enhance high

quality teaching practices."

Ms Campbell said they would provide demonstration lessons, team teaching or working with small groups of students in focussed literacy and numeracy tasks.

"Their role is dedicated to ensuring our students have strong literacy and numeracy knowledge."

She said that, as part of this role, they would keep parents informed and up to date with the latest information and research regarding curriculum, teaching and learning, as well as practical strategies and ideas for supporting the success of their children at school and at home.

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 28 Feb 2023
Jodie Campbell, Ettalong Public School

Parents offered 'chats' with teachers

Umina Beach Public School is offering "parent-teacher chats" this year.

"Parent-teacher sessions allow for a 10-minute catch-up with classroom teachers and are an important opportunity for you to share information about your child," said principal Ms Karen Wardlaw.

"This may include any special learning needs, medical conditions, academic history or other information that may be of benefit to your child's teacher.

"If you require longer than 10

minutes, you will be asked to make an additional appointment for another day to talk with your child's teacher."

Parents will be offered the opportunity to attend a parent-teacher chat with their child's classroom teacher between Monday, March 20, and Thursday, March 30.

Bookings will be made through the new parent portal.

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 2 Mar 2023
Karen Wardlaw, Umina Beach Public School

Demonstrating school motto

Four kindergarten students at Ettalong Public School have received awards for their behaviour demonstrating the school's motto of Respect, Responsibility, Ready to Learn.

Known as 3Rs awards, the recipients were KB student Matilda Ashford, KW student Max Thomas, KZ student Ezra Conrow and KL student Patrick Wright.

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 21 Feb 2023
Jodie Campbell, Ettalong Public School

School has behaviour advice for students and for parents

Woy Woy South Public School has issued behavioural guidelines to both students and parents for "when things go wrong at school".

"We have spent many years working hard to set a strong set of age-appropriate expectations for student behaviour," said principal Mr Matt Barr.

"We have had great success, based on our well-known principles of Respect, Responsibility and Relationships.

"Part of this success has been the strong relationship we have formed with our families and the consistent messages we have delivered to our children about what is considered acceptable behaviour.

"Could I request that parents and carers reiterate that students are required to solve problems by speaking politely and seeking assistance from the teachers – as soon as an incident occurs?"

"Additionally, please remind children that inappropriate language will never be acceptable."

"Your approach as a parent when your child has difficulty at school makes a huge difference to their resilience and their ability to effectively deal with similar situations in the future.

"It also helps them maintain positive future relationships with their teachers and peers."

Mr Barr provided a three-point checklist as a guideline: Stay calm and rational, get all the facts, and assess whether to go to the school or not.

"It's natural as a parent to protect, or defend your children, particularly when you think that they've come in for some unfair or poor treatment," he said.

"Acting when you are full of emotion is usually not a good option.

"Rather than getting on the phone or email or storming up to

the school, take your time to think through how you might assist your child.

"Once you've calmed down, then get the facts about the situation.

"It is our job as parents and educators to help kids process what has happened in an incident, so that all the facts emerge and they understand their place in any problem. "Sometimes this is difficult and may mean telling kids things, that at the time, they do not want to hear.

"Kids, like adults, like to vent and in some situations may benefit from having their side of the story told to a trusted source.

"Often problems can be dealt with at home, simply by talking through an issue and giving kids some common sense tips on how to cope.

"The skills they develop from situations like this will prepare them well for dealing with situations as teenagers, in early adulthood and in future workplaces, when they will need to address circumstances on their own."

Mr Barr said: "Children of primary school age are by nature, highly egocentric, meaning they often recall situations purely from the perspective they want it viewed from, and this is very normal.

"When schools are aware of an incident, it is often at this time that they will contact parents to ensure that they are made aware of the facts and details.

"It is important to recognise that no teacher enjoys calling a parent with potentially bad or upsetting news, and that the sole purpose of their contact is to find a quick and fair outcome for your child."

Mr Barr said the three-point guideline was "essential to the ongoing success and harmony of our school".

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 2 Mar 2023
Matt Barr, Woy Woy South Public School

After-school homework help at Umina library

A free service to help Peninsula school children with home work has started at Umina library.

After a short trial at the end of last year, the service at the library is back operating on Tuesday afternoons, from 3pm to 4:30pm during school term.

The help is being provided

voluntarily by a local retired Umina teacher Ms Carol Richardson.

Catering for primary and secondary students, she said she hoped to assist those students who needed additional help which may not be available at home.

She said she would assist both primary and secondary students with study plans, homework and

assignments.

No bookings is required. This is a free service, there is no cost to attend.

For further information, call in at the library or phone 4304 7333.

SOURCE:
Website, 2 Mar 2023
Umina Library, Central Coast Council

Community Bank
Ettalong Beach

Need help with the costs of study?

Applications are invited from eligible students who require assistance with tertiary education costs in 2023.

Applications close on the 31 March 2023.

bendigobank.com.au/scholarships

COMING SOON

Bendigo Bank

Community Enterprise Foundation™

Community Bank Scholarships will be funded from management accounts of the Community Enterprise Charitable Fund ABN 12 102 649 968 (the Fund), The Bendigo Centre, Bendigo VIC 3550. Sandhurst Trustees Limited ABN 16 004 030 737 AFSL 237906, a subsidiary of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178, AFSL 237879, is the trustee of the Fund. OUT_28211259, 01/03/2023

Collection point changed as students are distracted

Parents being in sight of their Stage 1 students at the end of the school day has “presented challenges” at Woy Woy South Public School.

“Pick up from our classrooms has presented challenges for our teachers,” said principal Mr Matt Barr.

“Once parents are in sight outside classrooms, it very hard to hold the attention of students till the end of the school day.”

To “maximise classroom teaching time”, collection arrangements have been changed. “It is important that students are

paying attention right up until the end of the school day at 2.55pm, and not missing key messages and instructions,” he said.

He said students would now assemble at the K-2 Cola at 2.55pm.

“They can be collected from the Cola at this time, or can be released by the classroom teacher to meet you at another designated meeting place, for example a meeting point with an older sibling, a specific school gate or a space in the playground.

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 2 Mar 2023
Matt Barr, Woy Woy South Public School



Bus company gives safety talk

Year 4 students at St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School have taken part in a bus safety talk.

Bus company Busways provided the talk, a trip to Umina Beach and super-hero school bus

safety bags.

Students in other years are also expected to be given the opportunity to hear the talk.

SOURCE:
Social media, 28 Feb 2023
SJB Catholic Primary School Woy Woy



Giant opens chequebook

While the Peninsula continues to lose its bank branches, you would be forgiven for believing a branch for giants has opened.

Over the last month, giant cheques have appeared in pictures taken around the Peninsula.

Most prolific was Ettalong Diggers Club marketing manager

Ms Kim Cole who presented four giant cheques totalling \$26,500 to local sporting clubs.

She is pictured with the Umina Bunnies JRLFC (top left), Peninsula Lions Netball Club (top right), Ocean Beach Malibu Club (bottom left) and Brisbane Water Netball Club (bottom right).

Central Coast Outrigger Canoe Club was a recipient of a cheque

from Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch (centre above).

Liberal candidate for Gosford Ms Dee Bocking and Parliamentary Secretary for the Central Coast Mr Adam Crouch presented a cheque to the Southern Spirit Cricket Club (centre below).

SOURCE:
Social media, 19 Feb 2023
Kim Cole, Ettalong Diggers



Eagles Major Minor Night Pairs

Ettalong Eagles Bowling Club has announced the final results of its 2023 Ron Mowday Major Minor night pairs competition:

1 Daniel Casey and Darren Morrison. 2 Gary Frost and David Hook. 3 Jeff Kime and Shane Starkey. 4 Tony Aldrich and Mark Brown. 5 Gary Jannesse and

Lee Trethowan. 6 Jayden Moody and Ben Bourne. 7 Ted Adams and John Hannan jnr. 8 Mark Robertson and Phil Heath.

A number of Ettalong Eagles players qualified for the Bowls Central Coast singles round played yesterday, Sunday, March 5.

In Open, they were Brett Bowring, Alan Joss and Darren

Morrison.

In Senior, they were Anthony Leslie, Col Passfield, Gary Frost, Phil Westcott, Mark Endacott and William Randall.

In Reserve, they were Phil Barclay, Michael Braham and Justin Sylvester.

SOURCE:
Social media, 26 Feb 2023
Ettalong Eagles

WHAT'S ON at ETTALONG BOWLING CLUB

SOLDIER ON

Ettalong Bowling Club is once again honoured to hold an Anzac Day service to remind us to never let the feeling of patriotism in our hearts fade away and gives us all the opportunity to express our gratitude towards the brave souls who brought us freedom. A cold coin donation will be appreciated to support SOLDIER ON. Donation boxes will be located the club.

Only five weeks to go until we announce the winner of the MG3 Excite giveaway. To enter simply purchase any Tooheys new product or spend over \$30 in venue to receive a ticket to go into the draw to win. Each Sunday leading up to the major draw a member will be drawn from the barrel who will instantly win a \$100 fuel voucher and a chance to go into draw to WIN this car on 2/4/2023. See our friendly staff for details.

We are bringing back a little bit of Country to the Coast. Tickets are now on sale for THE KINGS OF COUNTRY tribute show. Direct from the USA, this is a remarkable tribute to the biggest names in country music of this century. Michael Moore as the outlaw WILLIE NELSON, Ted Vigil recognised by the American Country Music Association channels JOHN DENVER with his look and voice and finally Dean Simmons as GARTH BROOKS with his incredible ability to engage with the audience. This is a show not to be missed.

Tickets \$45 available from Try Bookings <https://www.trybooking.com/CGGDI>

Check out our website, app or facebook page for more details or to purchase tickets online. Our friendly staff look forward to your visit.

ETTALONG
BOWLING CLUB

103 Springwood St, Umina Beach NSW 2257 (02) 4341 0087



ANZAC DAY EVENTS

1.15pm: Flagpole Ceremony

2pm – 4pm : Free Barefoot Bowling (limited spots)

2pm: Free Sausage Sizzle

2pm – 6pm: Free live entertainment

THE BEST-KEPT SECRET ON THE CENTRAL COAST

Umina comes 10th in State surf life saving championships

Umina Surf Club has come 10th in the State Surf Life Saving Championships held from February 23 to 26 at the Queenscliff club at Manly.

Nearest Central Coast club was Avoca, which came 13th.

Ocean Beach was 34th.

Umina scored 94 with three first placings, five second placings, three third placings, nine fourth placings, four fifth placings and four sixth placings.

Amber Stevenson was first in the under-13 female board, the

under-13 female iron and fourth in the under-13 female surf race.

Lexie Bush was fifth in the under-10 female board.

Elka McGann, Julia Hall and Lily James were sixth in the under-14 female board relay.

Zoe de Vivo, Lililana Carpenter, Chloe Hall and Savannah Glynn were fourth in the under-12 female swim team event.

Savannah Glynn and Chloe Hall were sixth in the under-12 female board rescue.

Ella Stevenson, Grace Kelly,

Lexie Bush and Evie Lagan were sixth in the under-10 female swim team.

Sadie Martin was fourth in the under-11 female surf race.

Avalon Thomas was fifth in the under-11 female iron.

Savannah Glynn was fourth in the under-12 one kilometre beach run.

Khai Thomas, Sam Wetti and Cooper Muldrock were sixth in the under-12 male board relay.

SOURCE:

Social media, 26 Feb 2023
Umina Surf Life Saving Club



Holly to shoot for Australia in archery championship

Umina student Holly Parker has been selected to represent Australia in the World Archery Oceania Championships that will be held in Adelaide during April.

She has also been selected for the Trans Tasman which is a team event against New Zealand.

"Holly, 15, has been shooting arrows since she was seven years old, having initially learnt how to shoot at the Umina Beach PCYC," said her father Mr Barry Parker, Archery NSW's youth co-ordinator.

"Holly is no stranger to representative archery, having represented New South Wales twice before.

"Both times her NSW compound bow team came first in Australia.

"She has won countless medals and trophies and just recently was named the best all-round under-16 Compound Bow Archer by the Archery Society of NSW."

Holly said: "I am so excited that I have been chosen to represent my country.

"I have worked hard to achieve this.

"Representing NSW is a huge honour, so to be selected to wear green and gold is another level.

"I have made great friends in this sport and to make friends from overseas is something else."

Holly has set up a crowd-funding page to cover the costs of her trip to Adelaide.

"Archery is not a well funded sport in Australia and competitors need to pay their way," said Mr Parker.

Holly said: "My dad who is a single parent is right behind me, extremely proud, and will do whatever it takes to help get me there, but it is a big expense to take on by himself.

"So any donation will help."

Holly is a member of Coast Archers in Erina.

Holly's Go Fund Me page can be found at <https://gofund.me/09778e0c>.

SOURCE:

Media release, 4 Mar 2023
Barry Parker, Archery NSW

Soccer club appoints WPL coaching team

Southern and Ettalong United Football Club has announced its Women's Premier League coaching team for the coming season.

It comprises Cait Walker and Jules Higginson-Smith.

Cait Walker has over 25 years coaching experience, including winning "the quadruple" with Ourimbah in 2008.

Cait will take the role of Head of Women's Football.

Jules Higginson-Smith is an experienced player, leader, and coach, having captained Waverley Old Boys first grade women's team for more than 10 years.

Jules also coached at the club before starting a family and relocating to the Central Coast.

Jules captained Waverley in the semi-final of 2008 Champions of Champions, playing against Cait's Ourimbah squad.

The club still has First Grade WPL spots available and is seeking a Women's All-Age coach to join the team.

Anyone interested should contact womensfootball@seufc.com

SOURCE:

Social media, 3 Mar 2023
Southern and Ettalong United Football Club



Pennant wins

All four Umina Beach Men's Bowling Club open pennant sides won their round three games on Saturday, March 4.

In Grade 3 played at home, Umina 60 defeated Bateau Bay 57 for an 8-2 point win.

In Grade 5 at home, Umina 81 defeated Mooney Mooney 32 for a 10-0 win.

In Grade 6 played at The Entrance, Umina 94 defeated Mingara 39 for a 10-0 win.

In Grade 7 at the Everglades, Umina 51 defeated Everglades 49 for 9-1 win.

SOURCE:

Social media, 4 Mar 2023
Peter Springett, UBMBC

Charity bowls

Charity bowls held at Ettalong Bowling Club on last Sunday, February 19, raised a total of \$1078.

The money goes to Central Coast Kids In Need.

There were 44 starters on a fine sunny day.

Winning rink was Gay Faulkes, Peter Jellico and Trevor Faulkes.

Next charity bowls day will be held on Sunday, March 19.

SOURCE:

Media release, 21 Feb 2023
Ken Dixon, Ettalong Bowling Club

Male netball players wanted for State titles

The Woy Woy Peninsula Netball Association is seeking players for its men's teams.

"We are seeking expressions of interest for senior male players for a men's team to compete at the Senior State Titles, from June 10 to 12, in Newcastle," said president Ms Sharon Bailey.

Players must be aged 15 years or older, born in 2008.

"We are also looking for a coach and manager for our men's team too."

All Applications close at 5pm on Friday, March 17.

The final selection will be made this month

SOURCE:

Social media, 3 Mar 2023

Sharon Bailey, Woy Woy Peninsula Netball Association

Lions return to first grade

The Woy Woy Lions Rugby Club will return to first grade competition when the season resumes on Saturday, March 25.

The Lions will play Gosford at Gosford in their first round match.

The team is not scheduled to play again until April 15, when it plays the Razorbacks at home at Woy Woy oval.

The Lions will then play the following two weeks: at home against The Lakes on April 22 and against Warnervale at Woongarah Sports Field on April 29.

SOURCE:

Media release, 22 Feb 2023
Larry Thomson, CCRU

Bridge club plays open teams championship

Brisbane Water Bridge Club played its Club Open Teams Championship on Saturday, March 4, a Country Teams qualifying event.

Final results after six matches were:

1 Dasha Brandt, Susan McCall, David Bowerman, Judy Wulff 113 Imps (93.40 VPs), 6-0-0 W-D-L, 1.80 red points.

2 Martin Johnson, Hope Tomlinson, Barry Foster, Jim Routledge 79 (82.35), 5-0-1, 1.80.

3 Lorraine Lindsay, Jaan Oitmaa, Sylvia Foster, Chris

Hannan 64 (75.58), 3-0-3, 1.08.

4 Shirley Crockett, Marilyn Jarrett, Noel Crockett, Jenny Buckley 35 (64.67), 3-0-3, 1.08.

5 Elaine Hume, Peter Hume, Alma Van Der Walt, Kathryn Ivits -31 (48.62), 2-0-4, 0.72.

6 Ron Meaney, Marcelle Goslin, Edith Marshall, John Aldersley -42 (47.73), 2-0-4, 0.72.

7 Kerry-Ann Durrant, Carolyn Girdwood, Carolyn Harper, Susan Ashley -218 (7.65) 0-0-6.

SOURCE:

Website, 4 Mar 2023
Brisbane Water Bridge Club