

# Peninsula News

Community Access

EDITION 599

THE PENINSULA'S OWN NEWS SERVICE INC

22 JULY 2024



## Council to spend \$50,000 to sell commuter carpark

**Central Coast Council will spend about \$50,000 to sell the Woy Woy commuter carpark to Transport for NSW for \$1, if a recommendation before tomorrow night's council meeting is approved.**

The money would be spent on the creation of a pedestrian easement from the carpark to the railway station to encompass the existing elevated walkway, as well as on the legal process.

The recommendation implements the Council decision in April last year to negotiate with the State Government department to buy the carpark, in response to an earlier proposal to sell the carpark on the open market.

At that time, the Council agreed to "continue to negotiate with Transport for NSW for the transfer of the commuter carpark at 93 Blackwall Rd, Woy Woy, to Transport for NSW and authorise the CEO to execute a contract if a mutual agreement can be reached on satisfactory terms".

Transport for NSW told the council in April this year that it "would be prepared to take over freehold ownership of the Woy Woy commuter carpark", subject to a number of conditions, according to Tuesday's council agenda.

These included the transfer for \$1, each party paying their own transaction costs and "the transfer including an appropriate property interest over the pedestrian walkway linking the car park and station".

"This is currently leased by the Transport Asset Holding Entity, but a more permanent interest will be needed."

The council staff report stated that easements would need to be created "in favour of commuter

car park land" for the section of the walkway over Railway St and for the section over the Swancott Centre "surface carpark", between the commuter carpark and the Clocktower building.

The "deed of agreement for maintenance" for the existing easement through the Clocktower building would need "to be novated to Transport for NSW".

"The easements will provide that the responsibility for maintenance and repair work of the walkway and overbridge will lie with Transport for NSW.

"Consultation with the Woy Woy community and the local state member of parliament in 2023 have confirmed that transfer of the commuter car park to Transport for NSW is an acceptable outcome," the report states.

The report stated that the cost of the easements and other costs associated with the transfer would total about \$45,000, excluding GST.

"Incidental costs which are usual in the creation of easements and deeds of assignment as well as property conveyancing expenses will be associated with the proposed transfer.

"The strata of land to be covered

by the additional easements will need to be fully surveyed. "The surveying costs are estimated at approximately \$20,000 excluding GST.

"Depending on the actual arrangements that are agreed on and depending on the extent and complexity of the negotiations with both Transport for NSW and with third parties (specifically, the owners of the Clocktower Centre), a further cost of approximately \$25,000 excluding GST for legal and related professional costs is expected to be incurred to finalise and execute the required documentation."

The report claimed the costs could be absorbed within the council's existing budget.

"The surveying, negotiation, and documentation costs can be absorbed within the annual budget for the Economic Development and Property Unit, taking into account that ongoing savings will be achieved in terms of insurance, risk management, and lease management expenses that form part of the cost of ownership of the commuter car park."

**SOURCE:**  
Central Coast Council agenda  
item 2.7, 23 Jul 2024



## Capacity crowd at Naidoc event

A capacity crowd of more than 200 people packed Sydney 2000 Park adjacent to the Mingaletta Hall in Umina for Naidoc Week celebration on Friday, July 12 - REPORT page 5

Photo: Mark Ellis

Produced on the Peninsula

Peninsula news & advertising  
for the Peninsula community

## Peninsula News: A voluntary activity

**Peninsula News is as much a community activity as it is a community service.**

Our fortnightly voluntary non-profit community newspaper is produced by members of our community as a service to our community.

It relies on voluntary participation, ranging from submitting material through to being an active part of the production team. No-one is paid. Volunteering can range from spending an hour or two through to taking responsibility for a role within the production team. Training is provided.

Volunteers are currently needed to help with fundraising and sponsorship, news gathering, and sub-editing collected material into news style.

Other available roles include

that of photographer and picture editor, online production manager and bookkeeper.

For further information, call 4342 5333 or email editor@peninsula.news and one of our volunteers will get back to you.

Mark Snell, 9 Nov 2023

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**Next issue: Monday, August 5**

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COUNT THE LOCAL NEWS: 55 articles in this issue

... and another 10 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 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 you, 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.

## Mary Mac's receives shelter bags

The Rotary Club of Brisbane Water has donated three shelter bags to Mary Mac's Place in Woy Woy.

"Mary Mac's is one of the Peninsula's main support for the displaced and families facing financial stress, providing food, clothing and other essentials," said Rotary club secretary Ms Di Bartok.

"Rotary Brisbane Water has become a strong supporter of Mary Mac's.

"Our community service director Ms Jennifer Brown recently delivered three shelter bags to Mary Mac's at Woy Woy to make life easier for rough sleepers.

"It was Jennifer's idea for our club to buy three of the hooded sleeping bags from Terrigal Rotary, which is distributing the shelter bags on the Coast."

**SOURCE:**  
 Newsletter, 11 Jul 2024  
 Di Bartok, Rotary Brisbane Water



## ... and 484kg of food

Mary Mac's Place in Woy Woy has received 93 bags and 484kg of food as the result of a Winter Appeal run by a local real estate agency.

"We are incredibly grateful to Wiseberry Peninsula Real Estate for coordinating this winter appeal on our behalf and all the wonderful supporters who donated," said

Mary Mac's project officer Ms Sally Baker.

"We have been able to stock our pantry which will allow us to provide more meals and emergency grocery supplies for those doing it tough on the Peninsula."

**SOURCE:**  
 Social media, 5 Jul 2024  
 Sally Baker, Mary Mac's Place

## CWA members make 'comfort teddies'

Members of the Umina Beach branch of the Country Women's Association have spent the last two "craft Tuesdays" making comfort teddies.

The teddy bears will be presented to the NSW Ambulance station in Woy Woy.

They may be used by anyone who needs them on a trip in an

ambulance, said branch publicity officer Ms Margy Logan.

Ms Logan said the project was "on-going".

A date had not been chosen for the presentation, and branch members would continue to sew and stuff the teddies until then.

**SOURCE:**  
 Media release, 17 Jul 2024  
 Mary Logan, CWA Umina Beach



## Rainfall just short of month's average

Rainfall for the month of July was just 5.6mm short of the month's average at the end of last week.

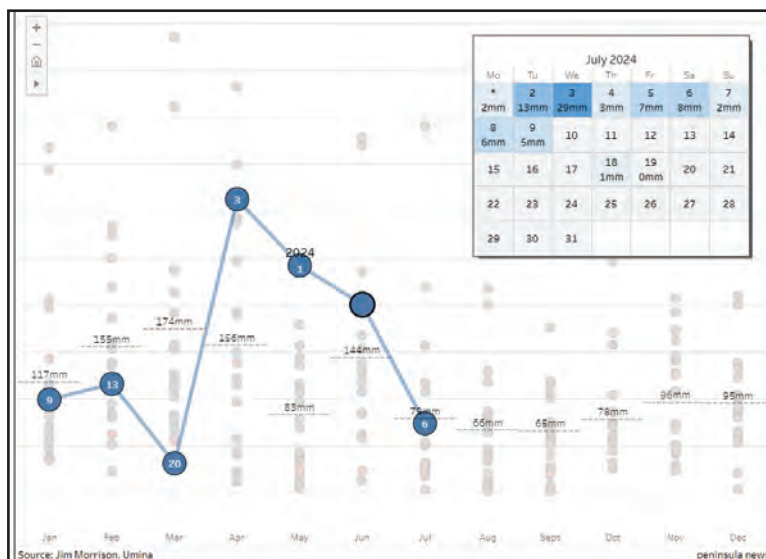
The month's rainfall stood at 73.4mm, compared to the month's average of 79mm, according to figures supplied by Mr Jim Morrison of Umina.

Only 1.2mm of rain had fallen in the 10 days prior to Friday, July 19. Rain had fallen every day for the first nine days of the month.

The year-to-date total stands at 1072.9mm, which is already about 20 per cent more than the average July-end figure.

More details are available online at <http://bit.ly/PNRainfall>

**SOURCE:**  
 Spreadsheet, 19 Jul 2024  
 Jim Morrison, Umina



| TIDE TIMES and Heights | Mon, Jul 22 | Thu, Jul 25 | Sun, Jul 28 | Wed, Jul 31 | Sat, Aug 3 |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
|                        | 0353 0.09   | 0601 0.06   | 0139 0.89   | 0522 0.67   | 0236 0.13  |
|                        | 0921 0.79   | 1142 0.90   | 0811 0.15   | 1051 0.24   | 0815 0.74  |
|                        | 1459 0.12   | 1742 0.14   | 1429 1.01   | 1736 1.13   | 1339 0.20  |
|                        | 2128 1.31   | 2351 1.13   | 2103 0.25   |             | 2006 1.17  |
|                        | Tue, Jul 23 | Fri, Jul 26 | Mon, Jul 29 | Thu, Aug 1  | Sun, Aug 4 |
|                        | 0437 0.07   | 0644 0.08   | 0245 0.78   | 0054 0.19   | 0315 0.12  |
|                        | 1006 0.83   | 1233 0.93   | 0900 0.19   | 0632 0.68   | 0855 0.76  |
|                        | 1551 0.11   | 1842 0.18   | 1531 1.05   | 1151 0.24   | 1424 0.17  |
|                        | 2215 1.29   |             | 2227 0.25   | 1832 1.16   | 2045 1.15  |
| AT ETTALONG            | Wed, Jul 24 | Sat, Jul 27 | Tue, Jul 30 | Fri, Aug 2  | Mon, Aug 5 |
|                        | 0519 0.06   | 0043 1.01   | 0401 0.70   | 0150 0.16   | 0349 0.12  |
|                        | 1053 0.86   | 0726 0.11   | 0953 0.22   | 0729 0.71   | 0930 0.77  |
|                        | 1645 0.11   | 1329 0.97   | 1635 1.09   | 1247 0.22   | 1504 0.16  |
|                        | 2302 1.23   | 1948 0.23   | 2346 0.23   | 1922 1.17   | 2121 1.12  |

## Compulsory acquisition mooted for intersection

Central Coast Council will discuss the compulsory acquisition of land at the corner of Ocean Beach Rd and Rawson Rd, Woy Woy, behind closed doors at its meeting tomorrow, Tuesday, July 23.

The land would be purchased for the upgrade of the intersection at the corner.

The \$33 million upgrade has been funded by a "Central Coast Roads Package" from the Federal

Government.

The acquisition will be discussed in "closed session" because the matter "contains commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it and because consideration of the matter in open Council would on balance be contrary to the public interest."

**SOURCE:**  
Central Coast Council agenda item 1.3, 23 Jul 2024



## BMX track opens for school holidays

Siblings Torben and Katarina Carlsson can't get enough of the new BMX track at Umina Beach skate park giving it a high nine out of 10.

They were among the many local children using the track over the school holidays.

Reasons for their thumbs-up include "no gravel rash" which was a problem with the previous track.

The upgrade is a smooth and paced surface which allows for greater speed and thrust off the jumps, they said.

The Umina Community Group

welcomed the opening of the new BMX pump track and bouldering wall on Friday, July 5, in time for the school holidays.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 5 Jul 2024  
Umina Community Group  
Photo: Jo Freeman.

## Residents' association to hold candidates' forum

The Woy Woy Planning Residents Association will hold a council candidate forum for prospective Gosford West ward councillors at 7pm on Thursday, August 22, at the Everglades Country Club, Woy Woy.

"All Peninsula residents, owners and renters should attend to hear from candidates for the upcoming Council election," said association vice-president Mr Julian Bowker.

"All candidates are invited to register their interest," he said.

The format is expected to be a short speech from each candidate

followed by a question and answer session.

Attendance is free, and all are welcome, but the association is encouraging registration to ensure seats are reserved.

"Don't miss this opportunity to be informed and empowered."

"Join us at the candidate forum and be informed about the candidates' platforms and learn what they can do for you and your community."

Register online through the PRA's website <https://www.peninsularesidents.org.au>.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 18 Jul 2024  
Julian Bowker, PRA

## Three register for Gosford West ward

Three people have registered as candidates for Gosford West ward in the Central Coast Council elections to be held on Saturday, September 14.

They were among a total of five who had registered for Central Coast elections by close of business on Friday, July 19.

Nominations close at 6pm on Monday, August 5.

The three Gosford West candidates were Kevin Peter Brooks, Paul William Chapman

and Stephen Sizer.

Mr Brooks and Mr Sizer nominated on Monday, July 1, and have registered as part of a group and have declared on political party affiliation.

Mr Chapman registered on Friday, July 19, and was neither part of a group nor had a political party affiliation.

None of the three had registered a "platform or objectives".

**SOURCE:**  
Website, 19 Jul 2024  
NSW Electoral Commission

MORE - Page 7



## Potholes prompt new call on council

Potholes in Peninsula roads have prompted Member for Robertson Dr Gordon Reid to call on Central Coast Council to "get its processes in order".

"You may think this road belongs in a developing country but alas this is Albion St, Ettalong," he said.

"Central Coast Council needs to get its processes in order and fix our local roads.

"To date, I have provided Central Coast Council with \$40 million to help it fix our local roads."

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 10 Jul 2024  
Gordon Reid, Member for Robertson

## Rotarian dies

The Rotary Club of Umina Beach has reported the death of one of its long-term members, Mr Ian Figtree.

"Ian was principal at Figtree Moran Accountants at Point Clare and had been a member of our club for over 30 years, having joined after distinguished Rotary Service in Sydney," said club publicity officer Mr Pat Lewis.

He was club president in 1998-99, 2005-06 and 2011-12.

He was a Paul Harris Fellow and "a much-loved and respected member".

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 11 Jul 2024  
Pat Lewis, Rotary Umina Beach



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The Ettalong bank is a major sponsor of 2024 Variety Bash car 26 "Ettalong Eagle". Driver Barry Henson is pictured with bank manager Pat Italiano and staff member Jay Vandenberg.

## Three-storey house proposed on Blackwall Mountain slopes

**A three-storey dwelling has been proposed at 33 Bay View Cres on the slopes of Blackwall Mountain.**

The development application prepared by PPlan states: "The proposed dwelling will include five bedrooms, four bathrooms, open plan living-kitchen-dining with several other internal living spaces."

"The proposed roof form will consist of mostly skillion roof forms with a pitch of two degrees."

The application is not compliant with planning provisions, with a proposed height of 10.251 metres well above the permitted maximum of 8.5 metres.

The application includes notes from a pre-lodgement meeting with council planners.

The notes stated that the Council staff considered that the height and extensive excavation and fill requirements constituted an "over-development".

They said that it could "cause issues unless it can be demonstrated how the development has been designed in accordance with the sloping topography of the land and measures have been provided to assist with privacy and overshadowing".

The council planners recommended "that the applicant reviews the previously approved developments on this site to understand the kind of bulk and scale Council would likely consider for the site."

The application states: "The subject site is a standard lot with an area 716 square metres with a dimension of 10 metres by 38 metres and is zoned as R2 Low Density Residential."

"Aerial imagery shows that the premises has been vacant historically."

The site slopes down from Bay View Cres and, according to the application, averages 34 per cent (18.78 degrees).

The application states that "a dwelling was approved at 9 Bay View Cres which also exceed the maximum 8500mm height requirement".

"The dwelling exceeded the height requirement by



approximately 1500mm, similar to that of the proposed dwelling for the subject premises".

The application claims that there is no floor space ratio control for this site and states that the ratio for the proposal is 0.75:1.

The setback of the double garage is also non-compliant with the requirement to be one metre behind the front setback.

The non-compliance is said to be caused by "site constraints".

The application states: "The site has a frontage of 10 metres to Bay View Cres, a partially sealed road."

"A new driveway is to be established centrally in the lot's frontage (for) dual car accommodation."

"The driveway will connect into Bay View Cres at the left hand side with a width of 4380mm."

The engineering design shows the driveway connecting to an internal garage at the third level of the house at 1.8 metres above ground level, with a slope of 20.2 per cent (11.42 degrees).

In a sectional drawing labelled "worst scenario of proposed access path", the pedestrian access path is depicted at a height of 2.2 metres above ground level and with a maximum slope of 35 per cent (19.29 degrees).

The application states: "For the proposed dwelling to be established on the site, several components of cut and fill are required to step the dwelling down the sloping block."

The engineering drawings depict a network of retaining walls, with the entire southern boundary requiring retention.

According to tables showing

dimensions of walls and footings, the maximum height retaining wall would be 3.4 metres.

A 51-page geotechnical report lists 10 precautionary measures to be taken during construction of the proposal and follow up activities.

The report also contains a list of specific queries and responses.

One of the queries is whether "downslope properties would benefit from the proposed eastern retaining wall".

The response is: "Unless site stormwater is diverted away from the downslope retaining wall entirely, it will not improve the stability of the downslope properties."

"Controlled water dispersion and management may provide a positive effect with respect to sediment flow."

The application claims: "As it is proposed, the dwelling is largely consistent with the requirements of the Central Coast Development Control Plan in particular parts 2.1 and 2.11."

"It is unlikely that the proposed development is to result in impacts to off-site amenity of adjoining premises."

However, submissions have already been lodged against the proposal by neighbours with concerns about the bulk and scale of this development, the lack of a stormwater management plan, the amount and size of earthworks destabilising the slope to the detriment of downslope properties, excessive over-shadowing and the lack of suitable shadow diagrams.

SOURCE:

DA Tracker, 19 Jul 2024  
DA/437/2024, Central Coast Council

## Planning panel to be headed by former judge

**Central Coast Council is likely to appoint a new Local Planning Panel, headed by former NSW Attorney General and Land and Environment Court judge Mr Terry Sheahan, at its meeting tomorrow.**

The 76-year-old Mr Sheahan will be appointed chair, along with alternate chairs Mr Jason Perica and Ms Heather Warton, 15 "expert" panel members and six "community" panel members, for the next three years.

The 15 expert members are Mr David Crofts, Mr Stephen Kerr, Mr Michael File, Ms Louise Menday, Mr Kevin Hoffman, Mr David Furlong, Ms Lindsey Dey, Ms Stacey Brodbeck, Mr Michael Ryan, Mr Stuart McDonald, Ms Clare Brown, Mr Graham Brown, Mr Greg Woodhams, Mr Ian Arnott and Ms Heather Irish.

The six community members are

Mr Julian Ardas (all five wards), Mr Robert Carter (all five wards), Ms Margaret Harvie (all five wards), Mr Adam Koutsamanis (Gosford East ward), Mr Jerome Favand (Gosford West and Gosford East wards) and Ms Lauren Kron (Gosford West and Gosford East wards).

Planning Minister Mr Paul Scully told the council: "Only the chair and alternate chairs approved by me can be appointed to your panel."

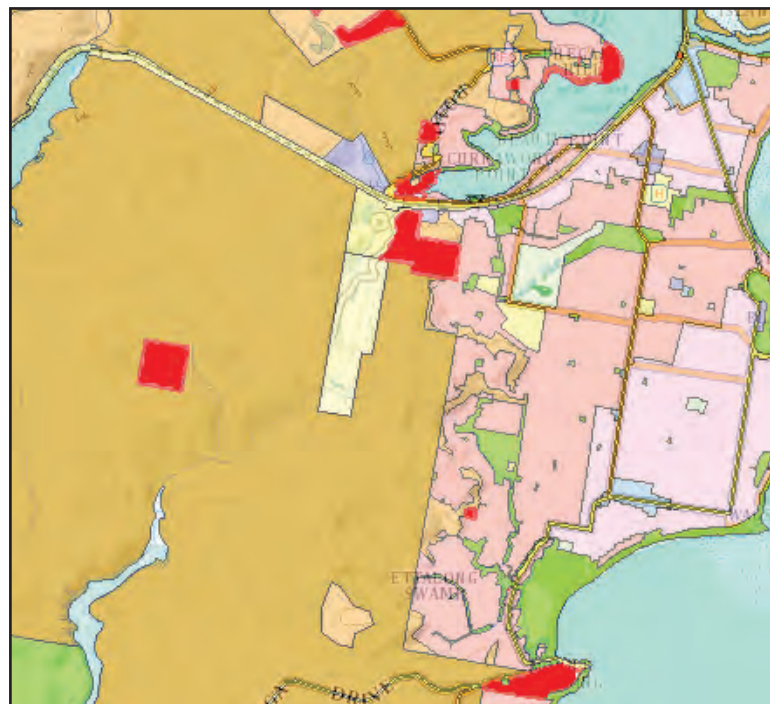
"I have also approved a list of independent experts from which Council is to select at least 15 members for appointment to its panel."

"All approved chairs and experts have successfully cleared probity checks meaning they do not have a bankruptcy or criminal record."

"Each has provided a statutory declaration that they are not a developer or real estate agent."

SOURCE:

Central Coast Council agenda item 2.18, 23 Jul 2024



## Community groups join to oppose bushland rezoning

**An alliance of 17 community groups, including three from the Peninsula, has written to Planning Minister Mr Paul Scully, calling on him to reject a rezoning proposal which could see 1200 dwellings built on conservation land across the region.**

"We will not, ever, accept the destruction of our green ridgelines which are the visual landscape that gives the Central Coast its unique character," said Community Environment Network chair Mr Gary Chestnut on behalf of the alliance.

He said the rezoning would "devastate the future of the region's unique, irreplaceable and beautiful Coastal Open Space System - a system of scenic

bushland reserves owned and managed by the local council since the 1970s which is a one of a kind and found nowhere else in NSW". It would "eliminate extensive areas of threatened species habitat", "wreck wildlife corridors between National Parks, State Forests and reserves", and "destroy the unique visual landscape, character and lifestyle of the Central Coast".

Areas around the Peninsula include Bulls Hill quarry, Phegans Bay bushland, and bushland at the bottom of Bulls Hill, near the tip in Nagari Rd and at Mt Ettalong.

Local groups which are part of the alliance include the Peninsula Residents Association; Grow Urban Shade Trees and The Bays Community Association.

SOURCE:

Media release, 11 Jul 2024  
Gary Chestnut, CEN

## Five complying developments approved

**Five complying development applications for the Peninsula have been approved in the last fortnight, to July 21.**

Two new applications have been received, and another four remain under assessment.

Those approved are at 11 Myall

St, Ettalong; 357 Ocean Beach Rd, Umina; 78 Lone Pine Ave, Umina; 30 Beach St, Ettalong, and 2 Gross Ave, Umina.

New applications have been received for 85 Dunban Rd, Woy Woy; and 451 Ocean Beach Rd, Woy Woy.

Four remaining under assessment are at 27 Osborne Ave, Umina; 38 Everglades Cres, Woy Woy; 150 Albany Rd, Umina, and 61 Cornelian Rd, Pearl Beach.

SOURCE:

Website, 21 Jul 2024  
Application tracker, NSW Planning

# What would Peninsula Council do?

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[www.peninsulashire.cc](http://www.peninsulashire.cc)

## Rotary clubs have one, two, three presidents

**Rotary clubs on the Peninsula have chosen one, two or three presidents for the coming year.**

The Rotary Club of Umina Beach has stuck with tradition and chosen Mr Dave Tanare as its sole president.

The Rotary Club of Woy Woy has taken the lead from the Rotary Club of Brisbane Water, which last year had two presidents.

The Woy Woy club has this year appointed Mr Trevor Walker and Mr Tom McCann as joint presidents.

The Rotary Club of Brisbane

Water has taken it a step further this year, appointing three joint presidents.

They are Ms Marion Cornish and Mr and Ms Peter and Jayne Mote.

**SOURCE:**  
Newsletter, 14 Jul 2024  
Rotary Brisbane Water



## New Rotary president gives out blankets in person

**New president of the Rotary Club of Umina Beach Mr Dave Tanare has wasted no time in getting in and serving our local community.**

“He put out a call to club members for surplus good quality blankets to be distributed to homeless and needy families for the cold weather,” said club

publicity officer Mr Pat Lewis.

“He quickly got a good supply which he took personally and gave to homeless people in our parks.

“He had some left to donate to Woy Woy Lifeline.”

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 11 Jul 2024  
Pat Lewis, Rotary Club of Umina Beach

## Magic theme at Changeover Night

**The Rotary Club of Brisbane Water has held a magic-themed Changeover Night to reflect the Rotary International theme for the year of The Magic of Rotary.**

Outgoing joint presidents Ms Sue O'Neill and Mr Mitch Gordon handed over the reins to a trio of Ms Marion Cornish, Mr Peter Mote and Ms Jayne Mote as incoming presidents.

Two Paul Harris Fellowships were awarded on the night to club secretary Ms Di Bartok and to Mr Troy Dove.

The award acknowledges individuals who contribute, or have



contributions made in their name, of \$1000 to The Rotary Foundation.

The award coincided with recognition of Mr Dove and Mr Gordon in State Parliament by Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch.

“I have the pleasure to acknowledge Mitchell Gordon and Troy Dove for their selfless contributions to our community,” Ms Tesch said.

“For years, the pair have teamed up to organise trivia nights and raised tens of thousands of dollars for various charities and not for profit organisations such as Coast Shelter, RSPCA Central Coast, Fairhaven and many others.”

Ms Tesch commended the duo for being “remarkable role models” for younger generations.

**SOURCE:**  
Newsletter, 14 Jul 2024  
Rotary Brisbane Water

## Two presidents appointed

**The Rotary Club of Woy Woy has appointed two presidents for the coming year, with Mr Tom McCann taking the role alongside continuing president Mr Trevor Walker.**

Mr Walker was presented with a Paul Harris Fellowship Sapphire Pin in recognition of his Service above Self.

Ms Jan Steele was also recognised for her 20 years' service to the club.

The club also presented a cheque for \$2500 to Riding for the Disabled on the night, to sponsor a horse for 12 months.

Pictured are incoming board



members (from left) Mr Don Tee, Mr Tom McCann, Mr Trevor Walker, Mr Sue Tee, Mr Wayne Jennings and Ms Annette Karton.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 16 Jul 2024  
Rotary Club of Woy Woy

## Paul Harris Fellowship for Wayne Dowdle

**Outgoing president of the Rotary Club of Umina Beach, Mr Wayne Dowdle was presented with a Paul Harris Fellowship Award by Rotary's assistant district governor Ms Christine Owen for his service to Rotary at the club's recent Changeover Dinner.**

He was also presented with a photographic collage of events and people, representing the activities of the club during his presidency which was prepared by Ms Olwyn

Lewis.

The club has held its 48th Annual Changeover Dinner at the Everglades Country Club in the presence of 50 members and guests.

The club's annual report was presented by Mr Dowdle, followed by the changeover to incoming president Mr David Tanare.

“Wayne has just completed an outstanding two years of club leadership, instead of the more usual one year, having previously served as club president in 1996-97,” said club publicity officer Mr

Pat Lewis.

Past president Mr Bruce Croft was also presented with a Paul Harris Sapphire Pin and Mr Ian Johnson was named Club Person of the Year.

Mr Lewis said the club's major goals for the coming year were increased club membership, greater community service and engagement, and a focus on development for our local young people.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 8 Jul 2024  
Pat Lewis, Rotary Umina Beach

## Park was packed for Naidoc celebrations

**A capacity crowd of more than 200 people packed Sydney 2000 Park adjacent to the Mingaletta Hall in Umina for a variety of activities for Mingaletta's Naidoc Week celebration on Friday, July 12.**

A number of speakers from Mingaletta invited those present to join in the welcoming community spirit of the day with the theme “Keep the fire burning”.

Mingaletta treasurer Mr Mark Champley, son of elder Aunty Faye, was Master of Ceremonies, welcoming the crowd and introducing other speakers.

Elder Aunty Robyn Reid in her Acknowledgment of Country said that the community was in good hands with the energy and talents evident in the aspiring younger generation of First Nation Peoples.

Mr Alan O'Brien led the smoking



ceremony, in which the crowd participated.

Elder Aunty Di O'Brien spoke on the history of Naidoc and her direct ancestry to activist Mr William Cooper.

Aboriginal education officer Mr Rheese Bull led the young Mingaletta Didge and Dance performers through a number of

traditional songs in language.

Dance lessons are held at Mingaletta each Monday during term school term from 4pm and are open for children to join.

**SOURCE:**  
Media statement, 17 Jul 2024  
Sue McCarthy, Ettalong Beach  
Stephanie Short, Woy Woy

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For more information, contact

**Residents Against the Reduction**

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**You don't know what you've got till it's gone**

Authorised by Mark Ellis, Rothwell St, Woy Woy

**Forum**

# What if council would really listen to the people?

## What if the Peninsula had its own Council?

This thought had never occurred to me until I went to a meeting of the Peninsula Residents Association where it was seriously debated, and where I learned that Woy Woy library was once Woy Woy town hall.

In fact, the Peninsula was self-governing until the middle of the 20th century.

So, what went wrong?

I don't know. You'd have to ask an expert like a local historian.

It may have been a case of an out of reach level of faceless government deciding that truly real local government was too expensive.

Thus the words "Woy Woy Town Hall" were painted over and replaced by "Woy Woy Library", and the citizens were grateful that the lovely municipal building was not going to be bulldozed.

Woy Woy and the Peninsula were absorbed into Gosford Council, which covered a fair slice of the Central Coast.

And so they trundled on, suppressing their former municipal pride and thirst for independence.

Until one day in the 21st century, another faceless bureaucrat had another brainwave.

"Bingo!" they said.

"I've discovered a way of saving lots of money.

"We should amalgamate Gosford Council with Wyong Council and call it Central Coast Council."

And they did.

It is not much of an exaggeration to say that nobody liked the amalgamated council.

Wyong was so far away that the bureaucrats and councillors didn't have to listen to the disgruntled ratepayers.

What happened next was even worse.

The distant, bloated councillors and mayor were sacked by different higher-up faceless bureaucrats, and replaced by an administrator.

And so local democracy died.

Now we have been told to get ready, because in September, we will be allowed to vote for the first time in ages.

Not just the voters are getting ready, but the would-be councillors are shining their qualifications.

It will be nice, of course, to have our council back.

It would be even nicer if it were a real local council for the 40,000 people live on the Peninsula.

That is the size of an average local council in Australia.

The population of the area covered by Central Coast Council is more than 350,000.

How could that possibly be called local?

What if a miracle happened?

Good miracles are rare in a world in thrall to a genocide-

abetting gerontocracy, but still, what if?

What if we were able to vote for candidates whom we know?

What if the mayor were the absolutely best candidate for the Peninsula?

And what if they were to paint over the word "Library" and replace it with "Town Hall"?

At the Peninsula Residents Association meeting, everyone had different ideas of what they expected from a truly local Peninsula government.

Getting rid of pot holes was mentioned, as was the process of granting development applications becoming less opaque.

I think we need a better bus service to encourage people to leave their SUVs at home, which would also eliminate the pot holes, I guess.

But for me, really, a Peninsula local council would listen to the people.

It would not threaten to sell off precious woodland for a handful of dollars.

Why? Because the councillors would know and love the trees and the animals who live in them.

I have found, while endlessly campaigning to save a few trees, that political allegiance is trumped by a feeling of belonging.

Total strangers drinking coffee at Ocean Beach rush to sign my petition.

"I live near there", "My aunty lives just around the corner", or "I drive past those trees on my way to work".

For even closer neighbours: "We leave out fruit for the possums", or, "I heard the boobook owl last night".

The bonds of belonging are strong.

Dare we hope?

**SOURCE:**  
Email, 18 Jul 2024  
Jane Hendy, Blackwall

## Policies of the unelected to control the elected

**For four years, we have suffered with extreme rate rises, reductions in services and poor service response to inquiries.**

If you sent in a request to the council-under-administration, you would get the standard response "We will get back to you in around three to six weeks", if you were lucky.

With the return of local democracy to the Coast, the

elected council would surely respond faster than this unelected behemoth.

However, any hope of councillors assisting their constituents has been stopped even before they are elected.

The current Council business paper with over 1100 pages of attachments outlines the suite of councillor policies developed by the unelected to control the elected.

This suite of documents includes the council's code of conduct and the councillor and staff interaction policy.

The current policy allows councillors to lodge customer service requests on the behalf of their constituents, stating that "councillors can bring concerns that have been raised by members of the public to the attention of staff".

Council staff want that

interaction gone, and under the new item 6.2 no staff member will be allowed to talk to a councillor.

This is ridiculous.

One of the key jobs of a councillor is to respond to their constituency, yet the current administration does not think a councillor should be able to talk to staff or help you with your concerns.

**SOURCE:**  
Email, 19 Jul 2024  
Mark Ellis, Woy Woy

## More FORUM Page 10

### Book launch to feature piano students

**Pearl Beach paediatric psychologist Dr John Irvine will launch his new book 80 Stories High at the Pearl Beach Memorial Hall on Sunday, July 28, from 2.30pm.**

The book launch will take the form of a conversation between Dr Irvine and Central Coast Conservatorium musical director Mr Patrick Brennan, with guest performances by Central Coast Conservatorium piano students.

Dr Irvine has had a lifetime connection with Pearl Beach.

His new book is promoted as "a reassuring collection of stories of ordinary kids, colleagues, parents, grandparents and celebrities achieving extraordinary outcomes for those they love with incredible humour, humility, kindness, forgiveness, resilience, faith and hope".

Dr Irvine said the stories were deliberately intended to be light, bright, reassuring and easily read.

He said the 80 stories in the book were an acknowledgement of his own 80 years.

The book will be available to purchase at \$34.99 with all proceeds donated to the Dementia Association.

Tickets will cost \$10, with bookings on 4344 2319 recommended.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 11 Jul 2024  
Lynne Lillico, Pearl Beach Progress Association

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**The Troubadour**  
Folk and Acoustic Music Club

**Sun July 28, 2pm**  
**Highly Strung**  
**Rock Orchestra**

Everglades Club Woy Woy  
Tickets \$25 members and \$30 non-members at  
[www.troubadour.org.au](http://www.troubadour.org.au)  
4342 6716

### Car Boot Sale

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Sunday  
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## Brooks calls for IPART water performance audit

Gosford West council election candidate Mr Kevin Brooks has written to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal calling for a performance audit of Central Coast Council's water services.

He has reminded the agency that it promised a performance audit after two years when it approved Central Coast Council's application for a massive water rate increase in May 2022.

"Since IPART approved Council's application, water rates have increased 51 per cent with a typical water bill now 28 per cent more expensive than Sydney and 12.5 per cent more expensive than Hunter.

"But the promised performance improvements have not materialised with many performance measures going

backwards."

Mr Brooks said IPART's July Water Utility Customer Satisfaction Report showed "another deterioration in customer satisfaction with Central Coast across all four categories".

"Central Coast Water also remains well behind all the other comparison water utilities in the survey.

"Public satisfaction with Central Coast is still lower than three years ago before it applied for the recent series of water rate hikes."

Mr Brooks said the report showed Overall Satisfaction down from 5.8 last quarter (Feb 2024) to 5.6 this quarter (May 2024).

"It was 6.0 three years ago in April 2021."

"Value for Money is down from 5.5 last quarter to 5.4 this quarter.

"It was 5.7 three years ago.

"Trust is down from 5.7 last quarter to 5.6 this quarter.

"It was 5.8 three years ago.

"Reputation is down from 5.3 last quarter to 5.1 this quarter.

"It was 5.4 three years ago."

Mr Brooks said: "Water rates have increased 51 per cent in three years, but we've not seen the promised performance improvements in return.

He said Central Coast was also well behind results achieved by Sydney and Hunter when they were included in the survey 12 months ago.

Sydney and Hunter's average overall satisfaction was 7.1 and 6.9 respectively, compared with Central Coast typically ranging between 5.5 and 6.0 and currently sitting at 5.6.

Mr Brooks said it was naive to expect improved performance simply by throwing more ratepayers money at a poorly-managed Council.

Instead, there needed to be reforms within Council to improve management, efficiency, productivity and culture.

"IPART should now honour the commitment it gave when approving Council's application for these massive price hikes by carrying out a performance audit.

"This performance audit should be independent and focus on management performance, efficiency and culture."

**SOURCE:**

Media release, 14 Jul 2024  
Kevin Brooks, Ratepayers Choice

## Paul Chapman nominates for Team Central Coast

Mr Paul Chapman has nominated as a candidate for Gosford West ward in the council elections as part of the Team Central Coast ticket.

Principal and founder of Central Coast Sports College, Mr Chapman said: "I have first hand knowledge of the challenges of creating opportunities on the Coast.

"I have been a resident of the Central Coast for more than 15 years and during this time I have been involved in a number of organisations that have a diverse impact on the Central Coast.

"A very common theme I see is many people complaining about the issues at council.

"Rather than complain, I am someone who likes to understand first and then actually take action to solve issues.

"I also understand the role of a council members is to assist with governing the whole Coast and not to run on just one particular issue.

"The Coast is such a unique area with so much potential and my goal is to support the staff and management at Council by providing independent advice and assist them in doing the very difficult job of delivering on service throughout the Coast.

"Tough decisions need to be made to help drive cost down so



that residents on the Coast get the services we all deserve and to allow development and opportunities to thrive once again.

"I continue to get surprised when I hear of companies and business owners pass over the Central Coast to go to councils that are easier to deal with.

"It is time for us to make the Central Coast a go-to destination for people who want to make things better, provide opportunities for our residents and to stop people thinking they need to leave the Coast to get a go.

"We need to reduce red tape, encourage high quality people to work at council and to really focus on the core problems without getting distracted by things we cannot control."

**SOURCE:**

Media release, 21 Jul 2024  
Paul Chapman, Team Central Coast

## Second Ratepayers Choice candidate

A second candidate has announced he will be standing as a candidate for Gosford West ward.

Mr Stephen Sizer said he would be standing under the Ratepayers Choice ticket alongside Mr Kevin Brooks.

"I am strongly opposed to council chief executive Mr David Farmer's position that the temporary rate increase, approved by IPART to pay off emergency loans, should be retained permanently.

"I am not convinced that the Council is operating as efficiently as it should be.

"The Administrator is beating his chest about how he has successfully reduced staff numbers and brought costs under control.

"This is not the case.

"If you review the contract register, which is available on the Council's website, you can get a feel for the cultural complacency and waste that is still ingrained.

"For example, Council hired a graduate engineer, through a labour hire company for a cost of \$248k over a two-year period.

"What well-run organisation is paying \$124k per year for a graduate?"

"That is not an isolated example.

"The contract register shows no fewer than 15 labour hire positions costing an average of \$200k per year, with some costing over \$300k.

"Mr Farmer is currently overseeing and is accountable for this waste and inefficiency.

"I don't see the current Administrator holding him to account.

"I am running to give our community an uninfluenced, unbiased voice.

"I am happy to ask the questions



that the community deserves an answer to, no matter how uncomfortable it may be for the CEO to answer.

"I do not think the Council should be crowing about achieving a budget surplus while at the same time, reducing infrastructure budget for the Peninsula.

"The Council needs to be run knowing they are spending the community's money.

"This isn't monopoly money for them to hoard, but money paid by us through rates and other charges to provide infrastructure and services.

"If elected, I will dedicate myself to ensuring the community receives value for money and is heard.

"I believe that advocating for the best interests of both Gosford West ward and the Central Coast are not conflicting goals, but rather can be achieved through collaboration and thoughtful decision-making.

"I am committed to working collaboratively with fellow councillors to enhance the Central Coast as a whole while prioritising the needs of Gosford West ward.

**SOURCE:**

Media release, 19 Jul 2024  
Stephen Sizer, Ratepayers Choice

## New partner joins Woy Woy legal firm

A Woy Woy legal firm has admitted a new partner.

Criminal and family lawyer Mr Nick Fagan became a partner at Tonkin Drysdale Partners on Monday, July 1.

Mr Fagan, who originally joined the firm in 2018, left for a stint with the Director of Public Prosecutions in 2021.

He returned to Tonkin Drysdale Partners last year.

He is now the head of its criminal law team.

Partner Mr Paul Tonkin said Mr Fagan was highly-respected, and brought nearly 10 years of experience and exceptional character to the firm as partner.

He said that Mr Fagan had the firm's support to move to the Director of Public Prosecutions to gain invaluable expertise in serious criminal matters.

"At the DPP, Nick prosecuted some of the most serious criminal offences in NSW."

Mr Tonkin said the firm was "pleased to secure Nick's return in 2023 and we are now delighted that he has joined the partnership".

"Combining his experience on both sides of the bar table, Nick is considered one of the leading criminal law solicitors on the Central Coast with a strong



reputation for acting in complex criminal matters.

"Nick is also an experienced family law advocate who appears frequently in the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia.

"Nick is an excellent lawyer, particularly as a criminal law advocate and in his family law matters.

"Just as important to us is that Nick is a terrific person in and out of the courtroom and brings an exceptional character to the future of our firm.

"We welcome Nick, Emily, and his family to our partnership and are confident he will bring great passion and enthusiasm to his role

as partner, lawyer and of course, mentor to others pursuing law at Tonkin Drysdale Partners."

Mr Fagan said: "I am honoured to join the partnership.

"This firm has been instrumental in my professional growth, and I am committed to contributing to its continued success and development as one of the leading firms on the Coast."

Mr Tonkin is pictured congratulating Mr Fagan, while the other partners Mr Lee Pawlak, Mr Dominic Tonkin and Mr Paul Quinn look on.

**SOURCE:**

Media release, 15 Jul 2024  
Katey White, Brilliant Logic

## Umina author talks about Maltese thriller

**Umina author Mr Sean Richardson will hold an author talk at Umina Library about his crime thriller novel *The Maltese Web* at 10am on Thursday, August 1.**

Mr Richardson said the book "explores the depths of corruption and the power of redemption".

It aims to immerse readers in the rich culture and history of Malta, with its stunning architecture and unique way of life as the backdrop to the story.

The novel follows financial investigator Marica Debono as she races against time to stop Russian criminals from exploiting her home during the fallout of a global financial catastrophe.



Mr Richardson said his focus was to write stories for readers to enjoy, that reflects his deep interest in and affection for Malta, and his local coastal home.

"This focus combines 20 years of experience working in Australian banking, a deep affection for Malta and a curiosity about life in Malta."

He and his family have visited Malta several times and spent a family gap year living in the town of Swieqi in Malta.

He said he aims to tell intriguing stories through the banking industry's "behind the scenes" characters and situations that usually go unnoticed, until something goes awry with devastating consequences.

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

**SOURCE:**  
Website, 18 Jul 2024  
Library Services, Central Coast Council



## Little Theatre presents *The Girl on the Train*

**Woy Woy Little Theatre will present *The Girl on the Train* for a season of 10 performances over three weekends, starting on Friday, August 2.**

The play is based on the novel by Paula Hawkins and the DreamWorks film of the same name, adapted for the stage by Rachel Wagstaff and Duncan Abel.

"It is a tale of betrayal and coercive control with an intriguing mystery at the heart, a mystery that is maintained right until the end," said box office manager Mr Graham Vale.

"The play hurtles straight into

action with Rachel waking up in her dingy kitchen surrounded by empty bottles of alcohol, still in her drab clothes from the previous day.

"She has a gash on her head but is unable to recall how it happened, like many recent events in her tangled life.

"After her childless marriage collapses amid her apparent alcoholism, Rachel repeatedly rides the train past her old house, spying on her ex-husband Tom and his new wife Anna and baby Evie, and on a neighbouring couple who seem to have the perfect life.

"Then the perfect woman, Megan, disappears.

"Her husband, her therapist and even Rachel are suspects.

"What follows is an unravelling of characters and their relationships, bringing this physiological thriller to its surprising conclusion."

"There are plenty of good seats at this stage, but they are selling faster than usual," said Mr Vale.

*The Girl on the Train* is directed by Christine Vale, with a cast of Teanau Murphy, Martin Pemberton, Greg Buist, Lucia Mandile, Kassie Brown, Terry Matthews and Scott Larimore.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 11 Jul 2024  
Graham Vale, Woy Woy Little Theatre

## Highly Strung Rock Orchestra returns

**The Troubadour Folk Club will host the Highly Strung Rock Orchestra at 2pm on Sunday, July 28, at the Everglades Country Club in Dunban Rd, Woy Woy.**

"The Highly Strung Rock Orchestra returns to the Troubadour with a fabulous Sunday afternoon concert at Troubadour Folk," said club president Mr Michael Fine.

"Highly Strung play folk and acoustic music beautifully, with moving interpretations of traditional jigs, reels and some of the great folk-rock classics.

"They nail it, too, with rock musical versions of some of the greatest popular songs of the past 60 years or more.

"Nowadays there's more of them as they have quietly added a new generation of family virtuosos to the line-up.

"Mary O'Mahony takes centre stage with her fiddle along with

family: Bernadette McCoy on violin-vocals, Stella McCoy as lead vocal-flute-whistle, Justin McCoy as lead vocal-guitar, and guest musicians Molly McCoy on violin-vocals, Joey McCoy on guitar, and Minnie McCoy, vocals.

"Together they present the best and most polished performance you're likely to see.

"On their previous appearances at the Troubadour, Highly Strung proved to have immense audience appeal, filling a large hall to sell out each time.

"This time the large venue is the Everglades auditorium and tickets are selling fast.

For booking details and inquiries, phone 4342 6716

Details, performance videos and more are available online at the Troubadour Folk website: [www.troubadour.org.au](http://www.troubadour.org.au).

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 12 Jul 2024  
Michael Fine, Troubadour Central Coast

## Tree Day entries close Thursday

**Entries for the Pearl Beach Tree Day Competition close at 5pm this Thursday, July 25.**

The competition is being run by the Pearl Beach Progress Association's environment group in association with the Pearl Beach Arboretum.

Entries may be artwork, photographs and poems celebrating trees.

Prizes will be awarded in each category.

A \$30 prize is offered for 4-7 year olds for best artwork, \$50 for 8-16 year olds and \$125 for over-16 year olds.

A \$50 prize is offered for 8-16 year olds for best photo and \$125 for over-16 year olds.

A \$50 prize is offered for 8-16 year olds for best poem and \$125 for over-16 year olds.

Entries should be emailed to [pearlbeachenvironmentgroup@gmail.com](mailto:pearlbeachenvironmentgroup@gmail.com).

**SOURCE:**  
Website, 19 Jul 2024  
Pearl Beach Arboretum



## Umina artists seeks to donate paintings

**A Umina artist is seeking expressions of interest in donations of his paintings to raise money for "charities or hospitals".**

Mr Terry "Tez" Dower said: "I paint oil paintings weekly for my YouTube channel and I'm happy to donate the larger paintings to a charity.

"Basically it's a win-win for me as I can paint large works and someone gets to enjoy the painting.

"I want to get involved in the community with helping raise money for something with a good cause.

"Plus I can paint larger beautiful paintings that will be treasured on the Coast for years to come.

"I want to bless some people with beautiful oil paintings."

Expressions of interest should be sent to [terrydowerartist@gmail.com](mailto:terrydowerartist@gmail.com).

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 9 Jul 2024  
Tez Dower, Umina

## Writers' festival to receive \$20,000

**The Peninsula-based Words on the Waves Festival will receive \$20,000 from the Regional Event Fund for next year's event.**

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch said the grant would help organisers continue to enrich the cultural landscape and the local economy.

Events like this make our community such a wonderful place to live, full of joy and rich cultural diversity.

Not only this, but these events

attract visitors to fill our hotels, restaurants and visitor attractions, which will play a key role in stimulating the visitor economy," Ms Tesch said.

"Regional events such as these have been faced with significant challenges over recent years, and grants such as these ensure that our locally grown events industry are able to flourish while showcasing the rich diversity of our region."

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 11 Jul 2024  
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford





## Celebrating Bastille Day

Having a French chef to head the catering team can come in handy when you want to celebrate Bastille Day.

Peninsula Village catering manager Mr Stephan Blant is proud to be a third generation French chef, who trained with

his father in Switzerland before moving to Australia 10 years ago.

He cooked up Crepes Suzette and caramelised bananas to celebrate the day at Don Leggett House.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 17 Jul 2024  
Peninsula Villages

## Angela is paired with guide dog Jolie

The Woy Woy Country Women's Association member whose guide dog retired just two months ago has been assigned a new guide dog.

Ms Angela Allen, who is also a long-standing volunteer with Guide Dogs Central Coast support group, has been paired with "Jolie", a recently-graduated guide dog.

"Angela has played such a significant role as an active member of the Central Coast Support Group, which has made vital fundraising contributions to our organisation over the last 40 years," said support group publicity officer Ms Lynne Lilloco.

"Angela moved to Australia from Ireland with her late husband Norman, and Irish guide dog Hamish in November 2008, to be with their daughter and her family. "Guide Dogs New South



Wales ACT took her under their wings and provided her with the orientation needed to continue to live an independent life on the Central Coast.

"She became involved with fundraising with the Central Coast support group in 2010, undertaking

numerous speaking presentations at the local schools, Probus and other community senior groups, as well as joining the local Gosford Sing Australia choir group and swimming at the local pool, making lots of new friends.

"Angela was given her first Australian guide dog Piper in 2018, a beautiful golden Labrador.

"She continued to be involved with community activities and joined the local CWA Woy Woy branch, where she and Piper were made welcome and became full members."

Close to nine years old, Piper retired to live with Angela as a pet.

"We are so pleased for Angela and wish her many happy years with Jolie and Piper," said Ms Lilloco.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 9 Jul 2024  
Lynne Lilloco, Guide Dogs Central Coast support group

## Disability service tackles social isolation

A local disability service is seeking volunteers to be "buddies" with adults with mild to moderate learning disabilities or autism.

Buddies are paired according to mutual interests, such as music tastes, sport and hobbies - and other factors such as location and age, and go out together once a month for a year.

"We're currently looking for a number of volunteers based in Woy Woy and the Peninsula," said Mr Matthew Collins, co-ordinator of Gig Buddies Central Coast in Umina.

"Gig Buddies Central Coast is an organisation that tackles social isolation.

"It is all about expanding social circles and trying new experiences.

"The volunteer benefits just as much as the person with a disability," he said.

More information is available online at gigbuddiescentralcoast.org, or call Mr Collins on 0402 708 814.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 11 Jul 2024  
Matthew Collins, Gig Buddies Central Coast

# Liesl Tesch MP

## Member for Gosford

Parliamentary Secretary for Families and Communities  
Parliamentary Secretary for Disability Inclusion

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Authorised by Liesl Tesch, 20 Blackwall Road, Woy Woy NSW 2256. Funded using Parliamentary Entitlements.

## Education

### 'Open hour' at Umina campus

The Umina campus of Brisbane Water Secondary College will hold an Open Hour from 3.30pm on Monday, August 5, as part of its Education Week celebrations.

"Staff from both campuses will be there to celebrate what we offer across the Years 7-12 curriculum," said Woy Woy campus principal Ms Rebecca Cooper.

"All future students and parents are welcome.

"The Year 9 2025 Subject Selection evening will follow from 5-7pm."

SOURCE:  
Social media, 8 Jul 2024  
BWSC Woy Woy

### Grandparents Day at St John's

St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School will hold a Grandparent's Day from 9am on Friday, July 16.

"All our wonderful grandparents are invited to join our celebrations," said principal Ms Nicole Davies.

It will include open classrooms and a "special morning tea" in the hall.

SOURCE:  
Social media, 18 Jul 2024  
Nicole Davies, SJB Catholic Primary School

### Fundraiser

A comedy night will be held at the Everglades Country Club on Friday, August 13, to raise money to buy "decodable" readers for students at Woy Woy South Public School.

## School issues details of athletics carnival

Woy Woy South Public School has issued details of its athletics carnival to be held on Thursday, July 25, at Adcock Park, West Gosford.

Permission notes and a \$10 payment for the event are due today, Monday, July 22.

Any child who does not have permission to attend will remain at school and engage in educational activities.

Students attending the Years 3-6 carnival have been asked to arrive at school at 8:45am for a departure at 9am.

Students who miss the bus will be required to stay at school or be driven to Adcock Park by a parent-carer.

Students attending the Years K-2 carnival should arrive at school at their usual time.

Spectators will be welcome at the carnival, but should remain behind the fence outside the velodrome.

All races this year will be run as

timed finals, including the 100m sprint.

There will be a limited canteen at Adcock Park for children to purchase snacks.

It has been recommended that students pack their own lunch and plenty of water.

Many of the field events will be held at school after the carnival including all discus, shot put and high jump for most age groups.

The 800m and 1500m races will be held at Rogers Park on Friday, July 26, at 12pm for students wishing to compete.

Families will be welcome as spectators, if they wish.

There will be no canteen facilities.

Children who do not wish to compete will remain at school.

Ribbons will be handed out later in the term once the carnival is complete.

SOURCE:  
Social media, 17 Jul 2024  
Woy Woy South Public School



## Award for student who initiated First Aid training

The former Woy Woy South primary school student responsible for initiating First Aid training for all Year 6 students on the Peninsula has been presented with a Rotary Community Service Award.

Now a Gosford High School student, Mara Hatfield Favand received the "prestigious" award at the recent Changeover Dinner of the Rotary Club of Umina Beach, according to club publicity officer Mr Pat Lewis.

"In 2022, as a student at Woy Woy South, Mara and her school captain, Jonty Beaton, addressed a meeting of the club seeking support for their idea of providing

all of their Year 6 classmates a Red Cross First Aid Course and certificate.

"Their presentation, along with their demonstration large Teddy, so impressed Rotary club members that they agreed to help.

"That Year 6 class received their course and certificates and, through continued involvement with Mara, this program has now been expanded to all six primary schools on the Peninsula for five years.

"This means that some 300 Year 6 students every year over the next five years will graduate with an accredited First Aid Certificate."

SOURCE:  
Media release, 8 Jul 2024  
Pat Lewis, Rotary Umina Beach

## Umina student wins writers' festival prize

A Umina Beach Public School student has won the primary school section of the Words on the Waves writers' festival.

Around 100 entries came from 17 schools across the Central Coast area, as well as via parents.

"The quality of entries for the inaugural Ripples Short Story Competition made judging a difficult task," organisers said.

"The judging team was

extremely impressed with the variety of ways that students dealt with the topic, as well the high standard of entries."

An Ettalong student received an unexpected supplementary encouragement award.

"This award was added due to sheer creativity and laugh-out-loud value, even though it didn't meet the competition criteria."

SOURCE:  
Media release, 11 Jul 2024  
Words on the Waves festival

## Forum

# The development process that happens in secret

How many residents of the Central Coast know what a Complying Development Certificate is?

The average resident probably couldn't care less until suddenly the bulldozers arrive next door and start "moonscaping" the site.

Then they might call the council who will direct them to the private "certifier" responsible, who in turn will politely but firmly explain that what he is doing is perfectly legal and could they please let him get on with his job and, no, they have no right to object.

A Complying Development Certificate allows developers to bypass the local council planning strategies and provisions, and neighbours' objections, because they are building a "complying development".

Unless you have a reasonable

neighbour who has informed you in advance, the most warning you can expect, if you live on the Central Coast, is two days before construction starts.

Central Coast Council is the only council area in the Greater Sydney Area where 14 days' notice does not need to be given to neighbours and council.

We are second class citizens.

So what exactly is a "complying development"?

It is a development which complies with the blanket provisions of the relevant State Environmental Planning Policy determined by the State Government.

Its official aim is "to provide streamlined assessment processes for development that complies with specified development standards".

The standards bear no relationship to the local standards that would otherwise apply.

That might or might not be reasonable.

However, there are two major flaws - secrecy and lack of governance.

It seems the public are the enemy of "progress" and it's best to keep them completely out of the picture.

Information about Complying Development Certificates is more closely guarded than most people's credit card details.

They must be lodged via the NSW Planning Portal but the only information available to the public is the address of the development and its current status.

There are no plans or any description.

Of course, the certificates don't have to be issued by private certifiers.

They can be issued by the local council, in which case they are

logged on the council's planning portal.

Perhaps, unsurprisingly, they are hard to find and the number on the council portal is pitifully small anyway.

So then we come to lack of governance of private certifiers.

How closely are they being monitored?

This is illustrated in the recent case of the building site that got closed down at 46-48 Holden St, Gosford, in June of this year.

In that case there were five construction certificates issued by a private certifier.

The oldest of them was issued in 2021 and the most recent in February 2023.

The Building Commission NSW did good work in stopping construction on that occasion as they considered that if construction continued, it "could result in

significant harm or loss to the occupiers or potential occupiers at the development".

High visibility cases like this are just the tip of the iceberg.

Who's policing the smaller stuff?

How closely are Complying Development Certificates, which are usually no larger than a single dwelling, being monitored?

This "need to know" mentality combined with low levels of governance is an ideal breeding ground for the "perfect storm" for things to go wrong before anyone realises.

I don't know about you, but this is the sort of treatment I would expect to be handed out by an authoritarian regime.

We don't have one of those, do we?

SOURCE:  
Email, 21 Jul 2024  
Frank Wiffen, Woy Woy

## Marine Rescue operations move to community centre

Marine Rescue Central Coast has established a temporary operations centre at the Peninsula Community Centre while its Point Clare base is being replaced by a new \$3-million complex.

The unit will conduct its activities from its temporary Woy Woy base at the corner of McMasters and Ocean Beach Rds while the complex is built.

It will hold a training seminar on Saturday, August 17, to help boaters acquire the skills and knowledge they need.

The certified Marine Rescue Boat Licence Theory Course will be conducted by trainer and assessor Mr Ian Leafe, and coordinators Mr Paul Broad, and Ms and Mr Jane and Raymond Lewis.

Only 10 applicants will be accepted for the five-hour course, which starts at 8.30am.

To gain a full boat licence,

participants will also need to complete the Practical Handbook.

They are required to take a minimum of three trips with an experienced skipper, who has held a licence for a minimum of three consecutive years.

Marine Rescue Central Coast is a Registered Training Organisation with members professionally trained to national standards for their roles, both on and off the water, but does not offer the practical component.

"Courses are designed to teach you the ins and outs of safe boat handling and help build your confidence in local navigation, boating safety and the marine environment," said Mr Leafe.

In addition, a jet ski licence course is available on the same day.

For more information, phone the base on 4337 9600.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 20 Jul 2024  
Marine Rescue Central Coast



## Surf club receives Rotary sponsorship

The Umina Surf Life Saving Club has gained \$5000 sponsorship from the Rotary Club of Woy Woy for its activities over the coming year.

Rotary club joint presidents Mr Tom McCann and Mr Trevor Walker visited the club last week to finalise the arrangement.

They met with surf club president Ms Kerry Armstrong-Smith and sponsorship manager

Mr Mike Begg.

Mr Begg said the funds would go towards the ongoing development of lifesaving members via the club's Bronze Medalion program and new members' courses and programs over the coming season.

Pictured are Mr McCann, Ms Armstrong-Smith, Mr Walker and Mr Begg.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 16 Jul 2024  
Mike Begg, Umina SLSC  
Photo: Jo Freeman

## Memorial Day held at Umina

The Umina Beach men's and women's bowling club will hold their Past Member's Memorial Day on Sunday, August 4.

Men's secretary Mr Peter Springett said: "It is a special day when our current members remember all of our members who have passed, and the contribution they made to our great clubs."

Mr Springett said all members were invited to come to the club to remember them and enjoy a great afternoon with our current members.

The afternoon would start from 12:30pm, with men's, women's and mixed two-bowl triples being played.

A green fee of \$10 will apply, and prizes will be awarded after the game.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 18 Jul 2024  
Peter Springett, UBMBC

## Seniors seek card players

The Ettalong 50+ Leisure and Learning Centre is seeking people to join its cards group.

"Whether your fancy is 500 or Bridge, we have seats ready for you to enjoy the challenge of a game," said vice-president Mr Vic Deeble.

"Members not only play cards, but also have breaks for tea or coffee in our dining area."

"Lunch can also be provided."

"The Centre is a not-for-profit organisation, run by volunteers for seniors, so we keep the costs down," he said.

"A morning of cards is \$3."

"We are situated in the red brick building on the corner of Broken Bay Rd and Karingi St."

Phone 4342 1034 or email ettalong50plus@gmail.com for further information.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 9 Jul 2024  
Vic Deeble, Ettalong 50+ Centre



## Bowls finals played at Ettalong

Major Triples and Minor Pairs championship finals have been played at the Ettalong Eagles Bowling Club on Sunday, July 14.

In the Major Triples, Daniel Casey, Graham Maier and Darren Morrison defeated Alan Joss, John Roberts and Lee Trethowan 21-19.

In the Minor Pairs, Alan Peters and Trevor Foulkes defeated Brandon Fraser and Gary Eggleton 25-19.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 15 Jul 2024  
Ettalong Eagles



# WHAT'S ON at ETTALONG BOWLING CLUB

Winter is certainly upon us and what better way to warm up than with a BAKED GLAZED HAM for the whole family, with 50 half hams up for grabs on Wednesday 24th July, tickets on sale 12pm, drawn at 6.15pm, followed by Trivia at 7pm.

We are celebrating our 60-year anniversary at Ettalong Bowling Club and to celebrate we are giving away a brand new Hyundai Tucson. Each Sunday at 7pm, a member's entry ticket will be drawn from the barrel which will instantly win them a \$100 fuel card and their entry ticket will go into the draw for their chance to win this car on the Major draw date - Sunday 3rd November.

Exciting news for the food lovers: Harrys Restaurant will be launching an All You Can Eat Buffet every Thursday night, starting from August 1st, offering a selection of entrees, mains and desserts consisting of a few favourites including

- Pan-fried dumplings, spring rolls, chips and wedges, a variety of traditional beef/chicken/vegetarian and seafood Chinese dishes or good old fashion baked roast dinners with baked vegies.
- Not to forget a large selection of desserts to include chocolate pudding, mango mousse cake, caramel slice, fruit jelly and for the kiddies a chocolate fountain with marshmallows and fruit.

Call Harrys restaurant now to book 4344 6655.



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

New to  
**HARRYS RESTAURANT**

## THURSDAY NIGHT BUFFET

**COMING - AUGUST 1ST 2024**

*All you can eat*  
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**PRICES**

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Bookings Recommended | Ph: 4344 6655  
Bookings over 4ppl - 5th Guest eats FREE  
(T&Cs apply)

THE BEST-KEPT SECRET ON THE CENTRAL COAST

# Sport



## Tour de Central Coast 'is still anyone's'

The Central Coast Bicycle User Group's Tour de Central Coast is "still anyone's tour to win", according to group convenor Mr Alan Corven.

Pictured are some participants in the Brisbane Water Loop stage on Sunday, July 14.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 14 Jul 2024  
Alan Corven, CCBUG



## Ettalong team succeeds at relay meet

Ettalong Pelican Masters Swimmers have been successful at the Masters Swimmers NSW Relay Meet held at Sydney Olympic Park on Sunday, July 14.

The Ettalong team had 16 swimmers compete in 19 relays throughout the day, with excellent times recorded.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 14 Jul 2024  
Ettalong Pelicans Masters Swimming



## Grant for tennis lighting

Woy Woy Tennis Club has been awarded a grant of \$40,000 to upgrade the club's lighting.

"Good lighting makes such a genuine difference to the safety and security of our sporting venues, while also improving players game experience," said Member for Gosford Ms Liesl

Tesch, announcing the grant. "I can't wait to see more players enjoy the game thanks to these upgrades."

The grant came through the NSW Government Community Building Partnership program.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 20 Jul 2024  
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford

## Umina holds Men's Kingfisher Carnival

Umina Beach Men's Bowling Club held its annual graded two-bowl triple Men's Kingfisher Carnival on Friday and Saturday, July 19 and 20.

"It was a great turnout of teams from across the Central Coast and Sydney," said club secretary Mr Peter Springett.

The carnival winners were Rick Hamilton, Nigel O'Donnell/Brett Coltman and Peter Massingham from Ourimbah for the second year running, with seven wins + 114.

Second place went to Jim Zrilic, Brad Donaldson and Glen Raymond from St Johns Park, Kurri Kurri with six Wins + 59.

Umina Bowling Club took third and fourth places.

Joel Austin, Kieran Kozlowski and Tony Potter had five wins + 36, while Shaw Stokie, Mark Harrison and Greg Shirley had five wins + 32.

Fifth place went to David Wilcox, Brian Donald and Tony Aldrich from Ourimbah-Munmorah with five wins + 24.

The consolation prize was won by Kel Clarke, Brad Duxbury and Mark Hogden from Umina.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 21 Jul 2024  
Peter Springett, UBMBC



## A win and a loss in rescheduled round

Southern and Ettalong United defeated East Gosford 7-2 and Avoca defeated Woy Woy 2-0 in the rescheduled first round of Central Coast Men's Premier League soccer played on Sunday, July 14.

Heading into their clash with the Rams after suffering two straight defeats, The Lions bounced back to win over East Gosford.

The first goal of the afternoon came 10 minutes into the contest when Southern and Ettalong received a free kick.

Jack Ellwood stepped up for the Lions and his effort left the opposition keeper no chance, giving his side a 1-0 lead.

One became two for the Lions 20 minutes later when a well-worked play down the right flank saw a dangerous ball delivered into the box.

The East Gosford defence failed to clear and the ball fell nicely for an unmarked Sam Webb who found the back of the net for his first goal of the season.

Down but far from out, East Gosford got one back two minutes after conceding their second as Oliver Vanderslot was played down the right-hand side.

Vanderslot headed directly towards the goal and decided to go himself rather than play the ball across the face of the goal and found the back of the net from an acute angle to give East Gosford hope.

As the half-time whistle loomed, East Gosford had one last attack as Ciaran Simmons converted into



the back of the net with his first-time effort to take the score level at 2-2 to conclude the opening period.

Unhappy letting their two-goal lead slip, Southern came out in the second stanza determined to get back in front on the scoreline.

It took Matt Page's men just three minutes after the second-half whistle sounded.

After a cheap turnover of possession by the Rams, Southern quickly advanced the ball forward to Nathan Baker who picked out Brock Van Alderen (pictured) who made no mistake of his one-on-one and calmly slotted the ball to the keeper's left.

The next 30 minutes the game was cagey as both teams searched for the next important goal.

Southern's keeper made a fantastic save to deny the Rams going back on level terms as the visitors quickly counter-attacked.

The swift counterattack led to Nathan Baker being placed on one goal with only the keeper left in his way.

Baker was able to place the ball into the bottom corner and extend Southern's lead to 4-2.

From the kick-off, another cheap turnover in the middle of the park from East Gosford saw Southern away on goal as Jack Ellwood finished the attack to secure his second of the evening.

With the full-time whistle just minutes away, a long throw-in from Southern's captain Todd Balneaves found the head of Jack Ellwood who flicked the ball into the back stick which eventually found the goal for his well-deserved hat-trick.

Even further into injury time, Nathan Baker was brought down in the box as Southern were awarded a penalty and an opportunity to take the score to 7-2.

Baker stepped up and stoked the ball past the opposition goalie for the game's final goal of the day. Match official was Alexander Robinson.

In their 2-0 win against Woy Woy, Avoca ended their seven-game winless streak.

The game could prove to be season-changing for the Sharks who look to avoid relegation in 2024.

Not only did the game mark Avoca's second win of the year, but it was also their second clean sheet as the Sharks backline was able to keep Woy Woy at bay for the entire 90 minutes despite Woy Woy having the home-ground advantage.

Match official was Miles Allen-Scott.

**SOURCE:**  
Website, 15 Jul 2024  
Central Coast Football