



Splash of colour

A splash of red and purple descended on the Woy Woy Hotel on Friday July 25, when 120 women from Newcastle, Maitland, Hunter Valley, Sydney and Wollongong joined to celebrate 24 years of “red hatting” in Australia.

“It is a world wide organisation, especially for women over 50 to get out and about, and always good to hear the laughter and chat when they meet up,” said Central Coast representative Ms Marlene Klintworth ..

The Roving Rubies of the Central Coast will be celebrating their 21st birthday in September, with a “Paint the Town Red” party at the hotel.

SOURCE:
Media release, 28 Jul 2025
Marlene Klintworth, The Roving Rubies Red Hatters

Trees group calls on Council to apply for greening grant

The Peninsula’s Grow Urban Shade Trees group has called on Central Coast Council to take the opportunity to apply for a Greening Our City grant.

“Our Central Coast Council has the opportunity to apply for a minimum of \$50,000 to fund effective urban greening,” said group member Ms Debbie Sunartha.

The council did not apply for a similar grant, when a Metropolitan Greenspace Grant was offered to the Central Coast in 2024-2025.

“The current Greening Our City grant is too good an opportunity for our Council to pass up,” she said.

Ms Sunartha urged the community to encourage the Council to apply for the grant.

“Now that the Central Coast has elected councillors, there should be more enthusiasm for this kind of grant,” she said.

“This Greening Our City grant is the opportunity to line our streets with trees, add canopy to our pocket parks, sporting grounds and include greening of new roads, cycleways, footpaths and carparks.”

She said Booker Bay was an example of a suburb suffering from increased urban heat with less than seven per cent tree canopy.

“Planting tall trees that offer good canopy cover is one way to reduce surface temperatures and improve air quality.”

Ms Sunartha said the group agreed with Minister for the Central

Coast Mr David Harris when he stated: “We know how important green spaces are for liveability, biodiversity and resilience, and this funding will help deliver those outcomes where they’re needed most.”

Ms Sunartha said that, under the grant, councils were required to complete a 12-month establishment period of all trees and biodiverse understorey plantings and replace stock that does not survive this period.

Councils had to commit to ongoing maintenance of all plantings beyond the funded period.

There was a requirement that pot sizes for planting be at least 45L up to 100L to help with quick

establishment.

Ongoing maintenance was required to ensure the survival of every tree and understorey plantings.

Other councils had selected a diverse range of trees to support biodiversity and provide long-term canopy coverage for healthy outdoor recreational activities.

She said the Greening Our Cities grant program seemed the perfect opportunity for the Council to implement some of the overdue greening activities outlined in Council’s adopted Greener Places Strategy and Sustainability Action Plan.

SOURCE:
Media statement, 7 Jul 2025
Debbie Sunartha, Grow Urban Shade Trees

Government announces urban greening program

The State Government has announced that Central Coast Council will now be able to apply for a share of \$10 million to plant trees, shrubs, and native vegetation in parks, plazas, and other public spaces.

It will extend the Greening Our City program to include the Illawarra and the Hunter, as well as the Central Coast.

“Heat islands and biodiversity loss are a growing challenge and

urban environments must be part of the solution,” said Minister for the Environment Ms Penny Sharpe.

Eligible councils will receive funding and will be able to access data and strategic planning support to assist in effective urban greening.

The grant round is open until 5pm on Friday, September 26.

SOURCE:
Media release, 4 Aug 2025
Penny Sharpe, Minister for the Environment

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

Can’t find a copy of Peninsula News?

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Next issue: Monday, August 25

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

Peninsula News
Community Access

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

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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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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.

Trivia night for PNG youth education

Rotary Brisbane Water is calling on local businesses and community members to donate prizes for an upcoming trivia night supporting youth education in Papua New Guinea.

The charity event, scheduled for Saturday, October 11, at Ettalong Diggers, aims to raise funds for The Gilgil Resource Centre in East New Britain.

Project manager Mr Steven Gagau said: "The centre provides vital vocational and educational services for young people in the remote Pacific community.

"The club is seeking prize

donations to make the evening's raffle and auction more appealing to attendees.

"We're hoping local businesses will get behind this worthy cause by donating prizes that will help us raise more funds on the night," Mr Gagau said.

The trivia evening will feature a Pasifika dress code and bar prices for drinks, with tickets priced at \$25.

Local businesses interested in donating prizes can contact Mr Gagau on 0475 922 166.

SOURCE:
Media release, 2 Aug 2025
Mitchell Gordon, Rotary
Brisbane Water



Umina man wins \$150,000 in lottery

A Umina man has won a lottery prize of more than \$157,000 at Club Umina on Sunday, July 27.

He scored the jackpot in Keno draw 25, winning \$157,513.80.

He told lottery officials he planned to surprise his family with a holiday.

"I still can't believe it's real," the

man told them.

"I thought I might wake up and it would all be a dream.

"I've been playing the same set of special numbers for years now.

"They were just a random bunch of numbers I chose when I started playing."

Media release, 29 Jul 2025
Eliza Wregg, Keno

Didge and dance

Didge and Dance sessions have resumed at Mingaletta in Umina.

They are held at the Mingaletta hall at 6 Sydney Ave, Umina, each Monday from 4pm to 5:30pm.

"We welcome everyone back for music, movement, and lots of fun together."

SOURCE:
Social media, 4 Aug 2025
Mingaletta ATSC

July was fourth wettest, August wetter

The Peninsula's July rainfall total of 116.8mm was the fourth highest July total in 20 years, according to figures supplied by Mr Jim Morrison of Umina.

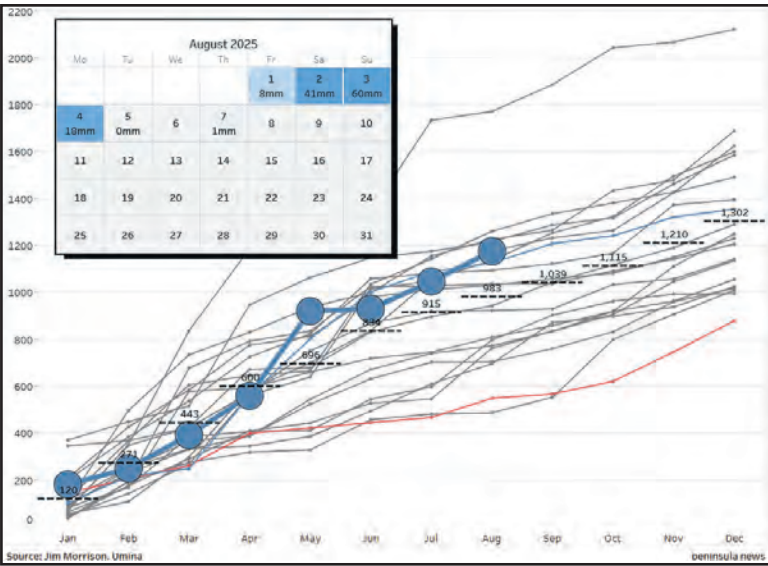
A fall of 46.9mm on the last day of the month took the total 37.8mm beyond the month's average of 79mm.

Falls totalling 128.3mm in the first week of August already made this month the fourth wettest August in 20 years.

The figure is almost double the average of 65mm.

Rainfall of 28.7mm recorded on Saturday morning and 37.1mm recorded at 9am on Sunday took the total to 194.1mm, within five millimetres of the second wettest August total of 199.8mm recorded in 2019.

It is believed this figure was exceeded with rain during the day yesterday.



The wettest August was in 2014 with 216.6mm recorded.

As at last Friday, August 8, the cumulative total rainfall for this year was 1172.5mm, 20.1 per cent above the end of August average

of 976mm.

More details, including daily rainfall figures, are available online at <http://penne.ws/Rain>

SOURCE:
Spreadsheet, 10 Jul 2025
Jim Morrison, Umina

TIDE TIMES and Heights	Mon, Aug 11	Thu, Aug 14	Sun, Aug 17	Wed, Aug 20	Sat, Aug 23
	0424 0.07	0613 0.11	0237 0.70	0053 0.15	0309 0.09
	1000 0.87	1214 0.99	0833 0.24	0636 0.72	0853 0.86
	1556 0.10	1836 0.20	1516 1.07	1201 0.22	1442 0.12
AT ETTALONG	2209 1.18		2230 0.24	1834 1.18	2051 1.16
	Tue, Aug 12	Fri, Aug 15	Mon, Aug 18	Thu, Aug 21	Sun, Aug 24
	0500 0.07	0028 0.90	0405 0.66	0145 0.12	0343 0.09
	1041 0.91	0652 0.15	0940 0.26	0729 0.78	0929 0.88
	1645 0.12	1307 1.02	1628 1.11	1302 0.18	1524 0.12
	2252 1.11	1944 0.23	2348 0.20	1926 1.20	2128 1.11
	Wed, Aug 13	Sat, Aug 16	Tue, Aug 19	Fri, Aug 22	Mon, Aug 25
	0536 0.08	0126 0.78	0531 0.67	0230 0.09	0412 0.09
	1126 0.96	0737 0.20	1053 0.25	0813 0.82	1003 0.90
	1738 0.15	1408 1.05	1735 1.15	1355 0.14	1602 0.13
	2337 1.01	2103 0.25		2012 1.19	2201 1.04

NEWS email: contributions@peninsula.news

Residents urge Council to secure Greening grants

The Peninsula Residents' Association has urged Central Coast Council to secure grants under the NSW Government's Greening Our City program, designed to increase urban tree canopy and green cover.

"The Peninsula faces significant green canopy deficits that have a huge impact on everything from walkability and public health to biodiversity and climate adaptation," said association spokesman Mr Peter Gillis.

"This funding opens the door for meaningful change."

The association has urged the Council to seize this opportunity to submit ambitious proposals that prioritise shaded pedestrian corridors, tree planting in heat-vulnerable suburbs, and integration with active transport networks.

"Areas such as Woy Woy, Umina, Ettalong Beach and Booker Bay stand to benefit immensely from targeted greening initiatives that reflect local needs and geography.

"Greening is not just about aesthetics. It's about liveability, equity and resilience.

"We can build on Council's recently announced tree planting pilot and scale-up efforts to deliver cooler streets, healthier communities and stronger habitat corridors."

The Association welcomed the NSW Government's decision to expand the Greening Our City grants program to include regional councils like the Central Coast.

"This long-overdue move recognises the vital role that regional communities play in advancing climate resilience, urban cooling, and equitable access to green infrastructure.

"Extending these grants beyond metropolitan boundaries is a win for communities like ours."

According to the association, the Peninsula faced unique challenges due to its geography, ageing infrastructure and limited canopy coverage.

Many suburbs experienced

extreme heat during summer, with few shaded routes for walking or cycling.

The average tree canopy cover across the Peninsula is estimated at below 10 per cent, significantly lower than the NSW Government's target of 40 per cent for urban areas.

Heat mapping shows surface temperatures in unshaded areas are 10-15°C hotter than nearby green corridors during summer peaks.

Strategic greening could reduce urban heat island effects, improve walkability and active transport uptake, support biodiversity and pollinator corridors, enhance public health and wellbeing and create more inclusive, age-friendly environments.

"With climate pressures mounting, investing in green infrastructure is not just timely. It's essential," said Mr Gillis.

"The expansion of this program gives the Central Coast a chance to lead by example and deliver transformative outcomes for its communities.

"We look forward to working with Council and the community to ensure this funding delivers lasting benefits for all generations."

SOURCE:
Media release, 8 Aug 2025
Peter Gillis, Peninsula Residents' Association



Falling tree brings down power line in Patonga Dr

Pearl Beach fire brigade and Patonga Volunteer Rural Bush Fire Brigade were alerted at 6:40am on Sunday, August 3, to reports of wires down and arcing on Patonga Dr.

Crews located the cables which were taken down by a falling tree.

The cables were low across the road, posing a threat to traffic.

Ausgrid was called to remove or rerun the cable.

The fire crews are managing

traffic, allowing cars and four-wheel-drives to pass, but tall vehicles, trucks, buses and caravans were advised to delay their journey.

By 9am, the low cable had been isolated, and the tree cleared off the road.

Access to all road users was restored.

The Pearl Beach brigade advise

anyone who saw cables down or hanging low should stay at least eight metres away and call the AusGrid Hazard Line on 13 13 88.

If the cables were arcing or there was a threat to life, they should call Triple Zero (000) immediately.

SOURCE:
Social media, 3 Aug 2025
Pearl Beach Brigade, NSW RFS

Umina Beach considered for shark net removal

Umina Beach is one of four Central Coast beaches under consideration for the removal of shark nets, according to Cr Jared Wright.

The others were Terrigal, Avoca and Copacabana, he said.

Cr Wright said he supported a trial removing shark nets, but called on the State Government to "ensure that appropriate alternatives" were available.

"Before the trial beach is chosen and any nets are removed, we must ensure that appropriate alternatives are in place," he said.

"Our local surf life savers here

on the Central Coast already utilise a range of new and innovative technologies including drones to carry out their work.

"I believe they would be well positioned to trial these alternate technologies to shark nets."

Cr Wright said he had spoken to local residents and looked at online comments about the proposal.

"The community is open to more modern solutions, but have highlighted the need for everyone to feel safe and protected while in the water."

SOURCE:
Media release, 29 Jul 2025
Jared Wright, Central Coast Council



The Rotary Club of Umina Beach greeted its new exchange student Ella Burt on Wednesday, July 30.

She was met by a welcoming

committee comprised of some of the host parents and families.

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 1 Aug 2025
Robert Meyer, 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.

Planning

Phone tower proposed in rare bushland

A development application has been lodged with Central Coast Council to build a telecommunications tower in endangered bushland at McEvoy Oval.

The tower would have an overall height of 30 metres and be located at the end of the existing McEvoy Oval carpark.

It would include an antenna headframe, four 4G panel antennas, eight 5G active antenna units, and a two-bay outdoor equipment cabinet at ground level.

The application acknowledges that the endangered Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland at the site is considered “a candidate for Serious and Irreversible Impact”.

It proposes one “biodiversity credit” to offset the “unavoidable impacts”.

It is claimed that no native canopy vegetation would be removed, and that the impact is limited to groundcover maintenance within a 10 metre “asset protection zone”.

The proposal aims to enhance Optus 4G and 5G mobile coverage and network capacity and would also be capable of supporting co-location by other carriers.

The site appears to have no height restriction where other possible sites do.

For example, the Col Gooley



Oval in Umina was rejected because of a seven metre height limit and because “Central Coast Council’s property team did not express interest in hosting a telecommunication facility at this location”.

A Bushfire Risk Assessment confirmed that the site is on ‘bushfire prone land’.

The application states the maximum calculated electromagnetic energy level for the proposed changes is 2.31 per cent of the public exposure limit at 158 metres from the facility.

This is equivalent of the level being reached at about 11.5 metres from the antenna.

The application states that this

level complies with the guidelines.

It claims that mature vegetation, about 20 meters high, around the site would provide substantial screening from the surrounding residential area.

The facility is not expected to be a significant generator of noise, with cooling fans operating intermittently at levels comparable to a domestic air conditioner, with “ample setback” from nearby dwellings.

The application is currently on public exhibition and open for written submissions from the public until August 29.

SOURCE:
DA Tracker, 9 Aug 2025
DA/870/2025, Central Coast Council

Council staff recommend submissions policy

Central Coast Council staff have recommended that the council’s Environment and Planning Committee support the adoption of the “Local Planning Panel - Development Application Submissions Policy”.

The policy would double the number of objections required to refer a development application to the Local Planning Panel.

Currently, the threshold is 10 or more unique objections, a number set by Ministerial Directions.

Adoption of the policy would mean the trigger is increased to 20.

Central Coast Council would be unique in NSW in raising its submission requirement above the default.

The recommendation was made to the committee meeting on Tuesday, August 5.

Minutes of the committee meeting have not been released.

If the council adopts the policy, it will be submitted to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for final approval.

During a 28-day public exhibition that ended on June 2, six of eight

submissions received objected to the increase.

The staff report attached a summary of eight objections raised in submissions, with comments by Council officers.

Council officers stated that the change in the required number of submissions would not affect the requirement to consider all matters raised in public submissions, regardless of the application’s assessment pathway.

They also noted that applications with potential conflicts of interest or those seeking variations to a development standard of more than 10 per cent would still be automatically referred to the panel under separate directives.

Coincidentally, the council’s administrative policy has also recently changed to no longer display residents’ submissions on its online portal until after the submission period has closed.

The reasons given for this change are “streamlining” and preventing residents from copying submissions and presenting them as their own.

SOURCE:
Agenda 1.10, 5 Aug 2025
Planning and Environment
Committee, Central Coast Council

Application for all-weather sports pitch

The Umina Beach Tennis and Sporting Club has applied to Central Coast Council for the proposed construction of a new all-weather multi-purpose sports pitch.

The application includes accompanying lighting and fencing at the 65 Sydney Ave site in Umina Beach.

The application, prepared by Clarke Dowdle and Associates, states that the site is Crown land, forming part of the Umina Beach Recreation Reserve.

The development would provide an additional sports facility because the existing futsal court was too small to meet the growing participation and community needs.

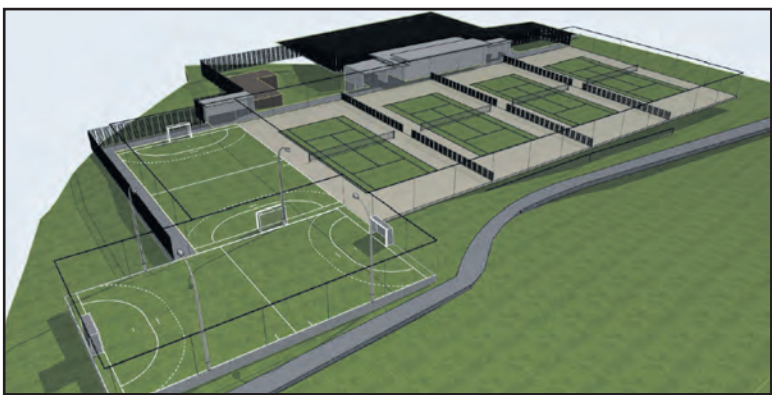
The application claims that the proposal “will not require vegetation/tree removal or require nutrient control from overland stormwater discharge”.

There is no mention of any impact on the nearby endangered Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland bushland.

The club was a non-profit organisation that provided sporting and social interaction for local residents and visitors.

The proposed pitch would measure 30 metres by 17 metres and would feature a synthetic grass surface built on a reinforced concrete slab.

It will be enclosed with plastic-coated wire mesh fencing and new



security fencing designed to match the existing facilities.

New retaining walls would be constructed around the edges of the new court and a new 2390mm wide path would extend around the existing football court.

The lighting system is designed to have a sharp cut-off, directing light straight down onto the court area only, to ensure no lighting impacts on residential development 60 metres to the west.

The application claims that, due to the highly porous sand sediment on site, a formal stormwater management system is not required, as natural drainage is expected to manage overland flow.

Noise and vibration measures will include carrying out excavation during specified council times and keeping machinery size to a minimum.

The use of the outdoor court is expected to generate some noise, but it is claimed that appropriate hours of use (8 am to 10 pm)

and physical separation from residences, along with surrounding vegetation, are anticipated to provide sufficient noise attenuation.

Although located within a bushfire prone area, the application claims that “the structure is not a building that would be utilised for human habitation and is therefore not required to be assessed for bushfire hazard with reference to Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019 and AS3959-2009”.

In conclusion, the application claims that the development is in the public interest, as it embellishes Umina Beach’s recreational facilities and provides a beneficial social outlet for the community, without adverse amenity or visual impacts on the locality.

The application is on public exhibition and open for written submissions until September 12.

SOURCE:
DA Tracker, 10 Aug 2025
DA/1061/2025, Central
Coast Council

Application for mooring pen beside existing jetty

An application for the creation of a boat mooring pen adjacent to an existing timber jetty has been lodged for 17 Cedar Cr, Blackwall.

Measuring five metres by nine metres, it would be located adjacent to the eastern side of the jetty.

The proposal claims that “no new construction or demolition is required as part of this proposal”, as it involves the formalisation of an existing berthing area.

However, despite this, amongst the benefits it claims for the proposal is that it “is expected to contribute to positive economic outcomes by providing short-term construction employment”.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development advised that aerial imagery had shown a vessel has consistently been present at the inner end of the jetty.

The Department stated it would not generally approve permanent mooring over type 1 or 2 seagrass except on established canal estates.

But it also stated that it had no objection to the proposal.

The application prepared by Clarke Dowdle and Associates included an Aquatic Habitat

Assessment, which confirmed that no seagrass, saltmarsh, protected wetlands, or mangroves would be impacted by the proposed berthing area on the site or in adjacent areas.

The deeper zones where the berthing pen would be situated were found to be devoid of seagrass, macroalgae, or other ecologically significant features.

The aquatic habitats in the foreshore area were classified as “highly sensitive key fish habitat” (Type 1), but the specific areas for the proposed berthing pen were classed as “minimally sensitive key fish habitat” (Type 3).

The application claims that the proposed development is consistent with the objectives of the W2 Recreational Waterways zoning, which allows for water-based recreation and related uses.

Landowner’s consent for the lodgement of the Development Application had been granted by the Minister administering the Crown Land Management Act 2016.

The application is currently on public exhibition and open for submissions from the public until August 22.

SOURCE:
DA Tracker, 9 Aug 2025
DA/917/2025, Central Coast Council

Tesch backs new ‘illicit tobacco’ laws

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch has backed “tough new laws to crack down on the sale of illicit tobacco and illegal vaping goods” being introduced by the State Government.

“I share concerns about the prevalence of illegal tobacco and vapes in our community,” she said.

“The NSW Government is cracking down on dodgy operators, introducing tough new laws to disrupt this criminal business model.

“We are introducing harsher penalties for those who sell illegal products, while giving enforcement officers the ability to shut down stores doing the wrong thing, cutting off this illicit behaviour at its source.”

She said the laws would bring in some of the toughest penalties in the country for the sale and commercial possession of illicit tobacco.

New penalties for selling tobacco without a licence will be up to \$660,000 for an individual or

\$880,000 for a corporation.

Premises may also be ordered closed.

A new offences for the commercial possession of illicit tobacco and for its sale will carry a maximum penalty of over \$1.5 million and seven years’ imprisonment.

Offences will also be introduced for falsely claiming to be licensed; resisting seizure; and attempting to retake seized products.

Ms Tesch said NSW Health inspectors on the Central Coast seized more than 300,000 cigarettes in the first three months of this year.

There were 35kg of other illicit tobacco products and 3200 vapes, nicotine e-liquids and pouches also seized.

Last year, more than 2.1 million cigarettes, 210kg of other illicit tobacco products and over 37,000 vapes, nicotine e-liquids and pouches were seized, with an estimated street value of \$3.4 million.

SOURCE:
Media release, 6 Aug 2025
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford



Donation drive is more successful this year

A donation drive held in Ettalong for the Escabags charity in July has received donations of 92.82 kilograms of essential items.

The drive, held by Ettalong Diggers, has raised 20 kilograms more than the club’s previous drive.

“These donations will directly assist individuals and families escaping domestic and family violence, providing them with vital essentials during a time of crisis,” said Diggers community manager Ms Kim Cole.

“Escabags provides free, discreet Escape Bags filled with toiletries, personal care products, and comfort items for both adults and children.

“The response from our members, guests and the wider community has been nothing short of extraordinary,” she said.

“Every single donation represents a lifeline for someone in need, and we are so proud to work alongside Escabags to make a tangible difference.”

Ettalong Diggers is a registered stockist of Escabags,

“The club remains committed to supporting important community initiatives that promote safety, dignity, and hope,” said Ms Cole.

For more information, visit www.escabags.org or email info@escabags.org.

SOURCE:
Media release, 8 Jul 2025
Kim Cole, Ettalong Diggers



Police seek relatives of locals lost at sea 80 years ago

Police are wanting to contact relatives of five local fishermen, who were lost at sea almost 80 years ago.

The fishing vessels “Joyce” from Woy Woy and “Syd” from Patonga, with a total of 11 people on board, are believed to have struck adverse weather on Saturday, May 15, 1948, and did not return.

Despite extensive searches at the time, neither vessel nor those on board have ever been located.

Police said they remained hopeful DNA from relatives of the 11 fishermen could one day bring their loved ones home.

To date, six relatives of the fisherman have provided their DNA to police.

Police are appealing for the relatives of Neville Walters, Norman Eric Lester, Brian Morris Parsons, Robert Hayes and Peter Proudfoot to come forward to provide a DNA sample.

The appeal is part of this year’s “Forever Loved” Missing Persons Week 2025.

In May 2020, a human jawbone was found on Umina Beach (pictured)..

The jawbone was identified in August last year as belonging to Henry Coleman, who died aged 17 following an accidental drowning in August 1980,

Missing Persons Registry manager Detective Inspector Paul Fenwick said DNA samples collected could assist in identifying the remains of those lost at sea.

“There are currently 352 unidentified bodies and human remains that were located in different areas throughout New South Wales.

“DNA samples from the families of these missing fishermen will be compared against those remains and stored securely for future reference,” Det Insp Fenwick said.

“Even after all these years, we continue to recover remains along the coastline.

“That DNA will continue to be tested against these discoveries.

“This is not just about solving a case.

“It’s about recognising the lives lost and giving families the answers after nearly 80 years.

“We’re appealing to anyone who may be related to these men

– even distantly – to come forward and provide a DNA sample.”

Marine area commander Superintendent Joseph McNulty said: “While the circumstances surrounding the disappearance of the Joyce and the Syd remain unknown, we know the ocean can conceal evidence for many years.

“When remains are recovered, having DNA from family members already on file allows us to act quickly and accurately in identifying them.”

On board the Joyce were seven work colleagues from the Nielsen Slipper Factory in Woy Woy: Norman Eric Lester, 21, Brian Morris Parsons, 56, Robert Hayes, 30, Peter Proudfoot, 24, Berty Cyril Law, 37, Norman John Tolley, 25 and Arthur Bowyer, 41.

The “Syd” was carrying four people: Hugh Murray, 41, Cecil Aubrey Murray, 43, Neville Walters, 35, and Brian Murray, 14.

More information is available online at www.missingpersons.gov.au

SOURCE:
Social media, 3 Aug 2025
NSW Central Coast Incident Alerts

Multiple water main breaks repaired

Multiple water main breaks were reported to have occurred around Umina, Woy Woy and Booker Bay on Tuesday, July 29.

The council’s “water and service

interruptions” website page was offline at the time.

Water was restored to Booker Bay just after midday.

The water and service interruptions page had also been

restored by then.

Water had been restored to all locations by 4:20pm.

SOURCE:
Social media, 29 Jul 2025
Central Coast Council

A donation drive held in Ettalong for the Escabags charity in July has received donations of 92.82 kilograms of essential items.

The drive, held by Ettalong Diggers, has raised 20 kilograms more than the club’s previous drive.

“These donations will directly assist individuals and families escaping domestic and family violence, providing them with vital essentials during a time of crisis,” said Diggers community manager Ms Kim Cole.

“Escabags provides free, discreet Escape Bags filled with toiletries, personal care products, and comfort items for both adults and children.

“The response from our members, guests and the wider community has been nothing short of extraordinary,” she said.

“Every single donation represents a lifeline for someone in need, and we are so proud to work alongside Escabags to make a tangible difference.”

Ettalong Diggers is a registered stockist of Escabags,

“The club remains committed to supporting important community initiatives that promote safety, dignity, and hope,” said Ms Cole.

For more information, visit www.escabags.org or email info@escabags.org.

SOURCE:
Media release, 8 Jul 2025
Kim Cole, Ettalong Diggers

One goal, one passion — good food



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News



Pharmacy celebrates its renovations

Woy Woy Pharmacy will celebrate the completion of its renovation, with a week of special events this week.

“During this week (August 11 to 17), we will launch our new loyalty savings card, providing our customers with even more ways to save,” said retail manager Ms Stefanie Lindsay-Duncan.

*We will also have over \$1000 in prizes to give away including \$100 in store vouchers and family passes to Taronga Zoo.”

Ms Lindsay-Duncan said the renovation was prompted by the lease on the post office side of the store ending and “going back to Australia Post”.

“We started our store renovations at the beginning of the year,” she said.

“During the renovations we have continued to keep our doors open and serve our customers.

“The store completed its renovation in July.

*While our size may be smaller, our staff, pricing and wide range of products remain unchanged.”

Ms Lindsay-Duncan said the pharmacy had been a part of the local community for almost 20 years.

“Once known as Kuoch Chemist, we changed our name back to Woy Woy Pharmacy in 2023.

“Owners Salim and Shenouda Nathwani purchased the business in 2020.

“They have worked along side our dedicated long term staff such as Vicki, Amy, Sarah and Stefanie to ensure we have continued to provide the best service possible to our customers.”

SOURCE:
Media release, 6 Aug 2025
Stefanie Lindsay-Duncan,
Woy Woy Pharmacy

Frantastics hold concert in Woy Woy

The Frantastics Choir will hold a concert at 1pm on Monday, August 18, at the Walter Baker Hall on the corner of Blackwall Rd and Victoria Rd, Woy Woy.

Admission for \$10 includes afternoon tea.

For further information, phone Ms Catherine Broady on 0402 990 917.

SOURCE:
Social media, 29 Jun 2025
The Frantastics



Pearl Beach singers to have singalong

A musical afternoon and singalong with the Pearl Beach Singers will be held at 2pm on Saturday, August 23, at Pearl Beach Memorial Hall.

The singers have prepared a range of new songs for the concert.

Guests will include young performers from the musical Telvarajan family.

The Sing for Fun a capella choir

will also sing a version of Lollipop.

Originally a Glee Club which was formed in the 1950s to raise funds to complete the building of the Pearl Beach Memorial Hall and put on a number of “Grand Concerts”.

Local music lovers reformed a number of years ago as the Pearl Beach Singers and continue to meet regularly on Friday afternoons.

Proceeds from this concert will go toward the Memorial Hall upkeep and maintenance.

Bookings are recommended for tickets costing \$20 per person.

For further information, phone Pauline on 0411 752 834 or Margaret on 0401 968 947.

SOURCE:
Media release, 7 Aug 2025
Lynne Lillico, Pearl Beach Progress Association

Noticeboard - Public Notices

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NB stall sites not open until 6.30am
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The Troubadour
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Mal Webb & Kylie Morrigan
Traditional Graffiti
Everglades Club Woy Woy
Tickets \$20 members and \$25 non-members at www.troubadour.org.au
4342 6716



Man’s Bag collection for homeless men

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch is collecting “mini soaps, shampoos, toothpaste and other grooming essentials” for The Man’s Bag.

“When you’re sleeping rough some shampoo, razor and a toothbrush, can make all the difference to your outlook on life,” she said.

“I’ll be collecting for The Man’s Bag which assembles these feel-good packs and distributes them

to homeless men and youth,” Ms Tesch said.

“The Man’s Bag was started by Carole and Kelly McConnell in October last year for men and boys doing it tough.”

Ms McConnell said: “Having been actively involved with local charities, a concerning trend became apparent: many men experiencing hardship were being overlooked.

“These individuals, often forgotten and marginalised, deserve our attention, care, and

support,” she said.

“Recognising this gap, I decided to establish The Man’s Bag.”

Ms Tesch said The Man’s Bag especially appreciate donations of “minis” as they were lighter to pack and carry, as well as clear bottles that can be donated to correctional facilities.

Donations can be made at the Gosford Electorate Office, 71 Blackwood Rd, Woy Woy.

SOURCE:
Media release, 5 Aug 2025
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford

Indian restaurant wins national award

A Woy Woy Indian restaurant has won a national award as “best restaurant”.

Spices 29 Goan Indian Restaurant was named winner of the Best Restaurant Award in the Restaurant, Cafe and Bakery category at the Bx Business xCexcellence Awards 2025.

“This national recognition means the world to us,” said restaurant proprietor Mr Nelson Fernandes.

“It’s all thanks to our amazing team, our loyal customers, and the

community that supports us every day,” he said.

“From our kitchen to your table, every dish we serve is made with passion, quality, and heart.”

Mr Fernandes said: “We’re humbled and inspired to keep raising the bar for food, service, and experience.

“Here’s to more milestones, delicious moments, and shared celebrations.”

SOURCE:
Social media, 2 Aug 2025
Nelson Fernandes, Spices 29
Goan Indian Restaurant

Soup Kitchen event raises \$2000

The Older Women’s Network, Deepwater Branch has raised \$2000 through a Soup Kitchen Fundraiser held on Saturday, August 2.

The event was also held to highlight food insecurity in the Peninsula community, said branch secretary Ms Jennifer Brown.

Home-made chicken and vegetable and pumpkin soup, as well scones with jam and cream, were served to 60 guests including the Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch, she said.

Guests were treated to the Madeline Stephenson Tap Dance Troupe who got everyone in

the mood, followed by the Rare Treats Band who entertained with easy listening music which saw a number of people dancing in the aisle.

Guest speakers included Ettalong seniors’ centre chairman Mr John Gibbins, Community SOS co-ordinator Ms Fiona MacPhail, Ms. Bridget Duggan from Mary Mac’s Place, Woy Woy Community Food Pantry co-ordinator Mr David Bews and Mr Jason Millers from Meals-on-Wheels.

Ms Brown described the afternoon as “a huge success”.

SOURCE:
Media release, 6 Aug 2025
Jennifer Brown, Deepwater OWN



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Authorised by Liesl Tesch MP, 71 Blackwall Rd, Woy Woy NSW 2256. Funded using Parliamentary Entitlements.

Forum

Ever-increasing potholes a threat to lives and vehicles

The ever - increasing deplorable potholes in the total length of the Esplanade from Umina Beach to Ettalong Beach is a threat to lives and certainly to vehicles.

Duty of care by Central Coast Council is not being addressed.

How long do we have to put up with these hazards?

One would imagine all who live, and the welcome visitors who drive, in the Peninsula need to be more assertive when using the Esplanade than elsewhere on the Central Coast.

The council obviously has no positive ongoing preventative maintenance programmed, otherwise potholes would not be an issue.

This Council must still have "old" wood in "the wings" who are inefficient and non-cognitive to the needs of its ratepayers for pothole attention.

A positive manner from Council members towards ratepayers is a must.

SOURCE:
Email, 7 Aug 2025
Bob Welch, Ettalong Beach



How will growth and change be managed?

I refer to Cr J Smith's advertisement (PN 624) and her community workshop?

A community workshop can achieve positive results by focusing on the question: "How will growth and change be managed into the future?"

I believe this question has to be the highest priority of all questions

listed in the advertisement.

There is more than adequate community expertise on the Peninsula to objectively discuss this important matter.

A population increase of 60per cent in 10 years has already quashed any 20 year vision.

SOURCE:
Letter, 31 Jul 2025
Norm Harris, Umina

Woy Woy baths should not be left as it is

Woy Woy waterfront: a tourist paradise? Not likely!

It is a disgrace that, after two years of waiting for the Woy Woy waterfront development, this waterfront area still looks as dilapidated and unsafe as two years ago.

That this waterfront area is still looking like this photo is unbelievable.

This is the most popular tourist

spot in Woy Woy.

This area is where people meet, eat and relax.

Even though the Council now reports that the overall cost has blown out, this is not an excuse to leave this part of the waterfront at this stage.

Is this how Woy Woy residents want to welcome our locals and visitors?

Being proud of our lovely

waterways? We, the residents of the Peninsula, should be upset and ask the Central Coast Council to address the upgrade of this site, even if the redevelopment cost for the whole of the Woy Woy Waterfront has blown out.

To leave this area as is, is unacceptable.

SOURCE:
Email, 30 Jul 2025
Johanna Reygersberg, Woy Woy

Cost-of-living crisis needs immediate substantial action

As everyday Australians struggle to make ends meet, it's clear that our government must take decisive action to address the escalating cost of living crisis that is squeezing households across the nation.

From Sydney to Perth, families are making impossible choices between paying rent, buying groceries, or covering essential services.

Housing costs have skyrocketed, with rental prices increasing significantly in many

cities while wages have failed to keep pace.

The weekly grocery shop that once cost \$150 now stretches to \$200 or more, forcing many to choose between nutritious food and other necessities.

Energy bills continue to climb despite promises of relief, and the cost of childcare remains prohibitive for many working families.

The government's current measures, while welcome, are insufficient to address the scale of this crisis.

We need comprehensive reform

that includes:

1. Immediate rent relief measures and increased social housing construction to ease the housing shortage that's driving up costs for everyone, helping to stabilize the rental market and provide affordable options for low-income families.

2. A genuine review of energy market regulation to ensure fair pricing and increased investment in renewable energy infrastructure, which will reduce long-term costs while supporting environmental sustainability goals.

3. Substantial childcare

subsidies to help working families manage expenses and boost workforce participation, enabling more parents to enter or remain in the workforce while ensuring quality care for children.

4. Tax reform addressing negative gearing and capital gains concessions that currently inflate property prices, creating a more equitable system that doesn't disadvantage first-time buyers and renters.

This isn't about political ideology. It's about ensuring that hard-working Australians can afford the basic necessities of life

in one of the world's wealthiest nations.

The longer we delay meaningful action, the deeper this crisis becomes and the more difficult it will be to resolve.

The cost of living crisis isn't a future problem.

It's happening now, and it demands immediate, substantial action.

We need bold leadership and comprehensive solutions that address the root causes of this crisis, not just its symptoms.

SOURCE:
Email, 1 Aug 2025
Mitchell Gordon, Gosford

The long silent bureaucratic battle over north points

Ever had one of those long silent battles with bureaucracy that just seem to go on for ever?

Years go by. Governments change. Your kids grow up, leave home, come back for the cheap rent.

And still the "deep state" that is local government keeps on believing something that is so obviously wrong that it drives you crazy.

This is what has been happening, for the last few years, on the Peninsula.

You see the Peninsula has its very own North Point. I call it "Woy Woy North".

There's True North, Magnetic North, Map Grid Australia (MGA) and on the Peninsula – "Woy Woy North".

I can only assume that whenever

the streets in the Peninsula were first laid out the surveyor who did the work was a bit of a rebel.

Instead of using magnetic north to lay out the streets he decided to use a slightly different direction about 7.2 degrees clockwise from true north.

You can see this phenomenon for yourself by looking at the Peninsula on Google maps.

Don't get me wrong. It was a perfectly legitimate thing to do in those days as long as you labelled it MM (Magnetic Meridian) which our surveyor did.

He also drew a large ornamental arrow facing in that direction on his plans, which are preserved in the land registry office.

The arrow is labelled MM but a lot of people just see the big beautiful arrow and assume it's pointing north.

Many of these people are designers, who draw up plans for buildings with a north point that isn't actually pointing north.

It's pretty obvious, at least to someone who's not a council planner, that this is an example of the dreaded Woy Woy North.

The number of cases where the drawings for a development application use Woy Woy North has been substantial.

Over the years, I've tried telling council planning staff about this.

One council planner even told me that the 7.2 degree difference was due to "magnetic deviation".

An incorrect north point gives you incorrect shadow diagrams.

Although 7.2 degrees doesn't sound like much it can make a 30-minute difference to the accuracy of shadow diagrams.

A shadow labelled 12:00pm is

really 11:30am.

One of these cases went through numerous appeals, and even through the secret squirrel rubber stamp approval process that's laughingly called a conciliation conference at the Lands and Environment Court.

Apparently the "experts" swore that there was "no problem" with the drawings.

Then something happened that made me snap.

Not just one but two applications went through public exhibition on the council planning portal and into assessment with shadow diagrams that were so wrong that one of them couldn't have been any more wrong if they tried.

It had an upside down North Point.

The other one had a correct North Point but had somehow

managed to get the shadows 90 degrees out.

So then I did what I should have done years ago.

I raised a service request with Central Coast Council asking general manager Mr David Farmer to please, please fix it.

To my surprise, I got a nice reply back a few days later from a helpful sounding person in the council saying that "I have informed the section manager of development services who will flag this with the development planners who are conducting the pre-development reviews".

So after all this time, could this spell the end of the dreaded Woy Woy North?

It's a huge feeling of relief.

Mind you, I'll be watching.

SOURCE:
Email, 10 Aug 2025
Frank Wiffen, Woy Woy



Nominated for national aged care award

An aged care worker at a Umina aged care facility has been nominated for a national award.

Peninsula Village announced the nomination of Ms Sonia Daniel to coincide with Aged Care Employee Day on Thursday, August 7.

"Being nominated by my peers meant so much," she said.

"It made me feel really seen and supported.

"Sometimes it's a bit chaotic and there's a lot going on," she said.

"But then a resident will hold my hand at the end and say: 'You made my day.'

"That's what makes it so worthwhile."

Ms Daniel worked for more than 10 years in the kitchen at Peninsula Villages.

"It was a good job and I liked it, but I felt ready for a change," she

said.

"I kept seeing others come in with new energy and thought, maybe I can do that too."

She enrolled in an in-house traineeship to become a care partner.

After 12 months working as a care partner, Sonia discovered her passion lay in creating moments of joy, connection and purpose through "Leisure and Lifestyle", providing programs from music and art workshops to group outings and themed events.

She completed a Certificate IV in Leisure and Health last year.

For those thinking about aged care, Ms Daniel said: "If you care about people and want to make a difference in their lives, it's one of the most rewarding jobs you can do."

SOURCE:

Media release, 29 Jul 2025
Tessa Little, Brilliant Logic

Wet weather sees spate of accidents

The recent wet weather has seen a spate of motor vehicle accidents around the Peninsula.

Two children were taken to Gosford Hospital after a collision between their scooters and a car on Tuesday, August 5.

The collision occurred on Hobart Ave, near Melbourne Ave, with traffic affected in both directions.

The previous day, Monday, August 4, saw southbound traffic queued back on Woy Woy Rd after a vehicle crash.

Emergency services responded.

No serious injuries were reported and the roadway was cleared.

Police and ambulance crews attended the scene of a two-car

crash at the intersection of Ocean Beach Rd and Australia Ave, Umina, on Saturday, August 2.

"Possible minor injuries only" were reported.

A person was reported trapped in a car in a multi vehicle crash on Blackwall Rd, Woy Woy, near Park Rd and Bowden Rd, on Wednesday, July 30.

The road was closed northbound, with diversions put in place along Bowden Rd, Edward St and Victoria Rd.

The person was released from the vehicle into the care of NSW Ambulance.

Two patients were transported to hospital.

SOURCE:

Social media, 5 Aug 2025
NSW Central Coast Incident Alerts

End in sight to building work

Building work at a Woy Woy aged care home continues to progress well, according to its chief executive.

Work at Blue Wave Living is on target for completion by mid-October, said chief executive Mr Matt Downie.

"The certification process will take a further two to three weeks following that.

"While we had hoped to deliver part of the current stage of works a little early, this now seems unlikely

due to a delay in the delivery of some finishing elements.

"However, we do still aim to open up most of the new Palm Sails courtyard early, once completed.

"We expect this should occur by early September.

"This current stage of the building works is exciting in that it finally joins our two buildings together as one," Mr Downie said.

He said this provided a central linkage improving access and movement though the facility as a

whole, along with delivering some more new spaces.

"This includes a new hair salon, a private library-sitting room space, a dedicated physio room, and the balance of the Driftwood Household.

"There will also be a new larger laundry built, along with other key staff offices and spaces, including a new staff room."

SOURCE:

Newsletter, 31 Jul 2025
Matt Downie, Blue Wave Living

Aged care home selected for Maggie Beer program

A Woy Woy aged care home has been selected to participate in the Maggie Beer Foundation trainer mentor program running through to September.

The program at BlueWave Living includes a menu appraisal, which involves collecting feedback from our staff, residents and families through the Flinders Food Satisfaction questionnaire.

"The insights gathered will help tailor the program to best meet the needs and preferences of our residents," said chief executive Mr Matt Downie.

Survey links were emailed to families and supporters early in July.

SOURCE:

Newsletter, 31 Jul 2025
Matt Downie, BlueWave Living



Joey Scouts to hold 'bring-a-friend' night

Joey Scouts at 1st Woy Woy Sea Scouts have held a science night about energy "with lots of experiments".

Tonight, they are having a "bring-a-friend" night.

Joey Scouts are open to children aged between five and seven years old and at school.

The group aims to "give them a life time of adventure and teach them life skills".

The group meets tonight from 5:15pm to 6:15 pm at 1st Woy Woy Sea Scout Hall, at 2 North Burge Rd, Woy Woy.

SOURCE:

Social media, 5 Aug 2025
1st Woy Woy Sea Scouts

Rotary club seeks new members

The Rotary Club of Brisbane Water is seeking new members.

The group, which started in 2019, is keen to welcome fresh faces and new perspectives to help tackle the growing needs of the area, according to membership director Mr Mitchell Gordon.

"We're at an exciting juncture where we have the opportunity to significantly increase our impact.

"With more hands on deck, we can take on larger projects and reach more people who need our support.

"Rotary Brisbane Water has built a strong reputation for its diverse range of community initiatives, from supporting local schools and youth programs to organising fundraising events for charitable causes.

"The club's members regularly volunteer their time and skills for projects that make a tangible difference to local residents.

"The organisation is particularly interested in attracting members



from various professional backgrounds and age groups, recognising that diversity strengthens their ability to address community challenges effectively," he said.

"Whether you're a recent graduate looking to give back, a seasoned professional wanting to share your expertise, or someone simply passionate about making a positive difference, there's a place for you in Rotary.

"For those interested in learning more about joining Rotary Brisbane Water, the club welcomes

prospective members to attend a meeting as guests.

"This provides an excellent opportunity to meet current members, learn about ongoing projects, and discover how your particular skills and interests might contribute to the charity's mission."

Anyone interested in joining Rotary Brisbane Water or learning more about their work should call Mr Gordon on 0402 588 867.

SOURCE:

Media release, 2 Aug 2025
Mitchell Gordon, Rotary Brisbane Water

Education



Campus holds Girls Get Active gala day

Female students from Years 7-10 at Umina campus of Brisbane Water Secondary College participated in a Girls Get Active Gala Day with basketball, football,

pilates and yoga, gym and floorball sessions last week.

The aim was to learn new skills and develop confidence in a non-competitive setting.

The sessions were conducted

with expert coaches and included question and answer sessions with female athletes and other sports experts.

SOURCE:
Social media, 6 Aug 2025
BWSC Umina



Pyjama Day fills two trucks

The Pyjama Day Winter Appeal at St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School has produced two truckloads of donations.

Students wore their favourite warm pyjamas to school and, instead of gold coins, donated food, clothing and toiletry items for the St Vincent De Paul Winter Appeal.

School principal Ms Nicole Davies said the “generosity was

the highest ever”.

“We filled two truckloads with donations.

“The minute the St Vincent De Paul team started unloading their truck they were able to start immediately giving out clothing and food to people and families in need in our community.”

SOURCE:
Social media, 6 Aug 2025
SJB Catholic Primary
School Woy Woy

Exceeding national averages

Umina Beach Public School has exceeded the national average results in both Year 3 and Year 5 subjects.

The Year 3 school results were above the national average in reading, writing, numeracy, spelling, and grammar and punctuation in the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy tests.

The Year 5 were above the national average in writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, while meeting the national average in reading.

This national average includes all schools, including private and independent schools across Australia.

SOURCE:
Social media, 29 Jul 2025
Umina Beach Public School

Matt Barr to serve as relieving director

Woy Woy South Public School principal Mr Matt Barr will serve as relieving Director, Education Leadership, for the Tuggerah Lakes Network of Schools for six weeks from Monday, August 18.

“I am very fortunate to have been offered the opportunity,” he said.

In his absence, Ms Sandra Lappan will be relieving principal and Ms Phillipa King will be relieving deputy principal.

In other staff news, Ms Michelle Reid received a Regional North Public Education Award at the end of Term 2.

“The prestigious award is in recognition of her tireless, ongoing commitment to curriculum leadership,” said Mr Barr.

“This is especially impressive, as only three teachers from the entire Central Coast area received this award.”

He said another staff member, Ms Natalie Dwyer, would receive a



World Teacher’s Day award, at a prestation ceremony in October.

“Ms Dwyer is a highly collegial, flexible staff member who gives up hours of her personal time for the organisation of Aboriginal Education programs and IT support,” he said.

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 5 Aug 2025
Matt Barr, Woy Woy
South Public School



Mobile dental service at Ettalong school

The Primary School Mobile Dental Van will be at Ettalong Public School until Thursday, August 14.

The van will be providing free dental check-ups to students who have signed up for the program.

“Our goal is to ensure that all students have access to essential dental care and maintain their oral health,” said school principal Ms

Jodie Campbell.

“If you haven’t yet completed the consent form for your child, please

do so as soon as possible to ensure they can take advantage of this service.

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 29 Jul 2025
Jodie Campbell, Ettalong
Public School

Chosen for Minister’s Award for Excellence

Brisbane Water Secondary College Woy Woy campus student Esteban Cervera has been presented with the Minister’s Award for Excellence in Student Achievement in the NSW Public Education Awards.

The award was for “outstanding achievements, integrity and dedication to his studies”, said campus principal Ms Rebecca Cooper.

“He is hardworking and focused.”

The citation stated: “Esteban excels in hospitality, public

speaking and entrepreneurship.

“As an active and influential member of our school community, he co-founded a successful artisan biscuit business, expanding it from a small team to a thriving enterprise serving both school and community events.

“He has shown initiative by leading operations at the school’s industry training cafe and has represented the school at high-profile functions.”

Esteban received his award from Education Department Secretary Mr Murat Dizdar.

SOURCE:
Social media, 5 Aug 2025
BWSC Woy Woy



Inaugural Futures Academy athletes chosen

Six students have been chosen from each of the five primary schools in the Brisbane Water Learning Community as its inaugural Futures Academy athletes.

The students were chosen from each of Woy Woy South, Ettalong, Woy Woy, Umina Beach and

Empire Bay.

Only the first names of the students have been announced.

The students were selected after a series of talent identification sessions.

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 5 Aug 2025
Woy Woy South Public School



State Rotary award for surf drone specialist

Umina Surf Life Saving Club's drone specialist Mr Dean Tetley has been named the 2025 Surf Life Saving NSW Officer of the Year at the Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards.

Mr Tetley has been recognised for his outstanding contribution to "Uncrewed Aerial Vehicle" operations over the past year; not just at Umina, but across the Central Coast.

"He has pioneered training programs, developed Standard Operating Procedures including detailed flight maps for the entire Central Coast coastline, introduced the inaugural Central Coast Branch UAV Championships, and mentored a new generation of UAV operators.

"We are so proud and grateful to have him leading the way."

SOURCE:
Social media, 3 Aug 2025
Umina Surf Life Saving Club



Netball team wins knockout game

The Brisbane Water Secondary College Umina campus netball team has won its Round Two Debra Hansen Cup knockout game.

The game was played on Thursday, July 31, against

Cheltenham Girls High School.

Their teamwork and persistence on the court paid off and they came away with a well-46-24 win.

SOURCE:
Social media, 31 Jul 2025
BWSC Umina



Surf club to row for 24 hours

Umina Surf Life Saving Club is participating in the 24-hour Gotcha4Life Row.

The event is supported by surf clubs all across Australia, who will row for 24 hours to raise funds for Gotcha4Life and their mission of a suicide-free future.

The row will be held from September 13 to September 14.

The club is currently both raising funds and recruiting a rowing team.

Further information is available online at <http://penne.ws/zqXHJz>.

SOURCE:
Social media, 29 Jul 2025
Umina Surf Life Saving Club

Touch team wins way to next round

EDWoy Woy South Public School's Boys Touch Football team won its round of Primary School Sports

Association knockout competition on Tuesday, July 29.

The team defeated Avoca Beach Public School, 4-1, and

qualified to progress to the next round of the competition.

SOURCE:
Social media, 30 Jul 2025
Woy Woy South Public School

WHAT'S ON at ETTALONG BOWLING CLUB

Shout out to all Ettalong Bowling Club members... One lucky member will have the chance to WIN a \$5,000 Travel Gift Voucher from Flight Centre.

We already have two very happy members who have each won a \$5K Voucher. See our friendly staff for more details on how to enter this fabulous competition for the chance to win a holiday of a lifetime.

Drawn Friday 29th August at 8pm.won

Members "Tooheys Schooner Hour" and "Wine Time" promotions now available from 4pm – 6pm every weekday and 3pm – 5pm on weekends.

Each month we will be offering a discounted "Wine Time" Vino for only \$4.00 & a Cold Tooheys Schooner for only \$5.00.

EBC is located in the heart of the Peninsula offering family friendly atmosphere and great value food from the Alfresco Brasserie, Harrys Restaurant and the Green Café. Raffles every Thursday, Friday Saturday & Sunday. Stay to enjoy live entertainment every weekend.

Check out our new Club Website or download our Club App to keep up to date on the latest news and information.



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

Win a \$5K Travel Voucher

3 X \$5K VOUCHERS TO GIVEAWAY!

PROMOTION STARTS: SUNDAY 1ST JUNE 2025

DRAW DATES:

Friday 27th June - 8pm Friday 25th July - 8pm Friday 29th August - 8pm

ENTRY CONDITIONS:

Ticket entry with any \$30 spend in venue

Bonus Entry with any purchase of the below participating brands

THE BEST-KEPT SECRET ON THE CENTRAL COAST

Sport



Funds wanted to send players to West Ham camp

Southern and Ettalong United Football Club is raising funds to send 13 young soccer players to the West Ham National Camp to be held in Queensland in September.

Players selected are Joshua McCrone, Jerwin Conta, Levi Volk, Cahane Jamieson, Toby Way, Magnus Mykas, Tom Turnbull, Joey Abi Tamer, Kydin Hamilton Naylor, Broden Preston, Brax Wester, Ellen Roozendaal and

Cody Hooper.

“This is a huge achievement for the kids,” said club president Ms Stevie Skene.

“But we need our football family behind us to help get them there.

“Funds raised will go towards paying for the camp and travel costs to ensure every player gets the chance to shine.”

For further information, email president@seufc.com.

SOURCE:
Social media, 30 Jul 2025
Stevie Skene, SEUFC



Women’s golf team keeps pennant shield

The Everglades Women’s Golf Pennant team has the 2025 District Pennant Shield for a second year in a row with an undefeated run of seven from seven matches.

The team consisted of captain Cathy Bowman, vice-captain

Lorraine George, and Ann Kane, Linda Birrell, Heather Burrett, Gayle Colley, Georgie Clune, Lorraine Linnert, Lyn McMurray, Trish Melnik, Donna Mitchell, Sylvia Saunders and Jan Titmuss.

Celebrations began with a team dinner at the Everglades Nine

Restaurant on July 7.

It continued at an official district ceremony on July 21 at The Breakers Club, where all eight district teams gathered for the award presentation.

SOURCE:
Social media, 29 Jul 2025
Everglades Country Club

Kim wins referee medal for third time

Peninsula Touch Association member Kim Skelly has won the Ian Matthew Medal for the third year in a row.

The medal is presented to the NSW Referee of the Year.

Here are some of Kim’s achievements throughout the year:

Through the year, Kim was ranked No.1 referee and was appointed to Men’s Premier League final at Vawdon Cup and to the Men’s Open Final at State Cup.

He was appointed to the Men’s Open series at Trans Tasman and to the Men’s Open series at State of Origin.

SOURCE:
Social media, 31 Jul 2025
Peninsula Touch Association



Ocean Beach member at World Games

Ocean Beach Surf Life Saving Club life member Mr Dave Thompson has been attending his 5th World Games in Chengdu, China, from August 4 to 11.

Mr Thompson is the International Lifesaving sport commissioner and chair of the International Lifesaving Sport Commission.

He has led the planning

and delivery of the lifesaving competition and has been working with the Chinese Local Organising Committee and the International World Games Association over the last 18 months.

The lifesaving competition will be conducted in a new pool facility which has been constructed in a university 20kms outside of Chengdu.

There will be 150 athletes

competing from countries including Australia, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Hungary, Japan, Poland and Belgium.

Mr Thompson has attended four World Games previously in various roles including chief referee, event director and competition manager.

SOURCE:
Social media, 6 Aug 2025
Ocean Beach SLSC

Major Singles rescheduled

Umina Beach Women’s Bowling Club has had to rescheduled games in its Major Singles competition.

The semi final between Meena Kelso and Carol Boyd will be played on Friday, August 15.

Kerry Yates defeated Cheryl Ryan and Meena Kelso defeated Gay Foulkes on Friday, August 8.

“Both matches were very close,” commented website editor Ms Lesley Swales.

“The match on Saturday, August 9, between Lauren Ford and Cheryl Catchpool has again had to be cancelled due to the weather.

“This match has now been scheduled for next Saturday morning, August 16.”

SOURCE:
Social media, 9 Aug 2025
Lesley Swales, UBWC



State Singles final

Umina Beach Bowling Club bowler Jayden Moody made the Section 4 Final of the 2025-2026 State Singles Championship.

After receiving a forfeit in round 1, Jayden defeated Cory Pope of Bateau Bay 25-17 in the second round, then defeated Mark Cummings of Bateau Bay 25-17 in the third round.

Both Cory and Mark were playing on their home green.

Jayden then played against J Beard of The Entrance in the Section 4 Final and was just defeated 25-22 in a tight game.

SOURCE:
Social media, 28 Jul 2025
Peter Springett, UBMBC



Charity bowls day

The monthly charity bowls day was held at Ettalong Bowling Club on Sunday, July 27, with 44 bowlers attending.

It was an enjoyable morning on the greens, followed by a fund-raising raffle and a barbecue lunch, said organiser Mr John Orme.

The spider winner was Ron Keenan, his first spider win.

Lucky rink was won by Phil McWhirter, Steve Whitehead and

Tony Manson.

In the raffle Julie Vale was a prolific winner and the Wednesday bowlers prize was won by Whiti Eriwati.

A total of \$925.00 was raised for Central Coast Kids in Need.

The charity bowls day will be held on Sunday, August 17, and is open to bowlers and non bowlers alike.

SOURCE:
Media release, 1 Aug 2025
John Orme, Ettalong Charity Bowls