

Peninsula News

Community Access

EDITION 584

THE PENINSULA'S OWN NEWS SERVICE INC

11 DECEMBER 2023



Volunteers attend Christmas lunch

Volunteers from more than 11 Peninsula organisations attended a Volunteer Christmas Lunch organised by the Rotary Club of Umina Beach at the Ettalong Bowling Club on Thursday, November 30.

Groups represented included The Bays Rural Fire Service, Meals on Wheels, Umina Beach Men's

Shed, the Umina Beach branch of the Country Women's Association, Woy Woy Community Garden, Riding for Disabled, Global Kid's Clothing, Hospital Art, Marine Rescue Central Coast, Rotary Umina Beach and Rotary Brisbane Water, as well as Peninsula News.

"This was an opportunity to celebrate the wonderful Peninsula volunteers who are a vital connection to our community and

make it a better place," said Umina Rotary club president Mr Wayne Dowdle.

"They have a positive impact on our community by helping with the smallest tasks that can make a real difference to the lives of people, animals, and organizations in need."

SOURCE:
Media release, 9 Nov 2023
Wayne Dowdle, Rotary Umina Beach

Produced on the Peninsula

Peninsula news & advertising
for the Peninsula community

Soon to celebrate our 25 years

This is our last issue for 2023.

We will now take a short break, and be back next year on Monday, January 8.

Next year is a significant year for Peninsula News.

In March, we will celebrate the 25th anniversary of our first issue in March 1999.

Peninsula News has always survived and thrived on the support of the community, of our many volunteers, and of our sponsors and advertisers.

We continue to be encouraged by the numbers of people who tell us they value our community service.

As we prepare for a new year, we are committed to staying true to our aims.

Peninsula News will provide comprehensive news coverage of community life.

It will encourage active interest and participation in the community.

It will provide information that enables residents to be part of a democratic process where they can determine the quality of their lives on the Peninsula.

We believe these aims are more important than ever.

Mark Snell, 11 Dec 2023



Read Peninsula News
on your phone

Next issue: Monday, January 8

Call us on 4342 5333

Email: contributions@peninsula.news

Proposed flight path to pass over Woy Woy

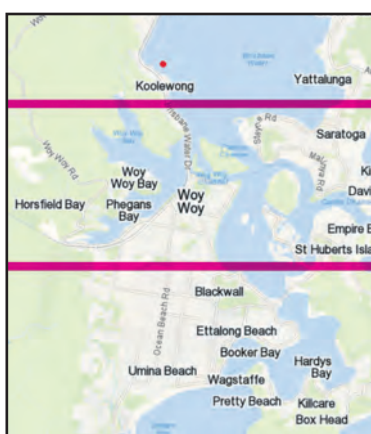
A departure flight path from Western Sydney International Airport is expected to pass over Woy Woy according to a "draft environmental impact statement for the preliminary flight paths".

Aircraft are expected to be at more than 20,000 feet by the time they are over the Peninsula.

The flight path is expected to be used by Dash-8 turboprop aircraft once or twice a day and not by jet aircraft.

A "community information session" was held last Thursday, December 7, at The Bays Community Hall, organised with little notice by Air Services Australia.

"Aircraft departing from Western Sydney International will be climbing between 20,000 feet (6096 metres) and their en-



route flight level at this location," according to information on the Australian Government website <https://www.wsflightpaths.gov.au/>.

"Some aircraft may fly at a lower altitude depending on weather and operational conditions.

"An average of one, up to a maximum of two departures, could overfly this location during the day-

evening period when this flight path and operating mode are in use."

The draft environmental impact statement on the preliminary flight paths is on exhibition for public comment until January 31.

It "examines the noise, social and environmental impacts of the proposed flight paths".

An Air Services Australia representative told The Bays Community Group it had not contacted Peninsula News to publicise the meeting because "they are not allowed to do so".

"Media engagement is supposed to be done by the Federal Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts."

No media release has been received from the department.

SOURCE:
Media release, 30 Nov 2023
The Bays Community Group

COUNT THE LOCAL NEWS: **56 articles** in this issue

... and another **18 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.

EMAIL ISSUES?

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

Fallback email address: editor@peninsulanews.asn.au

Editorial policy and guidelines

At its heart, Peninsula News is a community effort.

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

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

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

Locality

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

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

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

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

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

Readability

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

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

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

Forum letters

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

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

Contributors are asked to keep their

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

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

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

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

Corrections

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

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

Source lines

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

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

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

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

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

The following descriptions are used:
Media Release - unsolicited contributions.
Media Statement - sent in response to our questions.
Website or **Social Media** - information published online.
Newsletter or **Report** - published in print or online.
Interview or **Meeting** - statements recorded by a reporter.

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

Christmas tree sale continues

Rotary Club of Woy Woy has extended its Christmas tree sale to next weekend, following an early finish on Saturday due to the heat.

"We will be back on Saturday, December 16, with a small number of trees available from 7am," said Ms Sue Tee.

"Anyone coming should be early to get your last-chance gorgeous Christmas tree."

Ms Tee said the tree sales had been the club's "best result ever".

"Our running total sales so far for 40 stands and 291 trees is \$36,530 over the two weekends."

She said she was thankful for the community buying the trees, supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and other local charities.

SOURCE:
 Newsletter, 10 Dec 2023
 Sue Tee, Rotary Woy Woy



CWA cooking comp attracts 50 entries

The cooking competition at the Umina Beach branch of the Country Women's Association received 50 entries on Monday, November 25.

Judge Ms Marie Bradbury awarded places in nine categories, including two junior categories.

Winners were:
 Gluten Free Whole Orange Cake: Mr Tony Griffiths, Ms Margaret Key, Ms Celia O'Meara.
 Boiled Fruit Pudding: Ms Celia O'Meara, Mr Ken Janson, Ms Kay Kennaugh.
 Boiled Fruit Cake: Ms Margaret Key, Ms Kay Kennaugh, Ms Lin Griffiths.



Sultana Cake: Ms Kay Kennaugh, Ms Celia O'Meara, Ms Tracy Wilson.
 Chocolate Butter Cake: Ms Fiona Duckworth, Mr Tony Griffiths, Ms Margaret Key.
 Ginger Fluff Sponge: Ms Lin Griffiths, Ms Glenda Chapman, Ms Margaret Key.
 Almond Bread: Ms Glenda Chapman, Mr Ken Janson; Tony,

Lin and Lou.
 Encouragement Award went to Ms Janet Porter.
 In the Junior Section:
 Simple Tea Cake: Elizabeth McDonald, William McDonald.
 Decorated Cupcakes: Abigail McDonald

SOURCE:
 Social media, 25 Nov 2023
 CWA Umina Beach

Rainfall was one third above average

November's rainfall on the Peninsula was 125.2mm, one third above the month's average of 94mm, according to figures supplied by Mr Jim Morrison of Umina.

The month was the third wettest this year, with 142.4mm in January and 137.7mm in April exceeding the November total.

November was one of three months this year that recorded more rainfall than the month's average.

November's rainfall exceeded the month's average by a greater percentage (33.2 percent) than the other months.

The August rainfall of 81.6mm exceeded the month's average of 65mm by 25.5 per cent.

The January figure of 142.4mm was 21.7 percent higher than the month's average of 117mm.

Total rainfall for the year at the end of November was 743.8, 39.4



percent less than the average of 1228mm for this time of year.

It was the lowest total in 19 years, 18 per cent less than the next lowest November figure of 904.1mm in 2018.

At this time last year, the figure

was 2064.8mm, more than 2.7 times this year's figure.

More detail is available online at <http://bit.ly/PNRRainfall>

SOURCE:
 Spreadsheet, 8 Dec 2023
 Jim Morrison, Umina

TIDE TIMES and Heights AT ETTALONG	Mon, Dec 11	Thu, Dec 14	Sun, Dec 17	Wed, Dec 20	Sat, Dec 23
	0142 0.23	0341 0.23	0044 0.80	0343 0.91	0006 0.20
	0807 1.17	1014 1.33	0616 0.24	0940 0.30	0633 1.15
	1501 0.26	1731 0.17	1246 1.26	1546 1.02	1317 0.26
	2031 0.83	2258 0.80	2004 0.13	2234 0.16	1858 0.84
	Tue, Dec 12	Fri, Dec 15	Mon, Dec 18	Thu, Dec 21	Sun, Dec 24
	0219 0.24	0057 0.74	0141 0.82	0443 0.98	0051 0.21
	0847 1.25	0624 0.31	0719 0.26	1055 0.30	0723 1.22
	1551 0.23	1305 1.13	1344 1.18	1650 0.95	1420 0.23
	2120 0.82	2027 0.26	2056 0.13	2321 0.18	1956 0.81
	Wed, Dec 13	Sat, Dec 16	Tue, Dec 19	Fri, Dec 22	Mon, Dec 25
	0259 0.24	0519 0.23	0241 0.85	0540 1.07	0134 0.22
	0930 1.30	1153 1.31	0828 0.28	1208 0.29	0810 1.26
	1642 0.20	1914 0.14	1444 1.10	1755 0.89	1516 0.21
	2208 0.81		2145 0.14		2050 0.79

Council decides not to sell Austin Butler reserve land

Central Coast Council has resolved not to sell land within the Austin Butler reserve.

The decision at the council's November 28 meeting was in line with a staff recommendation.

It followed a community consultation about whether or not the council should proceed with sale of a triangle of land to the adjacent Peninsula Plaza.

Council Administrator Mr Rik Hart had proposed that proceeds of the sale be put towards a street tree planting program for the Peninsula.

The consultation included a 28-day online poll and an opinion poll conducted by a market research firm.

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch described the news as a win for Peninsula residents, visitors, and the Central Coast at large.

"Together, we have shown that our community's voice counts.

"The community's voice on this issue is clear and strong.

"In the online poll, residents expressed their overwhelming preference to retain the site in Council/community ownership.

"In fact, a huge 92 per cent who voted through Council's online

consultation were overwhelmingly in favour of retaining the site in Council ownership.

"Council reported a total of 1,581 responses were received during the polling period, October 16 to November 13.

"In the online poll, community members were asked whether they supported Austin Butler Reserve remaining under community ownership through Council, or whether they preferred a sale to the shopping centre and as such, the destruction of this natural site, with funds going towards the long-term greening of the local area.

"Of the targeted community survey conducted by phone, 49% of people voted against the sale, while 46% of people voted for the sale.

"I applaud Mr Hart's commitment that the future of the site will be completely guided by the community's response to the formal consultation process.

"I believe that investment in greening of our community should not be dependent on the destruction of dozens of mature trees, which are home to native birds and animals.

SOURCE:
Media release, 28 Nov 2023
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford



Hot day for celebration under trees

More than 40 people attended a celebration under the trees in sweltering heat in Austin Butler reserve on Saturday morning, December 9.

"Despite the heat, the mood was one of happiness and jubilation, with children's painting, singing, poetry and speeches by community members who participated in the campaign to

retain the trees and open space within the reserve," said Australian Conservation Foundation Central Coast convenor Mr Mark Ellis.

Among those attending was Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch.

Mr Ellis told the crowd: "Today's temperatures highlight the importance of urban trees.

"Council should change its

budget priorities.

"Instead of spending millions on an airport, they should increase the budget for tree planting, not only on the Peninsula but across the whole Coast to reduce the heat island impacts identified by the council in its greening strategy," he said.

SOURCE:
Media release, 10 Dec 2023
Mark Ellis, ACFC

Older Women run Christmas raffle to help those struggling

Deepwater Older Women's Network will hold its annual Christmas raffle over the next week, with tickets being sold in Woy Woy and Umina.

"All proceeds from the raffle will go to Mary Mac's, Care4Coast and the SDA Food Pantry in Woy Woy as well as Allawah House, an initiative to house older women who have been victims of domestic and or family violence get in safe and affordable housing," said Deepwater network secretary Ms Jennifer Brown.

"Contributions will help those struggling with cost of living pressures and put food on the table for those who would otherwise go

without."

Tickets will be sold in Deepwater Plaza adjacent to KMart on Wednesday and Thursday this week, December 13 and 14.

They will also be on sale outside Stephenson's Real Estate on West St, Umina, during the Umina Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 16.

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch will draw the raffle in her Woy Woy offices on December 18, allowing time for the winners to have their prize before Christmas Day.

SOURCE:
Media release, 5 Dec 2023
Jennifer Brown, Deepwater OWN

Native bee hives split at Pearl Beach arboretum

Two native bee hives at the Pearl Beach Arboretum have been split to create four new hives.

The work was undertaken by arboretum committee member Mr Gary Phillips at the Arboretum's November working bee.

He said he used disused hive boxes that had been carefully repaired.

Members had the chance to see the spiral brood mass inside the hives.

"The bees seem very happy and are busy cross pollinating native plants throughout Pearl Beach and the National Park."

The Arboretum has elected its management committee for the coming year.

President is Ms Victoria Crawford, vice-president Mr Phil Rich, secretary Ms Mary Knaggs and treasurer Ms Frances Alter.

Ordinary committee members elected were Ms Gabby Crompton, Ms Marijke Greenway, Ms Carolyn Marks, Mr Robert Payne, Mr Gary Phillips, Ms Jennifer Price, Ms Rachel Shea, Ms Di Swalwell, Ms Mary van der Westhuyzen and Ms Bronwen Young.

The committee has announced that it intends "to keep developing the Arboretum Management Plan and Landscape Masterplan, as well as doing all the other great work we usually do".

SOURCE:
Social media, 27 Nov 2023
Crommelin Native Arboretum

Rotary elects president

Mr David Tanare has been elected president of the Rotary Club of Umina Beach for the 2024-25 Rotary year.

The club's annual general meeting was held after its regular meeting on Wednesday, December 6.

Mr Bruce Croft was elected vice-president, along with secretary Mr Mike Dwyer and treasurer Mr Glen Scorer.

Elected to club portfolios were: club service Mr Peter Doherty, youth service Mr Robert Meyer, community Mr Paul Quinn, international Mr Rouel Vergara and sergeant-at-arms Mr Jim Chamberlain who was also elected welfare officer.

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 8 Dec 2023
Wayne Dowdle, Rotary Umina Beach

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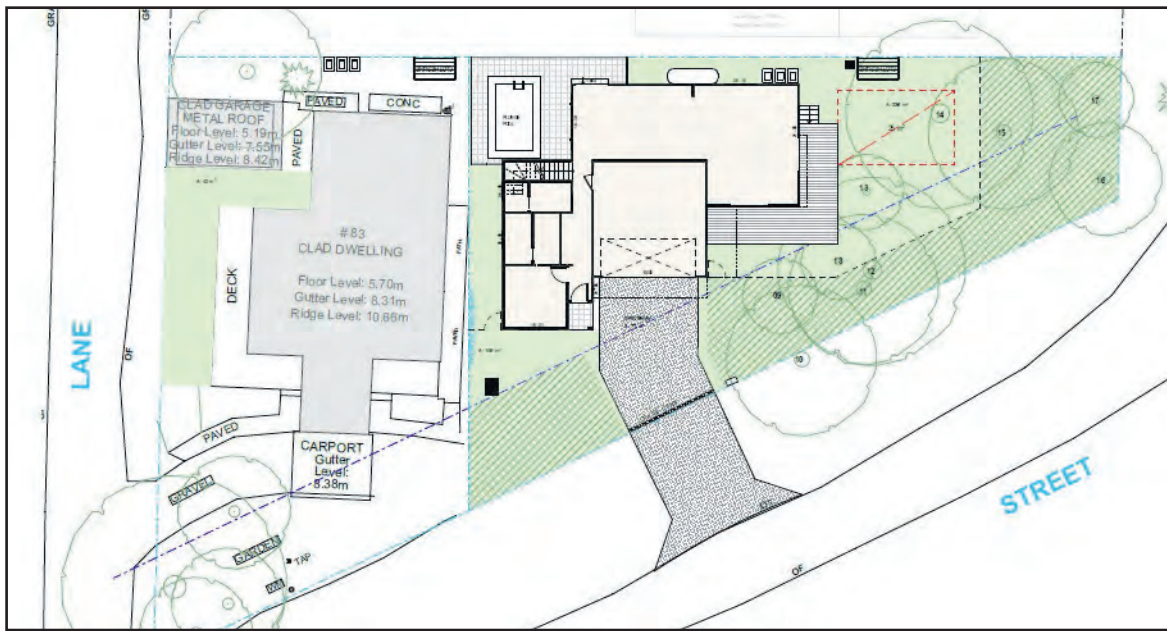
Community Bank Ettalong Beach
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Community banking is based on a 'profit-with-purpose' model, which means our profits are returned directly to the community that has generated them



Social housing provider Pacific Link Housing is one of many local organisations to benefit from the support of the Ettalong bank, with the donation of this maintenance van

Planning



Second house to be dual occupancy before Torrens subdivision

An application has been lodged to build a second house on a 1000 square metre site at 83 Hobart Ave, Umina.

The house would be built under dual occupancy rules, before the site is later subdivided.

The application states: "The unique triangular shaped allotment has public road frontage to Hobart Ave, Fitzroy St and an unnamed laneway.

"The proposal is for the erection of a dual occupancy dwelling to be erected fronting Fitzroy St.

"The proposal includes the removal of seven trees and the construction of a two-storey dwelling that would include four bedrooms, living areas, kitchen, parking accommodation, open spaces and landscaping to provide a suitable detached dual occupancy development.

"The garage would be accessed from Fitzroy Street and

the dwelling would encompass a traditional street address to the public domain."

The 1017 square metre site would be subdivided into two lots, of 549.8 square metres and 467 square metres, after an occupation certificate for the new house was issued.

The application, prepared by Clarke Dowdle and Associates, claims compliance with development controls except for the rear setback which is proposed to be 1.79 metres, where 4.5 metres is required.

It argues this "entails negligible impacts to the amenity of the adjoining properties".

Besides window positioning, it states: "Given the nature of the lot shape and that the new dwelling faces Fitzroy St, it could be argued the rear setback should be regarded as a side setback, given the adjoining lot runs east-west and, if so, then would only require

0.9 metres."

Although the application states that seven trees would be removed from the site the arborist report prepared by Abacus Tree Services lists 10 trees "earmarked for removal"

The landscape plan shows eight trees to be removed.

The only new trees proposed are the two street trees.

The application is currently on exhibition for written submissions until January 15.

SOURCE:
DA Tracker, 9 Dec 2023
DA/2191/2023, Central Coast Council

Multi-dwelling controls 'weak', says Panel chair

The chair of the Local Planning Panel, Mr Jason Perica, last week described Central Coast Council multi-dwelling planning controls as "weak".

He said that there was a disjunction between the controls and the intended character statements.

He said that there were a range of controls that should be in place to ameliorate the outcome while still permitting medium density.

He said there was no minimum lot size.

The 4.5 metre setback at the rear did not stipulate a portion of the dwelling being restricted to one storey, and there was no minimum site width.

Mr Perica qualified his criticism as "gratuitous statements" made on his own account "as a planner" and not on behalf of the Panel.

His comments came during consideration of an application for a two-storey "gun barrel" development at 31 Burrawang St, Ettalong, with three three-bedroom units.

Three community submissions had been heard objecting to the effects of the "gun barrel" proposal.

Mr Perica questioned the applicant's architect and council planner at some length about possible ways to improve the

outcome of the development before making his comments.

His comments appear to at least partly echo a recommendation made by the Local Planning Panel to the council in November of last year.

It stated that Central Coast Council should consider conducting a strategic planning review of the planning controls, development provisions, and character statements for Umina, Woy Woy and Ettalong to ensure consistency.

A council project anticipated to do this has been abandoned, according to the Council's annual report, adopted at its November 28 meeting.

It states that the project scheduled to "develop and adopt a District Place Plan for the Peninsula and West Brisbane Water Social Planning Districts by 31 December 2023" had been "closed" in the second quarter ("Q2").

It was "unable to be delivered with available resources and other priorities".

The Panel's decision about the application for 31 Burrawang St, and the other application on the agenda for 22 Melba Rd, Woy Woy, is expected to be published later this week.

SOURCE:
Local Planning Panel, 7 Dec 2023
Reporter: Frank Wiffen

Subdivision to have 278sqm lot size

An attached two-storey dual occupancy with Torrens title subdivision has been proposed for 181 North Burge Rd, Woy Woy.

The proposed lot size for each dwelling is 278.2 square metres.

The development site is zoned R2 low density residential.

The application was prepared by Pivotal Planning on behalf of Baini Design.

IT states: "Dwelling 1 is located on the northern portion of the site."

The ground floor consists of a living-dining area, kitchen, laundry and WC.

"The living area leads out to the rear alfresco which leads out to the private open space area at the rear.

"The ground floor includes access off the primary road to a single garage.

"A small courtyard is located on the ground floor north elevation towards the front of the site."

The first floor consists of four bedrooms, one of which has an ensuite and walk-in-wardrobe.

Dwelling 2 is located on the southern portion of the site and, otherwise, is similarly described as Dwelling 1.

The application claims to comply with all relevant controls including 37 per cent of the site being landscaped, where 25 per



cent is required, and all of which is deep soil.

As is common with attached dual occupancies, especially those on a narrow lot such as this, most of the verge is taken up by the twin driveways.

According to the landscape plan, both street trees in front of this property are proposed to be retained. However, both of these trees will be close to driveways, one of them extremely so.

Plans show six trees are to be removed from the site itself with two being retained and four new trees to be planted.

The application itself does not appear to mention trees at all.

In conclusion, it states: "The proposal provides for a development that is consistent with the prevailing subdivision pattern and predominant building form in the immediate locality and is consistent with the objectives of the R2 - low density zone applicable to the site."

Written submissions from the public will be accepted until January 12.

SOURCE:
DA Tracker, 9 Dec 2023
DA/2202/2023, Central Coast Council

Council makes progress on planning backlog

An analysis of development applications lodged with Central Coast Council for the Peninsula has shown that significant progress has been made in catching up with a processing backlog.

So far this year, 266 development applications have been lodged for the Peninsula.

In the same period, 318 development applications have been determined, 52 more than were lodged.

However, of the 266 lodged this year, only 187 have been finalised.

During 2022, 411 development applications were lodged.

Of these, 28 remain under assessment, but otherwise they all seem to have been finalised.

There remain a total of around 75 applications "under assessment".

Of these, not quite half comprise dual occupancies (17), multi-unit

developments (12) and flats (5).

Of the 411 applications lodged in 2022, 333 were approved.

There were 22 withdrawn, 17 were returned, six were refused and five cancelled.

Of this year's 266 applications, 152 have been approved, 21 have been returned and nine are currently on exhibition for comment.

Eight are awaiting information or payment, seven remain submitted and seven withdrawn, six were cancelled, two are under peer review and one was refused.

The other 44 remain under assessment.

Of the 318 applications determined this year, 267 were approved, 23 were returned and 13 were withdrawn, 12 were refused and three cancelled.

SOURCE:
Peninsula Planning Portal, 8 Dec 2023

Club raises \$5000 for Top Blokes Foundation

The Rotary Club of Umina Beach has raised more than \$5000 for the Top Blokes Foundation.

The funds were raised through a trivia quiz held on Saturday, November 18, a raffle, "monster auction" and games.

The trivia quiz attracted 15

tables of eight people.

"The money will be used by the Top Blokes Foundation to support its mentoring programs that help young men improve their mental health," according to club publicity officer Mr Pat Lewis.

SOURCE:
Social media, 28 Nov 2023
Rotary Umina Beach



Admire the fire boat from the shore

The Patonga fire brigade has asked the public to admire its new fire boat from the shore.

In a social media post apparently aimed at children, the brigade said: "We are so grateful that we have our fire boat and can't wait to be operational but please remind your friends and family that it isn't a playground.

"We would hate that it is damaged and we value the solar panels on the roof.

"If we need to use the boat but find it damaged we may not be

able to attend a fire.

"Most importantly we don't want anyone to hurt themselves.

"We know it's exciting and seems like a fun place to explore but please just stay safe and look from the shore.

"If you want to find out more about our little boat come down the station on a Tuesday evening and our members will be happy to talk to you."

SOURCE:
Social media, 4 Dec 2023
Patonga Volunteer Rural Bush Fire Brigade

Member for Gosford wanted in NSW Youth Parliament

Applications have opened for the 2024 NSW Youth Parliament, and local young people are being encouraged to apply to be the youth Member for Gosford.

Young people aged between 15 and 18 in all 93 NSW state electorates have been invited to express interest.

The Youth Parliament is organised by The Y NSW organisation, formerly known as the YMCA.

"We believe in the power of inspired young people and Youth Parliament offers the opportunity for our youth to learn about the parliamentary system, develop critical thinking and public speaking skills," said executive director Ms Prue Warrilow.

"Participants will have the chance to draft, debate, and advocate for mock youth-focused legislation, gaining invaluable insights into the workings

of government and policy development."

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch said: "Youth Parliament is a fantastic opportunity to broaden skills across leadership, parliamentary knowledge and public speaking.

"This program is for the future generation of leaders and anyone who wants to advocate for change should consider participating.

"I encourage anyone who is passionate about making change in the community to apply."

Further details are available online at ymcansw.org.au/community-services/youth/youth-parliament/.

Applications should be submitted before February 9.

School teachers and Members of Parliament can also nominate a young person.

SOURCE:
Media release, 6 Dec 2023
Katey White, Brilliant Logic

Joice Tee celebrates 104th birthday

Long-time Umina resident Ms Joice Tee was visited for her 104th birthday by Member for Robertson Dr Gordon Reid last week.

Ms Tee was living in her own home until a couple of months ago, when she moved into the Blue Wave Living aged care home in Woy Woy.

"She moved in to Blue Wave at the end of October," said daughter-in-law Ms Sue Tee.

"While she is still bright as a button, she needed to be where she could have 24/7 care.

"Until then she had been living at home and cared for by family, mainly her youngest son Don.

"All the staff at Blue Wave have been fantastic and so very helpful," she said.

"She is settling in nicely and is keeping up with her colouring in.

"She is always up for a chat and looks forward to family and friends popping in for a visit.

"She is currently the oldest resident in Blue Wave.

"Born Vera Joice Nash in Canowindra in 1919, she was the youngest daughter, but the middle of nine children."

Known as Joice, she and her husband Reg moved to Umina



Beach in 1964.

She is pictured with (from left) Blue Wave chief executive Mr Matt Downie, Mr Don Tee, his wife Ms Sue Tee, and Dr Reid.

Dr Reid said: "It was lovely to

meet Vera at BlueWave Living and drop in a bunch of flowers to celebrate."

SOURCE:
Social media, 4 Dec 2023
Gordon Reid, Member for Robertson

Ettalong stores to stay despite sale

A supermarket and liquor store in Ettalong will continue trading despite their premises being placed on the market.

A listing showing "vacant possession" did not mean the Ettalong IGA supermarket or the BWS Ettalong liquor store would be closing, according to real estate agent Mr Patrick Mitchell of the Street Property Group in Newcastle.

"The stores are certainly not closing," he said.

"They are two of the busiest stores in NSW.

"The sale represents a very, very solid investment."

The property at 396 Ocean View Rd is described as having a land area of 904 square metres and a floor area of 872 square metres

Headed "Blue Water Prime



Investment", the listing states it is a freehold investment leased to Woolworths, as a "long-term secure blue chip tenant".

Mr Mitchell said: "We have nearly 50 enquiries to date from all over Australia and overseas and it has only been on the market two weeks.

"The leases earn a net income of \$374,600 per annum net plus GST.

"Woolworths Limited have the head lease and sublet to the IGA.

"I would expect with such strong tenants, and they have been there over 15 years, that the properties would sell for around a six per cent yield."

This equates to around \$6.25 million.

The sale is by expressions of interest, which close on Wednesday, December 15.

SOURCE:
Website, 6 Dec 2023
Patrick Mitchell, Street Property

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Forum

Housing response futile or disastrous

It is believed that the Council might tell the Minister that it could, one day, review its much-criticised planning controls to bring them into conformity with reality ("Council to tell Minister of planning review intentions", PN 583).

But this is only if somebody else will provide the money to pay for the necessary work which is apparently beyond the Council's current abilities

It is heartening to see such a dedicated commitment from Council to clearing up the mess of the current development control plan and, perhaps, the shambles of the development-application system.

A fine reading of the statement suggests that what it actually means is that the Council intends to do nothing at all, unless the Minister absolutely demands action or threatens to take away Council powers, in default of the Council's getting its act together (perhaps, not such a bad idea in any event).

When one looks at the contents of the Central Coast Local Housing Strategy (now, at long last, in the process of finalization), not a great deal of confidence is generated by the idea that the Council will take another bite at the cherry, if someone is silly enough to donate the funds needed.

If the Council were serious, it seems unlikely that the funds couldn't be found from savings in some of the more frivolous

undertakings that the Council has committed us to.

For instance, wasn't money set aside for the umpteenth iteration of the Gosford Waterfront Renewal Phantasy which seems to have been lying doggo for some time now.

Putting off this unfruitful effort for a few years would seem to be quite worthwhile, if it would allow us to address the real planning/housing needs of the region, by reallocating the necessary budget.

I am, of course, not advocating another simplistic bureaucratic exercise along the lines of the consolidation of the old Gosford and Wyong plans, which took years to achieve and resulted in the kind of mountain/mouse outcome that we've come to expect from Council.

I am talking about a fundamental rethinking of the whole framework of housing management by someone who knows what he's talking about and has genuine ideas to contribute to a housing solution.

Just reading the report submitted by staff on this matter calls for a dose of aspirin and a cooling compress for the head.

Council has outdone itself in the compilation of platitudes, statements of the obvious and wielding of meaningless jargon that have been applied to this document.

The Council is now promising to "review land use tables ... review dwelling and density capacity ... (and) provide an overview of the housing challenges faced by the

Central Coast ... (with) further NSW Government support".

Leaving aside the question of why Central Coast should be entitled to special support for a job that is clearly the responsibility of local government in general, it beggars belief that the Council is, at this moment, "finalising" its housing strategy, without tackling any of these fundamental issues referred to in the report: what on Earth could the strategy possibly be based on, if the Council hasn't yet taken into account these primary steps in the process.

The management of housing provision is probably the most crucial issue that Council is facing over the next two decades, but what has been done to date and what is currently proposed is either futile or disastrous.

I'd suggest that Council would be hard-pressed to find a single person in Central Coast who would say, with hand on heart, that he/she thinks Council is doing a halfway adequate job of protecting our present neighbourhood assets or shaping our future housing environment, as we want it to be.

Hoping, Micawber-like, that something will turn up to solve our problems for us is not an approach that is going to pay off for those of us who will be here long after our temporary Administrator has departed.

Here is a platform that a Council candidate could run on, if we are ever allowed to choose our own representatives again.

SOURCE:
Email, 3 Dec 2023
Bruce Hyland, Woy Woy.

Council deficits: running out of people to blame

Central Coast Council's Long Term Financial Plan shows that the Administrator and CEO's current management settings will deliver operating deficits in eight of the next 10 years.

Over 10 years, the cumulative net deficit in the Consolidated Account will be an eye-watering \$360M.

The "financial turnaround" the Administrator and chief executive boasted about is now exposed as spin rather than reality.

The report lacks transparency, but from the raw data it appears an application to IPART is being planned for a special variation rate hike of 25-30 per cent - on top of inflation.

It is financially irresponsible, and contrary to the accounting conventions of conservatism and prudence, to just make a groundless assumption in financial plans that this application will be approved.

Another special rate variation is totally unjustified.

Council cannot argue the previous special variation rate hike was insufficient when Council got the exact amount and the exact 10-year timescale it applied for.

That extra money was only ever intended for short term emergency purposes such as repaying loans from the financial crisis.

A financial crisis, let's not forget, the Administrator blamed on overspending by previous councillors.

The recently departed chief financial officer even testified to the Public Inquiry she would have

responded to deficits by cutting expenditure.

So how come, now facing a cumulative deficit of \$360M, none of the four options considered in the report to the council meeting shaved more than 1.5 per cent off consolidated operating expenditure, spiralling towards one billion dollars by 2033?

Employee costs - that's the money our unelected bureaucracy spends on itself - will be \$301 Million by 2033, 85 per cent more than in the Administrator's first budget in 2021/22.

None of the four options in this report shaves one dollar off that amount.

What does that say about this Council's commitment to productivity?

The unaccountable bureaucracy is once again protecting its own interests while inflicting rate hikes and service cuts on the community.

And with no elected Councillors to blame this time, can you believe they are now blaming their best friend IPART?

If this Council can't balance its books after receiving a 30 per cent increase in rates revenue in just three years, then it has a management problem not a revenue problem.

Council doesn't need more rate hikes.

It needs long overdue reforms to improve management performance, efficiency, productivity, cost control, prioritisation, and culture.

SOURCE:
Email, 28 Nov 2023
Kevin Brooks, Bensville

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Stroms' philanthropic action is worth following

It is probably not known that Beryl and Allen Strom gifted their property to the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

This action was decided years in advance of their passing.

Personal gain and benefits were not issues of interest to the area's well-known environmental leaders, underplaying their local importance.

It is a pity other landholders have not followed this philanthropic action as environmental decline continues.

Appreciation for the natural environment and its life-giving values are ignored, in the pursuit of more development.

Development applications are submitted complete with spurious information, seldom questioned by the assessors.

In the past, this was the time for the Stroms to enter the fray,

with their expert advice and comprehensive knowledge of the local government area and the region.

Many challenges from development proponents were made.

Few, if any, were successful. This exceptional example of benevolence and philanthropy should be recognised again in this time of greed and selfishness.

I, like many others, learnt more about this local government area from the Stroms than any other source.

Their example highlights the value of local input from generous residents.

It is a model worth following. Actions speak louder than words.

Is there a better case study?
SOURCE:
Letter, 6 Dec 2023
Norm Harris, Umina



IGA re-opens five years on

Almost five years after a fire destroyed Umina Mall, IGA has re-opened in the new Lone Pine Plaza built on the site.

Umina Mall was destroyed by fire on January 13, 2019.

IGA Umina officially started trading at 6am on Saturday, December 2.

Among the features being promoted by the store are wheelchair accessible trolleys.

Trolleys with toddlers' seats are "on their way".

Umina Cellarbrations was the second store to re-open – from 9am on Wednesday, December 6.

SOURCE:
Social media, 28 Nov 2023
IGA Umina Beach



Council fells trees at Austin Butler reserve

Central Coast Council has removed two casuarina trees on the edge of Austin Butler Reserve.

A Council arborist assessed the trees on October 16, following reports by Council reserve maintenance staff that the two trees were in decline, Peninsula News was told in a statement released by the council media unit last week.

"Based on the inspection of the trees, which identified structural defects and posed an unacceptable risk to the public and property, removal was considered necessary.

"The planting of replacement



trees will be included for consideration in Council's annual tree planting program."

SOURCE:
Media statement, 8 Dec 2023
David Farmer, Central Coast Council



Fishing club holds party

A Christmas party with presentations was held by the Ettalong Bowling Club's fishing club on Saturday, December 2.

"The ages of our members, children and grandchildren attending spanned nine decades, from 18 months to 92 years," said bowling club director Mr Kerry Watkins.

"It was a great day and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

"The children enjoyed the jumping castle, face painting and a special guest appearance from Santa Claus.

"The food was top class with king prawns, chicken, pavlova and chocolate cake."

Mr Watkins said the club was becoming a social club, beyond its interest in fishing.

"While it was commenced as a fishing club, we are finding it to be a hub for the community to meet and gain new friendships for fishers and non-fishers alike.

"More and more families are joining the club.

"We are transitioning from being a popular fishing club to a great community club for those with a love or interest in the sport of fishing.

"New members are welcome. "If you would like to join our club, come along to the Ettalong Bowlo for the weekly raffle draws on Thursdays at 6.15pm."

Pictured are Club Person of the Year Ms Janette Harris, with secretary Mr Glen Borg and president Mr Stephen Martinovic at the presentation.

Media release, 4 Dec 2023
Kerry Watkins, EMBC

Reid supports Christmas appeal

Member for Robertson Dr Gordon Reid is backing a Christmas appeal run by a local real estate agency which "will go towards supporting Mary Mac's Place in Woy Woy during the holiday period".

"This time of year can be difficult for many in the community," said Dr Reid.

"Christmas time can be a challenging period for some and there are many in the community

who might not be able to enjoy a Christmas lunch or dinner with loved ones.

"By donating and supporting the Christmas Appeal, you are ensuring that people who may otherwise go without this Christmas, receive a hamper full of festive food items.

"If you are able to donate, please visit the Wiseberry Peninsula business in Umina."

SOURCE:
Media release, 7 Dec 2023
Gordon Reid, Member for Robertson

Learn to knit

Learn to knit sessions will be held at Umina Beach Library on three Mondays in January as part its school holiday program.

The sessions start at 10am on Mondays, January 8, 15 and 22.

Children aged six to 12 years will be taught knitting with the Umina Beach Library knitting group.

Bookings are essential, and may be made at the library or by phone on 4304 7333.

SOURCE:
Website, 5 Dec 2023
Library Services, Central Coast Council

Food donated to Mary Mac's Place

The Deepwater Older Women's Network has made a donation of food worth more than \$400 to Mary Mac's Place in Woy Woy.

"We have been busy fundraising and shopping for pantry basics which can be used for hampers for destitute and hungry people in our community," said Deepwater network secretary Ms Jennifer Brown.

"The kitchen was in full swing when we arrived on December 4, and it was reported that the number of people they feed and assist in the local community was growing in number every week due to cost of living pressures.

"Christmas is a time for family, friends and sharing."

SOURCE:
Media release, 4 Dec 2023
Jennifer Brown, Deepwater OWN



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News

Unusual hen's eggs found in Woy Woy

Two Woy Woy families have reported unusual hen's eggs in recent weeks.

The first report was of a "triple yolker", bought through a local supermarket.

The chance of a triple-yolk egg being laid is said to be about one in 25 million.

However, egg quality screening processes make it less likely to reach supermarket shelves.

The second report was from a family which bought point-of-lay chickens, one of which started laying "super" eggs.

"The first few eggs were normal then on November 24, she laid an egg weighing 150g, 80mm by 65mm," said owner Ms Jenny Jamieson.

"We were very excited and thought it was just a one off thing.

"Two days later, another egg came weighing 154g followed by another at 164g two days later on November 28.

"When we cracked the first super egg, to our surprise, there was another fully shelled egg inside.

"Both eggs had normal white and yoke."

SOURCE:

Media release, 4 Dec 2023
Jenny Jamieson, Woy Woy



Chamber says oyster festival was success

The Peninsula Chamber of Commerce has described its 23rd Brisbane Water Oyster Festival, "after a three-year absence due to covid", as a "massive success".

"We were absolutely stunned with the community support for our festival", said Chamber event coordinator Ms Debra Wales.

"The Lions Park venue turned out to be a massive success with plenty of room for all the activities and the huge crowd that filled the park and surrounds," she said.

"The beautiful park on the waterfront was a magnificent setting for the food and wine festival and tasting the famous Sydney Rock oysters grown locally right here on Central Coast with 3000 dozen consumed in quick time.

"Hawkesbury River Shed and Davo's Seafood didn't let us down."

Ms Wales said: "This is our 23rd year of holding the oyster festival and every year it has grown larger and more successful thanks to support of our local community and all the visitors who come to the event, many for the first time.

"And proving forever popular, 24 contestants lined up for the 'How Many Oysters Can You Eat



in 30 Seconds' with the winner consuming 20 oysters".

"The local community should be very proud for supporting this Peninsula event which showcases many local talents."

Peninsula Chamber of Commerce president Mr Matthew Wales was presented with a Central Coast Council grant for the Brisbane Water Oyster Festival by Council general manager Mr David Farmer and Administrator Mr Rik Hart on Tuesday, November 28.

SOURCE:

Media release, 13 Nov 2023
Debra Wales, Peninsula Chamber of Commerce

Health

Application expected for aged care works

A Woy Woy aged care home expects to lodge a development application for its "stage two" works "shortly".

"This is still in final documentation stage," said Blue Wave Living chief executive Mr Matt Downie.

"We are aiming to have this completed by year end.

"We then will look to kick off works early in 2024 subject to final builders availability."

Mr Downie said: "We will have to undertake Stage Two works in two steps.

"We will be completing the

internal rebuild of one of the southern Shores' wings at a time.

"Initially, residents of rooms 20-29 in the existing south east wing will be the first existing residents to move into newly-built rooms elsewhere.

"We will then undertake a complete internal rebuild of those rooms and areas.

"Once this first stage is complete, then residents in rooms 31-43 of the south west wing will be moved into newly-completed rooms, and we will undertake works for an internal rebuild of that wing."

He said stage two would

also see the central space of The Shores rebuilt into a new "clubhouse space".

"This space will become a much larger space than the central space is currently.

"It will include smaller areas, such a fireplace lounge area, a private cinema space, and sitting spaces.

"Stage Two in its entirety will be a significant build program, complicated by working through existing buildings along with some new additions."

SOURCE:

Newsletter, 30 Nov 2023
Matt Downie, Blue Wave Living



Sporting groups offered defibrillator grants

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch is encouraging local sporting groups to apply for a grant to buy a defibrillator.

The Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program provides grants up to \$3000 to eligible sporting organisations towards the purchase of automated external defibrillators, she said.

"The NSW Government wants to ensure that people participating in sport in the most disadvantaged areas have access to this life-saving equipment, so they are equipped to respond to life-threatening emergencies."

She said: "With more and more people of all ages participating in sport and active recreation, it's vital our local sporting organisations are equipped to respond to life-

threatening emergencies.

"Access to defibrillators can mean the difference between life and death in a medical emergency.

"The program supports sports to install this equipment at local sports facilities, enabling them to respond in the worst-case scenario."

The program is available to sport and recreation clubs, associations and organisations as well as councils and service clubs in the Gosford electorate.

Applications close on February 24.

Further information is available online at <https://www.sport.nsw.gov.au/grants/local-sport-defibrillator-grant-program>.

SOURCE:

Media release, 7 Dec 2023
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford

Folk club raises \$1150 for medical help

More than \$1150 has been raised for medical help in Ukraine at the most recent concert of the Troubadour Folk Club at the Everglades Country Club on Sunday, November 26.

Audience donations came after a performance of the Jaga Band, described by Troubadour president Mr Michael Fine as performing a "distinctive celebration of traditional songs and dances", inspired from across the Carpathian region, with

rich and diverse in influences from Ukraine, Hungary, Moldova and Romania.

"A few bars into their first song, the audience started clapping in time, egged on by one of the band members," he said.

"The sound of more than 150 sets of hands clapping loudly in a small auditorium is contagious, and from that first moment the band knew they were amongst friends."

"In recognition of the impact and significance of the war in Ukraine,

a request was made for a bucket to be passed through the audience.

"A total of \$1150 was collected in cash, which has been donated to the Ukrainian Army Paramedic Team.

"Other folk club members contributed online.

"The Jaga Band members also contributed a substantial part of their performance pay," said Mr Fine.

SOURCE:

Media release, 7 Dec 2023
Michael Fine, Troubadour Central Coast



Christmas folk concert

The Troubadour Folk Club will hold its traditional Christmas Concert at the Everglades Country Club from 7pm next Saturday, December 16.

"The Troubadour Christmas Tradition is to make the final concert of the year a rollicking good party for everyone," said club president Mr Michael Fine.

"We sure have the talent to do it. "It is a time for Troubadour members, regular audience and participants, local musicians, guests and anyone else who like to take part to get your act together and join in.

"There'll be plenty of great the music on stage.

"All the music, verses and funny stories all night come from our members and audience."

This year's theme is Songs of the Sea.

"You can expect a few sea shanties, as well as songs and verses about pirates and mermaids," said Mr Fine.

"There'll also be plenty of others about sun, sand, sea, surf, fishing, transportation by sea or rivers, whaling and ballads and all sorts of boats, even submarines.

"There may even be a special song about an oyster, an octopus or other sea creatures."

Mr Fine said that all funds raised on the night would go to support the work of the Woy Woy Pelican Lady, Ms Wendy Gillespie.

Tickets for the night will cost \$10.

More information and ticketing links can be found online at <https://www.troubadour.org.au> or by phoning 4342 6716.

SOURCE:
Media release,
Michael Fine, Troubadour Folk Club

Book fair at Pearl Beach

A Summer Holiday Book Fair will be held at the Pearl Beach Memorial Hall from 9am to 1pm on Thursday, December 28.

The book fair is organised by the Pearl Beach Progress Association with proceeds going towards Pearl Beach initiatives and upkeep and maintenance of the hall.

Book fair co-ordinator Ms Alison Phillips said: "All books are good quality and include many popular authors.

"There is no better way to enjoy a Pearl Beach holiday than over a good book.

"This Pearl Beach Summer Holiday Book Sale promises to be the biggest and best ever."

The sale will include fiction, biographies, children's books, puzzles and DVDs.

She said there would be plenty "to keep you engrossed for hours while soaking up the sunshine over summer".



Ms Phillips is pictured sorting through the many books in preparation for the book fair.

The hall is located at 9 Diamond Rd, Pearl Beach.

SOURCE:
Media release, 7 Dec 2023
Lynne Lillico, Pearl Beach
Progress Association

Woytopia sustainable festival date announced

Organisers of the Peninsula's sustainable living festival, Woytopia, have confirmed that the festival will be held next year on Sunday, October 13.

The festival is expected to include music, arts, children's entertainment, food, eco-market stalls and green living talks.

Volunteers are being sought to help with its organisation.

"It takes a big team to run and we need you to add to our friendly team of volunteers."

Anyone interested is asked to email info@woytopia.org.

SOURCE:
Social media, 3 Dec 2023
Woytopia

Survey launched about ephemeral art trail

The Pearl Beach Arboretum has launched a survey to help it decide about the future of its Pearl Beach Ephemeral Art Trail

The survey is designed for people who attended the most recent art trail event which ran from Saturday, September 16, to

Sunday, October 15.

The survey of up to 11 questions explores the nature of involvement in the trail, numbers of visits and sizes of groups, as well as how attendees heard of the event.

It asks whether the ephemeral art trail should be repeated, how often and at what time of year.

It asks what aspect of the event attendees enjoyed the most and for any other comments.

The survey can be found at <https://forms.office.com/r/8YbWEA2g2j>.

SOURCE:
Website, 27 Nov 2023
Pearl Beach Arboretum



Liesl Tesch MP

Member for Gosford

Parliamentary Secretary for Families and Communities

Parliamentary Secretary for Disability Inclusion



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Canteen manager retires after 23 years

The canteen manager at Umina Beach Public School is retiring from The Big Bite after 23 years.

Ms Debora Elliott said: "It has been a very difficult decision to make."

Ms Elliott said her involvement with the school started in 1999 when her daughter started kindergarten.

She volunteered in classrooms and the canteen and became involved with P/C fundraising.

"I was offered a paid position in 2005 as canteen manager to help a struggling canteen.

"This was when my son Wyatt started kindergarten.

"You may know him as Mr Elliott at school now.

"A significant moment at the Big Bite was in my second year.

"The then principal Mr Blair had the canteen gutted and refurbished, using profits from the canteen."

Ms Elliott said she had met generations of families through her work.

"I often see ex-students when out and am always asked: Do you still make the muffins? They were the best.

"In 2016, the Government introduced the Healthy Canteen Strategy to ensure food sold to children was compliant.

"I have successfully achieved this every year, along with following the Healthy Kids Association required criteria.

"I have received three NSW Government Awards acknowledging my commitment along with a Canteen Managers Award from Healthy Kids Association.

"My role to look after the children's food needs has been my absolute focus.

"I have been adamant that all families should enjoy the canteen, thus the ongoing smaller items made daily 20 and 50 cent ice blocks and muffins since starting.

"These items are enjoyed at the Big Bite, the place where the kids run to everyday at lunch (even though they are told to walk).

"I cannot put into words how hard it will be to not arrive at school by 7am and bake trays of muffins and prepare for a busy day.

"I know how exciting it is to get a lunch order.

"It is seen in the children's faces.

"The daily chats with kids have been a highlight.

"I wish all the children a happy and healthy life and remember to always say hi if you see me out and about."

SOURCE:
Social media, 7 Dec 2023
Umina Beach Public School

Students visit clinical school at Hospital

Year 10 students at Brisbane Water Secondary College have had a tour of the University of Newcastle's Clinical School in the grounds of Gosford Hospital.

The tour was part of the university's "campus experience day".

The students had hands-on experience in the Nursing and Midwifery ward and explored the Anatomical Laboratory.

"It was a day filled with discovery and excitement," said Woy Woy campus careers teacher Mr Michael Strappazzon.

SOURCE:
Social media, 4 Dec 2023
Michael Strappazzon,
BWSC Woy Woy



Four receive major sports awards

Four students of Brisbane Water Secondary College have received major awards at the college's Sporting Excellence Presentation evening.

They were Jacob Falconer, Grace Dabin, Lachlan Muldrock and Phoebe Graf.

Jacob Falconer was named Senior Boy Sports Person of the Year.

He was recognised for his NSW representation and gold medal performances at the NSW Combined High School swimming championships and the All Schools championships, as well as

multiple college and Sydney North swimming, cross country, and athletics performances.

Grace Dabin was named Senior Girl Sports Person of the Year for her NSW rugby union representation and athletics age championship.

Lachlan Muldrock was named Junior Boy Sports Person of the Year.

He was recognised for his Sydney North representation at the Combined High School swimming championships and representing Brisbane Water Zone at swimming, athletics and cross country.

Phoebe Graf was named Junior

Girl Sports Person of the Year.

She was recognised for a gold medal at the NSW Combined High Schools water polo championships, selection in the 2023 NSW Combined High School water polo Squad, and being a member of the Under-15 College basketball team, which secured fourth place in the state, and represented at Sydney North swimming championships.

The presentation evening was supported by music students Gresha Nevarette and Rhiarna Edwards-Saladrau, as well as by hospitality students and teachers.

SOURCE:
Social media, 6 Dec 2023
BWSC Woy Woy

Fee-free TAFE students outstrip 2021 numbers

The numbers of TAFE students in fee-free courses on the Central Coast is already 25 per cent greater than the numbers of paying students just two years ago, according to figures released by Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch.

She said 11,115 students on the Coast had accessed the fee-free TAFE program.

This compares to 8873 students recorded in the 2021 census, prior to the introduction of the fee-free places.

With 900 of these from the Peninsula, it would be expected that around 1100 Peninsula students have been involved in the fee-free program.

These numbers are expected to grow with an extension to the program, according to our Local Members of Parliament.

"I look forward to seeing more students enrol with the announcement of further fee-free places," Ms Tesch said.

"Thanks to the genuine collaboration between the Commonwealth and NSW Government, thousands more are now able to enjoy the benefits of a vocational education, setting them

up with the skills of the future.

"As well as equipping our next generation of highly skilled workers, this initiative will place more money back in the pockets of students, supporting our community as they embark on their further education journey."

Federal Member for Robertson Dr Gordon Reid said: "So far, Fee-Free TAFE has been a game-changer and has meant thousands of Australians are now accessing study opportunities that will help them secure jobs in areas of need.

"This partnership will address persistent skills shortages experienced across our community, giving people the opportunity to study for in demand careers and opportunities.

"Under the program, students are offered fee-free places to upskill in industries aligned to priority skill areas, unlocking skilled workers in the areas we need them most.

"Students studying a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care or a Certificate III in School-Based Education Support could save up to \$1600, and those looking to build a career pathway through a Certificate III in Individual Support could save up to \$1450."

SOURCE:
Media release, 8 Dec 2023
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford



Christmas choir performs at Erina

Ettalong Public School's Christmas Choir has performed at Erina Fair for an audience which included friends and family.

The students took centre stage to spread joy and holiday cheer,

said school principal Ms Jodie Campbell.

"Their voices filled the air with the spirit of the season and certainly had the audience toe-tapping and clapping along."

Year 6 students also put some finishing touches on the Ettalong

tree, "which is standing proud outside Kmart" at the shopping centre, sporting the school's colours of blue and gold.

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 5 Dec 2023
Jodie Campbell, Ettalong
Public School

Students set summer reading challenge

Students at St John the Baptist Primary School have been set a Summer Reading Challenge "to avoid the summer reading slide".

The challenge aims to keep kids reading over the summer holiday break to maintain their reading skills, according to principal Ms

Nicole Davies.

Students are being given a bookmark, with spaces for it to be signed and dated every time the child reads for 15 minutes in the holiday break.

"Regular holiday reading will ensure the best foot forward for the new school year," said Ms Davies.

"Your child can borrow for the school holidays.

"All bookmarks returned early in Term 1 will be in the draw to win prizes."

SOURCE:
Social media, 8 Dec 2023
Nicole Davies, SJB Catholic
Primary School



Netball committee

Woy Woy Peninsula Netball Association has appointed its committee for the 2024 season.

The executive comprises president Sharon Bailey, vice-president Alex Marshall, secretary Nichole Barnes, assistant secretary Shannon Gooley, treasurer Simone Garner, assistant treasurer Damon Kiley, umpires convenor Kylie Henderson, coaching convenor Rita Pearl, games and grading convenor Catherin Bailey and representative convenor Michelle Stone

Other office bearers are assistant umpires convenor Damon Kiley, public relations officer Alex Marshall, canteen convenor Shannon Planicka and carnival convenor Jenni Blacker.

SOURCE:
Social media, 28 Nov 2023
Woy Woy Peninsula Netball Association

Blake is appointed as women's representative

Southern and Ettalong United Football Club has appointed its Club Person of the Year, Blake Reeson, as the women's representative for season 2024.

Blake's appointment follows on from previous women's rep Catherine Higginson-Smith last season.

He is expected to implement the club's plan for growth in its all-age women participation numbers, for the club to compete in the new Over-35 Women's division and to strengthen pathways for juniors girls into senior football.

For further information, email



womensfootball@seufc.com.

SOURCE:
Social media, 7 Dec 2023
Southern & Ettalong United Football Club

Bowling club holds presentation night

The Umina Beach Men's Bowling Club held its presentation night on Saturday, November 25.

Greg Shirley won the club's Major Singles Championship and was named Bowler of the Year.

The club's Grade 3 Pennants Team on won the Pennant Team of the Year Achievement Award.

Lee Cribbs received the Achievement Award after leading the club's Bowler of the Year table throughout the year until the last event.

Upu Kila Navu received the Encouragement Award.

Rex Hunt, Steve Stead, Robin Hill and Don Stephens on were presented with Recognition Certificates from Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch for their work for the club's RU OK? Day.

SOURCE:
Social media, 25 Nov 2023
Peter Springgett, UBMCB



New lights for night hire

New lights have been installed and are operating at Woy Woy Tennis Club.

Night hire under lights is now available for members and guests.

Online bookings enable the lights to be switched on for the booked time and court.

SOURCE:
Social media, 27 Nov 2023
Woy Woy Tennis Club

Club plays Under-100 Master Points bridge final

The final of the Under-100 Master Points competition at Brisbane Water Bridge Club was played on Wednesday, November 29.

North-South results were:
1 Jann Small, Qi Hasemore 200.0 (59.52 per cent), 0.21 green points.

2 John Drew, Denyse Stephens 181.0 (53.87), 0.13.

2 Ann Snow, Edith Marshall 181.0 (53.87), 0.13.

4 Marcelle Goslin, Peter Wheatley 166.0 (49.40).

5 Peter Hall, Peter Mackey 158.0 (47.02).

6 Kerry-Anne Durrant, Carolyn Harper 145.0 (43.15).

6 Cheryl Pearse, Jenni Murray 145.0 (43.15).

East-West results were:

1 Susan Ashley, Kerry Robertson 188.0 (55.95 per cent), 0.21 green points.

2 Anne Birt, Marilyn Reid 178.0 (52.98), 0.15.

3 Wendy Byrne, Carolynne Mucharsky 174.0 (51.79), 0.11.

4 Bob Lowry, Dieter Mucharsky 172.0 (51.19).

5 Steve Anderson, Kerry Anderson 171.0 (50.89).

6 Vickie Betts, Roz Harvey 153.0 (45.54).

7 Ros Lunday, Margaret Hockley 140.0 (41.67).

Website, 5 Dec 2023
Brisbane Water Bridge Club

WHAT'S ON at ETTALONG BOWLING CLUB

Come celebrate with us on New Years Eve. Live entertainment all day starting with Maryanne Rex in the outdoor area from 1pm - 4pm then DC Duo in the main lounge from 4pm - 8pm followed by our free event in the Auditorium with the one and only BAD 80's Tribute Band. We will continue to have our Sunday raffles on NYE starting ticket sales from 10am, drawing at 12.30pm.

We have added some half hams to the Friday and Sunday club raffles in the month of December. Download our club app to keep up to date with upcoming entertainment and promotions. We are excited to bring you some fantastic artists in the month of December including Classic Hits Rock & Roll dance party on Saturday 2nd December, TOXIC DOLLS band will be returning on Saturday 16th December followed by "They Call Me Bruce" on Saturday 23rd December.

On behalf of our staff, management and directors we would like to wish you all a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a Safe and Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you again in 2024.



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



THE BEST-KEPT SECRET ON THE CENTRAL COAST

Sport

Roosters announce signings for 2024 season

Woy Woy Roosters have announced a number of signings for the 2024 season.

They include Hemi Knebel, who has previously played with Central Coast Roosters, Newcastle Knights and Terrigal.

He is also a representative touch footballer.

Another is fullback/outside back Mason Ward who has previously played with Sydney Roosters, Parramatta Eels and more recently

with Ryde Eastwood.

Former Central Coast Roosters rep and current Australian 18s junior touch rep Kieran Diamond has also agreed to join the club for season 2024.

The club has also re-signed juniors in Braydan Purcell and Cooper Wilesmith for the 2024 season.

SOURCE:
Social media, 7 Dec 2023
Woy Woy Roosters RLFC



Umina narrowly misses playing itself for Division 4 men's pennant

Umina Beach Men's Bowling Club's Red and Blue teams have narrowly missed playing each other for the Bowls Central Coast Division 4 Men's Pennant.

Both made it to the semi-finals. The Red side was defeated by the Ourimbah-Lisarow Magpies.

The Blue side defeated Ettalong in the other semi-final to contest the final against the Magpies on

Wednesday, November 29.

"Our boys got out to a great start and were well ahead," said Umina club secretary Mr Peter Springett.

"Warren Brooks' rink was 12-0 up against the strong Magpies rink and Allan Jones' rink was only a couple of shots behind.

"The Magpies didn't panic.

"They just kept plodding away.

"We started to play a few short bowls, which the Magpies took advantage of.

"The rink playing against Warren's rink picked up a three and you could see their confidence lift across both rinks.

"Our boys held in there, but the momentum had shifted and it didn't come back.

"The Magpies finished winning both rinks, 39-29, to take out the Division 4 Pennant.

SOURCE:
Social media, 29 Nov 2023
Peter Springett, UBMBC



Rugby president visits players in United Kingdom

Woy Woy Rugby Club president Mr Phil Burgess has made a trip to the United Kingdom to "check in on" two Woy Woy players, Braydon Mako and Max Edwards.

The pair have been playing with Southwold Rugby Club in Suffolk, England.

Mr Burgess said he had "a great Sunday lunch with the Southwold Rugby coach Jim Keeble and his family".

"The boys are going great over here, and have been playing well.

"Everyone at Southwold RFC have been looking after our young men so well.

"I know the boys will be better off for this experience.

"We look forward to having some Southwold male and female players coming to visit us for a season."

SOURCE:
Social media, 27 Nov 2023.
Phil Burgess, Woy Woy Rugby Club

Umina Beach Women's Bowling club has celebrated its 64th birthday on its Presentation Day on Tuesday, November 28.

Members managed to get some bowls in before rain stopped play.

To fill in time before the luncheon, they held a trivia quiz.

After lunch, the presentations were made to the 2023-24 playing season winners.

Kerry Yates received the Encouragement Award.

The club was runner-up in the Division 4 Pennant competition.

They had planned to raise the flag on the day.

However, due to the wet weather, they unfurled the flag inside.

It was then time to celebrate the club's 64th Birthday.

Members sang Happy Birthday



and then president Gale Hill and life member Lesley Swales cut the cake, which was made by Yvonne Norman.

Members brought toys for

Christmas to be distributed to families on the Peninsula by the Salvation Army.

SOURCE:
Social media, 28 Nov 2023
Lesley Swales, UBWBC



Life memberships awarded

The Ettalong Pelicans Masters Swimming Club has awarded life memberships to two of its members.

Neil Keele and Marion Dreyer were voted life members at the

club's annual meeting on Sunday, December 3.

SOURCE:
Social media, 4 Dec 2023
Ettalong Pelicans Masters Swimming

Major Singles and Major Fours finals on Sunday

Ettalong Bowling Club will hold its Men's Major Singles and Major Fours Finals on Sunday, December 17.

The major singles final will be played at 10am between Lee Trethowan and David Weige.

The major fours final will be played at 1pm between a team of John Hannan, Gary Eggleton, Hemi Palmer and Darren Morrison and a team of Mick Hopley, Allan Lewin, Col Passfield and Phil Westcott.

In the semi-finals, played

on Saturday, December 2, Phil Westcott's team defeated Nathan Malloy's team of Chris Leatherbarrow, Daniel Casey and Lee Trethowan, 26-12.

Darren Morrison's team defeated with John Robert's team of Alan Joss, Carl Wilson and Richard Noble, 22-12.

Club raffles will also be on from 12:30pm with entertainment from 2pm.

SOURCE:
Social media, 6 Dec 2023
Ettalong Eagles

Bridge club holds Christmas lunch and award presentations

Brisbane Water Bridge Club is holding its Christmas Lunch and Presentation of Awards today, Monday, December 11.

It will also play Christmas Pairs. The venue will be Ettalong Diggers Club rather than the the bridge clubroom.

Bridge was scheduled to start at 10am sharp, followed by lunch at 1pm.

**Website, 5 Dec 2023
Brisbane Water Bridge Club**