

Peninsula News

Community Access

EDITION 610

THE PENINSULA'S OWN NEWS SERVICE INC

13 JANUARY 2025



Police and council to act on Patonga Dr burnouts

NSW Police will open a "Pearl Beach - Patonga" case file and Central Coast Council will investigate road and traffic measures to deter drivers from doing burn-outs and doughnuts on Patonga Dr, near the Pearl Beach turnoff.

The use of road safety cameras will also be investigated.

The action follows a meeting in Pearl Beach on December 19, convened by Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch, with police and council staff.

About 60 Pearl Beach and Patonga residents attended the meeting with Police Commander Darryl Jobson, highway patrol Inspector Martin Searle, council director Mr Boris Bolgoff and council roads manager Ms Jeanette Williams.

"Pearl Beach residents have continually been disturbed by loud and extreme erratic vehicle burnouts at the intersection, spinning their vehicles in all directions, leaving tyre road markings as visible evidence, from as early as 7pm until late at night," said Pearl Beach Progress Association publicity officer Ms Lynne Lillico.

Ms Lillico said it became evident at the meeting that police records did not reflect the numbers of reports made by residents to the police.

Commander Jobson said he would brief his staff on recording calls.

"He requested that residents collect as much evidence, photos of number plates, videos - and only do this if it was safe to do so," said Ms Lillico.

"Currently 131 444 which is a central number will be directed to

Woy Woy police at 4379 7311."

Residents should request a "job number" when making a report to the police.

Ms Lillico said Inspector Searle told the meeting that the response of the highway patrol "depends on activities in different areas and the hierarchy of responses".

Mr Bolgoff told the meeting that the council would look at "road surface deterrents" and "options such as line marking, traffic tubes and rumble bars", Ms Lillico said.

The progress association asked that residents email the association at burnouts@pearlbeachprogress.org.au when reporting incidents to police to help it monitor the situation.

SOURCE:
Media release, 7 Jan 2025
Lynne Lillico, Pearl Beach Progress Association
Photo: Jo Freeman

Two-day blitz focuses on jet ski education and compliance

NSW Maritime conducted a two-day education and compliance blitz last weekend with a focus on jet skis.

"This was in addition to ongoing enforcement efforts across the Central Coast, including at our new Paddle Craft Only Area at Ettalong

Beach," said Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch.

"Jet ski fun comes with responsibility.

"Please make sure you know the rules for a safe ride.

"Our Central Coast is blessed with many stunning beaches, and we love our beautiful paradise.

"This initiative reinforces our

community's wish to keep our beaches safe for all.

"I encourage our community to continue to report any concerns related to jet skis to NSW Maritime's PWC Hotline on 13 12 36".

SOURCE:
Social media, 11 Jan 2025
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford

Produced on the Peninsula

Peninsula news & advertising
for the Peninsula community

Proof-readers wanted for archival project

Peninsula News needs help with proof-reading for a project which will make articles from the first 12 issues of the newspaper available online.

Currently, most of the first 12 issues of Peninsula News are not available and the few that are do not list all the articles contained in that issue.

"When we started Peninsula News, we gave little thought to retaining electronic copies for posterity," said editor Mr Mark Snell.

"We were focussed on establishing Peninsula News as a printed paper."

These first issues have now been scanned and converted to editable files, with a view to publishing them on the Peninsula News website.

However, the character

recognition has not been perfect and the articles need checking and correcting before they are uploaded.

If you are able to help, please call 4342 5333 or email editor@peninsula.news.

Mark Snell, 12 Jan 2025

Can't find a copy of Peninsula News?

Read it on your phone
<https://bit.ly/PNphone>



Next issue: Monday, January 27

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

COUNT THE LOCAL NEWS: 52 articles in this issue

... and another 20 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.

Editor: Mark Snell
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Distribution: Frank Wiffen

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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.

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.



Rain stopped long enough

The rain stopped enough for the Friday women's group at Woy Woy Tennis Club to play for a couple of hours, before the next shower last week.

The group meets every Friday

at 9am. Non-members are welcome, and the cost is \$5.

SOURCE:
 Social media, 10 Jan 2025
 Woy Woy Tennis Club

Bridge club plays Christmas Eve Pairs

SBrisbane Water Bridge Club played its Christmas Eve Pairs on Tuesday, December 24.

Results after five matches were:
 1 Peter Hume, Felicity Fane 81.00 Imps (81.00 VPs), 5-0-0 W-D-L, 0.24 green points.
 2 David Snow, Jenny Buckley 14.00 (14.00), 2-1-2, 0.12.
 3 Christine Hadaway, Lin

Mclaren -9.00 (-9.00), 2-1-2, 0.12.
 4 Janice Donohoe, Edith Marshall -16.00 (-16.00), 3-0-2, 0.14.
 5 Marcelle Goslin, Kevin F. Hughes -16.50 (-16.50), 1-2-2, 0.10.
 6 Elaine Hume, Qi Hasemore -53.50 (-53.50), 0-0-5.

SOURCE:
 Website, 8 Dec 2024
 Brisbane Water Bridge Club

Community garden volunteers

Woy Woy Peninsula Community Garden wants more garden volunteers.

Gardening experience is not required.

An information session for volunteers will be held at Woy Woy community garden in early February.

The session will be held from 10am to 11:30am on February 8 at the garden at 87 Moana St, Woy Woy.

Volunteering applications are now open.

For more information, email name and contact details to membership@wwpcg.org.au

SOURCE:
 Social media, 5 Jan 2025
 Julie Gilbody, Woy Woy Peninsula Community Garden

Violinist

The Rotary Club of Woy Woy has announced that violinist Madeleine Easton will perform at Opera in the Arboretum in March.

She was described as "internationally-recognised for her versatility and expertise on stage and is artistic director of Bach Akademie Australia".

SOURCE:
 Social media, 8 Jan 2025
 Rotary Club of Woy Woy

Average year after two extreme years

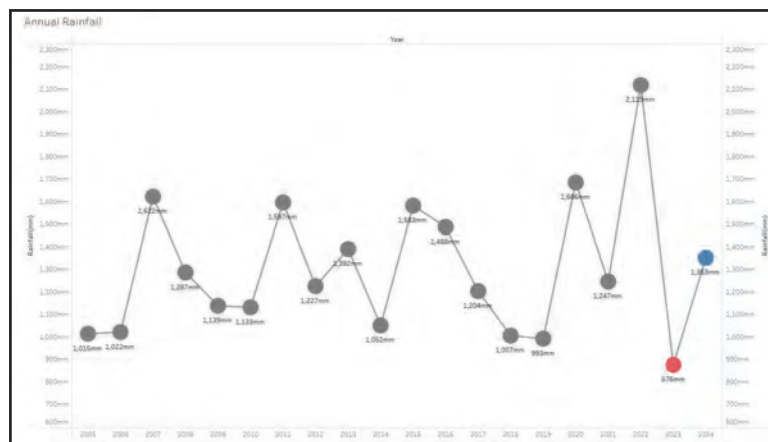
Last year had close to average rainfall throughout the year after two years of rainfall extremes.

A total of 1352.6mm of rain was recorded in 2024, only slightly (4.2 per cent) above the 20-year average of 1298mm.

The 2023 total of 876mm was the lowest in 20 years, while 2119mm in 2022 made it the wettest year in that period.

Above average rainfall in the second quarter of the year saw the half year figure of 999.5mm at 22 per cent above the average of 819mm.

However, below average rainfall in the second half of the year brought the figure back close to



average by the end of the year. December received about one third of its average rainfall, with 34.3mm recorded compared the average of 95mm.

The first 10 days of 2025 have recorded 64.3mm, more than half the January average of 117mm.

SOURCE:
 Spreadsheet, 10 Jan 2025
 Jim Morrison, Umina

TIDE TIMES and Heights	Mon, Jan 13	Thu, Jan 16	Sun, Jan 19	Wed, Jan 22	Sat, Jan 25
	0225 0.20	0449 0.18	0112 0.76	0330 0.82	0616 0.97
	0900 1.30	1109 1.18	0656 0.24	0947 0.34	1328 0.26
	1615 0.13	1816 0.11	1258 0.93	1519 0.68	1849 0.61
	2150 0.78	2356 0.77	1945 0.13	2143 0.20	
	Tue, Jan 14	Fri, Jan 17	Mon, Jan 20	Thu, Jan 23	Sun, Jan 26
	0316 0.19	0531 0.19	0153 0.77	0427 0.86	0023 0.25
	0946 1.28	1145 1.10	0744 0.28	1104 0.34	0706 1.04
	1701 0.11	1847 0.12	1338 0.84	1625 0.62	1421 0.22
	2235 0.78		2018 0.14	2234 0.23	1948 0.64
AT ETTALONG	Wed, Jan 15	Sat, Jan 18	Tue, Jan 21	Fri, Jan 24	Mon, Jan 27
	0405 0.18	0033 0.76	0239 0.79	0523 0.91	0114 0.23
	1030 1.24	0613 0.21	0841 0.31	1221 0.31	0753 1.11
	1741 0.11	1221 1.01	1424 0.75	1738 0.60	1507 0.17
	2316 0.78	1916 0.12	2057 0.16	2329 0.25	2036 0.68

NEWS email: contributions@peninsula.news



Community group members to volunteer for disabled surfers

Umina Community Group members will volunteer at a Disabled Surfers' event to be held at Umina Beach on Saturday, February 1.

The group helped at the December event, where 180 volunteers helped 61 surfers.

The February event will mark the start of the surfing association's 20th year of operation on the Coast.

"We need large volunteer numbers to make our surfing experience safe and enjoyable," said association president Ms Rae Fiechter.

"Volunteers do not need to know how to surf although water skills are highly valued.

"A water refill station and a rash

shirt will be provided for the day, but volunteers are encouraged to bring their own wetsuits.

"A sausage sizzle will complete the festivities."

"Interested volunteers are asked to register online via <https://bit.ly/1Feb2025> prior to the event so we know how many surfers we can accept.

"Volunteers will also be accepted on the day."

A high volunteer ratio is needed to ensure safety, ranging from 6:1 to 30:1 for more challenging participants.

Surfing occurs in broken waves in waist deep water.

SOURCE:
Media release, 2 Jan 2025
Rae Fiechter, DSA
Social media, 8 Dec 2024
Umina Community Group

Lions club has strong sales of Christmas cakes

The Woy Woy Peninsula Lions Club has experienced strong sales of its Christmas cakes and puddings this year.

Only a few puddings remained unsold, said Lions Club cake co-ordinator Mr Ian Taylor.

These would be distributed to Mary Mac's Place and the Salvation Army, he said.

The club raised more than \$3000 through the sales, which will

go to club projects.

Mr Taylor said that, while the club had had this success, it had been advised that it could not run its car boot sale at Rogers Park this month.

He said the club had not been given the reason, but assumed it was to allow the carpark to be resurfaced.

SOURCE:
Social media, 30 Dec 2025
Dee Taylor, Woy Woy Peninsula Lions Club

Pearl Beach restaurant gutted by fire

A restaurant in Pearl Beach was gutted by fire overnight on Saturday, December 28.

The Amalfi restaurant will operate temporarily from Ettalong so that it can keep its staff until it can return to Pearl Beach.

The Pearl Beach Brigade responded to a report of a structure fire at 1 Tourmaline Ave at around 11:30pm on December 28.

Crews quickly arrived to find the restaurant on the ground floor fully involved in fire, with LPG tanks at the rear affected by fire with large flares of flaming gas as their emergency pressure release valves opened to prevent explosion.

Crews rapidly started work ensuring the second storey accommodation was evacuated.

They then contained the fire to the affected structure stopping it spreading to the nearby bushland as well as trying to limit the extension of the fire into the second story.

Additional crews were rapidly on scene from Fire and Rescue NSW Station 340 Umina, Fire and Rescue NSW Station 341 Kariong and a Fire and Rescue NSW Hazmat crew.

Further Rural Fire Service crews from The Bays Rural Fire Brigade and Empire Bay Rural Fire Brigade provided additional crews capable of entering the affected structure to complete suppression and overhaul.

In addition to these firefighting resources, Brisbane Water Police District and NSW Ambulance crews attended to protect the scene and to be immediately available should the firefighters entering the structure need medical attention.

The fire was extinguished and overhaul completed around 3:30am.

Crews were stood down and returned to their stations with firefighters from Pearl Beach Brigade remaining on site to manage any re-ignition.

At 5:30am, with the fire out and cold, the Pearl Beach crews returned to station.

However, the fire reignited at 8:15am, with fresh Pearl Beach RFS volunteers attending

alongside Fire and Rescue colleagues.

The damage was assessed as significant, but contained to part of the structure, with no loss of life or injury.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Anyone with information about the fire is asked to contact Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000.

SOURCE:
Social media, 29 Dec 2025
NSW RFS - Pearl Beach Brigade



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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.



Changes requested to 2016 approval

A request has been made for changes to a development application approved in 2016 for a four-unit residential flat building at 209 West St, Umina.

The area of the property is 747.7 square metres and it is zoned general residential (R1).

Its western boundary is on Morris St and southern boundary on West St.

The approved plans show gross floor areas of 95.6 m², 95.5 m², 103.8 m² and 71.2 square metres for units 1 to 4 respectively, for a total of 373.1 square metres and a floor space ratio of 49.89 per cent.

A construction certificate for the development was issued in 2017.

The original council assessment report is not available and it is not clear why the proposal is classified as a residential flat, rather than an attached multi-dwelling development, given there appears to be no vertical juxtaposition of units.

Under the new proposal, Units 1, 2 and 3 would have vehicular access with individual driveways from Morris St and unit 4 would be accessed from West St.

The application prepared by AAMO Architects on behalf of the applicant Mr Wali Hakim contains a list of the proposed changes to the approved application.

The main changes are staging of the project, the change of the Unit 3 garage from a single to a

double, and to "shift all bedrooms to the first floor".

All four units will now have double garages.

The staging would involve building the entire slab for all four units, then building the West St facing units and commencing construction of the rear Units 1 and 2 once an occupation certificate had been issued for the others.

Other changes include the moving of bin storage from an exterior location to inside the garages for units 1 and 2, and changing the exterior cladding from brickwork to "reliable cladding".

"To reduce the floor space areas the side set backs increased from 900mm to 1000mm."

It is claimed that the conversion of the single garage to a double garage and creation of a new bedroom on the ground level for unit 4 will balance the areas and not increase them.

It is also claimed that the footprint of the building and its shape and form will be the same as the original approval.

No detailed figures or drawings explaining the changes have been included for public exhibition.

The requested amendment is currently on exhibition for submissions on the Central Coast Council website but no closing date is specified.

SOURCE:

**DA Tracker, 12 Jan 2025
DA/50258/2016/A, Central
Coast Council**

Three-unit proposal for West St

An application has been made for a three-unit multi-dwelling at 183 West St, Umina Beach. Prepared by Pragma Urban Planning, it states that the site is zoned General Residential (R1), has an area of 730.377 square meters and is oriented north-south.

The front unit is proposed to be four bedrooms with the other two at three bedrooms.

Unit 2 is proposed to have a single garage with units 1 and 3 to have double garages with a visitor's car parking space to be provided at the northern end of the driveway.

The proposal is claimed to comply with the planning provisions for height and floor space, being less than 8.5 metres in height and having a floor space ratio of 0.4965:1 which results from a gross floor area of 361.05 square metres.

The area of soft landscaping is said to be 210.7 square metres or 28.87 per cent of the site area, which is slightly above the minimum requirement of 25 per cent.

As West St is classified as a regional road at that point, the front setback is 7.5 metres as required and all other setbacks are claimed to comply with planning provisions.

The rear setback is 4.6 metres and accommodates the private open space for Unit 3.

The private open space for Unit 2 is admitted to be non-compliant with much of the area having less than the required minimum dimension of less than 4.5 metres.

The private open space for Unit 1 is proposed to be on the front setback which is prohibited under the planning provisions.

The application states that the proposal seeks a 1.5 metre front boundary fence and a 1.8 metre fence for the private open space area which is set back 1.5 metres

behind the boundary fence.

Variations to the planning provisions have been requested for these two open space areas.

As for visual privacy, the application states that the west elevation first floor windows are proposed to have a sill height of 1.5 metres, which it claims will mean "there are not undue opportunities for overlooking adjacent properties".

The east elevation is adjacent to the driveway which according to the application "provides suitable separation from 185 West St".

The rear(north) boundary of 183 West St is shared with 32 Warrah St which contains an existing three-unit multi-dwelling.

Although the balcony on at the rear is proposed to be screened to the east, the northern side of the balcony and the first floor windows will look directly down at the private open space of 32 Warrah St's rear unit and its ground floor living area which incorporates a glass-panelled door and servery window.

The rear setback of 32 Warrah St is only 2.7m according to the approved plans on Central Coast Council's website.

According to the approved drawings for 32 Warrah St, the rear boundary was to be at least partially screened by vegetation including a "major tree canopy species achieving a mature height of eight to 10 metres and be appropriately sited".

According to Google maps none of this appears to have eventuated on the Warrah St side.

However the landscape plan with this application includes planting along the rear boundary of "Aussie compact Lilly Pillies" which should reach a mature height of three metres.

Also proposed on the rear boundary are a blueberry ash and a water gum both of which should reach a mature height of eight metres.

The application does not

address the acoustic privacy of having adjoining private open space with the rear property, instead concentrating on minimising traffic noise from West St.

The effect on acoustic and visual privacy of private open space areas and their associated living areas in close proximity has not been discussed in the application.

There is no arborist report included with the drawings and no information about any existing trees and whether or not they are to be retained.

The application states that the front verge would allow the planting of a street tree "if required".

It claims that due to its north-south orientation the proposal complies with all requirements for solar access and overshadowing.

Shadow diagrams are provided.

The application is currently open for written submissions with a closing date of February 10.

SOURCE:

**DA Tracker, 11 Jan 2025
DA/1730/2024, Central
Coast Council**



Network calls for consultation on submission numbers

Changed requirements for the operation of the Local Planning Panel should be subject to public consultation, according to the Community Environment Network.

It has asked for public consultation about the Central Coast Council resolution in November to double the number of submissions, from 10 to 20, required to refer development applications to the Panel.

It said the council should comply with a Ministerial Direction issued in May which required councils to

follow their existing submissions policy or refer applications being "the subject of 10 or more unique submissions by way of objection".

"There doesn't appear to be an existing Submissions Policy," said Network chair Mr Gary Chestnut.

But the Central Coast Council did have an Assessment of Development Applications Policy, which specified the number of submissions at 10, he said.

Any new or amended council policies changing the submission numbers should be publicly exhibited, he said.

Otherwise, the number set by the Ministerial Direction was 10

unique submissions.

The council resolution stated: "That this policy be submitted to the Department of Planning for approval."

This seems to imply a request that the Minister issue a new Direction to make special provisions for Central Coast Council.

"We have referred this matter to the Minister for the Central Coast and his parliamentary colleagues," said Mr Chestnut.

SOURCE:

**Media release, 13 Dec 2025
Gary Chestnut, Community
Environment Network**

Rotary club pays tribute to Jimmy Carter

The Rotary Club of Brisbane Water has paid tribute to former US president Mr Jimmy Carter, following his death on Sunday, December 29.

"We are deeply saddened by the passing of Rotarian Jimmy Carter, the 39th President of the United States and a tireless servant of humanity," said club president Ms Marion Cornish.

"President Carter embodied the Rotary motto of 'Service above Self' through his unwavering commitment to

peace, humanitarian efforts, and community service.

"As a dedicated Rotarian, he inspired countless individuals to follow his example of selfless dedication to the betterment of others.

"His pioneering work with The Carter Center and Habitat for Humanity will forever stand as a shining beacon of hope and compassion.

"May President Carter rest in eternal peace."

SOURCE:
Social media, 30 Dec 2025
Rotary Brisbane Water



National Parks replaces missing post

The National Parks and Wildlife Service has replaced a post protecting a threatened species in Brisbane Water National Park near Warrah Trig that it claimed six months ago was not missing.

A number of yellow roadside posts warn of "threatened species" in the area, but one appears not to have been replaced after track reconstruction and a subsequent hazard reduction burn.

Two rare native plants were slashed to the ground in maintenance work by the Service in August because the post was not in place at the time to warn the maintenance crew.

However, when asked about the missing post, the service told Peninsula News: "NPWS staff checked the posts on August 19 and all were in place."

On this basis, the Service's public affairs officer Mr Laurence Orel said that slashing had only been undertaken outside the "threatened flora zone".

"The 'warning posts' are a visual reminder for persons working on Warrah Trig Rd to obtain approval to undertake works in this zone due to presence of threatened flora.

"The Service has not undertaken slashing works within this threatened flora zone," he said.

Peninsula News provided the Service with pictures showing the post originally in place, but absent at the time of the slashing, as well

as evidence of the plant being protected by the missing post.

In recent maintenance work, the post has been replaced.

The August slashing was the second setback for the plants of the endangered species *astrotricha crassifolia*, sometimes called the thick-leaf star-hair.

The two plants had been burnt the ground in a hazard reduction burn in July 2023.

The species is believed to exist in just two small patches near Sydney, one being at Warrah Trig, and their numbers were said to be declining.

The plants were just showing signs of regrowing from their roots, when they were slashed.

Mr Orel told Peninsula News in August: "*Astrotricha crassifolia* has been a priority species under the Saving our Species program since 2016 and a conservation strategy has been developed.

"In Brisbane Water National Park, actions include targeted searches for new individuals,

monitoring health status of existing populations, seed collection and the establishment of an ex-situ insurance population.

"The main threat to the population appears to be lack of germination and the risk of a stochastic event such as a large wildfire (one that burns all known populations in one event).

"Save our Species research noticed a continual decline of *Astrotricha crassifolia* in less frequently burnt areas and scientific research has indicated that it would benefit from reduced canopy competition as a result of burning.

"A proportion of the total population at Brisbane Water National Park were selected to be included in the burn trial in 2023 and monitoring of these stems postfire is ongoing. "*Astrotricha crassifolia* has resprouted post-fire, and monitoring of the post-fire response will continue."

SOURCE:
Media statement, 26 Aug 2024
Lawrence Orel, NPWS



Rotary club farewells exchange student

The Rotary Club of Umna Beach has presented its outbound Exchange Student with a special blazer to wish her well for her exchange year this year.

Amelia (Millie) Hayes leaves the Peninsula this month to travel to Brazil.

She will attend school in Brazil, live with Brazilian families, travel through the country and "meet with a whole new world of people there over the period of a year", said club president Mr Dave Tanare.

SOURCE:
Social media, 21 Dec 2025
Rotary Club of Umina Beach



Carpenter St residents advised of new footpath

Residents of Carpenter St, Umina, have been told a footpath will be constructed the full length of the street from Lone Pine Ave to Veron Rd.

In a circular dated December 17 and distributed in letterboxes just before Christmas, the Council advised work would start in late January.

Work actually started early last week.

"The works will take approximately 12 weeks to complete, depending on weather and other circumstances," the circular stated.

"The scope of works include footpath path construction, kerb ramp construction, bus

stop reconstruction and island reconstruction works."

It is understood the path will be 1.5 metres wide, rather than the standard 1.2 metres, and that all overhanging vegetation will be cleared, although council staff may consider planting additional trees in the area to enhance greenery following the completion of the works..

"Works will take place between 7am and 5pm, Monday to Saturday, with shoulder closures during work hours.

"Please take care to ensure the safety of road users and workers on site."

SOURCE:
Circular, 17 Dec 2024
Central Coast Council

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Forum

New developments unlikely to be to lifestyle standards

The Council's decision to increase the number of development-application objections required to trigger a referral to the Planning Panel gives a pretty fair indication of where development priorities are going to be headed over the next three years.

The number of referrals made every year is almost insignificant, in comparison to the number of applications long hanging fire in the Council system, so the argument that this change is necessary to speed up the processing of applications is patently fatuous.

The only result of this decision will be to speed up the processing of a certain small number of particular applications, and it isn't necessary to guess which ones these are, because they are obviously the worst ones - the ones that the community finds the least acceptable.

The Council action is, in effect, a move to deprive ratepayers of the opportunity to oppose the developments that they find the most objectionable.

It would be interesting to know how many referrals over, say, the past three years would not have reached the new minimum number and, hence, would have been left in the hands of the Council: it is easy to assume that the new

number hasn't been selected at random but has been designed to eliminate almost all referrals, given how difficult it is to collect even the smaller number now required..

Since this is the Council that ratepayers just elected, we have to assume that this was the policy that the general run of residents wanted.

However, one wonders how many of them have had the personal experience of seeing a proposed development on an adjoining property that will adversely affect their day-to-day amenity.

I suspect that, in the next three years, some of them will get a rude shock, when they discover what their voting decision means to them individually.

With the Minister expanding the areas of high-density development on the Coast and reducing the control standards for these developments, we can expect to see an increasing number of multi-storey developments in low-density residential zones.

The likelihood that these new projects will be compatible with current environmental and lifestyle standards is zero, so anybody in one of these Ministerial target zones had better look to his defences: he won't be able to expect much help from the Council.

SOURCE:
Email, 4 Jan 2025
Bruce Hyland, Woy Woy

Planning

Panel approves two proposals and rejects a third

The Local Planning Panel has approved two development applications on the Peninsula, while rejecting a third, at its meeting on Thursday, December 19.

It approved a house in Myola Rd and four units in Trafalgar Ave, but refused alterations to a child care centre in Booker Bay.

The Panel approved construction of a house at 24 Myola Rd, Umina, subject to conditions detailed in the Central Coast Council planners' assessment report with three amendments.

"The Panel considered the application, the written submissions, the submissions made at the public meeting and the Council's assessment report," it stated, in giving its reasons.

"The Panel generally concurs with Council's assessment that the development application be approved.

"The Panel noted the community's concern regarding the loss of trees, but acknowledges that the assessment of Council's ecologist is that these are not part of an Endangered Ecological Community; specific trees will be required to be retained and protected during construction; and additional plantings are proposed, as identified in the approved Arboricultural Impact Assessment Report and shown on the Landscape Plan."

The Panel required that "Evidence is to be provided that compliance has been met with the

recommendations in Section 5.2, of the approved Bushfire Report, prior to the issue of the construction certificate".

"The on-going bushfire mitigation measures are to be maintained in perpetuity, as required in the recommendations in Section 5.1, 5.3, 5.4 of the approved Bushfire Report."

The Panel also approved an application for construction of a four-unit multi-unit development at 140 Trafalgar Ave, Umina.

"The Panel considered the application, the written submissions, the submissions made at the public meeting and the Council's assessment report.

"The Panel generally concurs with Council's assessment that the development application be approved.

"The Panels notes that the proposal was amended during the assessment to improve the layout of the dwellings and reduce the density."

However, the Panel refused an application for alterations and additions to an existing child care centre at 97-99 Booker Bay Rd and 2 Davis St, Booker Bay, despite a recommendation for conditional approval by council planners.

The Panel gave 18 detailed reasons for refusal.

These included "failure to adequately address cumulative impacts" of the expanded centre, the need to "re-cast" the development application, a considerable shortfall in on-site parking, visual impacts of fencing,

non-compliant side and rear setbacks, an inadequate plan of management, and lack of detail in the landscape plan.

"The Panel supports the provision of additional child care centre places, as it is understood that there is a significant need for the facility in the Booker Bay locality.

"However, the Panel is of the view that the proposal is an overdevelopment of the site, and provides inadequate drawings, supporting information and consideration of the impacts of the intensified centre as a whole, and cannot be supported in its current form.

"This is particularly in light of the impacts on the amenity of the adjoining neighbours."

SOURCE:
Local Planning Panel minutes
3.2, 3.3 and 3.5, 19 Dec 2024

'Soft opening' planned for new facilities

A Woy Woy aged care home will have a "soft opening" of its new facilities this month.

Blue Wave Living will open its new "clubhouse" space and newly-rebuilt rooms, part of the Coastal Household, according to chief executive Mr Matt Downie.

"It will be a soft opening as we steadily work through operationalising the spaces," he said.

"There is still some minor finishing off to be completed early in 2025.

"We are on track to commence moving residents out of the old Driftwood rooms and into the new rooms by late January through into early February.

"The new Shores Club House features a large cinema space, which will be one of the early activities underway in that space on a regular basis."

Mr Downie said a new outdoor barbecue kitchen would be used for large events.

"However, we may look into the option to have systems in place sometime in the future to allow families to book the barbecues for their own use.

"As we progressively move into the new Shores Club House and the remaining Coastal Household, we will also be moving out of spaces to ready for the next stage of works."

He said preparatory building activity would start from mid-January, and would "kick off in earnest from around mid-February".

"This area will be closed off for a number of months."

SOURCE:
Email, 30 Dec 2024
Matt Downie, Blue Wave Living

Noticeboard - Public Notices

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Tesch opens new office

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch is opening her new office in Woy Woy today, Monday, January 13.

The new office is at 71 Blackwall Rd, Woy Woy, the site of the former Westpac bank branch.

While she and her team were packing, moving and unpacking

office last week, they continued offering assistance through email at gosford@parliament.nsw.gov.au and by phone on 4342 4122.

"I look forward to another year representing our community," Ms Tesch said.

SOURCE:
Social media, 10 Jan 2025
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford

Marine Rescue Central Coast volunteers have helped a young man in a small runabout struggling with the wild southerly conditions on Brisbane Water on Wednesday afternoon, January 8.

The service's Central Coast 21 rescue vessel was on patrol before returning to its Point Clare base when the runabout was observed in difficulties trying to overcome the strong winds and high waves.

There was one person on board, attempting to return to his home on St Hubert's Island.

The Marine Rescue craft escorted the vessel back to the island with the tinnie following in rescue vessel's slipstream, before the young skipper reached calmer waters in Lintern Channel.

SOURCE:
Social media, 9 Jan 2025
Marine Rescue Central Coast
Photo: Alan Harvey



Vietnam veterans donate food hampers

The Vietnam Veterans' Peacekeepers' and Peacemakers' Association of Australia Central Coast sub-branch donated food valued at \$2500 to Mary Mac's Christmas Appeal.

The food came from IGA Umina which donated an additional \$500. Mary Mac's used the food for its

hampers distributed to individuals to families within the Peninsula community.

Pictured on the left are Vietnam veterans Graeme Harvey and president Alan Ball, with vice-president Wayne Jennings on the right. In the centre is Mary Mac's project officer Ms Sally Baker.

SOURCE:
Media release, 18 Dec 2024
Eric Daniel, VVPPAACC

The Deepwater Older Women's Network branch has raised \$3500 through its first Monster Christmas Raffle.

The funds were distributed to the food pantries at Mary Mac's Place, the Woy Woy Community Food Pantry at the Seventh Day Adventist Church and the Community SOS Food Pantry at the Peninsula Community Centre, according to network secretary Ms Jennifer Brown.

"Funds will also be used to buy bed linen for Allawah House, a 14-room refuge in East Gosford which houses older women escaping domestic and family violence.

She said the branch had added two more organizations to its list of recipients.

"We now provide funds to Meals on Wheels at Woy Woy to provide petrol vouchers to their volunteers

Women's raffle for food pantries



delivering meals throughout the Central Coast.

"The Ettalong 50+ Leisure and Learning Centre has received funds to help with their signage and mural which improves the street appeal of the centre as well as teaching new skills and learning plans for seniors on the Peninsula."

The raffle was drawn by Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch at her

office in Woy Woy.

Pictured seated with her were Ms Brown, Ms Christine O'Rourke, Mr Jason Millers from Meals on Wheels and Ms Rickie Olsen. Standing are Ms Karen Smith and Ms Sybil Ker.

SOURCE:
Media release, 18 Dec 2024
Jennifer Brown, Deepwater OWN



Cllr Jane Smith
Independent - Central Coast Council

ADVERTISEMENT

What are the 5 roads in Gosford West Ward that are in most need in need of renewal?



As Council looks to its forward planning for Road Renewal works - I would like to hear from you about the top priorities in Gosford West Ward.

Renewal works are undertaken to bring a road in poor condition back to its original condition or to extend its life. It includes crack sealing, road rehabilitation and resurfacing of the pavement.

Renewal does not provide "new" infrastructure where they don't already exist (e.g. kerb and gutter or footpaths).

I would like to hear from you. What do you think should be the top priorities for road renewal works?

Scan the QR code—or enter the link to tell me your priorities by Friday 17 January:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/roadrenewal>



Call for EOIs - Reference Committee

As a Councillor, there are a range of issues and matters that I would like to explore with the advice and input of others that can contribute expertise. In 2025, I will be forming a "Reference Committee" that provides an opportunity to discuss and investigate some key issues—these might be related to governance, planning, community, environment.

Initial thinking is that the reference committee would meet bi-monthly for approx. 2 hours for an initial period of 12 months.

If you have skills, knowledge or expertise that you are willing to contribute - then please visit www.ccnewindependents.com for more information.

Please note—this is not a formal Council committee

News



Ferry family matriarch dies

Central Coast Ferries has announced the death of its family matriarch Ms Bets Conway.

"She passed peacefully with her family by her side.

"She will be dearly missed."

A ceremony celebrating the life of Ms Conway will be held at 12pm on Wednesday, January 15, at Greenway Chapel Kincumber.

Dress code will be floral or colourful.

SOURCE:
Social media, 8 Jan 2025
Central Coast Ferries



Eileen Crawford dies at 101

Eileen Crawford has died at the age of 101 years on New Years Day.

She was a member of the Umina Beach Women's Bowling Club since 1988, and the first member of the club to reach 100 years.

A resident of the Peninsula Village aged care facility, she was born in 1923 in Orange NSW, one of six children.

She had three children in Sydney before retiring to Umina in the 1980s.

As well as being involved with Umina bowling club, she also worked as a volunteer for Woy Woy Hospital Auxiliary for 30 years.

Her funeral was held at Palmdale last Wednesday, January 8.

SOURCE:
Social media, 4 Jan 2025
Peter Springett, UBMC.

GUST says council staff recognise need for trees

The Peninsula's voluntary Grow Urban Shade Trees group believes Council's Open Spaces team has recognised the need to increase tree canopy on the Peninsula to address the "urban heat island" effect.

It has agreed to process resident orders for free street trees with the help of the group, which will continue to liaise with residents in the ordering process, said group member Ms Debbie Sunartha.

She said the group was "heartened by the efforts of Council staff" which were hampered by the lack of resources allocated by the council executive.

"Central Coast Council remains an outlier in addressing the urban heat crisis and the time frame for planting is dependent upon availability of staff who are also very busy maintaining parks," said Ms Sunartha.

"This is very frustrating as the need for shade has never been more urgent," says Ms Sunartha.

She said Doctors for the Environment were deeply concerned by the increase in heat-related illness and death caused by

poor urban design in conjunction with a heating planet.

"Heat is now officially the most fatal of all natural hazards.

"Strategically-placed trees are important heat-mitigating infrastructure.

"The road is where so much heat is retained and is also the human thoroughfare.

"It makes perfect sense to plant appropriate shade-bearing trees on our streets and this is what we see happening in other local government areas," she said.

"The Peninsula has well below the recommended canopy cover and, at less than 10 per cent coverage, it sits below even Sydney's most poorly performing suburbs."

Street trees can be ordered through the group's website, which can be found via <http://penne.ws/riOG0I>.

Ms Sunartha urged residents to email Central Coast Council requesting that funds be provided to implement their urban greening objectives at ask@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au.

SOURCE:
Media release, 10 Jan 2025
Jennifer Wilder GUST



Reid welcomes Pozieres Ave footpath

Member for Robertson Dr Gordon Reid has welcomed the construction of a footpath in Pozieres Ave in Umina.

Dr Reid said that a commitment was made at the 2022 federal election to secure funding to construct the footpath.

He said the amount secured from the Commonwealth Government was \$425,000.

Dr Reid said: "During the 2022 federal election, I spoke with many people in our community about local infrastructure issues.

"One matter that was raised with me often was the unsafe pedestrian conditions along Pozieres Ave in Umina Beach.

"I made a commitment that

I would advocate on behalf of residents and secure Commonwealth funding for a footpath.

"I am pleased to see that the funding that I was able to secure is now being utilised by Central Coast Council to construct a footpath along Pozieres Ave.

"This footpath will improve pedestrian accessibility and allow residents to walk safely to Ocean Beach Rd or Lone Pine Plaza.

"I will continue to be a strong advocate for the Peninsula and for increased infrastructure funding," Dr Reid said.

SOURCE:
Media release, 9 Dec 2024
Gordon Reid, Member for Robertson

Charity bowlers raise more than \$11,000

Charity bowlers at Ettalong Bowling Club raised more than \$11,000 last year.

"We held our final event for 2024 on December 15 with plenty of bowlers and supporters in attendance," said organiser Mr Ken Dixon.

He said the bowlers raised \$1275 on the day for Central Coast Kids in Need.

"For the year to November 2024, we have raised over \$11,100 for Kids in Need."

At the December event, the winning rink draw was won by Peter Beverage, Bev Foan, Gai Harris and Cathie Aubrey, he said.

"Cheryl Catchpool won the Scotch donated by the Woodies.

"The new bowler award was won by Dianne Zappa.

"Mark Endacott cleaned up the Hamper."

Mr Dixon said the Brisbane Water Bridge Club supported the day.

"One of their members made an anonymous \$1000 donation to Kids in Need."

The next charity bowls event will be held on Sunday, January 19.

SOURCE:
Media release, 20 Dec 2024
Ken Dixon, Ettalong Bowling Club

Trivia night

The Bays Community Group's annual Christmas Trivia night in November has raised almost \$1000.

The money will go to the community fund.

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 24 Dec 2024
The Bays Community Group

Woy Woy business gets energy grant

Woy Woy partnership Frontier Fabrication and Engineering has received \$22,487 from the Federal Labor Government's Energy Efficiency Grants for small and medium-sized enterprises.

Owners Mr Liam Crothers and Mr Jake Wildschut said that the funding was for the purchase two new energy efficient welders to replace their existing old and energy-intensive devices.

Member for Robertson Dr Gordon Reid said: "Frontier Fabrication and Engineering is a metal fabrication specialist, crafting precision structures and components from a variety of materials.

"Recently, the business completed several projects to help improve accessibility at several NSW public schools.

"I commend Liam and Jake on this support, and I look forward to



watching their business continue to grow", Dr Reid said.

Mr Crothers said: "We started our business three years ago, and it has continued to grow each year.

"We have been working on helping improve accessibility at NSW public schools, building metal handrails and other metal structures.

"The support provided by the Federal Government has helped our business improve its energy efficiency through two new energy-

efficient welders.

"These new devices are half the size, are more powerful, and consume less energy.

"They have also made our business more productive."

More information about the Energy Efficiency Grants for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises Program is available online via <http://penne.ws/BfjcyR>.

SOURCE:
Media release, 13 Dec 2024
Gordon Reid, Member for Robertson

Funding for new project

Woy Woy's Art-Full Women group has received council funding of \$17,853.50 for a new project named Recollect starting early this year.

The group's creative producer Ms Brenda Logan said she was excited to have received the grant.

"There will be a series of hands-on workshops facilitated by artists Ms Lisa Mc Carthur-Edwards, Ms Nicole de Mestre and Ms Therese Gabriel Wilkins."

She said the artists were all committed to "reusing, repurposing and recycling".

"Participants will create artworks

from material rescued from landfill.

"Natural materials will also be explored and woven in to the art.

"Women will be encouraged to share memories and stories inspired by the artworks being created, led by an experienced facilitator.

"The program will culminate in a public exhibition and performance, open to the community towards the end of 2025."

Further information is available on the group's website via <http://penne.ws/QuaXIZ>.

SOURCE:

Media release, 8 Jan 2025

Lindy Batterham, Art-Full Women



Auditions for Agatha Christie play

Woy Woy Little Theatre will hold auditions for Agatha Christie's Witness for the Prosecution tomorrow evening, at 7pm Tuesday, January 14.

The auditions will be held at Peninsula Theatre, John Hoare Close, Woy Woy.

The play will be the second for the year, staged from May 9 to May 25, and will be directed by Ms Christine Vale.

The play starts after Leonard Vole is arrested for the murder of Emily French, a wealthy older woman.

Unaware that he was a married man, Miss French made him her principal heir, casting suspicion on Leonard.

When his wife, Romaine, agrees to testify, she does so not in Leonard's defence but as a witness for the prosecution.

Male cast members wanted include the accused Leonard Vole, his solicitor Mr Mayhew, his senior counsel Sir Wilfred Robarts QC, Crown prosecutor Mr Myers QC, judge Mr Justice Wainwright, arresting officer Inspector Hearne and Sir Wilfred's chief clerk Carter.

Female cast members wanted

include the accused's wife Romaine Vole who has a European accent, Emily French's housekeeper Janet Mackenzie and Sir Wilfred's typist Greta.

Cast members who may be either male or female include police surgeon Dr Wyatt, New Scotland Yard laboratory assistant Clegg and a clerk of the court.

"The auditions are open," said Ms Vale.

"Everyone is welcome.

"There is no need to book."

SOURCE:

Social media, 8 Jan 2025

Christine Vale, Woy

Woy Little Theatre

Choir performs 'flash mob' with Christmas songs

The Frantastics Choir broke with its tradition of having a bring-a-plate party in December for Christmas.

Instead, the choir shared a meal and performed a "flash mob" of Christmas songs at Davistown RSL.

"It was greatly enjoyed by all," said choir publicity officer Ms Fran Kendall.

"The choir is looking forward

to resuming, under the guidance of Ms Thayer Donaldson and Ms Catherine Broady, at 12.30pm on February 3 at the Walter Baker Hall, Woy Woy.

New members are welcome.

Information about membership and bookings can be found on the choir's website via <http://penne.ws/bOm6es>.

SOURCE:

Media release, 18 Dec 2024

Fran Kendall, The Frantastics Choir



Liesl Tesch MP

Member for Gosford

Parliamentary Secretary for Families and Communities

Parliamentary Secretary for Disability Inclusion



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Education

College uniforms available from today

Brisbane Water Secondary College uniforms will be available from today, Monday, January 13, from Workwear Direct in Woy Woy.

The shop will be open from 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday, and from 9am to 12pm on Saturdays,

January 18 and 25 and February 1. Sales will be made by card only at the shop in Mutu St. Cash will not be accepted. No booking is required.

SOURCE:
Social media, 8 Jan 2025
BWSC Umina



Uniform shop announces opening hours

Woy Woy South Public School's uniform shop has announced its opening hours for the start of the year.

It will open on Tuesday, February 4, from 2pm to 4pm and on Wednesday, February 5, from 9am to 11am.

It will then open from 8:30am to 9am Monday to Friday, February

10 to 15

Orders may be placed online now, and picked up during the opening hours, or simply attend during the opening hours.

For further information, email uniformshop@wwspandc.org.

SOURCE:
Social media, 7 Jan 2025
Woy Woy South Public School P/C

Singing carols around the Peninsula

St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School Choir performed a series of carols out-and-about around the Peninsula community in the lead-up to Christmas.

"All the children in the school

choir should be very proud of themselves," said school principal Ms Nicole Davies.

"They brought bright festive energy and smiles to many people last week."

They were pictured at Hillview House Nursing Home, one of their

many stops.

"Our neighbours at Hillview are always so welcoming and grateful for the children's visits," said Ms Davies.

SOURCE:
Social media, 16 Dec 2025
SJB Catholic Primary School

Holiday activities booked out

All five school holiday activities being held at Umina and Woy Woy libraries during January have been booked out.

Umina library is running sessions in Tissue Paper Art, with author Leigh Hardingham and in Library Bag and Pencil Case Decoration on January 14, 21 and 23.

Woy Woy library is running sessions in Writing for Your Senses and Air Dry Clay on January 17 and 22.

The free or low-cost activities mostly run for an hour.

SOURCE:
Website, 9 Jan 2025
Library Services, Central Coast Council

Parent volunteers needed at rugby club

Woy Woy Rugby Club is reminding parents that each team needs to supply parent volunteers to cover various roles at each game each week.

"We need as many volunteers as canteen helpers, referees, ground marshals, assistant referees, coaches, managers, trainers, First Aid officers, and club photographers as possible to make the season a success," said Vice President Juniors Bianca Plunkett Gooley.

These roles require a Rugby XPlorer account and a valid Working With Children Check, which is free.

Some roles require accreditation

which can be completed on line and is free, but must be done prior to the season commencing.

A Learning Centre is available in the web version of Rugby Xplorer, not available through the app.

Users must have an active registration to be able to access the Learning Centre.'

In the Learning Centre, the user will be able to see their enrolled courses, enrol in new courses and view completed learning.

The club plans to hold a volunteer information session in March.

For further information, phone 0402 651 780.

SOURCE:
Social media, 12 Jan 2025
Bianca Plunkett Gooley, Woy Woy Rugby Club Juniors



Students complete tennis program

Woy Woy Public School students completed a nine-week tennis program on Friday, December 13.

The program was run at the Woy Woy Tennis Club courts.

Student Beau Abbott is pictured receiving his certificate from club chairman Mr Walter Pearson.

SOURCE:
Social media, 16 Dec 2025
Walter Pearson, Woy Woy Tennis Club

Remember to read over the holidays

Students at Ettalong Public School have been reminded to maintain their reading skills over the holidays.

"Holidays are a great time to visit your local library and enjoy a good book together," said school

principal Ms Jodie Campbell.

All students from Kindergarten to Year 6 will return to school on Thursday, February 6.

SOURCE:
Social media, 6 Jan 2025
Jodie Campbell, Ettalong Public School

Community Bank
Ettalong Beach

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Why rugby president supports travel

Woy Woy Rugby Club president Phil Burgess has revealed why he strongly supports Woy Woy players travelling overseas and hosting players from overseas.

“Back in 1997, my club in the United Kingdom, Lowestoft and Yarmouth, sent two players across to New Zealand to play for a season: myself and Marc Thomas,” he said.

“This experience opened my eyes to the opportunities which rugby can give you - even if you’re an average player like me.

“It changed my life.

“It’s one of the few sports where a player from an average level up can travel to most countries in the world and play rugby while being looked after.

“Many from Woy Woy have played overseas including Adam MacVean (Canada), David Gooley (Canada), Gavan Hewitt (UK) and more recently Max Edwards and Braydon Mako (both UK).

“If you are a Woy Woy player or a player from the Central Coast, and want to know how to travel playing rugby, I am always happy to chat.”

SOURCE:
Social media, 10 Jan 2025
Phil Burgess, Woy Woy Rugby Club

Two rides to Gosford

Central Coast Bicycle User Group will hold two rides between Woy Woy and Gosford over the coming week.

The first ride will start at and return to Woy Woy, while the second will start at and return to Gosford.

Both rides will start at 8am and both will be along the shared path between Woy Woy and Gosford.

The ride on Thursday, January 16, will be from Woy Woy to Gosford and return, starting at Fishermen’s Wharf.

It is listed as a 2.5 hour ride, to

allow for a possible extension of the ride to Pt Frederick.

The ride on Sunday, January 19, will start at the Gosford Waterfront boat ramp, near the pool.

It is listed as a two-hour ride and does not include a possible extension.

In both cases, there may be a coffee in Gosford or Woy Woy.

Riders are asked to arrive at least five minutes before start time to say hello and sign on.

For further details, phone Alan on 0414 538 977.

SOURCE:
Social media, 7 Jan 2025
Alan Corven, CCBUG



Umina residents in world ironman championships

Two Umina residents have competed at Taupo, New Zealand, in the Ironman 70.3 World Championships against more than 5000 others from around the world.

Eva Koslowski-Gallagher raced on Saturday, December 14, with a time of five hours 18 minutes, placing her 88th of 252 in the 30-34 age group, and 432nd of 2059 females overall.

Mark Wilson raced on Sunday, December 15, with a time of five hours 30 minutes, placing him 91st of 189 in the 60-64 age group, and 2403rd of 3093 males overall.

The Ironman 70.3, also known

as a Half Ironman, begins with a 1.9 km swim, followed by a 90 km cycle and a 21.1 km run (a half marathon).

The 70.3 refers to the total distance in miles.

With these races being a challenge just to finish, qualifying for the World Championships is a major achievement.

Eva and Mark have both qualified for next year’s Ironman 70.3 World Championships in Marbella, Spain.

They are members of the Central Coast Triathlon Club, which holds monthly races for all abilities as well as races for juniors.

SOURCE:
Media release, 19 Dec 2024
Mike Gallagher, Umina

Pelicans recognise long-serving secretary

Ettalong Pelicans Masters Swimming Club has presented a certificate of appreciation to Gordon Ferguson for his service as club secretary from 1995 to 2024.

“For decades, Gordon has poured his heart and soul into the world of swimming, both in amateur and Masters circles.

“We deeply appreciate Gordon’s many years of dedicated service to our club.”

SOURCE:
Social media, 15 Dec 2025
Ettalong Pelicans Masters Swimming



Dr Gordon Reid MP

Member for Robertson



Caring for the Coast

Authorised by Dr G Reid, ALP, Level 3, 69 Central Coast Highway, West Gosford, NSW 2250

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Sport

Invited to a special match day with the Mariners

Southern and Ettalong United has been invited to a special match day with the Central Coast Mariners when they play Newcastle Jets.

The match day will be held from 6pm on Saturday, February 1, at Central Coast Stadium.

Southern and Ettalong is looking for up to 100 children for the Mighty Mariners March Past to walk the field in club colours, with flags and banners.

Player Mascots, aged seven to nine, are wanted to walk hand-in-hand with the Mariners' starting 11.

Half-Time Heroes, of up to 40 players, will showcase their skills in a fun mini-match during half-time.

For the Mariners Jersey Walk-Out, 15 children aged 10 or more will carry the giant Mariners jersey onto the pitch.

Participants will wear a sponsor shirt with shorts, club socks, and sneakers.

Expressions of interest are currently open.

SOURCE:
Social media, 12 Jan 2025
Southern and Ettalong United Football Club



Barry becomes bridge grand master

Brisbane Water Bridge Club member Barry Foster has reached a rank of Grand Master, having earned 1000 masterpoints over 17 years.

Barry thanked his regular partner Hope Tomlinson who earned about 800 of the required points with him and participated in the long journey.

Barry said he had a slow start to bridge.

He had to do the beginner lessons three times with teachers Lorraine Lindsay, Helen Eaton and Christine Hadaway before settling into the game.

Barry advised beginners to learn conventions thoroughly.

"Learn one before progressing to the next.



"You're better off sticking to the basic system than having a head full of jumbled conventions."

SOURCE:
Social media, 3 Jan 2025
Brisbane Water Bridge Club



Everglades men's pairs

Jon Gibbon and Andrew McDonald won the final of the Everglades Men's Pairs on Saturday, December 21.

They defeated Terry Abbott and Richard Carlyle, 31 -12.

"Both teams delivered some exceptional bowls, but Jon and Andrew were really in sensational form," said club secretary Mr Grant Ireland.

He said the next Everglades Club Championship will be the Handicap Pairs starting this month.

Everglades Men's Bowls

recently donated \$4000 to the Central Coast Local Health District for its prostate cancer services.

These funds were raised at its Prostate Charity Day, organised by bowls member Tom Cain.

A further donation of \$350 was made to Mary Macs Woy Woy.

These funds came from the club's Wrong Bias Tin, which receives gold coin penalties for a bad bowls.

SOURCE:
Media release, 21 Dec 2024
Grant Ireland, Everglades Men's Bowls

'Great turnout' for POQ Cup

A "great turnout" has been reported as competing for the Umina Beach Men's Bowling Club POQ Cup.

The competition was held in sunny conditions on Boxing Day,

December 26, with more than 50 members dressed mainly in Hawaiian shirts.

"The POQ Cup is named in memory of three popular club members, who are unfortunately no longer physically with us," said

club secretary Mr Peter Springett.

They were Phil Poulton, Gary "Oyster" Edmonds and Freddy Querrual.

SOURCE:
Social media, 26 Dec 2025
Peter Springett, UBMBC

Medals, personal bests and top 10 swim placings

Woy Woy Swim Club has finished the 2024/25 Senior State Age Championships with one medal winner, five top 10 finishers and six swimmers recording personal best times.

Jodie Mead won three medals for coming third in 16yrs girls 50m freestyle and butterfly and 800m freestyle.

The top 10 finishers were Callan Atherton, sixth in 12years boys 50m backstroke; Alexandra Hall, fifth in 13years girls 200m butterfly; Jacob Falconer, ninth in 17yrs boys 200m backstroke; Jodie Mead, seventh in 16years girls 400m freestyle, fifth in 100m

butterfly and freestyle and eighth in 200m backstroke.

Personal best times were recorded by Callan Atherton in 50m breaststroke, backstroke and 100m reestyle, Jacob Falconer in 200m freestyle and backstroke, Alexandra Hall in 200m freestyle and butterfly, 50m butterfly and 100m freestyle, Jodie Mead in 400m freestyle, 50m freestyle and butterfly and 100m butterfly, Levi Sinclair in 100m breaststroke and in 50, 100, 400 and 800m freestyle, and Aimee Lockie in 50m freestyle and 200m backstroke.

SOURCE:
Social media, 18 Dec 2025
Woy Woy Swim Club



Woy Woy Park Run statistics released

Woy Woy Park Run has released statistics of its run on Saturday, January 11.

There were 138 male runners, 125 female and 20 unscanned.

The run saw 44 first-timers take part and 34 others ran personal best times.

The female runner with the most runs was Caro Vos with 420 park runs, while the male runner was Neil Dufty with 273 runs.

Kieran O'Shea reached his 50-run milestone, while Tommy Hamilton, Clark McCallum and Caroline Galea reached 25 runs.

First male to finish was Oliver Butcher in 18:20, while first female was Jessica Bennett in 20:46.

Personal best times were recorded by Riccardo Patterson-Meyer, Thomas Jarvis, James Dillon, Caleb Henderson, Jack Barnard, Jon Barnard, Martin Bjorke, Melissa Millar, Ty Williams, Nick Elmitt, Andrew Griffith, Linda Johnson, Shona Curvers, Ben Osborne, Sam Brown, Robert Walton, Greg Hunt, Will Gumbley, Sarah Shelley, Duncan Munnings, Brynn Clarke, Kain Gilbert, Ian Burns, Sianne C, Ger Oriain, Tara Porter. Selby Pearce, Anne Burns, Isabelle Elder, Cassandra Bulman, Jayne Alison James, Debra Lloyd, Emma Osborne and Amy Osborne.

Volunteers for the day were Robyn Abicair, Dale Bachelor, Justin Bolton, Matthew Booth,

Caroline Galea, Deana Hatzi, Christine Kerr, Greg Love, Maureen Lynch, Veronica McCarthy, Tracey McHugh, Melissa Porter, Scott Wedesweiler and Sarah Xuereb.

Woy Woy parkrun started on July 7, 2018.

Since then 8750 participants have covered a total distance of 223,365 km, including 6457 new personal best times.

A total of 618 individuals have volunteered 3162 times.

The average number of participants across all events was 162.

SOURCE:
Social media, 12 Jan 2025
Woy Woy Park Run