

Peninsula News

Community Access

EDITION 577

THE PENINSULA'S OWN NEWS SERVICE INC

4 SEPTEMBER 2023



Community groups oppose Austin Butler reserve sale

An alliance of 13 community groups have joined with Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch to oppose the sale of part of the Austin Butler Reserve in Woy Woy.

Ms Tesch has urged residents "to continue to fight to protect the significant stand of paperbark and she-oak trees" on the land.

The community groups have written an open letter to Central Coast Administrator, Rik Hart, CEO David Farmer, and Minister for the Central Coast, David Harris, published in this issue of Peninsula News.

Central Coast Council decided to proceed with the sale of the land to the adjoining Peninsula Plaza shopping centre at its August 22 meeting.

It decided to act on "asset sale" resolutions of July 2021 and March 2022 to reclassify the land from "community" to "operational" to allow the sale to proceed.

In approving the council staff recommendation, Administrator Mr Rik Hart also resolved to hold a community consultation about the sale – giving options to keep the land in council ownership or sell the land with the proceeds spent on a "greening program". In a media release, Mr Hart said the option for the council to retain the reserve would "stop the sale process".

The 4000 square metre reserve includes 44 mature paperbark and she oak trees that are the last substantial area of natural shade in the Woy Woy town centre.

AUSTIN BUTLER PROPOSAL
More: Page 10

The groups who have joined forces include seven Peninsula groups and six with broader interests.

They include the Peninsula Residents Association, the Peninsula Environment Group, the Grow Urban Shade Trees group, the Pearl Beach Progress Association, Residents for Responsible Ettalong Development, Save Our Woy Woy and Mingaletta Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation.

They were supported by the Community Environment Network, the Australian Conservation Foundation Central Coast group, Koolewong Tascott Progress Association, Save Central Coast Reserves, Wildlife ARC and WIRES.

The groups stated: "The Woy Woy Peninsula can't afford to lose one more mature tree."

"Our community is already recognised by Central Coast Council as a heat island."

In a joint media release, the groups have criticised the "trade-off" offered by Mr Hart of keeping the reserve or having a greening program.

The ACF group chair Mr Mark Ellis said: "Keeping Austin Butler and street greening the Woy Woy Peninsula should not be mutually exclusive."

Grow Urban Shade Trees group spokesperson Ms Jen Wilder said: "We don't think a much-needed urban greening program should be conditional on getting rid of this rare remnant of native woodland."

The Peninsula Residents Association has called for implementation of the Council's Greener Places Strategy, including a review of planning provisions, as well as a strategic planning review of the Peninsula to provide a substantial long-term plan for greening the Peninsula.

The groups also criticised the lack of detail about the proposed use of the land.

Community Environment Network chair Mr Gary Chestnut said the council resolution was probably in breach of the Local Government Act.

"This land was dedicated to council for community recreation and there has been no resolution to discharge that dedication, as required by the Local Government Act (Section 30(1))."

"It is far from best practice for a council to pre-empt the outcome of a community consultation on a reclassification or a rezoning of public land."

"These actions have created multiple conflicts of interest for the council," Mr Chestnut said.

SOURCE:
Media release, 2 Sep 2023
Jackie Pearson, CEN

Produced on the Peninsula

Peninsula news & advertising for the Peninsula community

Read Peninsula News on your phone

People often comment that Peninsula News is so popular it disappears from the news stands within a couple of days of publication.

Unfortunately, the current level of sponsorship does not allow for the print run to be increased. Longer term, we hope with more people sharing the cost of printing, more copies can be printed.

However, in the meantime, we have created a new website so that people can read Peninsula News on their phones.

The website features flyout side-panel menus allowing access to all articles in the current issues as well as access to previous issues.

It includes icons to allow articles to be shared on social media and by email, and has links to enable readers to phone or email their contributions to us.

Find it at <http://peninsula.news/mobile> or scan the QR code.

Mark Snell, 6 Aug 2023



Next issue: Monday, September 18

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

COUNT THE LOCAL NEWS: 53 articles in this issue

... and another 28 articles online at <http://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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Please note: Peninsula News currently has no paid employees, and it may take a little time for us to get back to you. Our volunteers usually have other jobs and commitments, which compete for their time.

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When emailing us, you will note that the domain name is PENINSULA.NEWS only. There is no .com or .com.au. If your email bounces or does not appear to have reached us, please check the address and try again. If this still does not work, try our old fallback address or call us by phone and leave a message.

Fallback email address: editor@peninsulanews.asn.au

Editorial policy and guidelines

At its heart, Peninsula News is a community effort.

It welcomes and relies on the contributions provided voluntarily and at no cost by local organisations, groups and residents.

The newspaper aims to be accessible to the community - both through making its columns accessible to community groups and by having copies available in accessible locations, including through its website.

The following policies and guidelines are designed to support the aims and standards of the newspaper.

Locality

The newspaper's editorial policy reflects a desire to reinforce the Peninsula's sense of community.

To qualify for publication, articles must have specific relevance to the Peninsula. For example, they must be about activities or events happening on the Peninsula or be organised by or involving Peninsula people.

The newspaper is not regional or national in nature, so regional or national issues will not be canvassed except as they affect the Peninsula.

Regional sports will only be covered from the perspective of Peninsula clubs. Regional plans will only be aired in the context of their ramifications for the Peninsula.

Peninsula News aims to be inclusive of as much of the Peninsula community as possible.

Readability

To ensure that the newspaper serves its purpose, it must be readable and represent the interests and activities of the community in its content.

Contributions to the paper are edited to consistent standards of readability. Guidelines are available for intending contributors.

All items will be dated. They must contain the name of the author to whom the contribution may be attributed, with their first name spelt out, along with their suburb or organisation. Anonymous contributions will not be accepted.

Forum letters

The Forum section provides the opportunity for readers to express their views on any aspect of Peninsula community life, with the aim of reflecting the community's diversity of opinion.

Nevertheless, letters may be edited for readability, including for length, spelling and grammar, and to avoid legal liability on the part of the newspaper, or they may be declined altogether.

Contributors are asked to keep their

contributions to the matter at hand, and to focus on the issues and not abuse or insult others.

Other than in the case of holding public figures to account, criticism of others (as opposed to criticism of particular opinions) is unlikely to be published in the interests of facilitating the expression of a diversity of views.

All letter writers need to supply name, address and contact details. Only name and suburb will be published.

Contributors who do not wish the wording of their letter to be changed at all should make a note to this effect when submitting their letter. In some cases, this may result in the letter not being published.

Corrections

We try to be as accurate as possible. However, mistakes can still slip through.

If you believe we have got something wrong, whether an error of fact or interpretation, we ask that you write to us by email with details for publication. These corrections may appear as Forum letters or as news items and should conform to our requirements for news and Forum contributions.

Source lines

Peninsula News includes "source lines" at the end of each article which aim to provide readers with information about where and how we came across the information, so that they might judge for themselves the veracity of what they are reading.

It should not be assumed that the article is a verbatim reproduction of the source. Similarly, it should not be assumed that any reporter listed is necessarily responsible for writing the whole news item. Source lines are not by-lines.

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

Peninsula News usually receives its information in three ways: It is sent to us by someone wanting to promote their activities; it is sent to us in response to our inquiries; or it comes from a newsletter or other document to which we have access.

Sometimes we may interview a person or report what they said at a meeting.

The following descriptions are used:

Media Release - unsolicited contributions.

Media Statement - sent in response to our questions. **Website** or **Social Media** - information published online. **Newsletter** or **Report** - published in print or online.

Interview or **Meeting** - statements recorded by a reporter.

Forum contributions may be: **Email** if sent electronically and **Letter** if written on paper.



Baking a moist apricot roll

Members of the Umina Beach branch of the Country Women's Association have been given a demonstration of baking a moist apricot roll and Remembrance biscuits.

The master-class was given by

branch cookery officer Ms Fiona Duckworth.

"The hall was filled with such beautiful aromas," said branch president Ms Lin Griffiths.

"We savoured the delights straight from the oven.

"Top tip for today: Quality ingredients deliver best results. Look for good quality apricots, and cheeses."

SOURCE:
 Social media, 26 Aug 2023
 Lin Griffiths, CWA Umina Beach

Baby quilts to be donated

Two "bright and beautiful" baby quilts made by the Ettalong Beach Arts and Craft Centre's patchwork group will be donated to the charity BlanketLovez.

The quilts were made by Ms Sarah Vaughan and tutor Ms Penny Howard using "practice blocks" made the previous Monday.

The previous Monday's session was a "foundation paper piecing workshop".

SOURCE:
 Social media, 28 Aug 2023
 Penny Howard, EBACC



'Get Ready' event at Patonga

The Patonga Volunteer Rural Bush Fire Brigade will hold a fire planning event for local residents later this month.

The Patonga Get Ready event will be held at the fire station at 45 Patonga St from 10am to 2pm on Sunday, September 17.

SOURCE:
 Social media, 18 Aug 2023
 Patonga Volunteer Rural Bush Fire Brigade

Above average rainfall for August

August has ended with a total rainfall of 81.6mm on the Peninsula.

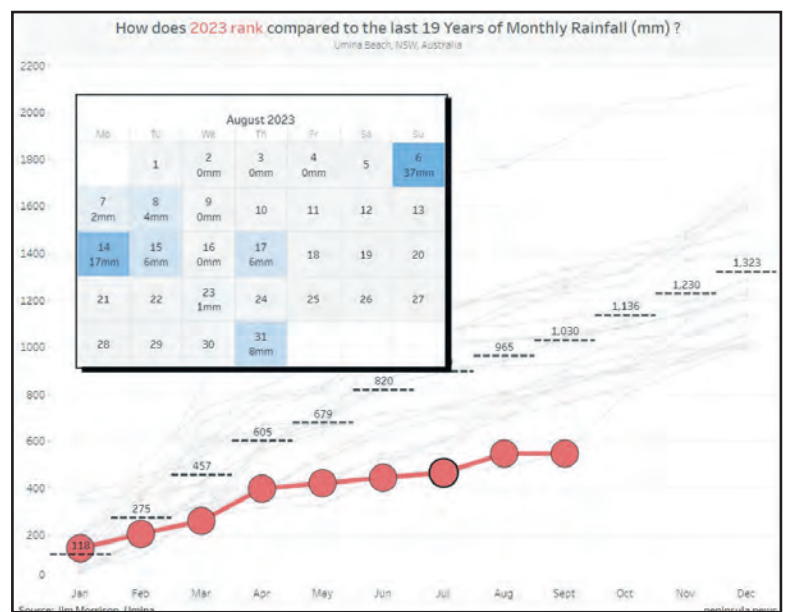
The total is more than 25 per cent above the average monthly rainfall of 65mm for August, according to figures supplied by Mr Jim Morrison of Woy Woy.

The total rainfall for the first two-thirds of the year of 545.9mm was 55.3 per cent of the average total at the end of August of 987mm.

The Peninsula's average annual rainfall is 1321mm.

Only 8.8mm of rain fell in the last two weeks of the month, 8.1mm of which was recorded on the morning of Thursday, August 31.

SOURCE:
 Spreadsheet, 1 Sep 2023
 Jim Morrison, Umina



TIDE TIMES and Heights	Mon, Sep 4	Thu, Sep 7	Sun, Sep 10	Wed, Sep 13	Sat, Sep 16
	0545 0.10	0200 0.65	0009 0.20	0200 0.15	0326 0.11
	1146 1.08	0746 0.26	0602 0.64	0756 0.78	0921 0.92
	1818 0.15	1430 1.00	1105 0.31	1333 0.19	1530 0.14
		2157 0.25	1741 0.97	1944 1.04	2126 1.02
AT ETTALONG	Tue, Sep 5	Fri, Sep 8	Mon, Sep 11	Thu, Sep 14	Sun, Sep 17
	0003 0.89	0329 0.59	0053 0.18	0229 0.13	0354 0.11
	0621 0.15	0845 0.30	0648 0.69	0824 0.83	0952 0.95
	1235 1.06	1537 0.97	1203 0.27	1413 0.16	1609 0.16
	1920 0.21	2311 0.23	1828 0.99	2017 1.05	2200 0.97
AT ETTALONG	Wed, Sep 6	Sat, Sep 9	Tue, Sep 12	Fri, Sep 15	Mon, Sep 18
	0057 0.75	0459 0.60	0129 0.16	0257 0.11	0423 0.13
	0700 0.20	0955 0.32	0725 0.74	0852 0.88	1025 0.98
	1329 1.03	1643 0.96	1252 0.23	1451 0.14	1650 0.19
	2034 0.24		1908 1.01	2051 1.05	2238 0.90

Pirate and nature themes chosen for Pelican Park

A playground which combines pirate and nature play themes will be designed for Pelican Park in Woy Woy, Central Coast Council has announced.

Council recreation director Ms Melanie Smith said that public response to the two themes had been “almost equally divided” with more than 500 people making submissions.

“It is anticipated that the designs will be exhibited publicly in the final quarter of this year, with construction slated to begin sometime after peak summer season,” she said.

“Council has listened to the survey results and noted community preference to ensure that the swamp cypress tree is maintained in its entirety, as well as the fencing which was seen as an important part of the attraction

of the playspace for parents with young children.

“While the design has yet to be finalised, I can confirm that the materials will be as natural as possible, and we will retain the existing fence line and picnic tables.”

She said it would be accessible for all ages and will be “a safe and inclusive space for many years to come”.

Council Administrator Mr Rik Hart said: “With construction on a district level playspace in Lion’s Park less than one kilometre away planned to start in 2024, it’s an exciting time for the community.”

The community engagement summary is available on the council’s Your Voice Our Coast website.

SOURCE:
Media release, 29 Aug 2023
Melanie Smith, Central Coast Council



Butchery passes out of family after almost 100 years

Friday, September 1, saw the end of era in Woy Woy with the sale of Edwards Family Butchery.

It was owner Marc Edwards’ last day before he handed over to new owners Richard and Kaylla Frost.

It brings to an end almost 100 years of ownership of the business

by the Edwards family.

Edwards Family Butchery was started in 1925 by Marc’s grandfather Jack Edwards.

His father Barry then stepped into the business, followed by Marc himself in 1977.

“I put the business on the market just after Christmas and accepted

an offer within three months,” he said.

The shop has been in the Peninsula Plaza for the last 14 years.

SOURCE:
Interview (Frank Wiffen), 1 Sep 2023
Marc Edwards, Edwards Family Butchery

Bays group seeks submissions about road safety

The Bays Community Group is seeking submissions about road safety in The Bays area by the end of today.

“We are all aware that our roads in The Bays are narrow, lack kerbs and gutters, have blind corners and low lighting at night,” said group president Ms Carolina Schuiling.

“Small vehicles are frequently having to negotiate getting past very large vehicles such as buses and garbage trucks.

“There are often complaints from residents about speeding vehicles and we have pedestrians, including elderly people, families with small children and people walking dogs using the roads.

“All of these issues can make travelling on our roads unsafe.

“We have a current speed zone limit of 50kph for the Bays area which in many places is too high for safety.

“Over the last few years, the committee has been writing to Council on behalf of the community requesting to lower the speed limit.

“Council has previously advised that the speed limit was a State

Government responsibility to review and set speed limits and passed our request on to Transport for NSW.

“Recently the Council advised that the department has still not addressed our request.

“While we are awaiting a response, the Bays Community Group has requested Council to inspect our local roads to determine if something can be done in the meantime to address our road safety issues with the intention of making our streets safer.”

Council staff have accepted the request for a site inspection.

“You are invited to raise your road safety concerns along with any ideas for addressing these.”

These will be raised at the inspection.

Concerns and ideas should be sent by email to committee member Mr Vic Tysoe at thebaysemail@gmail.com.

Deadline for submissions is today, Monday, September 4.

SOURCE:
Social media, 28 Aug 2023
The Bays Community Group

CWA branch president steps down

The president of the Woy Woy branch of the Country Women’s Association has decided to step down.

Long-standing president Ms Jane Bowtell has decided to take a break “to spend time with her family and very energetic two-year-old grandson”.

The branch’s new president will be Ms Margy Ure who will officially take over at the annual general meeting in October.

However, the transition has already started with Ms Ure taking on some presidential duties.

In a social media post, “all members warmly welcomed her into her new role and are committed to helping her maintain the branch moving forward” and to “see the branch remain relevant and committed to the community”.

Ms Bowtell was described as “the go-to person for many



years (who) helped Woy Woy CWA become a vibrant, busy, community-focused branch once again”.

She will remain a branch member.

SOURCE:
Social media, 25 Aug 2023
CWA Woy Woy

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Amended application submitted for 34 Warrah St

An amended application has been received for a three-unit multi-dwelling development at 34 Warrah St, Ettalong.

The original application was recommended for refusal by council planners and finally refused by the Local Planning Panel in November.

The applicant, Knight Mapleton Design Partners, appealed this decision to the Lands and Environment Court, which convened a conciliation conference.

The application has now been resubmitted in amended form to address the Council's concerns, which included compatibility with "the desired future character of the zone" and "best practice design".

The new application will be evaluated under the Central Coast Local Environment Plan 2022 and the corresponding Development Control Plan, where the previous application was assessed under the old Gosford LEP 2014 and DCP.

Changes to the design are annotated on the resubmitted plans.

Some "changes" note compliance such as in the areas of "soft landscaping" and deep soil coverage which benefit from the more lax controls of the more recent planning controls.

The front and rear units (Units 1 and 3) have first floor setbacks increased by a substantial amount to "improve solar access outcomes now that separation is no longer required under the current planning context".

The old provisions mandated a six metre minimum distance between buildings.



This clause will no longer apply. The ground floor of Unit 3 has been "substantially retracted from the existing tree on site to allow for its retention as per arborist advice received".

Private open space for Units 1 and 3 have been amended to "show a compliant 4.5m dimension".

Ground and first floor layouts of Units 1 and 2 have been changed in line with other changes.

Some private open space is shown within the front setback, prohibited by the new planning provisions.

Only 20.2 square metres (less than half) of Unit 1's open space is located in the side setback.

The rest is within a fenced area at the front of the building.

The open space for Unit 2 is only 25 square metres and is located on the driveway which requires

the provision of a privacy screen which blocks a large portion of the sunlight reaching this area.

Shadow diagrams are provided covering each hour of the day on June 21.

It seems from these that the Unit 2 open space, as well as being undersized, will not receive the requisite amount of solar access.

Other amendments to the drawings include the roof design being changed to a "hip and gable form" and the driveway being altered to include more landscaping.

The proposed on site size of the driveway is now 176 square metres.

This proposal also requires the removal of a street tree.

This will leave about four street trees remaining in Warrah St.

The amended application is currently on exhibition and available for written submissions until September 29.

SOURCE:
DA Tracker, 2 Sep 2023
DA62934, Central Coast Council

Application made for Brisbane Water Oyster Festival

An application has been made to hold the Brisbane Water Oyster Festival in Lions Park in North Burge Rd, Woy Woy, on Sunday, November 12.

"The event ... includes activities both within the existing reserve and car park and on the adjoining street, ie the northern end of North Burge Rd," the application prepared by Matthew Wales of Wales and Associates states.

"The proposed use will have some effect on the local environment as will any popular one-day event.

"However, the effect will be offset by the provision of a well-organised controlled community event that will provide substantial benefits to the local community."

The street closure map attached to the application states that the carpark will be closed to all traffic from 6pm on Friday, November



10, to 6pm on Sunday, November 12," to ensure no vehicles or boat trailers are left in boat ramp carpark".

The event itself is scheduled to run from 10am to 4pm on Sunday, November 12.

The application is currently on exhibition until September 29.

SOURCE:
DA Tracker, 3 Sep 2023
DA1385/2023, Central Coast Council

Woolworths has 'no detailed plans'

Woolworths has "no detailed plans" for the Austin Butler Reserve land it wants Central Coast Council to sell to improve "the accessibility and safety of the overall centre" at Peninsula Plaza.

The company issued a statement in answer to questions from Peninsula News: "Alongside the landlord, an approach was made to the Council for the adjacent land with the view of improving the accessibility and safety of the overall centre.

"The Council process still needs to run its course on the

reclassification of this land and the community needs to have their say.

"There are no more detailed plans at this stage."

In answer to a question about the removal of the last significant stand of mature native trees in the Woy Woy commercial, the company said: "We aim to reduce the environmental impact of any project we're involved in, while also improving the amenity and convenience for the whole Woy Woy community."

SOURCE:
Media statement, 31 Aug 2023
Nathan Farebrother,
Woolworths Group

Strategic review consultation is dropped

A strategic planning review of the Peninsula is no longer part of Central Coast Council's community consultation program.

Administrator Mr Rik Hart adopted a Community Engagement Plan at the Council meeting of August 22, which does not list the review as occurring before July next year.

The review, called the Peninsula Place Plan, was scheduled to be drafted by June this year and adopted by the end of this year, according to the Council's 2022-2025 "Delivery Plan".

The Local Planning Panel called for such a strategic planning review of the Peninsula at its November meeting last year.

The Panel recommended "Central Coast Council consider conducting a strategic planning review of the planning controls, development provisions and character statements for Umina,

Woy Woy and Ettalong."

It stated the review should "ensure there is consistency between the relevant controls, provisions and character statements applicable to each locality, and a clear direction and expectation on the desired future character of these suburbs".

The Panel appeared to be concerned that the planning provisions did not seem to support character statement objectives, which protected trees and encouraged "leafy gardens".

Many resident submissions to the Panel have highlighted the shortcomings of the planning provisions to retain or encourage tree planting.

Setbacks, deep soil zones, open space and permitted non-compliance are frequently criticised by residents as inadequate to the purpose.

SOURCE:
Central Coast Council
agenda 2.11, 22 Aug 2023

Ambulance station officially opens

The new Woy Woy ambulance station was officially opened last week.

It was opened by NSW Ambulance metropolitan operations acting director Mr Paul Tonge.

Among the guests was Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch.

The new station includes internal parking for up to 10 emergency ambulance vehicles, staff common areas, administration and office areas, logistics and storage areas, a vehicle wash bay and a Medic Fit gym.

The Woy Woy Ambulance Station has been fitted with a solar panel energy system and an uninterruptible power supply battery for essential building services.



The purpose-built facility on Ocean Beach Road replaces the existing aging station at Ettalong.

Ms Tesch said: "I welcome the opening of this station and will continue to stand beside our

community in working to deliver the best possible health services for the people of the Peninsula and Central Coast."

SOURCE:
Media release, 30 Aug 2023
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford



Central Coast Ferries gave its vessel MV Saratoga a break from the ferry run on Saturday, August 26. They took a trip to enjoy the sights of Brisbane Waters, Broken Bay and Pittwater, observing the progress of the dredging.

SOURCE:
Social media, 26 Aug 2023
Central Coast Ferries

Pelican Island vandalism investigated

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service has launched an investigation into vandalism at the Pelican Island Nature Reserve.

Central Coast area manager Mr Steve Atkins said: "The illegal activities, including camping, lighting fires, littering, damage to park signs, and destruction of native vegetation, have raised concerns about the conservation of this vital natural habitat.

"Pelican Island Nature Reserve spans 40 hectares in the heart of Brisbane Water, protecting crucial estuarine vegetation, such as the swamp oak and the Saltmarsh Endangered Ecological Community.

"This island offers sanctuary to native animals and birds, including white-bellied sea eagles which are a threatened species in NSW.

"We've faced repeated challenges at Pelican Island, with the park sign needing to be replaced three times since January, due to repeated removals by vandals.



"A recent inspection revealed that over 70 casuarina trees have been cut down, and the ground is littered with broken glass bottles, rubbish, and remnants of fires," said Mr Atkins.

The nature reserve is only accessible by boat.

He said the Service will be installing surveillance cameras on

the island and increasing patrols of the area.

Anyone with information about vandalism at Pelican Island Nature Reserve, should contact the local NPWS Gurrakool office on 4320 4200 or email parks.info@environment.nsw.gov.au.

SOURCE:
Media release, 1 Sep 2023
Catherine Rout, NPWS

Mechanical issues cause pause in dredging

Mechanical issues with the dredge clearing the Ettalong Channel have paused dredging operations, while a replacement is brought in.

The damaged Faucon dredge is on its way back to its base on the Gold Coast, where the crew will return with "a new and improved dredge", said Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch.

"I am glad to see that Faucon's sister ship, Port Frederick, will be on its way as soon as possible.

"The replacement dredge will be able to complete in one day the work that Faucon was able to complete in 2.5 days, she said.

"This dredge was unable to be used in the first instance as it requires a wider channel than was previously present until Faucon's work commenced."

She said that the Faucon had been able to widen the channel sufficiently for the Port Frederick,

which was a more effective trailing suction dredge.

The dredging is expected to remove 30,000 cubic metres of sand to create a 30-metre wide channel, both inside and on the ocean side of Half-Tide Rocks that can accommodate vessels with a 2.5 metre draft.

Dredged sand will be placed in the water on Ettalong Shoals, just off Ocean Beach, as with previous dredging efforts.

As part of this project, measures will be put in place to protect environmentally-sensitive areas. This will include establishing buffer areas to prevent the disturbance of sea grasses.

Future campaigns would explore the possibility of sand renourishment of Ettalong Beach, Ms Tesch said.

SOURCE:
Media release, 31 Aug 2023
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford

Bushfire survival planning advice is offered

The Bays Rural Fire Brigade will help local residents prepare for bush fire season from 10am to 3pm on Saturday, September 16.

It will discuss Bush Fire Survival Planning at Deepwater Plaza near outside Gloria Jeans, and also at The Bay Brigade fire station at 17 Wattle Crescent, where it will have a free barbecue.

"This an ideal opportunity to find out more about planning for your family and preparing for bush fires," said The Bays Community Group president Ms Carolina Schuling.

"It's also a chance to learn about the new Fire Danger Rating System which has now been rolled out across NSW.

"Based on the seasonal outlook the local fire risk is high because of the amount of rain in past years creating high fuel loads in the area.

"We live in a bushfire prone area so the best way to survive, thrive and recover in the case of any event is for you and your family to prepare your property and create a bushfire survival plan."

SOURCE:
Social media, 29 Aug 2023
The Bays Rural Fire Brigade

Pearl Beach community breakfast

The Pearl Beach Progress Association will hold its next Community Breakfast Barbecue at 8:30am on Sunday, September 10, at the Pearl Beach Memorial Hall.

It will be held on the back deck of the community hall at 9 Diamond Rd, Pearl Beach.

Residents are invited to the join association members "for tea, coffee, bacon and egg rolls (\$5) and a chat".

SOURCE:
Website, 30 Aug 2023
Pearl Beach Progress Association



Central Coast Friends of Democracy

ADVERTISEMENT

Communities call on all MPs to support binding plebiscites on de-amalgamation

On 23 August 2023, Dr Amanda Cohn MLC and Greens spokesperson for Local Government, gave notice of a bill to amend the *Local Government Act* to enable communities to have their say on deamalgamations through binding plebiscites.



Community representatives from around NSW with Dr. Amanda Cohn at Parliament House

The suggested amendments have the support of cross-bench MPs, both Independents and from minor parties. Representatives of the Demerge NSW Alliance (DNA), made up of community advocacy groups from across the state, were at Parliament House to call on all MPs to support these amendments to the *Local Government Act*.

DNA spokesperson Grantley Ingram, from Save Bombala Group, said "the 2016 amalgamation of councils has been a failure. Communities have had seven years to weigh it up: we are suffering a loss of representation, a loss of accountability and our rates have gone up — sometimes exponentially."

"The Minister must take democracy seriously: if a majority votes in a plebiscite to deamalgamate their council, the Minister must direct the Office of Local Government to prepare a road-map to deamalgamate."

"DNA is calling on Labor to support the proposed amendments, which are in line with its own policy presented to the election in March.

Communities in Bombala, Canterbury Bankstown, Central Coast, Guyra, Inner West, Pittwater, Hilltops and Tumbarumba Local Government areas are campaigning for communities to have a say on the future of their amalgamated Councils.

Have your say on the future of Central Coast Council →



Forum

Save last shade trees in Woy Woy

Central Coast Council Administrator Mr Rik Hart has come out after the council meeting pretending that he wants what is best for the residents of the Peninsula.

Please don't be conned by his trickery with words or promises.

We all know that this council cannot be trusted with money or community land.

They see dollar signs where we see mature irreplaceable trees and habitat.

They have shown us in the past that money can disappear without a trace.

Why would we in our right mind now believe that they will do the right thing by residents and our environment?

There are far more than 40 trees in the section of Austin Butler Reserve shown by council

to be removed and no amount of planting trees will ever replace what we lost.

We have all witnessed the brutal destruction of street trees by the power companies who trim them often.

These street trees are not homes or feed for our animals and provide no shelter for the community.

The Grow Urban Shade Trees group is already planting street trees and if they were supported more they could do more for the community.

I much prefer to trust them with our native tree planting rather than council.

Rik Hart is trying to manipulate the decision by promising a million trees over a 10-year period.

My mother always taught me if something sounds too good to be

true it normally is.

Rik Hart will not be there when the new council is elected and there is no guarantee his promise will stand.

If we are not careful, we will end up with nothing.

Rik Hart has already admitted that the deal could be changed with a new council elected.

The new trees being offered by Rik Hart will be saplings and provide no shade nor shelter or food for many years to come.

The trees at Austin Butler are the last remaining shade trees in Woy Woy.

We must save them and show Rik Hart and the council that our environment matters and that we will defend it.

Council will do what is best for Council and Woolworths will do what is best for Woolworths.

We have to make sure as residents of this beautiful community that we stand together and do what is best for the environment we live in.

SOURCE:

Email, 24 Aug 2023

Joanne Roberts, Blackwall

The banks want a cashless society: This is why

The other day I paid for a few items with my debit card.

I could have paid cash, but I chose not to.

I was slugged 1.2 per cent for my laziness.

A total of 45 cents.

On the weekend, I bought some new furniture.

I offered cash but was told the shop only accepted card payment.

I had the option of paying a 1.2 per cent fee amounting to \$15.62 or go home and sit on the floor.

Can someone explain how or

why it costs so much more for a computer to do a transaction for a bigger amount?

When is the Government going to put a stop to this highway robbery?

If the retailer refuses cash, then they should wear this exorbitant theft.

Banks want us to be a cashless society.

Now I know why.

SOURCE:

Email, 23 Aug 2023

Laurie Powell, Woy Woy

Thank you for finding my card

I would like to thank the person who found my CBA card in West St, Umina, on Monday, August 14, and reported it to the Bank.

I am most grateful to you.

SOURCE:

Email, 24 Aug 2023

Anne Bennell, Umina

Memorial Ave land needs protection

Having written to the council Administrator several times about the progressive destruction of the once-beautiful park at 23 Memorial Ave, Blackwall, it was not a pleasant task to write again.

I can only hope that this time he will not delegate the reply to his writer-in-chief of platitudes.

This land, and our community, have suffered enough.

As you may remember, the reserve was taken over by mountain bike riders two years ago.

Since then, the locals who used the park for peaceful purposes have been afraid to enter.

To create an exciting biking experience, unknown men have dug deep holes and built huge bumps covered with carpet.

They have then invited other bikers to come and enjoy wrecking a beautiful natural environment - stealing it, in fact, from the local community.

What was once a place to hold yoga classes, walk, or just sit and listen to the wind in the trees, is now covered with weeds and rubbish, deep holes and earth mounds - not to mention the speeding bikes and their yelling riders.

Three days ago I was setting off on my walk when I noticed a boy going into the reserve through the trees.

Normally I don't do into the reserve alone, but, throwing caution to the wind, I followed him.

In the clearing was a young man digging new holes with a very sharp shovel.

He had already rebuilt some speed bumps and put new carpet over them.

When I took out my phone to take photos of the improvements, two younger boys took off on their bikes.

The older one hid behind a tree with his bag over his face.

I had no intention of taking their photos, but why were they so afraid unless they felt guilty? The "improvements" remain.

So does the rubbish, and the weed covered holes into which a member of the public risks falling.

I have asked the Administrator to restore this land to the condition it was in before the wreckers arrived: Remove the speed bumps, fill in the holes, cut back the weeds, mow the clearing and remove the feral creepers from the remnant trees of the Umina sand plain forest.

Protect the reserve from further incursions of spade-wielding bikers. In no society ever has it been OK to destroy public property just because you felt like it.

The reserve contains a registered midden, which should be preserved.

Both the Administrator and council staff have a duty of care to rate-paying residents, and a duty of protection to Council land.

SOURCE:

Email, 1 Sep 2023

Jane Hendy, Blackwall

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An open letter to

**Mr Rik Hart, Administrator, Central Coast Council,
Mr David Farmer, CEO, Central Coast Council &
The Hon David Harris MP, Minister for the Central Coast**

We, the undersigned community groups of the Woy Woy Peninsula and Central Coast, DO NOT accept Mr Hart's resolution to rezone, reclassify and sell **AUSTIN BUTLER RESERVE in exchange for a promise to use the sale money for a "community greening program".**

The Woy Woy Peninsula can't afford to lose one more mature tree. Our community is already recognised by Central Coast Council as a heat island. The Central Coast Council's Greener Places Strategy, adopted in July 2022, states that "*older trees have greater habitat value than younger trees in the urban forest*".

Austin Butler Reserve was dedicated to council for the purpose of community recreation. It is a precious green space with 44 mature trees, providing habitat to many species of birds, mammals, reptiles, microbats and insects. Central Coast Council, in its efforts to sell off our public land has, so far:

1. Failed to discharge conditions or restrictions from the land's original dedication to council.
2. Pre-empted the outcome of a proposal to reclassify the land from community to operational to allow it to be sold.
3. Pre-empted the outcome of an amendment to the Local Environmental Plan (LEP) to permit commercial use of the land which is currently prohibited.
4. Entered an agreement to sell community land to the company that owns Peninsula Plaza.
5. Attempted to wedge the community by promising to use money from the reserve's sale to buy trees.
6. Failed to get basic facts right – resolved to sell a non-existent lot 19 instead of lot 9; the land area is over 4000m² not the claimed 2000m².

The combined community groups of the Woy Woy Peninsula and broader Central Coast request that Central Coast Council immediately:

1. Rescinds the resolution made at the August council meeting.
2. Withdraws Austin Butler AC from sale.
3. Commits to keeping Austin Butler AC in public ownership as valued community land zoned for community recreation.
4. Tells the owners of Peninsula Plaza and their key tenant, Woolworths, to use their own land to fix unverified "safety concerns" and not expect the community to lose its reserve.
5. Commits to street tree planting and deep soil provision to address its existing obligations to fix the "urban heat island effects on the Woy Woy Peninsula" (page 38 Greener Places Strategy) without selling our public land.

SIGNED BY:

- Australian Conservation Foundation Central Coast Community Group
- Mingaletta Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation
- Residents for Responsible Ettalong Development (RRED)
- Koolewong Point Clare Tascott Progress Association
- Community Environment Network (CEN)
- Pearl Beach Progress Association
- Peninsula Residents Association
- Peninsula Environment Group (PEG)
- Grow Urban Shade Trees (GUST)
- Save Central Coast Reserves
- Save Our Woy Woy
- Wildlife ARC
- WIRES

Support our campaign at <https://www.facebook.com/soscommunitylandcc>



Ephemeral Art Trail to open for a month

The Pearl Beach Ephemeral Art Trail will be held in the Cromellin Native Arboretum at Pearl Beach from Saturday, September 16, until Sunday, October 15.

The free public display of 20 ephemeral artworks will be open during daylight hours.

“Over 20 artists have agreed to construct highly creative works based on our theme Nurture and Nature,” said Arboretum secretary Ms Mary Knaggs.

“The Ephemeral Art Trail aims to create inspiring temporary public art that promotes nature conservation, supports community identity and increases the cultural vibrancy.

“Community and artist installations inspired by the local environment of Pearl Beach and the Woy Woy Peninsula have been chosen through an ‘expression of interest’ process.

“We suggest you park near the Pearl Beach Tennis Courts via Opal Close where toilets are also available,” she said.

Prizes will be awarded and people attending may vote for the People’s Choice Award.

On weekends the Arboretum Cottage will feature nature inspired workshops and local artists displaying their works.

There will also be music and theatre performances.

Workshops range in price from \$15 to \$300 per person.

All are invited to the official opening at 2:30 pm on Saturday, September 23, featuring a smoking ceremony, free live bush music and refreshments in return for a donation.

The winners will be announced at this opening, with the exception of the People’s Choice Award which will be announced on Saturday, October 7.

The Pearl Beach Art Fair will be

held in the Arboretum from 9am to 6pm on Sunday, October 1.

More than 25 local artists and artisans will have stalls on the day offering a selection of art, cards, jewellery, handicrafts, ceramics, pottery, clothing and sculptures.

The Arboretum, established in Pearl Beach since 1976, is a natural botanic garden open to the public for free.

“Our Arboretum is a sanctuary for rare and threatened plant species, spanning 5.5 hectares of land in the Pearl Beach community.”

No domestic animals, fires, barbecues or smoking are allowed in the Arboretum except with special permission.

For further information, email pbeat@pearlbeacharboretum.org.au.

SOURCE:
Website, 30 Aug 2023
Mary Knaggs, Pearl Beach Arboretum

Aboriginal artwork part of new hospital display

Aboriginal artwork by local artist Mr Maurice Goolagong, an Acknowledgement to Country and the National Apology are part of a display opened at Woy Woy Hospital on Thursday, August 31.

The new display is at the entrance to the Rehabilitation Unit.

“The circles represent the hospitals,” said Mr Goolagong.

“The hand prints represent the patients and the community that

are here on the Central Coast.

“The turtles represent the staff that work here, and the staff from the Nunyara Aboriginal Health Unit,” Maurice said.

“It is simple but significant and represents this area and the country that we are on.

“I hope you love it and I am proud to have it here at the hospital,” he said.

SOURCE:
Social media, 1 Sep 2023
Central Coast Health

More overseas workers for aged care

A Woy Woy aged care home is expecting a second group of overseas workers to join its staff this month.

More workers from the Philippines are expected to join the staff at Blue Wave Living this month, said chief executive Mr Matt Downie.

“We look forward to these new team members becoming a long-term part of the Blue Wave team.

“We will be hosting another staff barbecue in early September as part of our welcome to Blue Wave for our new staff, as well as for our existing staff to enjoy.”

Mr Downie said the additional

team members came “at a pivotal moment as we steadily transition towards opening up new areas following our building works – both extension of existing facility and internal re-build work”.

He said: “The need for additional qualified staff to work in aged care has become acute, with many operators facing extreme challenges.

“It will only become more so, as our industry is required to grow significantly over the next 20 plus years, to meet the unprecedented growth in our aging population.

“While migration is one solution, there is more which needs to be

done by all levels of government to continue to support the sector: Ensuring that our industry remains competitive with wages for staff, that we have good access to the education required to qualify staff, and that there is access to affordable housing for care staff.

“There are complexities around all these issues and more which will require a collaborative approach from all involved with the sector to ensure they can be overcome.

“Australians deserve a sustainable aged care system,” he said.

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 31 Aug 2023
Matt Downie, Blue Wave Living

Lions urge residents to book fire safety visit

The Woy Woy Peninsula Lions Club is encouraging residents to book a Fire and Rescue NSW safety visit.

“Our Lions Club consider this to be a highly important service considering the aging population of our community,” said club secretary Mr Greg Head.

“During safety visits, firefighters will check that you have working smoke alarms, that they are in good working condition, and are installed in suitable areas.

“If you do not have one, firefighters will install a long-life battery-powered smoke alarm as well as replace existing smoke alarm batteries all at no cost,” he said.

“Firefighters will also ask residents to show them around their homes, so they are able to

provide personalised fire safety information on issues such as kitchen fires, heaters and open fires, common electrical safety, barbecues and wheat bags.

“They can also provide advice on best protecting your home in the event of a bushfire.”

Mr Head said: “The safety visits program draws on historical data about where fires occur and the reasons why.

“Firefighters can also help develop a home fire escape plan and tell you how and when to call Triple Zero in the event of an emergency.”

To book a safety visit, visit www.fire.nsw.gov.au/visits

SOURCE:
Media release, 24 Aug 2023
Greg Head, Woy Woy Peninsula Lions Club

Medal awarded for fighting fires overseas

The Bays Rural Fire Brigade’s senior deputy captain Mr David Taylor has been recognised for his service fighting fires overseas in 2017.

Mr Taylor has received a Humanitarian Overseas Medal for fighting wildfires in British Columbia, Canada.

He was part of a Remote Area Firefighting group, which undertook a six-week operation within Kluskus Lakes and the Rocky Mountains within British Columbia.

SOURCE:
Social media, 22 Aug 2023
The Bays Rural Fire Brigade

RUOK at Mingaletta?

An RUOK sausage sizzle will be held from 3:30pm to 6pm at Mingaletta in Sydney Ave, Umina, on Thursday, September 14.

“It’s important always to be looking out for each other,” said organiser Mr Stephen van Tongeren from the Interrelate relationship organisation.

“If someone in your mob is struggling in any way, ask them, in your own way, ‘Are you OK?’

“When we ask someone ‘Are you OK?’, we can help those we care about open up about how they’re feeling and show them they’re supported.”

He said The Glen for Men and The Glen for Women will both be joining to generously share their cultural knowledge and dance with us.

For more information, call Mr van Tongeren on 0456 251 983.

SOURCE:
Media release, 30 Aug 2023
Stephen van Tongeren, Interrelate



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Rotary team raises \$13,500 in Variety Bash

The Rotary Club of Umina Beach has raised \$13,500 for the children's charity Variety.

Last week's club meeting heard about the exploits of the Rotary Old Boys, three club members who had recently returned after completing the Variety Bash.

They travelled from Bathurst NSW to Batavia Coast at Geraldton WA, a distance of some 5500km in 10 days.

A number of photos were displayed and one of the three, Mr Ian Johnson, gave a summary of the days.

"The unbreakable Toyota HiLux made the distance with minimal fuss," said club president Mr Wayne Dowdle, another one of the three.

"I would estimate that we travelled on dirt for around 80 per cent of the trip."

He said the event raised a total of \$1.5 million and Variety gave out near \$80,000 to nine outback schools along the way in four states.

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 31 Aug 2023
Wayne Dowdle, Rotary
Umina Beach

Men's Shed installs Girl Guides library box

The Umina Beach Men's Shed has installed a "library box" for the Girl Guides of Ettalong.

Men's Shed secretary said the Guides had approached the Shed to build and install a library box some months ago.

He said the Shed had done this at several locations around the Peninsula for various groups and it has now been installed.

"The box was constructed and, once the guides had decided where exactly they wanted it installed, a small team of lads visited the site and carefully installed the finished product."

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 31 Aug 2023
Vic Brown, Umina
Beach Men's Shed



Rotary seeks unused mobile phones

The Rotary Club of Brisbane Water is seeking donations of unused mobile phones for homeless people in need of a phone.

"Our club is helping to give people who are homeless or sleeping rough access to donated mobile phones, through Health on The Streets," said the club's project officer Ms Jayne Mote.

"Health on The Streets is a mobile health clinic that takes

healthcare to rough sleepers and people experiencing homelessness around the Central Coast.

"The van is at Mary Mac's every Monday until about 1pm.

"All tests are carried out under a gazebo.

"There is a team of four or five who rotate."

Ms Mote said: "Homeless people need a phone to make contact with social services as they

have no permanent address and that's where we come in.

"We are collecting phones that people don't need any more.

"Many people keep old phones in a drawer when they upgrade, not realising that those old phones can be a lifesaver for people in need."

To donate, contact Ms Mote on 0405 714 289 or phone Health on The Streets direct on 4365 2294.

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 3 Sep 2023
Di Bartok, Rotary Brisbane Water



Liesl Tesch MP

Member for Gosford

Parliamentary Secretary for Families and Communities

Parliamentary Secretary for Disability Inclusion



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Reclassification to proceed

Central Coast Council has decided to proceed with reclassification of the Austin Butler reserve.

A planning proposal is expected to be put before the Local Planning Panel in a matter of days.

It is not usual practice to reveal the contents of a planning proposal before it is considered by the panel and it is unknown what the proposal will contain.

The matter is not expected to be listed in the Planning Panel agenda, but its decision will be recorded in minutes of the meeting afterwards.

The community is unlikely to be given the opportunity to address the Panel about the proposal.

The decision to proceed with the reclassification of Austin Butler reserve was made in a "bulk reclassification" decision for 11 lots of at the council meeting of Tuesday, August 22.

Council Administrator Mr Rik Hart, responding to resident emails, amended the recommendation to also "seek community feedback ... as part of the consultation process" about retaining the site in council ownership or putting the proceeds

of the sale "to the greening of the local community".

A staff report to council stated: "The next step is the preparation of a Planning Proposal under the provisions of Part 3 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

"The Planning Proposal must be considered by the Local Planning Panel and referred to the Department of Planning and Environment for a Gateway Determination.

"It is proposed that Council consider a recommendation to refer the lots identified in this report for Gateway Determination at its September 2023 meeting.

"Should Gateway approval be granted, a Planning Proposal to reclassify public land must be publicly exhibited for at least 28 days."

A statement issued to Peninsula News on behalf of Council chief executive Mr David Farmer said that reclassification and the sale of the land would be treated separately.

"It is intended that a bulk reclassification of the 11 parcels identified in the Council report would be commenced, with the

first step being referral of the reclassification planning proposal to the Local Planning Panel followed by a Council resolution to refer it to the Department of Planning and Environment for Gateway Determination," he said.

"Should the Department issue a Gateway Determination to proceed with the planning proposal, consultation would follow.

"The consultation process will inform the Department's decision about whether to reclassify some, all or none of the parcels.

"The Administrator's amendment to the staff recommendation at the August 22 Council meeting means that there will also be consultation on the question about whether the land at Austin Butler Access should be retained or sold with proceeds invested in a greening program.

"Council officers have not yet worked through the detail of the consultation processes required by Council's resolution of August 22, but it is intended that they will be undertaken concurrently rather than sequentially."

SOURCE:
Central Coast Council
agenda 2.5, 22 Aug 2023

Residents reject tree trade-off and call for planning review

The Peninsula Residents Association has rejected an offer from Central Coast Council Administrator Mr Rik Hart to inject millions of dollars into an "extensive street tree planting program" on the Peninsula, as a trade-off for the sale of part of the Austin Butler reserve which adjoins the Peninsula Plaza shopping centre.

A sale "could provide millions of dollars to a community greening program", he said.

It will be one option presented as part of a community consultation, the other being retention of the reserve in council ownership.

The association has instead called on Mr Hart to bring on a strategic planning review of the Peninsula and implement the Council's adopted Greener Places Strategy.

"The Strategy includes a review of planning provisions to support the retention and expansion of tree cover," said association secretary Ms Jen Wilder.

Action proposed in the strategy is to "prepare planning controls to improve tree planting and retention outcomes from development", she said.

"The community and the association have demonstrated

the inadequacy of the current planning provisions to protect and encourage an increase in tree canopy on the Peninsula in their many submissions on local development applications."

She said that, in November last year, the Local Planning Panel called on the Council to undertake a strategic planning review of the Peninsula "to ensure there is consistency between the relevant controls, provisions and character statements applicable to each locality, and clear direction and expectation on the desired future character of these suburbs".

Currently, there is no review scheduled.

Ms Wilder said Mr Hart had claimed to be giving the community the opportunity to decide about the long-term future of their area, in particular, from a community greening and street tree perspective.

"We would like the Administrator to introduce the strategic planning review as a matter of urgency" she said.

"Such a review will be more effective in the longer-term, will be less expensive and is a sounder approach to the issue of greening the Peninsula."

SOURCE:
Media release, 31 Aug 2023
Jen Wilder, Peninsula
Residents Association

Hart urges community to consider options

Central Coast Council Administrator Mr Rik Hart has urged the community to have its say on the future of a parcel of land in Austin Butler Reserve next to Peninsula Plaza in Woy Woy.

He said the consultation process "could provide millions of dollars to a community greening program".

The parcel of land was resolved to be placed on public exhibition to seek community feedback on whether the site should be retained in Council ownership or be sold to facilitate expansion of Peninsula Plaza.

Mr Hart said the community is being given the opportunity to decide about the long-term future of their area, in particular, from a community greening and street tree perspective.

"Council has been contacted by the shopping centre owner and

their major tenant, Woolworths, about the parcel of land next to Peninsula Plaza in Woy Woy."

He said they were "concerned about the viability of future operations in relation to logistics and public safety around current arrangements for the loading dock".

This land had around 40 trees, "some of which would need to be removed to mitigate these risks", he said.

"I have heard from dozens of community members about the importance of the trees on this site, and more broadly, about the lack of mature shade trees throughout Woy Woy and the Peninsula.

"I resolved at the August 22 Council meeting that the community's perspective on this matter is paramount.

He said two options would be offered.

The first option would be to

retain the site in Council ownership "which would stop the sale process".

The second option was to sell the site "with all proceeds from the sale allocated to greening of the local community, for example, via an extensive street tree planting program".

"A greening program would go a very long way to offsetting the heat impacts associated with reduced tree canopy and climate change."

"I met with the Member for Gosford about this matter recently and explained to her my intention to put these two options," he said.

Mr Hart said: "I encourage the community to think about the short- and long-term impacts of each option before having their say.

"This is a chance for the community to have a measurable impact on the future of their area."

SOURCE:
Media release, 23 Aug 2023
Rik Hart, Central Coast Council

Tesch opposes reserve reclassification and sale

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch has spoken out against the reclassification and sale of land in Austin Butler reserve next to Peninsula Plaza in Woy Woy.

She urged residents "to continue to fight to protect the significant stand of paperbark and she-oak trees" on the land.

Central Coast Council decided at its meeting on Tuesday, August 22, to proceed immediately to reclassify the land from "community" land to "operational" land, paving the way for its sale.

She said concerned residents should "get actively involved in Council's community consultation to save the paperbarks from destruction and help preserve the space for today and for future generations".

Ms Tesch said: "In my ongoing discussions with Mr Rik Hart, Administrator for Central Coast Council, I have asserted that the community must be consulted on this change and the community must be listened to regarding the future of this site, and by extension,

the future of Woy Woy town centre.

"Our Peninsula's environmental problems are already well documented as is ongoing tree loss due to development and issues such as the urban heat island effect.

"We need to continue working together as a community, to speak up and oppose the possible removal of this unique stand of trees – one of a dwindling number here on the Peninsula."

Ms Tesch encouraged locals concerned about the potential loss of Woy Woy's green space to make their voice known to Council.

She encouraged locals to sign her petition at <https://www.liesltesch.com.au/community/petitions/petitions/>, to contact her office at gosford@parliament.nsw.gov.au or to sign in person at her office at 20 Blackwall Rd, Woy Woy.

"I will continue to communicate the community's concerns to Central Coast Council."

SOURCE:
Media release, 21 Aug 2023
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford

Who was Austin Butler?

Austin Butler (1932-1994) was a life member of the Woy Woy Football Club, joining the soccer club in 1971 after moving after moving to the Central Coast.

He took various roles with the club and the Central Coast association for more than 30 years.

He pioneered women's soccer on the Coast, with his wife and seven children all involved with the sport.

He is regarded by the club as having "produced the most

renowned soccer family in the history of the game on the Central Coast".

His mother gave him the nickname "Skeeta" when he was young and skinny.

The name stuck with him throughout his life.

Skeeta was awarded life membership of four soccer related organisations: Woy Woy Soccer Club, Central Coast Soccer Association, Central Coast Women's Soccer Association and the Northern NSW Women's

Soccer Association.

"Skeeta was an unassuming man," according to a history of the club's first 50 years, published in 2015.

"He knew what jobs had to be done, and if there was no-one there to do it, he would knuckle down and do it himself.

"He was not a frontman, always a backroom boy.

"He asked for no favours."

SOURCE:
Booklet, 2015
Woy Woy Football Club
Celebrating 50 years

School survey shows decrease in bullying

A survey of Years 4-6 students has shown a significant decrease in bullying at Umina Beach Public School, according to principal Ms Karen Wardlaw.

She said it was "well below the state average of bullying incidents across NSW schools".

"We will continue to teach our weekly social learning lessons to ensure our students are equipped and confident learners," she said.

"This week, our students are learning about polite and positive talk.

"We're explicitly teaching our students, from K-6, what polite and positive talk looks like, feels like and sounds like.

"Our students are being provided with opportunities to discuss what it means to talk politely - using manners, using a polite tone of voice and body language, being thoughtful with your words, and interrupting

politely, when necessary.

"In the classroom, students are discussing what it means to talk positively - thinking about how your words might make someone else feel, practicing how to give constructive feedback when asked, how to use your body language and facial expressions to match your words, and how to speak respectfully and encourage others.

"Students will also explore positive self-talk, and how this is an important learner quality."

Ms Wardlaw said: "Parents may wish to use the language of polite and positive talk at home to reinforce the school's expectations of showing respect.

"We know that being respectful is key to students feeling a sense of worth, connection and belonging at school, which helps to create a positive, happy school."

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 22 Aug 2023
Karen Wardlaw, Umina Beach Public School



Book Week parade 'enjoyed by one and all'

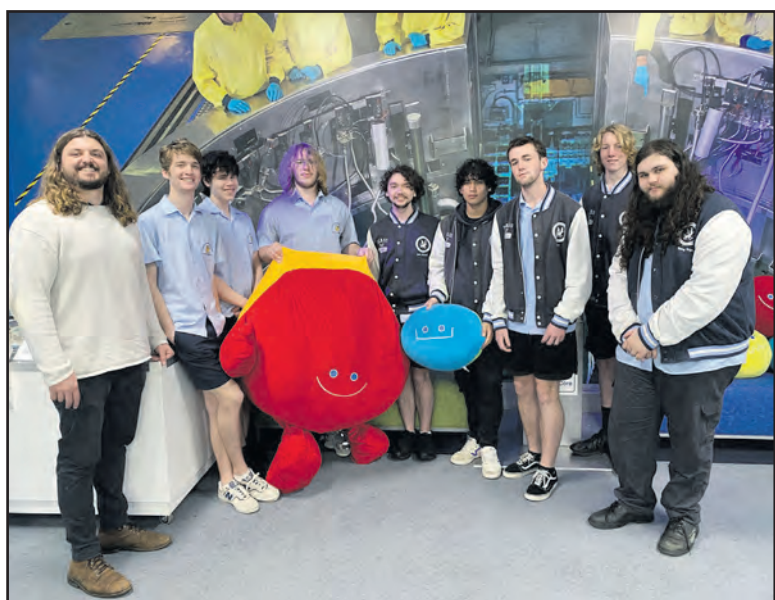
Woy Woy South Public School held its Book Week Parade on Thursday, August 24.

"It was an outstanding Book Week Parade was enjoyed by one and all," said principal Mr Matt Barr.

"We loved all the costumes and

enthusiastic parading."

SOURCE:
Social media, 24 Aug 2023
Matt Barr, Woy Woy South Public School



Visit to Lucas Heights

A group of Year 12 physics students from Brisbane Water Secondary College have paid a visit to the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation at Lucas Heights.

Exploring the world of nuclear

science, they were "witnessing cutting-edge technology and diving into nuclear-science wonders firsthand", according to Woy Woy campus principal Ms Rebecca Cooper.

SOURCE:
Social media, 28 Aug 2023
Rebecca Cooper, BWSC Woy Woy

Parents seek members after stall is cancelled

The Parents' and Citizens' Association at Woy Woy Public School is calling for people to consider joining the association after it had to cancel its annual Father's Day stall last week.

"Due to the small numbers of members and their availability during this week, the very difficult decision has been made to not hold in-person stalls this year," a social

media post from the association said.

"This decision was not made lightly.

"The executive is very sorry it has come to this, but without people from the association onsite it cannot go ahead, regardless of how many non-members volunteer.

"We encourage all members of our community to consider joining."

SOURCE:
Social media, 30 Aug 2023
Woy Woy Public School P/C

Skipping raises \$4075

Woy Woy South Public School has raised \$4075 after week six in the Jump Rope for Heart Program with 66 students registered and 45 hours of skipping logged.

"We are blown away by the generosity and effort of our students and community," said principal Mr Matt Barr.

"We will be running our school's Jump Off Day on Friday, September 15.

"The students deserve every opportunity to celebrate the end of the program.

"If you haven't signed your child up yet, it's not too late: visit www.jumprope.org.au/parents.

SOURCE:
Social media, 27 Aug 2023
Matt Barr, Woy Woy South Public School.

Kindergarten open day

Woy Woy Public School will hold an open day tomorrow, Tuesday, September 5, for families of next year's kindergarten students.

The day will run from 11:45am to 12:45pm in the school hall.

"You will have the opportunity to meet our wonderful staff and take a personalised tour and explore our great school," said principal Mr

Matt Barr.

"Our kindergarten classrooms will be open to see us in action.

With any questions, call the office on 4341 1899 or email woywoyth-p.school@det.nsw.gov.au

SOURCE:
Social media, 30 Aug 2023
Matt Barr, Woy Woy South Public School

Volunteers wanted for disco

Volunteers are wanted for the Term 3 disco at Woy Woy South Public School to be held on Wednesday, September 13.

The Parents' and Citizens' Association is wanting help with set-up between 3pm and 4pm, as well as with the K-2 disco from

4pm to 5:30pm, the 3-6 disco from 5:45pm to 7:15pm, and with pack-up after that.

All volunteers must have completed their working with children declarations 48 hours before the event.

SOURCE:
Social media, 30 Aug 2023
Woy Woy South Public School P/C

Jacob's national best



Year 11 Brisbane Water Secondary College student Jacob Falconer has swum personal best time in the School Sport Australia National Swimming Championships in Sydney held from August 22-29.

He took more than three seconds off his previous personal best to swim seventh in his Boys 15-16 200m backstroke event in a time of 2:11.38.

He came fourth in the finals of the Boys 16 100m backstroke, with a personal best time of 1:00.85.

He was also a member of the Boys 15-16 4 x 50m freestyle relay team, which came third in the final.

SOURCE:
Social media, 28 Aug 2023
Rebecca Cooper, BWSC Woy Woy

Talent show at Woy Woy

Woy Woy Public School will hold its talent show at 12pm tomorrow, Tuesday, September 5.

"We have many different acts from our talented students," said teacher Ms Louise Rayner.

These included singing, dancing, physie, gymnastics and piano.

"We have a band performance after recess at 2pm under the Cola with Ruby and the Groovy Doobies.

"Ruby is an ex-student of our school and is now a talented singer-songwriter," said Ms Rayner.

SOURCE:
Social media, 28 Aug 2023
Louise Rayner, Woy Woy Public School

Sport

Woy Woy Oval to host rugby union finals

Woy Woy Oval will host the Central Coast Rugby Union finals series over the next two weeks.

It hosted the minor semi-finals on Saturday, September 2, and will host the major semi-finals next Saturday, September 9, and the preliminary finals the following Saturday, September 16.

Each week will see games in Premier 1, Premier 2, President's Cup and Women's 10s grades.

The grand final games will be played at Gosford.

Next Saturday's games will see Razorbacks play Terrigal in President's Cup at 10am.

Terrigal will play Avoca Beach in Premier 2 at 11:30am and in Women's 10s at 1:10pm.

In the Premier 1 minor semi-final at 2:15pm, Terrigal will play Warnervale.

In the Premier 1 major semi-final at 4:15pm, Avoca Beach will play Razorbacks.

SOURCE:
Media release, 27 Aug 2023
Larry Thomson, CCRU



Umina women's major pairs final

The Umina Beach Women's Bowling Club held its Major Pairs Final on Saturday morning, August 26.

The final was played between the pair of Debbie Moore and Carol

Boyd and the pair of Christine Gentle and Renette Burgess.

"In ideal conditions, it was a great game to watch with all women playing some great bowls," said men's club secretary Mr Peter

Springett.

The winners were Debbie Moore and Carol Boyd.

SOURCE:
Social media, 27 Aug 2023
Peter Springett, UBMCB

Zone bowlers of the year

Ettalong Eagles Bowling Club members have been named for all three Central Coast Bowlers of the Year awards.

Zone Open Bowler of the Year is Darren Morrison.

Senior Bowler of the Year is Phil Westcott.

President's Reserve Bowler of the Year is Adam Lewis.

At the club's presentation day on Saturday, August 26, major award winners included club Bowlers of the Year, Alan Thornhill and Margaret Smith.

Men's Pennant Player of the year was Danny Bjedov.

Most improved bowlers were Justin Sylvester and Jen Rogers.

Women's encouragement went



to Renee Rowlands.

The days, which attracted 80 bowlers, started with a sausage sizzle, followed by the presentation of awards and then a game of bowls.

SOURCE:
Social media, 27 Aug 2023
Ettalong Eagles.

Annual RUOK bowls day at Umina

Umina Beach Mens Bowling Club will hold its annual RUOK Bowls event from 12:30pm on Thursday, September 14.

"The popular event will see a 'sea of yellow' on the greens as bowlers from around the Peninsula enjoy both a serious and fun time," said bowls club welfare officer Mr Rex Hunt.

"The day is part of an annual national 'conversation movement'

encouraging the art of listening," he said.

"It attempts to equip and encourage men to be observant of one's mates, have conversations with others, and to be open and honest about their state of mind.

"Founded by Gavin Larkin in 2009, following the death of his father Barry, it works collaboratively with experts in suicide prevention and mental illness.

"It is important work we will

be doing, both for ourselves as individuals and for our clubs or regular bowls colleagues," Mr Hunt said.

"Every day is the day to start a conversation using four simple steps: 1. Ask R U OK? 2. Listen 3. Encourage action and 4. Check in."

SOURCE:
Media release,
Rex Hunt, Umina Beach Men's Bowling Club

Netball finals series

Woy Woy Peninsula Netball Association started its final series for the winter netball season last Saturday.

The association's regular competition of 15 rounds finished on August 26.

Following two weeks of preliminary finals, the grand finals will be held on Saturday, September 16, with eight teams crowned premiers in their respective grades.

Association's public relations officer Mr Alex Marshall said: "We had no washouts through the season and our fingers are

crossed for a continuation of the great weather."

"All five association clubs will be represented in the finals from the 11's to Senior 1 Division. "Our finals series for Senior 1 Division also includes two independent teams, Fever and Rays.

Mr Marshall said: "Overall it has been a great season that started in late April with the opening of our new clubhouse and facilities at Lemon Grove netball courts in Ettalong."

SOURCE:
Interview (Sean Richardson),
31 Aug 2023
Alex Marshall, WWPNA



Father's Day bowls

Members of Everglades Men's Bowls took part in a Father's Day bowls event on Friday, August 25, organised by the Everglades Lady Bowlers.

"This uniform day is one of several special events the Everglades Country Club offers its bowling members," said men's club assistant secretary Mr Grant Ireland.

Everglades Lady Bowls president Ms Dianne Elsom opened the day with a welcome message.

"Then the 46 participants

ventured out into the glorious winter sunshine for a game of bowls, followed by a superb lunch of lamb or chicken and a desert.

Wine was provided for the tables and a chocolate and a couple of drink tickets were provided for each of the male bowlers.

The women's club also ran a Hundred Club and sold raffle tickets for a large number of prizes.

Mr Ireland said: "It was a really fabulous day enjoyed by all who attended."

SOURCE:
Media release, 27 Aug 2023
Grant Ireland, Everglades Men's Bowls



Holly is now top archer

Brisbane Water Secondary College student Holly Parker has been rated as Australia's top under-16 compound bow archer.

She scored 696 out of 720 in competition at Sydney Olympic Park Archers on August 13, earning her a rating of 91.9 rating and the number one position.

She is pictured in action at the South Coast field archery event at Mount Keira, Wollongong, held over the weekend of August 19 and 20.

SOURCE:
Social media, 30 Aug 2023
Rebecca Cooper, BWSC Woy Woy

Net Set Go presentations

The Woy Woy Peninsula Netball Association will hold its Net Set Go presentations from 11am on Saturday, September 9.

This year's program included 24 teams, across the association's five clubs - TKT Ocean Beach Netball Club, Umina Beach Netball Club, Ettalong Eagles Netball Club, Brisbane Water Netball Club and the Peninsula Lions Netball Club.

"This is the largest participation the association has had in quite some time and the presentation

is looking to be an exciting day for our five clubs," said association publicity officer Mr Alex Marshall.

The association is also organising school holidays skills clinics in September to meet the demand for school holiday activities.

Net Set Go is a non-competition, skills based program which aims to introduce netball to girls and boys aged under-5 to under-10.

SOURCE:
Interview (Sean Richardson),
31 Aug 2023
Alex Marshall, WWPNA