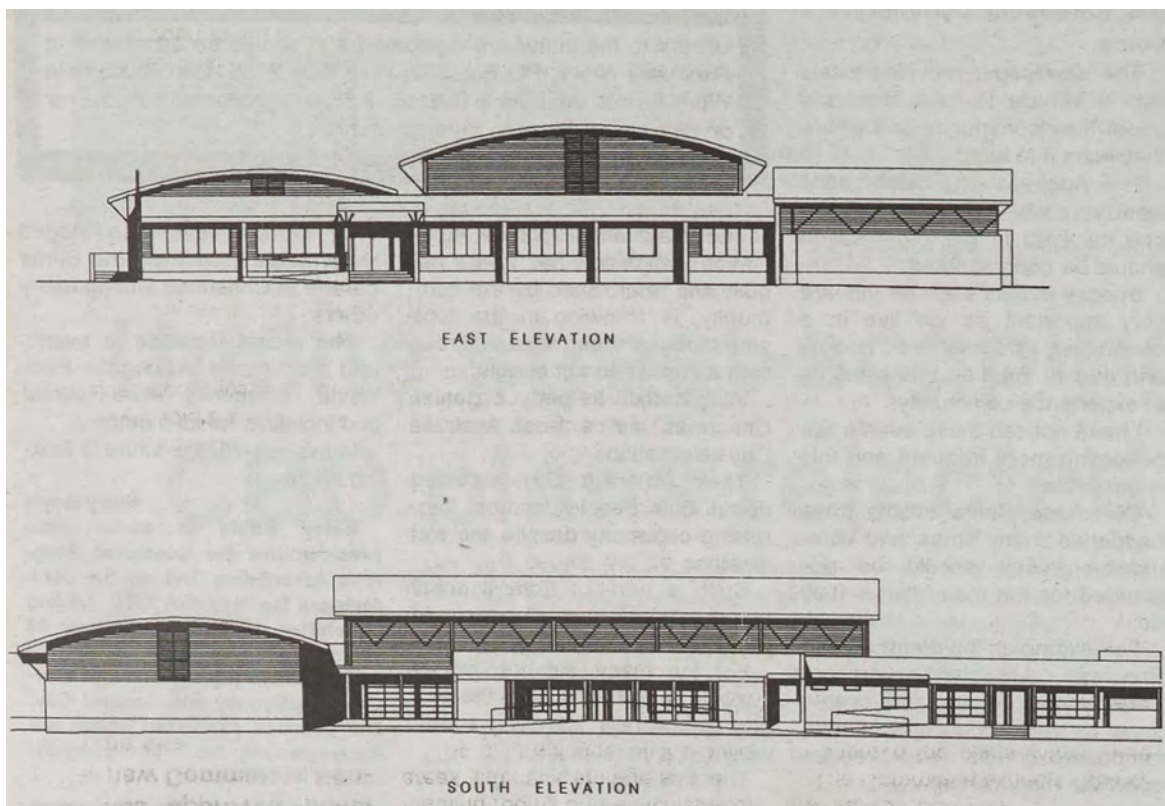




Community Centre and Theatre plan approved

The Committee established to refurbish or replace the existing Woy Woy Community Centre in McMaster's Road has approved plans for the new Community Centre on the site.

Committee member Cr Lynne Bockholt said: "The new Community Centre is a tremendous step forward for the Peninsula and will cater for all existing users, except basketball.

"Basketball will re-locate to the new aquatic and leisure centre, which is being designed for the wet and dry facility to be built at the Woy Woy Pool site.

Cr Bockholt said the new centre will provide more activities than the old.

"The very modern design of the new Community Centre, means that there will be more space for everybody to enjoy the activities," she said.

"Unlike the existing centre, there will be no wasted space.

"The large auditorium can be used by a variety of cultural and community groups and will be much more user friendly than the old basketball court in the existing building." She said there

were separate areas for childcare, judo, the dance studio, School for Seniors and The Web, as well as various meeting rooms and administration areas and more storage space.

"The external view of the building is brilliant, with the curved roof bringing a new standard of public building to the Peninsula.

This brings us in line with other areas which have modern up-to-date facilities.

The new centre will be built in the existing carpark, and the existing centre will be demolished when the new centre is complete.

"The Woy Woy Little Theatre has been designed by the same architect and will complement the Community Centre in its proposed location at the rear of the site," said Cr Bockholt.

The theatre will have seating space for over 100 people and will be available for community and school use, as well as being used by Woy Woy Little Theatre and other theatre groups.

"Plans will be lodged with Council in the next few

days and I expect they will go on public exhibition at both Woy Woy and Umina libraries within the

next few weeks.

"This will give everyone the opportunity to look at the plans and make comments on both the Theatre and the Community Centre" said Cr Bockholt.

The Committee expects Council to approve the plans within three months.

"After this the tender process will commence.

"We hope to start building by September and finish by mid 2001.

"This is the culmination of over two years work by the Committee whose job it was to decide whether to upgrade the old building or elect to build from scratch.

"Everyone on the Committee has put heart and soul into the process and I think we can all be very proud of what will happen on the site" said Cr Bockholt "It's a very exciting time to be living on the Peninsula.

"I am now going to turn my attention to the preliminary designs for the upgrade of Woy Woy pool and the establishment of the sports centre and the basketball courts which will go on this site.

These will then be presented to the Council and community."

Lynne Bockholt, February 14



Part of the Bays area targeted for a development control plan

Development plan requested for Bays

Councillor Lynne Bockholt has requested a development control plan (DCP) be prepared for the Peninsula Bays area as quickly as possible after being approached by the Bays Progress Association.

The Bays area includes Woy Woy Bay, Horsfield Bay and Phegans Bay.

Cr Bockholt said she was concerned about building trends in the area.

"Along with residents I am concerned that the present small scale development is being overtaken by massive dwellings, especially along the waterfront," she said.

"I have seen the results of this kind of development in other areas and do not wish the Bays to

become yet another development bonanza.

"The area is very pleasant as it is at present and many people move there to enjoy the peace and quiet.

"There is great concern that much will be lost in the present property boom and I am determined to ensure that this does not happen." Cr Bockholt said she does not understand why some people are attracted to an area for the way of life it offers, buy a property and then build something inappropriate to the area.

"I am sure Council will support my proposal to establish a DCP as soon as possible, as councillors are only too aware that inappropriate development or overdevelopment have the potential to wreck a lovely area like the Bays area," she said.

Death and drugs renews call for mobile coverage

The recent tragic death of a young boy in a boating accident and a cocaine haul in a separate incident at Patonga have prompted renewed calls for the urgent need for mobile phone coverage in the area from Member for Robertson, Mr Jim Lloyd.

"The Patonga community has been campaigning, without success, for the provision of mobile phone reception since the township was completely isolated by the 1994 bushfires," he said.

"This terrible tragedy serves as a reminder of the importance of having immediate access to communications facilities, such as mobile phone reception, in the

event of an emergency.

"As their Federal Member, I raised these concerns in Parliament in March, 1999.

"I also made direct representations to both Telstra and Vodafone seeking their assistance." Mr Lloyd also pointed to the "farce", according to local residents, created by the \$100 million worth of cocaine being seized recently at Patonga, which resulted in Federal Police and media attempting to use the local shop and residents' telephones.

Mr Lloyd said a survey to the households of Patonga on the issue showed an overwhelming response in favour of coverage.

"I will continue to pursue the matter," said Mr Lloyd.

Jim Lloyd

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Peninsula

COMMUNITY ACCESS

News

Postage Paid Australia

Welcome to the twelfth edition of your community newspaper.

Many have said that it can't be done and the paper won't survive over the first few months of our existence, yet here we are having completed a year and going from strength to strength.

The community has continued to show its support for the paper by providing more information every month, and advertisers are becoming more and more interested with many now seeing the long term future of the publication.

For example, Ettalong Marilets have realised the importance of communicating regularly with their core marilet by continuing to concentrate on bringing their message to Peninsula residents.

The Ettalong Beach Memorial Club continues to do so as well, with over 1 000 copies of the paper being distributed to club members and their guests in the first few weeks of publication each month.

After twelve months of circulation, the Peninsula News is finally being seen by most Peninsula residents and businesses as the best method of communication with Peninsula residents.

Submissions

While we continue to receive a great deal of information from a wide variety of sources, it is probably timely to remind all readers and community groups that we will be pleased to receive more material.

Our What's On segment always strives to be as complete as possible.

We are always looking for more wedding photos, special birthday news and special anniversary information.

Community groups of all descriptions are encouraged to tell us more about their activities.

Sporting bodies need to let us know their results, successes, failures and competition tables.

The ultimate aim of Peninsula News is to have every tidbit of Peninsula based information available for every Peninsula resident to have access to.

Contributors

We are pleased to welcome Jennifer Davis as our environment reporter.

Jennifer has recently completed a Bachelor of Science Degree and is keen to help be our watchdog on environmental affairs.

We also welcome Eileen Canas as our latest helper on the administrative side.

We hope to see a great deal more of her.

Association News

Peninsula Community Access Newspaper Inc. continues to be a community based non profit association.

Elsewhere in this edition, the role of the Association is spelled out and members of the public are encouraged to join as a member of the association.

If they wish to become more involved in the proprietorship of the paper, they are also welcome to fill committee positions.

Recent committee meetings have seen two neW members come forth to add their advice to proceedings.

They are John Oakley and Matthew Wales and their support is welcome.

The Association will hold its Annual General meeting on March 15.

Current contributors Matthew Wales, Elizabeth Tansley, Eric Shackle, Therese Pientka, John Oakley, Stephen McNamara, Jim Lloyd, Jennifer Davis, Bemard Craft, Joan Chippendale, Eileen Cannas, Karen Booth, Lynne Bockholt, Marie Andrews.

Committee Christine Surge, Carolyn Carter, David Fitzgerald, Mark Snell, Cart Spears, Michael Walls

Next edition

Issue 13	Deadline	March 15
Publication date		March 21

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Legal responsibility for editing, printing and publishing. and election comment in Peninsula News is taken by Carl Spears of McMasters Road, Woy Woy, for Peninsula Community Access Newspaper Inc.

We get four rubbish pick-ups

As a councillor, resident and probably a rate payer, Cr Debra Wales really should be aware that in our area there is no annual rubbish pick up, as she describes in issue 11 of Peninsula News.

She would appear foolish to approach the Council to review the policy of such an annual pick up.

We are entitled to four rubbish pick-ups per year, after phoning. the garbage contractors and making arrangements.

She really needs to be more aware of what is going on In our Pen insula community if she is to represent us.

M.Halton
Umina Beach

Unity in community grows

Firstly, let me congratulate Peninsula News for giving the Peninsula community a voice.

The newspaper provides locals with a vehicle to have their say about their community and where they want it to head.

The Australia Day celebrations went very well indeed and everyone involved in the organisation should be congratulated.

Special events such as this are very important as we live in a sometimes fragmented society and events such as this allow us to experience community.

I have noticed these events are becoming more frequent and this is desirable.

Of course, some events have happened many times and community groups should be applauded for the many things they do.

For example, the Pearl Beach Progress Association orchestrates many groups and events such as beautification schemes , Landcare groups and regular events in the local hall.

Community Forum

Letters to the editor are welcomed and should be addressed to Peninsula News, PO Box 532 Woy Woy 2256. Contributions in Word format sent via e-mail to pennews@ozemail.com.au or on disk save us having to retype them

The Wagstaffe Progress Association , which now has a new hall built and refurbished by the community, is following in the footsteps of the Pearl Beach group with a succession of events.

Wagstaffe helped organise Christmas and a local Australia Day celebrations.

Their Australia Day attracted about 300 people for the nagraising ceremony despite the wet weather.

Such a turn-out from a small community enables all people to feel part of a community.

For too many, life consists of living in a box, watching the box and occasionally travelling somewhere in a metal box.

The Ettalong, Umina and Woy Woy groups have also staged

many events, such as the Santa parade at Christmas among many others.

The recent increase in events and meetings is making the Peninsula community more vibrant and inclusive for its members.

In this regard, the future is looking bright.

Harry Boyle

Harry Boyle is senior vice president for the Combined Progress Association and on the committee of the Woy Woy CBD building committee.

Harry has had over 50 years experience in local council and community groups both in Warriin Sydney and Gosford City.

The opinions expressed above are not necessarily those of the organisations he belongs to.

Arthritis sufferers look to pennywort

A pennywort craze is sweeping the Peninsula, where dozens of arthritis sufferers are growing the humble "arthritis plant" in their gardens.

After chewing two to seven small leaves a day for at least a month, many claim it has eased, or even banished, their pains.

This is a vital development which should interest everyone, since about half the population

suffers or will suffer from arthritis.

There is no cure for this most common complaint that doctors are called-on to treat and it can strike at any age.

There's nothing new about pennywort (botanical name, Centella asiatica).

Under a third name, gotu kola, it has been used for thousands of years in China, India, Pakistan, Malaysia and parts of eastern Europe.

It has been used to promote

longevity, as a traditional blood cleanser and diuretic, and to treat leprosy and tuberculosis.

Traditional Chinese -medicinal authorities agree that gotu kola promotes longevity, calling it "the fountain of youth".

For more information on pennywort, which has just been published on the Internet at http://www.riverhouse.com.au/factsheets/pennywort_eric.html

Eric Shackle, February 1

Peninsula News rates highly with resident

The arrival of a new year and perhaps, particularly this year, seems to result in making evaluations, ranging from personal ones, to local, state and world-wide happenings.

There's always a lot of personal soul-searching, together with negative and possible feelings about outside matters.

Last year resulted in the launching of your newspaper, an event, which to me rates highly on the positive scale for local matters.

I am a subscriber and, funny enough, don't receive my copy until a day or so after copies appear in our local store, and it is surprising how impatient I am until my Peninsula News arrives in the letterbox.

If good things come in small parcels, the Peninsula News is a perfect example.

It is loaded with news, contrives to cover each subject both concisely and interestingly and does not rely on sensationalism.

It is spoken of a lot in my area,

and always positively.

I look forward to Jeannie Lawson's articles on environmental matters, to the local history articles, the comments from councillors and appreciate the encouragement it offers to anyone who wants to air a subject which to them is of importance.

It has by focussing on the Peninsula, recognised its importance in Gosford City.

I look forward to another year of finding it waiting in my letterbox.

Mary Hawthorne
Pearl Beach

PENINSULA NEWS COMPETITION

Oxford University Press is giving away copies of the Australian Oxford Dictionary in its 'Back to School Competition' for 2000.

Peninsula residents have a chance to win a copy by simply answering three questions correctly on the back of an envelope with your name and contact details and posting it to PO Box 532, Woy Woy, NSW 2256.

The first correct entry drawn will win an Australian Oxford Dictionary valued at \$79.95. Second prize is the Australian Pocket Oxford Dictionary valued at \$24.95 and third prize is the Australian Paperback Dictionary valued at \$18.95.

The three questions are:

A. What is a bushwhacker?

B. What happens during an equinox?

C. Who are the glitterati?

Competition closes March 15.



Umina CBO raised crossings - part of the reason for rejection of the committee's recommendations

Umina Beach businesses and community representatives have rejected a streetscaping plan for Umina proposed by the Umina Beach CBD Building Committee.

A public meeting on February 2 convened by Gosford Council and chaired by mayor Cr Chris Holstein voted against the plan.

The meeting was called by the council after the Peninsula Chamber of Commerce raised concerns about the proposal for five additional raised pedestrian crossings and kerb blisters in the town.

"The Chamber of Commerce has been fighting for the last two years to have this controversial plan reviewed," said Chamber president Mr Matthew Wales.

"As a result of the overwhelming vote, the upgrade plan will go back to Council for a full review so as to ensure that the upgrading works in the Umina Beach business centre have the full support of the community.

"Eighty percent of those who attended the meeting rejected the plan.

"One of the major items of concern to the Chamber was the inability of large trucks and buses

to negotiate the proposed kerb blisters and raised thresholds in order to serve the supermarkets and shops in the main street.

"These trucks would be crossing over onto oncoming traffic lanes in both the main street and the side street in an attempt to negotiate the turn.

"We already have traffic and pedestrian chaos in West Street as a result of works carried out in 1996.

"The business community has had enough," he said.

Mr Wales said that the Chamber has consistently taken the position over the last two years that an independent planning consultant should be engaged.

This person should prepare a master plan for the Umina Beach business centre that takes into consideration the long term requirements of the town and the changing demographics of the area.

"We will continue to work with and encourage Gosford Council to allocate funds from its Financial Strategy budget for the required planning study," he said.

"This has already been undertaken with other town centres such as Woy Woy, Gosford and Terrigal.

"We see no reason why Umina Beach should not be afforded the same opportunity."

Gosford Council has allocated \$1.5 million dollars to the upgrade of the Umina Beach CBD.

"The Chamber's representatives on the Building Committee have been working tirelessly over the past two years to have a formal review of the plans undertaken," said Mr Wales.

"This Committee has been split on this issue and we believe it is unfortunate that the Council has not stepped in easier to resolve the matter.

"After all, it is the business community that is bearing the brunt of the cost through the Special Rate Levy under the Financial Strategy."

Mr Wales said that the Chamber and the business people of Umina Beach support many parts of the original plan, but do not support the proliferation of raised pedestrian crossings and street narrowing works.

Mayor Holstein said the Umina CBD Upgrade Plan will be referred to the next available council meeting for deliberation, taking into account the views expressed at the public meeting.

Matthew Wales

\$14,000 bill 'too much'

Some Daleys Point residents are angry that they are facing a \$14,000 bill to connect to water and sewerage.

The Fisherman's Parade residents say that they are not the "rich" of the area and the financial impact of the connection is too high.

Council's acting director of works, Mr Terry Bowditch, said the payment for the service could be made up-front within three months or over 20 years with interest charged at the 10-year bond rate.

He said financial assistance was also available with loan negotiations on an individual basis with repayments every six months.

To be eligible for financial assistance, property owners must be a pensioner with a current Health Benefit Card or be assessed by Council as experiencing financial hardship.

If there is a default on the loan, then it becomes payable when the property is sold, transferred or when the estate is settled.

One of the residents, Mr Degeling, said: "The capital cost of the services is an onerous burden unfainly levied."

"The residents were required to install approved effluent Bio Trete systems before at the same cost."

"This was not taken into account in the new charges," he said.

"Council will say that it has bent over backwards with community consultations.

"Of course, everyone wanted a sewerage system, but it was

only after the consultation that residents were made aware of the financial costs."

"It's bad to be told the debt would be an encumbrance on your estate if you can't pay now," he said.

Another resident, Mr Michael Caulfield, agreed.

"I am earning a reasonable income and although I regard the costs of the services as both high and unnecessary, I am in a position to take out a loan."

"My pensioner neighbours however, have no income and no way of dealing with this financial burden," he said.

"Council's financial officer has assured them they will be able to make repayments of \$25 a week.

"Sadly, this simply shows the officers lack of understanding of the extraordinarily tight budgets that they are forced to live on.

"To suggest the cost can be removed from their estates insults their understandable pride in that honourable goal of owning a house that one can pass on to children."

Mr Caulfield said the replumbing of houses, dismantling of old systems and their pumping, and the installation of the new service would cost up to \$27,000.

Councillors decided to repeat notification of financial options and invite comment with a further report on the matter before making a decision.

Carl Spears, February 10

\$70m Financial Strategy quarterly report released

Council's General Manager, Mr Peter Wilson, has released his quarterly progress report for December last year on the progress of the council's "financial strategy" projects.

Peninsula projects included: The Woy Woy Library (cost \$710,000): Council's library services manager is holding discussions with the heritage conservation planner over building options for an extension.

Council is also ascertaining the availability of \$80,000 of potential grants for the project.

Peninsula Youth and Recreation Centre (\$1.5 million): Concept plans have been prepared for the

re-development of Woy Woy pool complex to augment the proposed indoor recreation centre.

Construction is expected to commence in April 2001.

Woy Woy Community Centre and Little Theatre: Construction to start in September and be completed in June next year.

Projects either approaching or have reached completion included: Umina Police Community Youth Club: Awaiting a development application for stage two.

Construction expected to begin in April and finish in September.

Ettalong CBD: Due for completion in September

Peninsula locals win awards

Peninsula residents took awards in two of the eight categories in the Gosford City Australia Day Community Awards.

Residents from nearby areas took another two of the awards.

Woy Woy's Margart Royston won the Senior Citizen category for her active support of seniors groups.

Margaret is president of the Umina Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association and also supports children's causes.

She has raised funds for Woy Woy Hospital, Woy Woy Nursing Home, Childflight, Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and Salvation Army among others.

She also arranges bus trips for seniors twice a month as well as two longer trips each year to various destinations.

Pearl Beach's Fay Austin won the environment category for her membership of the Pean Beach

Dune Care Group and Progress Association.

Fay has worked for the dune care group for more than 10 years, planting ground cover wattle to help stabilise the dunes and clearing lantana and other noxious weeds.

She also checks the beach for rubbish every Monday.

Empire Bay's Kaye Lovie won the sport category for being a member of various sporting groups and committees.

In the last 12 months, Kaye has been president of the Central Coast branch of Athletics NSW and was involved in gaining funds for the Central Coast Regional Synthetic Athletic Track.

She is senior vice president of Gosford City Sports Council and has been involved with Woy Woy Little Athletics.

St Huberts Island's Pat de carte won the cultural category for introducing the fund raising

Hospital Art to the Central Coast and her presidency of the Central Coast Handweavers and Spinners Guild.

Pat has been president of the guild for three years and in that time has encouraged more members to join.

She also worked to renovate and improve the guild's cottage so members could enjoy workshops, meetings and socials.

Pat organised for 40 American artists to travel to Gosford as part of Hospital Art to demonstrate how art can be beneficial to patients in nursing homes, retirement villages and hospitals.

Mayor Cr Chris Holstein was full of praise for all the winners and finalists at the presentation.

"The community should be very proud of these special people," he said.

"They are quiet achievers touching the lives of so many others."

The Umina Child Care Centre will soon be able to provide' more baby places after receiving funding from the Department of Community Services (DoCS).

The DoCS funding leaves a shortfall of \$27,240 that Council will have to provide to complete the works.

Council's director of corporate and community services, Mr Chris Gallagher, said Council had not budgeted for the funding but has identified the need to do the works.

"We will find the funding in the next three months because it is essential to start in order that the DoCS funding is not withdrawn,".. he said.

Mr Gallagher said the withdrawal of Federal funding for child care meant the centre's on-going viability had been threatened.

The funding will result in 10 more baby places, modifications to the carpark, new floor coverings and equipment.

The DoCS funding totalled \$105,460.

Carl Spears, February 10

Chamber News

Chamber supports Buy Local campaign

One of the major strengths of the Peninsula area is the diverse nature of its population and the businesses on which it depends.

Because we have a relatively even spread in all age groups, Peninsula business provides a full range of retail and commercial services to accommodate both the young and the elderly.

However, competition is fierce in the retail industry and business operators should not take their customers for granted.

There has been a resurgence in all of the Peninsula retail and commercial centres as businesses compete for the dollar.

The Chamber of Commerce actively supports Peninsula businesses as the dollars that are spent in our towns provide incomes and jobs for our local people.

During this coming year, the Chamber will be encouraging Peninsula residents and shoppers to 'buy local' whenever you can.

It is possible, if you are prepared to look, to find most things that you need right here in Woy Woy, Ettalong Beach and Umina Beach.

Most people would be very surprised to find that many items are cheaper than elsewhere.

Even when they are not, the cost of driving or catching a bus to locations out of the Peninsula often make the out of town product dearer anyway.

When you buy local, you support local jobs and keep disposable income on the Peninsula.

Woy Woy Upgrade

The street upgrading works have commenced in Blackwall Road in the Woy Woy town centre now that the peak retailing period has tapered off.

The work is being carried out by private contractors with the turnover time for each section of the foot-paving being under a



Matthew Wales, Peninsula Chamber president

week.

This will minimise disruption to local retailers and reduce inconvenience to shoppers.

Unfortunately, some disruption is unavoidable.

However, the end result will be a much improved street amenity which in time will encourage customers back into town.

This will of course complement such programs as 'Buy Local'.

Umina Upgrade

As a result of the Council convened public meeting held at the Umina Beach Bowling Club on February 2, the approved CBD Streetscape Plan was rejected by a majority vote of those who attended.

The Chamber of Commerce has voiced concerns as to the proposed upgrade plan which included a further five raised pedestrian crossing and associated kerb blisters.

The view of the business community was that the proposed

works would only further exacerbate the already congested main street of Umina Beach.

The matter will now be reported to the next available Council Meeting to determine the next course of action.

The Chamber has presented a proposal to the Mayor which calls for the review of the options for the Umina Beach business centre by way of an independent planning consultant who would look at the three main issues affecting the town.

The issues would include traffic and pedestrian flows, streetscape upgrading and a draft development control plan (DCP).

These elements will form a long term plan for Umina Beach that will act as a road map for its future development.

It should be remembered that the Streetscape Masterplan and the DCP are two entirely separate matters.

The Streetscape Masterplan



addresses the immediate issue of how the main street can be beautified and enhanced.

This should be carried out in conjunction with a traffic and pedestrian assessment so that the designer understands how the Umina Beach business centre works.

The DCP relates to a review of the planning controls for the town centre.

The planning controls govern how the town progresses and redevelops.

The existing planning controls for Umina Beach have not been reviewed in any substantial way since 1969.

The Chamber feels that it is imperative that the Council undertake an urgent review so that the town centre can progress in response to the changing demographics of the area.

Fast Ferry

Design work is progressing rapidly on the proposed new-betting structure for the Ettalong Sfach high speed ferry to Circular Quay.

The company is looking at several low impact alternatives for the wharf so as to ensure that the foreshore is disturbed as little as possible.

An announcement on the start date for the ferry service is expected within the next few weeks.

Ettalong to Palm Beach Ferry

It's good to hear about success stories.

The Palm Beach Ferry which now operates between Ettalong Beach and Palm Beach on a daily basis, has proved so successful that the managing director, Mr Peter Verrills is in the process of ordering another vessel for the service, which should be in operation by next Christmas.

The present eighty seat catamaran is a terrific experience and an ideal way to visit Sydney's North Shore and take in the unbelievable beauty of Broken Bay.

Congratulations to Palm Beach Ferries for taking the initiative and putting faith in the Ettalong Beach community.

Unfortunately, there is a down side to the Ettalong Beach success.

The Palm Beach service to Patonga is being cut back severely to only one service per lay.

This is most regrettable as the Patonga run has been extremely popular in past years.

It is hoped that with the construction of the new Patonga Beach Tavern that renewed interest will be generated so the service can be increased in the future.

Matthew Wales

Final touches to Ettalong upgrades Underway

The upgrading of the Ettalong Beach CBD began in 1996 with the Ettalong Beach Heritage Committee raising funds to begin the first stage of street reconstruction.

Today the work continues through the Gosford City Councils Financial Strategy Funds and the town is reaping the rewards for what has turned out to be a highly successful street upgrade process.

The final touches are being added to the Picnic Parade entry with formal gardens,

flag poles and a "Welcome to Ettalong Beach" sign.

The planning stage is underway for beautification of The Esplanade, beach and foreshore reserve in time for the influx of visitors from the Palm Beach Ferry and the Sydney high speed ferry.

It is extremely satisfying to see so much hard work by the community paying off.

Seminars The seminar on "How to Write Your Business Plan" has

begun with a four week course, which began last Monday night.

Wal Reynolds and Christine Drakeford provide an extensive support service for small business on the Central Coast.

Mr Reynolds has written a number of books on business and provides a wealth of information throughout the seminars.

Anyone interested in participating in the seminars may book through the Mainstreet office on 4342 7510.

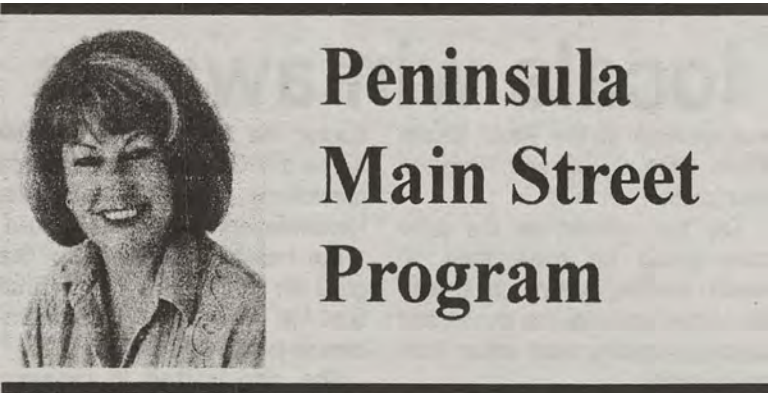
These are highly worthwhile workshops and essential for all business operations.

Christmas

The Christmas Dinner Dance last December was a lot of fun and planning is underway for the Christmas 2000 Dinner Dance to be held on Friday December 1.

Yes, we are starting early, but time slips by quickly.

Bookings will be available next month through the Mainstreet



Office so start planning for your staff Christmas party now.

Business Awards

The highly successful Peninsula Chamber of Commerce Business Awards Dinner will be held in July.

Information on the Business Awards will be put out into the business sector next month.

Time now to polish up the windows and the market skills.

Last year was a lot of fun with

some fantastic prizes.

Australia Day

The Australia Day Celebrations were a huge success with a record crowd turning out for the festivities.

A lot of people contributed to the success of the evening and our thanks to them for participating.

The Australian Light Horse surprised everyone on the evening with their display of uniformed soldiers on horseback together

with the Vietnam Veterans Nambus display.

The evening culminated in a beautiful display of fireworks on the Woy Woy waterfront with squeals of delight from the little ones.

The Chamber of Commerce was pleased with the success and plan to hold next year's at the same time.

Chamber

The Peninsula Chamber of commerce has invited Gosford City Council Mayor Chris Holstein and interested Councillors to attend a business dinner on the Peninsula on March 30.

Details will be circulated to members in the next few weeks.

This is an ideal opportunity to showcase the Peninsula and all the exciting events and projects that are happening in our community.

Peninsula News seeks members

The non-profit group that owns Peninsula News is seeking new members to join in its activities.

Peninsula News is operated commercially by Mail Order Mail under licence from the community-based non-profit association, Peninsula Community Access Newspaper Inc.

"The association's main role is to set policy and standards, to help with editorial content and to review performance," said president Mr Mark Snell.

For instance, the association's policy of 75 per cent news and only 25 per cent advertising was the reverse of the ratio usually adopted by commercial operators, he said.

"We believe this has been one of the major reasons for the success of the paper." Monthly meetings were held on Wednesday evenings in the week following publication of the paper.

"These meetings allow the community to take an active interest in shaping the paper," he said.

The newspaper was started as a means of providing some "social infrastructure" to help build more of a sense of community on the Peninsula.

It allowed residents to know

about the activities of others on the Peninsula, as well as to publicise their own.

Mr Snell said he felt it was particularly important that the community could read about council and government decisions that would determine the quality of life of Peninsula residents.

The newspaper provided an opportunity for training and work experience for youth and the unemployed.

It also provided an avenue for retired people to continue to contribute to and be recognised by the community.

"Association members could give feedback on how well the paper was performing these roles," said Mr Snell.

They were also encouraged to take an active role in editorial planning meetings for each issue, as well as writing, reporting and taking photos or being involved in other capacities.

The association will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday, March 15.

Members are wanted who are willing to fill committee positions.

All are welcome to attend.

Annual membership costs \$5.

For further information, phone Mark Snell during business hours on 4342 5333.

Gosford Council is designing a new public boat ramp for Dark Comer at Patonga.

The plans should be ready for community comment within two months.

The council made repairs to the ramp early this year after it had received a petition with 712 signatures saying the ramp was dangerous.

The population of Patonga is about 300, suggesting many visitors also saw the need for repairs to be made.

Councillor Lynne Bockholt said Council had applied to the Department of Land and Water Conservation for funding to replace the ramp.

"Council will then allocate an equivalent amount," she said.

"The president of the Progress Association was very impressed with a double boat ramp he saw in Queensland.

"He supplied me with photographs of this which I have passed on to Council officers.

"I believe this is the kind of ramp which should be constructed at Dark Comer."

Carl Spears, February 14

Taxi telephone recommended

Council's traffic committee has recommended Council decline requests for a taxi rank at the front of Peninsula Plaza.

Instead, they recommended a "taxi phone" be installed inside the plaza, allowing people to book a taxi.

The committee has also recommended plans be drawn up for two traffic calming devices in Brick Wharf Rd.

The recommendation came after a petition from residents cited vibrations passing through their houses caused by heavy vehicles.

Load limits, reduced speed limits and other similar restrictions have already been imposed on the road.

The committee has made recommendations about the Woy Woy CBD after taking into consideration both the views of the Woy Woy CBD building committee and the Woy Woy CBD traffic improvement study.

It recommended a plan and estimate be drawn up for a single lane roundabout on the intersection of Victoria Rd and Charlton St.

A single lane roundabout was also recommended for the corner of Railway St and Ocean Beach Rd, which could be upgraded to two lanes later, and another roundabout with pedestrian crossing facilities on the corner of the Boulevard and Chambers Place.

A no right turn restriction was

recommended for vehicles exiting the northern exit of Peninsula Plaza carpark into Blackwall Rd.

The committee said it discussed options to encourage pedestrians to cross Railway St using the traffic lights or the overpass.

The committee suggested.

options including the development of a sign post strategy to direct pedestrians to appropriate crossing locations.

Inappropriate crossing access near the chemist on the corner of Railway St and Blackwall Rd could be blocked by bollards and chains.

The use of a fence on the median strip in Railway St should only be used as a last resort, the committee recommended.

Carl Spears, February, 9

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News

Library forecourt palm issue raised

Two councillors have defended plans to plant palm trees in the area in front of Woy Woy Library.

Palm trees are to be planted in front of the library and along Oval Ave as part of the Woy Woy streetscape improvement project. The project is managed by Gosford Council's Woy Woy CBD Building Committee. Councillor Lynne Bockholt,

who chairs the committee, said: "There has been some concern in the community that the flower beds which presently add so much colour around the library are to be removed and to be replaced with palm trees." "This is not the case," she said. Fellow committee member Cr Debra Wales said the landscape upgrading would also have other indigenous species.

Waste contract should include garden refuse

Gosford Council has decided that in any new waste collection contract submitted for consideration, there should be included an option for the collection of garden waste.

This follows criticism of an illegal dumping campaign conducted by the Council and the Central Coast Waste Board. In the on-going campaign, anyone caught dumping grass clip-pings and other garden waste in reserves or bushland areas faces a minimum \$750 penalty. The council's current waste collection contract does not make separate provision for the collection of garden waste. Central Coast Waste Board chairman Councillor Robert Bell said this option would extend the life of Woy Woy tip. Council will enter a new contract period for their waste collection services in 2001. Cr Bell applauded council's decision.

"The inclusion of a garden waste collection service will extend the life of our Woy Woy and Kincumber landfills," he said. "The removal of this valuable organic material from the domestic waste stream will see at least a 20 per cent reduction in the amount of materials currently being disposed. "The garden organics collected can be reprocessed into a valuable product and sold to the everexpanding organics markets." "The decision to include a garden waste collection service within the new contract makes economic and environmental sense. "A garden waste collection service will see organic resources used in a more sustainable fashion and landfill capacity used responsibly." The Waste Board's community liaison officer, Ms Trudi Baxter said: "Dumping of garden waste, such as grass clippings and tree prunings, introduces non-native species and weed seeds to our native bushland areas. "These species will compete for resources with native species and

eventually change the ecology of an area," Ms Baxter explained. Council receives numerous complaints about the illegal dumping of green waste every week and has joined forces with the Waste Board to put an end to the activity. Increased surveillance of potential and existing dump-sites by rangers commenced in early December.

Ms Baxter also encouraged residents to compost and mulch their garden waste. "Garden waste and food waste makes up about 50% of the domestic waste stream. By composting and mulching, residents will help to achieve the State Government's 60% waste reduction target as well as producing a wonderful natural fertiliser for their garden," she said. For further information about the illegal dumping campaign, contact the Central Coast Waste Board on 4323 4343.

Defence appreciation certificates available

Peninsula residents who have helped through various defence activities can apply for a certificate of appreciation. Member for Robertson, Mr Jim Lloyd said he regularly

holds afternoon teas where the certificates are presented. For more information telephone Jim Lloyd's office on 4325 1604.

Casino fund gives out

Two Peninsula organisations will receive grants with money from the Casino Community Benefit fund. The Police and Community Youth Club at Umina will receive \$48,000 to help with the construction and development of the site. The Peninsula Community Centre will receive \$1 7,614 to continue its counselling and

treatment service for problem gamblers and their families. State Member for Peats, Ms Marie Andrews welcomed the grants. She said the Government had allocated more than \$25.5 million to problem gambling services including \$3 million for a 24 hour telephone counselling service. The 24 hour telephone number is 1800 633 635.

Business goes home

Laine and Jim Harrison of Jaycee Computer Services, formerly of Broken Bay Road, Ettalong, have closed their doors and are now operating from their home in Ettalong. They felt that they were not able to satisfy their clients as well as they wished while maintaining a retail presence.

They now expect to overcome this problem by working from home and being able to meet clients' demands at any time. The Broken Bay Road shop is expected to be taken over by Ettalong's Central Trading and Distribution, currently based at Ettalong Markets.

Cec Bucello, January 13

Community garden may recycle waste

A Woy Woy woman is seeking expressions of interest and support to start a community garden which would recycle "garden waste". "Recycling kitchen and garden materials for compost and mulch enables sustainable gardening, as well as reducing the need for costly garbage services and landfill sites," according to Shirley Hotchkiss, a gardener who has been interested in these issues for some time. "A community garden benefits individuals, the community and the environment." "It promotes conservation, recycling, community involvement, skill-sharing, creativity and friendship," she said. For residents who did not have enough space, information or confidence to start their own

garden, a community garden provided a friendly place to learn. Community gardens, which provided a cooperative way for people to grow plants, were already successful in many places in Australia and overseas. These gardens often produced food as well as offering a habitat for birds. They could be used to grow plants for bush regeneration projects. Shirley believed that community gardening had great communitybuilding potential. "Community gardens encourage participation by any member of the community. "This type of gardening can be a focus of activity and interaction for schoolchildren, youth, seniors, and environment groups, as well as for the residents of hospitals and

nursing homes," she said. While a site had yet to be found, Shirley said community gardens were often located in or near school grounds, council parks, hospitals or retirement villages. The site would require water, reasonable soil, space for storage of tools, street access and, preferably, some security, she said. If there was enough interest, a community group would be formed to undertake the project. "Starting a community garden on the Peninsula is a worthwhile project that needs support, enthusiasm and ideas from as many people as possible," she said. Anyone who would like to be involved or who knows of a good community garden site can phone Shirley on 4341 9301. Mark Snell, February 17

Employers asked to help disadvantaged

Employers are being asked to consider offering work experience to some of the disadvantaged youth on the Peninsula under the Job Placement, Employment and Training program. Mr Mike Burnett, the manager of Workwise, which is charged with running the local program, said: "Many young people benefit from work experience as it assists them to build self-esteem and gain a sense of achievement." The Federally funded program targets 15 to 21 year-olds "and covers all work experience costs for the employer during a placement. Mr Burnett said support is provided by qualified youth

workers. Employers are under no obligation to maintain employment after the work experience period. If you are an employer and would like to participate in the program or get more information, call Ted Stewart on 4353 2199. Workwise at Ettalong also provides help for educationallydisadvantaged unemployed youth each school term through the Helping Early Leavers Program (HELP). The State funded program aims to help young people develop everyday literacy and numeracy, self esteem and social skills through courses. HELP also aims to prevent unemployment by improving

school retention by allocating a small number of places each term to school students 15-years-old and over who are at risk of leaving school early. Four courses are offered each term and include an introduction to childcare, computers, creative arts or performing arts. A spokesperson for Workwise said the course content is largely hands-on and every attempt is made to make each learning experience enjoyable and therefore memorable. Courses run for 10 weeks and attendance is 10 to 12 hours per week over two days. For more information, telephone 4344 3040. Carl Spears, February 18

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Chamber calls for tax change on entitlements

The Peninsula Chamber of Commerce has called for changes to tax laws to help ensure employee entitlements are preserved.

In calling for changes, the Chamber 'claimed to be standing out from other business and employer organisations in its response to the situation faced by the Newcastle textile workers.

Chamber treasurer and qualified accountant, Mr Derek Britton, said the Chamber believed employee entitlements should have "first charge" over company assets and before other creditors such as banks.

"This should be coupled with tax deductions for leave and other entitlements at the time the provision is made," he said.

"This would provide an incentive for employers to make advance provisions.

"At present, tax deductions can only be made when the payment is actually made to the employee.

"Ideally, a deduction should be available when provision was

made into a trust account, and the business should be allowed to borrow back from the account in some circumstances." Mr Britton said that such an arrangement would provide flexibility for a business at the same time as protecting employee rights.

"Unfortunately, Government pay-out schemes and insurance do not adequately address the root of the problem," he said.

"The Chamber believes that a proper solution is needed".

The Chamber has written to the Federal Member for Robertson and the State Chamber of Commerce putting forward the Peninsula Chamber's position on protecting employee entitlements.

"I'm sure that all workers would be devastated if they lost their hard earned entitlements should their employer be forced to close the business," said Mr Britton.

It is imperative that protection was put in place to ensure workers and their families were not financially penalised should this happen, he said.



No, it's not drains needing repair, but Brickwharf Rd at a very high tide last month

Beware the money short-changer

A Woy Woy liquor-store owner has reported an incident that took place in his shop where a customer attempted to receive more change than he was entitled to.

In what was no doubt an attempted scam, the customer purchased a low cost item and

paid for it with a \$100 note.

The shopkeeper gave the correct change to the customer who hid \$50 of the change under his foot while the goods were being wrapped and then claimed that he was short-changed.

The shopkeeper did not see the money being hidden but was suspicious and asked the

customer to stay where he was while the shopkeeper rang off the till to check the contents against the cash register roll to find out whether there was \$50 extra in it.

On hearing this, the customer suddenly found the money under his foot, feigned surprise and left the shop.

Cec Bucello, February 17

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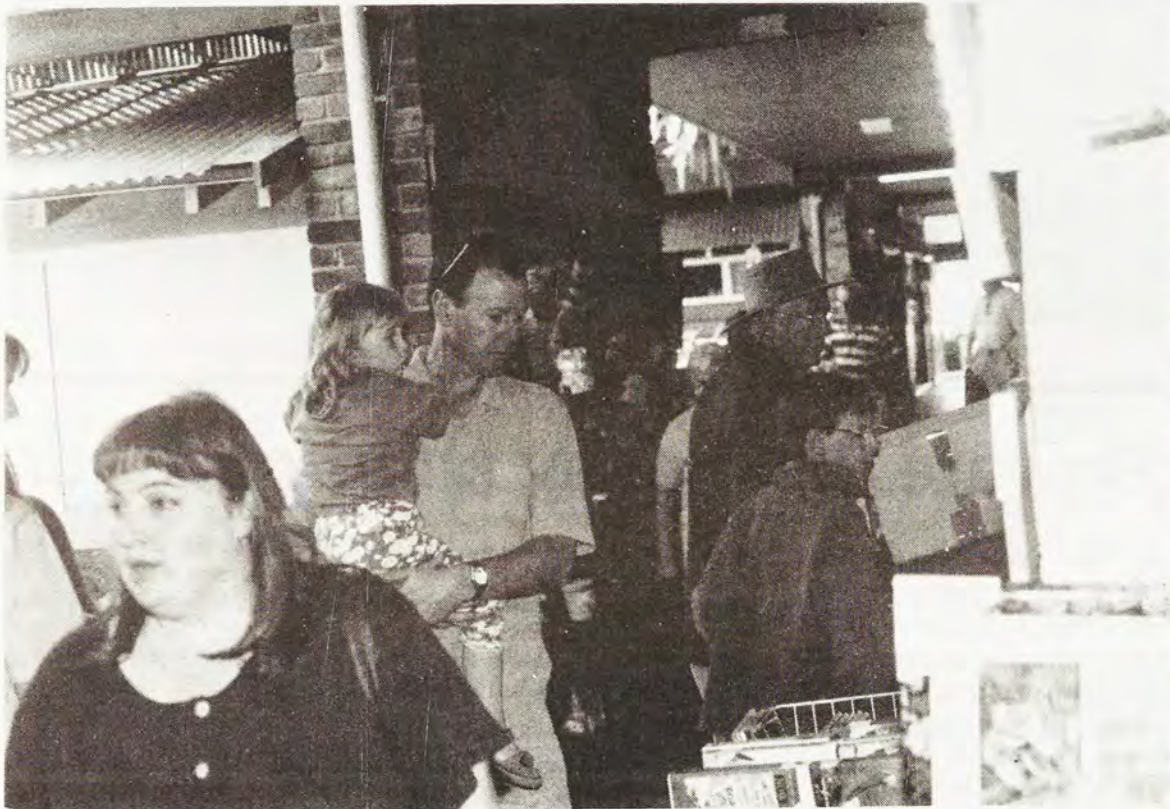
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The Tourist Resort offers visitors the luxury Sea Sand Motel, Peninsula's own twin Cinema Paradiso and an outdoor evening theatre currently

screening movies every Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

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Front Siblings Italian Restaurant

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72a Dave the Carpet Man

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24 Ji's Quality Fashions

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58 Surf Wear & Fashions

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52 Sports T-Shirts & Clothes

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6 Stone Garden Statues

77 Janben Farm Nursery

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16 Haberdashery House

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54 Les' Keycutting Service

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12 Paint & Plaster Funhouse

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72 Coast Luggage & Bags

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28 Freefone Communications

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2b Temptress

50 Indah Jewel Bali

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66a Pet Chews & Treats

22 Bob's Bird Barn

PICTURES & FRAMES

45 Matilda Picture Framing

PIES & CAKES

53 Quality Pies & Cakes

POTTERY & CRAFTS

48 Creative Focus

17 Pottery House

16 Handmade Crafts

63 Quality Crafts

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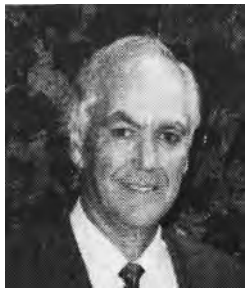
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News

Councillors ask plenty of questions to officers



Some recent Questions Without Notice:

“When is the Woy Woy Road upgrade near Staples Lookout going to be finished?” (Cr Preece).

Answer: “The construction has been halted pending a further application for funding.” Note: \$100,000 of the funds allocated to Woy Woy Road were reallocated to another project by Council.

Why is South Woy Woy Progress Association Hall rated as Business Ordinary?

Why do community centres have to pay rates? (Cr Bockholt).

Answer: Any land that is not residential or farm land is categorised as business.

Council assists by paying 60% of the rates.

Note: Council has allocated \$7,700 to upgrade the kitchen at South Woy Woy Hall and \$340 for sign writing and maintenance at Umina Community Hall.

The proposed roundabout at the intersection of Ocean Beach Road and Railway Street - where will funding come from? (Cr Bockholt) Answer: Discussions are being held with the RTA to change the priority for construction from 2002/03 to 2000/01.

Booker Bay Waterfront Land

A Development Application has been received by Council to construct a dwelling addition to a property affected by accretion (expansion) due to a change in the Mean High Water Mark.

There are conflicting views on the rights of landowners whose property has one boundary defined as “mean high water mark”.

The legal opinion concludes that

Council Matters! with John Oakley

where a boundary is defined by a natural feature, in this case mean high water main the boundary is where mean high water mark is at any particular time.

In relation to zoning, there is a view that the zoning boundary does not move with the property boundary redefined as a result of the changing position of the mean high water mark.

Using these arguments it is possible to have a block of land that has one part zoned under one zoning and the other part zoned under a different zoning.

In the case of the block of land in question, the newly secreted section of the property was not zoned at all.

This can present problems when it comes to development.

Council decided to treat the whole block of land as being under the one zone.

Council's Attitude to Development

Councillors are increasingly stating during debate that they wish to encourage “quality development” and are desirous of encouraging a reduction in the overall density of development.

Most developers are attempting to meet these guidelines and are prepared to negotiate with Council staff on “sticking points”.

A small percentage, however, are not prepared, for one reason or another, to do this.

These are the applications that come to Council for consideration.

Some developers, in addressing Council, make explicit threats to take their case to the Land and Environment Court, usually with a minimum cost to Council, even if

it wins, of approximately \$20,000.

Councillors have tended to vote according to their principles and not be intimidated by such threats.

Woy Woy CBD Committee

The Woy Woy CBD Committee is very happy with its progress and achievements in 1999.

Pelican Park is now open but some form of sealed surface is required on paving to prevent permanent staining.

Ash trays are to be installed.

The provision of bigger bins is to be investigated.

The Manager - Recreation has advised that the area is to be maintained twice a day.

Heather McKenzie, John Oakley, and Merve Clayton met with John Hannan from NSW Fisheries in relation to the cleaning of the Woy Woy Pool.

Approval in principle was given verbally and Council officers are organising tenders for this work.

Library Forecourt works are to proceed on advice from the Senior Management Group and the Manager- Library Services.

Umina CBD Committee

At a recent meeting called by Council it was decided that plans to upgrade the CBD are to go back to the “Drawing Board”.

Beautification of the Woy Woy end of Woy Woy Road

As one of the major entrance roads to the Peninsula, Woy Woy Road is to be tidied up in the near future.

The Bays Community Hall

Some debate has been taking place as to the fate of this hall.

Council agreed that it had no jurisdiction in relation to the sale of the hall but was prepared to facilitate community discussion on how proceeds from the sale of the hall might be used should the hall be sold.

One suggestion that has been put forward includes the construction of a walkway along the water's edge from Woy Woy Bay to Phegans Bay.

Council's environmental staff are prepared to advise on related environmental issues.

Council fund hall upgrades

Council will provide just over \$8000 towards upgrading Peninsula community halls as part of their \$35,000 hall upgrading program.

South Woy Woy Progress Association will receive \$7700 to upgrade their kitchen and the Umina Community Hall will receive \$340 towards signage.

Umina Community Hall had requested \$1030.

Council received requests totalling \$94,346 from throughout the municipality.

Carl Spears, February 10



One of the projects proposed by the newly enthused Bays Progress Association is an ecologically friendly walkway around the point pictured linking Woy Woy Bay with Phegans Bay through to Horsefield Bay.

A new lease of life for the Bays Progress Association

The threat that The Bays Progress Association hall could be lost, has galvanised residents into action.

The association, covering Horsefield Bay, Phegans Bay and Woy Woy Bay.

now has a new lease on life, and boasts an “almost embarrassing” list of projects waiting for funds and volunteers to put them into action, according to spokesman John Collins.

“Like so many local organisations, the Bays' Progress Association had suffered many years of general apathy within the community and consequently the work of keeping the association alive and its main asset the community hall viable, fell on the shoulders of a few long term community workers,” he said.

Eventually, it was decided to call a meeting to which the proposed sale of the hall would be put.

“The committee expected just the usual few to turn up and had

become resigned to the fact that the hall would soon be sold and any money raised would be spent on a few soon to be forgotten local projects,” he said.

“How wrong they were.

“Locals turned up in their droves, spurred into action by the thought of losing their hall.

“The meeting not only resolved to raise money to keep the organisation solvent, but formed a committee to look into the possibility of building a bigger and better facility on a new, more accessible site.

“If that were not enough, the special committee has other projects on its agenda, such as reinvesting the three Bays with their netted swimming enclosures (removed by council some years ago) and the building of an ecologically friendly walkway to tie the three Bays together.” The Association now even has its own web site at: [http:// thebays@ hypermart.net](http://thebays@hypermart.net).

John Collins February 1

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i What's on in the Peninsula

To have information about your groups events and activities included, you can drop your information off at the Visitors Information Centre, at 18-22 The Boulevard, Woy Woy (around the comer from Fisherman's Wharf) or by phone on. 4341 2888 or by fax on 4341 8555.

Please come and see us anytime for free maps, ferry times, and lots of other information.

Tuesday February 22 to Friday February 25
Ettalong Bowling Club - Major/Minor Night Pairs Tournament. Public welcome. Ph: 43411910

Wednesday February 23
Peninsula News Association meeting, 7.30pm, Ph: 43425333

Friday February 25
Woy Woy Little Theatre performs "Two Weeks With The Queen". Comedy/Drama. Live performance. Adult \$14 Concession \$10 Child \$5. Bookings Ph: 43 414067.

Association of Civilian Widows - meet at 1 pm at Ettalong Beach War Memorial Club. New members welcome. Ph: 43418255 - Gladys.

Saturday February 26
Woy Woy Little Theatre performs "Two Weeks With The - Queen". Comedy/Drama.... (same as February 25).

National Parks Discovery Walks and Tours - Mountain Bike ride from Somersby Falls to Mooney Mooney Creek. Stopping for a dip at Piles Creek. Suit 10+ years. Start 10am approximately 4 hours. Meet at Somersby Falls car park. Adult \$5 Child \$3. Bookings Ph: 43 204205.

Northern Eagles rugby league team play St George Illawarra at North Power Stadium - Graham Park - Gosford. Go Eagles!! [The Lady Kendall II ferry will make two trips to Gosford at 5pm and 6pm, returning after the game. Cost \$6 return - what a great way to get to the game!]

Melaleuca Wetland Regeneration Group - if you would like to help with regeneration of one of the last wetlands on the Peninsula, meet from 8am at the end of Boronia Avenue Woy Woy. Tools and gloves provided. All Welcome. Enquiries Ph: 4341 3960 - Norah.

Sunday February 27
Woy Woy Little Theatre performs "Two Weeks With The Queen". Comedy/Drama.... (same as February 25).

Monday February 28
Fairhaven Services - Cash Housie 7.30pm Umina Beach Bowling Club. All proceeds to Fairhaven Intellectually Disabled Adult Service. All welcome. Ph: 43 253608 - held every Monday.

Woy Woy Bowling Club holds the 24th Annual Night Maestro Triples Competition - 7pm. All welcome. Ph: 43413304.

Friday March 3
Woy Woy Little Theatre performs "Two Weeks With The Queen". Comedy/Drama.... (same as February 25).

Saturday March 4
National Malaysia Borneo Veterans Association meet at 2.30pm at Ettalong Beach War Memorial Club. Ph: 43421216.

National Parks Discovery Walks and Tours - Dinner over Broken Bay. Starts 4.30pm, allow 4 hours. Adults only. BYO Dinner. Meet in car park for Warrah Lookout off Patonga Road. Cost \$5. Bookings Ph: 43204205

Sunday March 5
Woy Woy Little Theatre performs "Two Weeks With The Queen". Comedy/Drama.... (same as February 25).

Monday March 6
Umina Beach Bowling Club Monthly Ladies & Mens Event. Public welcome. Ph: 43 412618 - Charlie.

Wednesday March 8
Woy Woy District View Club meet. All welcome. Ph: 43 444309. Friday March 10
Woy Woy Little Theatre performs "Two Weeks With The Queen". Comedy/Drama.... (same as February 25).

Saturday March 11
Umina Garden Society 1.30-3.30pm. Cost \$2 includes afternoon tea. Display and discussion of floral art, fruit & vegetables and flowers. All welcome. Ph: 43418842 - Ronald or Heidie.

Woy Woy Little Theatre performs "Two Weeks With The Queen". Comedy/Drama.... (same as February 25).

Tuesday March 14
Ettalong Beach Toastmasters 7.30pm Ettalong Beach War Memorial Club. Ph: 43416842 - Jan.
Central Coast Folk Club meets at Woy Woy Masonic Hall 7.30pm, \$3, Ph: Frank 4341 4060.

Wednesday March 15
Woy Woy District View Club meet. Visitors welcome. Ph: 43 444309.
Peninsula News Association meeting 7.30pm, Peninsula News office, Ph: 4342 5333.

Thursday March 16
Ettalong/Umina Lions meet at Woy Woy Leagues Club 6.30pm for 7pm. Ph: 43412152.
Chamber of Commerce dinner meeting , Ph: 43444930.

Sunday March 19
Brisbane Water Cage Bird Society meets 10am CWAHall Umina. All welcome, including juniors. Encouraging

quality cage bird breeding and care. Ph: 43416840.
Ettalong Memorial Bowling Club Mixed Visitation Newcastle Workers Social Bowlers.

Monday March 20
Ettalong War Widows meet 1 pm Ettalong Beach War Memorial Club. Ph: 43416435.

Tuesday March 21
Arthritis Foundation Woy Woy Branch meets 10am Meals on Wheels Hall. All welcome. Speaker Joan Wennholm on "Shipwrecks around the Australian Coast". Morning tea and lucky door prize. Ph: 43 421790 - Gladys.

Melaleuca Wetland Regneration Group - see February 26
Ettalong Beach Arts & Crafts Centre - Teddy Bear Workshop. 2 days 11th & 18th. Bookings essential Ph: 43601673.

Ettalong Memorial Bowling Club Premier League v Beresfield 3pm. Public welcome. Ph: 43 411910 - John.

Central Coast Folk Club perform at 304 On West, Umina, Free, 7.30pm.

Weekly Events:
Children's entertainment at the Ettalong Beach War Memorial Club.

Sundays from 11.30am - 3.30pm - Clowns, jumping castle, disco, cost \$2.00.
Children must be accompanied by an adult.
Free bike tours every Saturday.
Leaves 2pm from Ettalong Bike Shop, your bike or hire a bike.

Also mountains bike tours daily on request - all equipment supplied at \$75 per person.
All fitness levels catered for Phone Jordan 4341 3906

Ettalong/Umina Lions meet for Bingo, every Monday
10.30am - 12.30pm at Ettalong War Memorial Club - Entertainment Centre - cash prizes, all welcome. Phone 4342 1352

Markets:
Ettalong Beach Seaside Village Markets. Every Saturday and Sunday 9am - 4pm under cover.
Adjoins Sea and Sand Motel and Cinema Paradiso - Ocean View Road.

Phone 43425451
Rocks Arcade Markets Ettalong - Opposite Ettalong Beach War Memorial Club - undercover 3rd Wednesday each month 10am - 2pm.
Local hand made craft only Phone 4344 9707
Joan Chippindale, January 14

Teens become green

Efforts to rehabilitate Central Coast creeks gained a further boost last week with the announcement that ten environmentally committed 17 -20 year olds have successfully gained traineeships to work on the Riparian (riverside) Rehabilitation Project.

One of the first creeks earmarked for the project is the Peninsula's Ettymalong Creek.

Central Coast Community Environment Network (CCCN) oversees the traineeships.

The trainees, supported by the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers (A TCV) and the Green Corps "Young Australians for the Environment" 2000 Programme,

The Environment with Jennifer Davis

will contribute in a variety of ways to help restore our local creeks.

Project coordinator Diane Warman said many of our creeks have been degraded and are in need of rehabilitation.

"Weed infestation, rubbish dumping and water quality, are constant concerns," she said.

She said these problems can be overcome with water quality monitoring, bush regeneration and better land management, which are skills that these young trainees will gain and apply over the coming 26 weeks

Working women's group looks for more members

The Woy Woy branch of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW) is looking for more members.

Membership is open to all working women.

The local group meets regularly and sponsors women to undertake further education to enhance their employment prospects.

This year it will be. giving a \$600 scholarship to a mature age woman entering a degree course at the Central Coast Campus of the University of Newcastle.

BPW Australia is recognised as the voice of working women by government at both State and National level and the president has a seat at the Ministers' Round Table on Women's Affairs as well as representation on the Small Business Council according to branch president Ms Pat Harrison.

BPW runs seminars on

small business, women in decision making positions and superannuation.

The group also supports women who wish to enter politics but does not support any particular party.

Ms Harrison is also international president of the organisation.

The international group started in the USA in 1919 by Dr Lena Madison Phillips, who realised the difficulty women faced retaining their paid jobs when men returned from the World War.

Women who went to work in offices used to say they were "going to business", hence the name of the organisation.

BPW International also has observer or associate status at the United Nations at the Economic and Social Council, WHO, FAA, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNIDO and UNESCO.

For more information write to: BPW Woy Woy, PO Box 107, Woy Woy 2256.

Carl Spears, December 17

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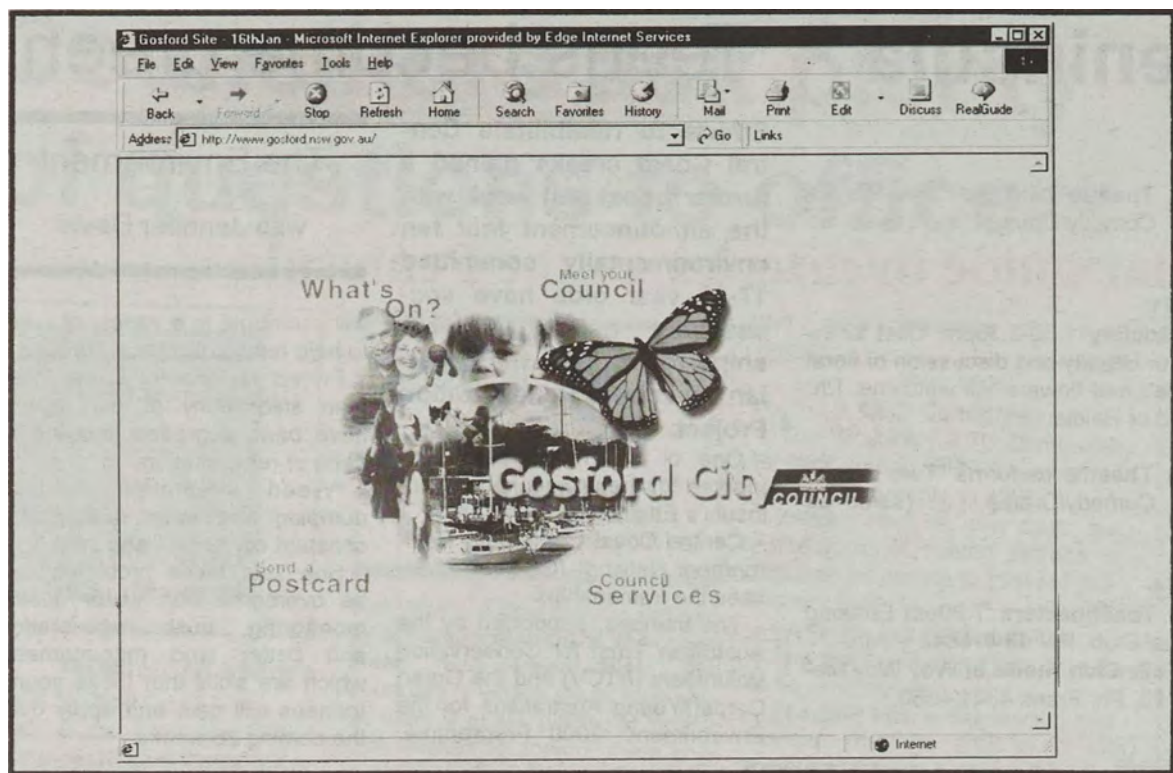
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Sabine 4344 6601

News



Gosford City Council's home page- plenty of information about Council and the community

Local Government web page gives important in-formation

Gosford Council has a home page that gives Peninsula residents plenty of information about the council and other community activities.

The site has that professional look and feel and most pages are down-loaded quickly to the desktop.

For full access to the many links on the home page, active scripting must be enabled in the browser.

Internal links provide viewers with a wide selection of pages ranging from important telephone numbers that cover most council activities, through to a what's happening page.

The 'What's Happening' guide provides details of activities in our community through to January 2001.

The Council Agenda frame allows users to down-load the agenda papers in PDF format, which could be a handy feature for those of us who are unable to access the local libraries during business hours.

A word of warning: Downloading the January meeting would require at least 10 files.

As with many web Sites, pages often become outdated and the 'Meet Your Council' page provides an example where it states that the next general election is due in

September 1999, yet provides the details of the current councillors.

Council provides some external links mainly to other local government sites and some Central Coast community sites.

I rate the site seven out of 10. The site can be accessed at <http://www.gosford.nsw.gov.au/>

Stephen McNamara
January 25 If your community organisation is on the Internet and would like your site reviewed, send the information including contact details to stephenmcnamara@start.com.au or mail to PO BOX 532 WOY WOY 2256 or fax 4342 2071.

Stephen McNamara, February 19

Playgroup

For over 15 years St.John's playgroup has been operating on the Peninsula.

Affiliated with The Playgroup Association of NSW, sessions are held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10am to noon and new members are always welcome.

The Playgroup operates in the church hall on the corner of Victoria and Blackwall Roads in Woy Woy and last year saw the hall fully renovated making the whole environment brighter, cleaner and much more child friendly.

So come along, join in the fun and be part of the tradition.

There is no need to book.

Kerrie Friend, February 16

Federal funding

Partners of Veterans' were recently assisted with \$1500 worth of Federal funding.

The Ettalong-based group helps support wives and partners of veterans.

For more information on the group, telephone 4344 4760.

Grant available for local studies

Gosford Council is seeking applications for its Local Studies Assistance Grants Scheme, which encourages the publication of local historical and geographical information.

Eligible projects include G9Sford and district histories, oral history projects, local flora and fauna studies and short films about

the community.

Applicants can include nonprofit community organisations or individuals with demonstrated knowledge, expertise and commitment to local historical or geographical research and publication.

Applications close March 24.

For more information contact Geoff potter at Gosford City library on 4324 6711

New challenges at senior's school

The new year provides new challenges for the Peninsula's School for Seniors Group.

Based at the Community Centre, the group describes itself as "a leisure, learning, recreation, friendship and support group for over 45s".

The group has been in operation for over 10 years.

They meet from Tuesday to Friday and cover numerous leisure activities including discussion groups, oil painting, multi-craft and needlework, bush walking, bus trips, and starting on March 15 from 2pm to -3.30pm, a regular local history class.

According to Rhonda Mitchell, S.F.S. President: "All our activities are organised by the group, for the group.

"We see School for Seniors as an opportunity for all to join in and learn a new skill or share your skills.

"If you are not sure what activity you would like to try come along to our 'Have a Chat meeting' on a Tuesday morning at 10 am.

"At this meeting we decide on further courses we may run plus we organise any social outings," Any further inquiries should be directed to the Peninsula Community Centre on 4341 9333

Kerrie Friend, February 16

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Woy Woy 4341 0441

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Restaurant review

Table Two offers fine fare

For those ,that J,like something a little different, the recently opened Table Two cafe restaurant in the Rocks Arcade Ettalong, offers an excellent selection of fine modern fare.

The owners have moved from Sydney and their big city experience shows in the excellent dishes available.

The meals are a good size and taste good, and look good too! Mains such as wok-fried crab and Asian slaw omelette with sweet soy sauce are presented well and satisfy the palette.

The selection was excellent and the prices reasonable.

Together, an entree, main and

dessert provided a balanced meal - neither too much nor too little.

And what nice deserts they were.

My recommendation is the superb Cointreau creme' brulee with a citrus salad.

The bitterness of the orange and lemon citrus salad offset the sweetness of the creme brulee magnificently.

The Table Two decor was of a modern minimalist nature, in character with the food.

The music was unobtrusive, modern and pleasant.

Indoor and outdoor seating was available.

Table Two is thoroughly recommended.

Carl Spears, December 10

Peninsula News
restaurant review
policy is that all
meals are paid for
by the reviewer and
visits are made
unannounced.

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(opp. Ettalong Beach Club) PHONE: 4344 3277

History and Celebration



Three members of the Australian Colonial Marine Re-enactments Group wearing replica uniforms as worn by a British Marine Captain, Sergeant and a Private in 1788 at the time of the arrival of the First Fleet at Sydney Cove and the muskets used as firearms at the time.

Tree planting honours fallen

by Joan Fenton

If you have a question about the history of Woy Woy, or of the Central Coast, or if you have a special request for the column, please drop me a note (PO Box 720, Woy Woy, 2256).

Soon after the end of 'The Great War', trees were planted in Railway Street, Woy Woy - each tree in memory of a soldier who lost his life.

Over the years, the trees had deteriorated and Erina Shire Council announced plans for their removal in 1926.

A petition of 300 signatures was raised protesting at the 'sacrilege'.

George Fletcher, Erina Shire employee, wrote to The Gosford Times defending the Council's action, and made the following suggestion: "We have a beautifully situated little Park right at the waterfront, and where the splendid memorial now stands.

"Why not plant new trees next Anzac Day, and thus concentrate the whole of Woy Woy's effort in the one beautiful spot, and call it 'The Woy Woy Memorial Park'?



An early Anzac Day march through Woy Woy

"There is good soil available and if a few loads were carted for each tree and allowed to remain for a while before Anzac Day to sweeten up, and a tree for each of the lads planted there, which would live for ages, it would surely be better than having a few straggly ones in a busy thoroughfare.

"We would have the prettiest Memorial Park in the State, with the memorial, and flower beds interspersed, and the lovely waterfront right at hand." [The Gosford Times: January 14, 1926] Mr Fletcher was right.

With the help of much volunteer labour, and assistance from the soon-to-be-formed Woy Woy Shire Council, the Woy Woy Memorial Park was officially dedicated by Sir Philip Game, Governor of New

South Wales on October 19, 1932.

Years later, the trees planted in memory of 'the lads' have grown to be magnificent specimens, and the park is one of the 'prettiest Memorial Parks in the State'.

Designed by Mr I. H.

Webber, Woy Woy Shire Council Engineer, the Memorial Park is laid out in the form of a huge Australian flag, about 400 feet long and 130 feet wide.

The Union Jack is defined by red gravel paths and by red flower beds; the seven stars are flower beds edged with stone.

Superimposed on the Union Jack is a raised Victoria Cross, upon which stands the Memorial obelisk.

Community groups take advantage of local celebrations

A wide range of community groups took advantage of the Australia Day celebrations at Woy Woy to get their messages to the community and to raise much needed funds for community needs.

The Central Coast Historic Car Club, the Vietnam Veteran's Nambus, the 6th Light Horse Trundle Group, and the TS Hawkesbury Naval Cadets were just a few of the community organisations with unusual exhibits on the eve of Australia 'Day at Anderson Park. A re-enactment of the salute by a detachment of Marines at Sydney Cove in 1788 was performed by local members of the Australian Colonial Marine Enactments group.

The group wore replicas of British Marine uniforms of a captain, sergeant and a private of the time and carried, as well as fired replicas of the firearms used in 1788 The group paraded, marched and demonstrated their musket use and answered many questions from interested spectators.

Unfortunately, the captain lost a silver epaulette from his jacket on Brickwharf Road and has appealed to anyone that has any information about it to contact him via the Peninsula News as it will be

very difficult to replace.

Peninsula Mainstreet Coordinator Cr Debra Wales, who organised the event on behalf of Gosford Council and the Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, was delighted by the turnout with crowd numbers far outweighing expectations.

"In past years, we've had our Australia Day celebrations on Australia Day and crowd numbers have been small with other larger events elsewhere competing.

"This year, it was much more festive and the great atmosphere made it fantastic.

"It was great to see so many young families and older people out safely enjoying the facilities at night.

"The financial responsibility for the evening was carried by the Peninsula Chamber of Commerce.

, "Stall holders and Paviors Entertainments reported a brisk business and it is likely that this will be the first of many Australia Day Eve celebrations," she said.

"It is also likely that the area around Anderson Park and the wharf will see more events take place now that the upgrade of the vicinity is nearing completion," Cr Wales said.

Cec Bucello January 2



Vietnam Veteran's Association Secretary Michael Hauser (left) and voluntary assistant outside their unique Wambus"

Vietnam Veterans' mobile museum traverses NSW

The "Nambus", a mobile museum which featured in Woy Woy's Australia Day celebrations, is claimed to be a local initiative unique in Australia.

, According to local Vietnam Veterans Association secretary Michael Hauser, the Nambus is the only one of its type in Australia. It came about because the 10-

cal group sought and received a grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs under the "Their Service Our Heritage" campaign, he said.

The grant allowed them to purchase a bus which they then converted to a mobile museum.

The Nambus is taken to schools so that students studying modern history will be able to gain first hand knowledge and see actual

exhibits relating to their studies.

The Gosford City Sub-branch of the Australian Vietnam Veterans Association is located at Ettalong in a building provided by the Ettalong Beach Memorial Club, their major sponsor.

A number of other sponsors also assist in keeping the Nambus on the road and to cover accommodation costs.

Cec Bucello January 21

Spotlight on community groups

The Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol is oldest in Australia

The Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol (RCVP) is the oldest maritime Search and Rescue (SAR) organisation in Australia and the largest SAR unit in NSW.

The Division has a stand-by base at Ettalong Beach and a base at Terrigal Haven, both operational each weekend for marine radio monitoring.

The RCVP also provides marine education at its Point Clare base.

The RCVP concept is to have a body of experienced merchantmen and yachtsmen as an auxiliary to the Navy and Government maritime authorities.

The concept was first presented to the Naval Board who agreed and the Volunteer Coastal Patrol was founded in 1937.

The Coastal Patrol was granted Royal patronage by Her Majesty the Queen in 1973 and became the RCVP.

The organisation structure, ranks and discipline were based on Navy lines.

Training was taken from Admiralty courses.

Most of the instructors in those early days were Naval personnel who donated their 'off duty' time.

Coastal Patrol members used their own boats for Coastal Patrol duties.

The first task given to the Volunteer Coastal Patrol in 1939



The RCVP fundraising at a community event

was to establish a security watch on the Hawkesbury 'River bridge, which was considered a vital rail link with the north.

During World War II, Coastal Patrol had over 2000 members in three states with 500 small craft operating.

After the war it was felt that the organisation could be of considerable use as an education and SAR facility for the increasing numbers of the community participating in recreational boating.

RVCP maintains close touch with other maritime rescue organisations throughout the world to find solutions to the common problems confronting all maritime SAR units.

RVCP Central Coast Division

was formed in 1971, initially operating from a caravan radio base on the Waterfront at Gosford near the breakwall.

The Division soon moved to its own premises on land provided by Gosford City Council on the Waterfront Reserve, at the end of Kurrawa Avenue, Point Clare.

Central Coast Division has over 100 members.

The Division monitors the marine radio bands for 12 hours daily Monday to Thursday, and has continuous 24-hour marine radio coverage on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

Trained volunteer Search and Rescue crews are available either on call or, on duty at the base, for the Patrol rescue lifeboat 24 hours a day, every day of every week.

The men and women of RVCP provide an outstanding community service.

The Central Coast Division is almost totally self funded.

To provide the community services, the Patrol must raise about \$35,000 each year for operating costs, including about \$10,000 for fuel for the vessel.

Additionally, funds are needed for capital expenditure to replace old or worn out equipment.

The major role of RVCP today is maritime SAR, with maritime education and radio communication as complementary support services.

Education has always been a key element of RVCP policy.

Education is better than legislation, and those with knowledge and experience rarely have to be rescued at sea.

Those with knowledge are better prepared and go to sea in safety.

Central Coast Division offers inexpensive marine education courses open to the public from the Point Clare base on Marine Radio Operation, Seamanship, Seamen's Meteorology, Basic Navigation and Coastal Navigation.

The Radio Operator's Course encourages the use of marine radio transceivers, and trains boat owners in the correct use of the radio transceiver that assists

in the safety of their crew and passengers.

The Seamanship Course assists those who go to sea understand the power of the ocean and its 'moods' and the many techniques of safe handling of boats and their accessories.

Information on the courses is available by calling the patrol on 4325 7929 any day between 6am and 6pm.

RVCP members are encouraged to hold a First Aid Certificate, and this is compulsory for seagoing SAR crews.

The challenge for RVCP today is threefold: first to cope with the increased use of the waterways, often by inexperienced people; second to use new technology efficiently; and third, to continue to raise enough funds each and every year to maintain operations.

Community support for RVCP demonstrates that the public accepts and acknowledges the need for, and the role that, the Patrol plays in safety on the water.

Members are justifiably proud of RVCP's record and enjoy the camaraderie of membership and just 'messing about with boats'.

For more information contact Ron Cole 4324 8742 or go to the RCVP home page at www.readytorun.com.au/centaco

John Weesen
Divisional Commander

Shamus O'Shaunessy's Shindig

Friday 17 March from 4pm

8 hours of Irish music 2 BIG BANDS!

With "Paddy On Ice" & "Paddy Melon"

Have a Guinness and an Irish jig!

The BIGGEST Irish party on the Coast!

**Tickets \$5
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Memorial Avenue Ettalong 2257 For the information of members & their guests ACN 001011392

Ettalong
BEACH CLUB

Health and Welfare



Woy Woy Hospital Ladies Auxiliary at their regular stall on West Street, Umina raising much needed funds



Constance Thomson and her friends on her 100th birthday
L to R: Back: Bill Hall, founding chairman of the nursing home; Wyn Crisp, St. Lukes Anglican Church; Gwen Morgan, founding board member; Joyce Allan, founding board member and president of the ladies auxiliary; Elsie Solway; Joan Pierce; Netta Virco; and Joan Bevan; all members of the ladies auxiliary.
Front: Ginny Nott, ladies auxiliary; Jennifer Eddy, Chief Executive Officer; Ruth Collins, board member and ladies auxiliary; Connie Thomson; Analise Cubis; and, Isabelle Moncur, both ladies auxiliary.

Auxiliary hopes to better a great year

Woy Woy Hospital Auxiliary has announced their objectives for 2000 after a successful year of fundraising last year.

The Auxiliary raised almost \$26,000 last year, which resulted in five new Lift Care beds, a digital weigh chair and refurbishment of the hospital's viewing room.

Their goal for this year is to raise sufficient funds for the hospital to purchase a bed bath, a BP machine, three nebulisers, four Lucy chairs and 15 aged friendly chairs.

A spokesperson for the Auxiliary said they would like to thank the community for their support.

The Auxiliary will hold a fete at Woy Woy Hospital Health Services Building, on the corner of Ocean Beach Rd and Kathleen St, on March 18 at 9.30am.

Stalls items will include; trash and treasure, books, cakes, jams, plants, kids' clothes and baby ware, toys and novelties, kitchen ware and more.

There will be a sausage sizzle and drinks.

A raffle will be drawn on the day. For more information on Auxiliary membership, the fete or donations telephone Maureen Hurt on 43443229.

Carl Spears, February 2

Well-known activist and community worker, Constance Thomson reached the age of 100 years early in February.

Surrounded by her friends, board members, ladies auxiliary members and others at the Woy Woy Aged Care Facility, where Connie is still the patron, she received congratulatory messages from the Queen, the Prime Minister, and several local, State and Federal politicians and dignitaries.

Connie was a governess to many English children before coming to Australia in 1939 on the last ship before war was declared. She married her long time pen friend Robert soon after arrival in Australia and they remained together until Robert's death in 1980.

They had no children but Connie made good use of her time in many other ways.

Connie was selected as the female Senior Citizen of the Year for the Central Coast in 1980.

She went on to become the Senior Citizen of the Year for NSW.

Mrs Thomson worked as a librarian until she was 76, and then became involved in the Ettalong Business and Professional Women's Club as well as the Anglican Church.

Connie's major campaign was to establish a nursing home for the elderly on the Peninsula.

In the 1980's, there was no local nursing home accommodation for the elderly, and they were forced into accommodation in Sydney away from spouse, family and friends.

Connie became part of

the Woy Woy Nursing Home Association and patron of the Woy Woy Community Nursing Home Auxiliary.

In order to have the nursing home built near the Woy Woy Hospital, in 1984 the nursing homes association worked to convince Federal and State governments of the need for the home.

They also needed to find \$300,000 for their "share".

The group held protests and waved placards in front of television cameras and used every action within their means to reach their goal.

Connie is also well known as a poet and a "Greenie".

Cec Bucello, February 17

Veterans' health needs best served on the Peninsula

Brisbane Waters Private Hospital is now the principal hospital catering for the needs of Veterans Affairs patients on the Central Coast.

At the end of 1999, 46 per cent of Veterans' Affairs patients were admitted to Brisbane Waters Private.

The remaining 54 per cent is shared between Berkeley Vale Private and North Gosford Private Hospitals.

Brisbane Waters Private Hospital is also the fourth biggest Veterans Affairs Provider in NSW.

The other three hospitals ahead of Brisbane Waters Private were the SAN at Wahroonga, St George Private Hospital and Lady Davidson Private Hospital.

Chief executive officer, Graham McGuinness said Brisbane Water Private Hospital has put forward a tender to be a Tier one Veterans' Affairs Hospital.

Mr McGuinness is confident that the tender will be won by the Hospital and Veterans will no longer have to gain prior approval for admission.

"These results are mainly due to the reputation of the excellent cardiology services," said Mr. McGuinness.

He plans to improve these results further this year by striving to better the services Brisbane Waters Private provides to Veterans' Affairs and all other patients.

Karen Booth, February 16

Womens Health Centre courses

'Ideas for parents' is one of the courses being held at the Peninsula Womens Health Centre in March.

The course will be held on Wednesdays from 10-12 noon from March 8 to April 5.

Other courses being held at the Peninsula Womens Health Centre are "Womens' personal safety" on March 14, and "Learn about your past lives on March 21 and 28.

The Peninsula Womens Health Centre is open from 9.30 am to 3 pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Phone 4342 5905 for further details or drop in to the centre in McMasters Rd, Woy Woy

Karen Booth, February 16

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Weddings and Entertainment



Natalie Plummer of St Huberts Island married David Tumer of Green Point and held their reception at Umina Beach Waterfront Restaurant



Melanie Corbett, daughter of Terry Corbett of Umina, married Jamie Cromer, son of Lynne Cromer also of Umina at Old Sydney Town on January 8. Photo courtesy Bowens Photographics, Woy Woy

Boot scootin returns

Get those boots out and ready for some serious dancing as the New year sees the return of line dancing to the Peninsula.

The newly named Deepwater Stampers are back at the Community Centre and welcome any new boot-scooters who are looking for some serious fun.

Classes are held on Mondays from 9.30am (half hour beginners' intensive), regulars 10am to 11.30am and every Saturday from 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

"This year we will be holding a social on the last Saturday of each month and hope to see our regulars plus any new faces who are after great music, great fun and a great way to get fit," said chief instructor Denise.

With enquires telephone 4341 6181.

Kerrie Friend, February 16



Bel and Glen return to Ettalong and Woy Woy

Popular act returns to play the Peninsula

The music act Bel Towns - The Duo, returns to the Peninsula this month featuring covers from artists such as Aretha Franklin, Fleetwood Mac and Blondie.

They also play selected 90's dance grooves and their repertoire on any given night may include classic songs such as Wuthering Heights, Hotel California, You Sexy Thing and Knock on Wood.

In the last three years, Bel Towns-The Duo has worked in Malaysia, Daydream Island and

Star City Casino.

Guitarist Glen Tucker said they regularly play many venues between Wollongong and Newcastle.

"Since we started, we have been in constant demand, so if you want your entertainment to be CD quality with the edge of a live performance, check us out," he said.

Bel Towns - The Duo play at Way Way Bowling Club on February 25 from 8.30pm and the Ettalong Hotel on February 27 from 6pm.

Carl Spears, February 14

BOWENS PHOTOGRAPHICS

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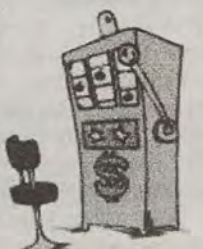
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North Burge Rd, Woy Woy

4341 7598



School News



The "Welcome to 2000" mural made and hand painted by a number of local schools

Youth in performing arts auditions 2000

Youth in Performing Arts Auditions 2000 will take place over the next two to three months.

A project of Gosford West Rotary in conjunction with Laycock Street Bicentennial Community Theatre, bands, choirs, orchestras

and instrumental groups are invited to nominate for an audition which will take place at the nominating school.

Individual singers, dancers, musicians and actors are asked to nominate themselves and to then travel to Valley View Public School

Wyoming on set days.

Vocal item auditions will take place on April 1, dance items on April 7, and drama items on May 6.

Nomination forms are available at local schools.

Cec Bucello, February 19



Centenarian Connie Thomson with the Woy Woy Primary School choir in 1986

Living history on our own doorstep

Mrs Connie Thomson turned 100 years old this month and among her memorabilia was this story about her involvement with a local school, published in the Gosford and Peninsula Times February 18, 1986.

"Woy Woy resident, Mrs Connie Thomson of North Burge Road, has written a national song which will be entered in the 1988 bicentenary competition.

"The song, entitled Praise to Australia, will be performed by the Woy Woy Primary School choir

backed by the South Woy Woy School Children's Brass Band.

"The schools plan to make a video with sound for their bicentennial entry.

"The song was first performed in public last December (1985) at the Woy Woy School speech day and will be presented by the 300 voice Peninsula School Choir at the Peninsula Schools' Music Festival in September (1986).

"Mrs Thomson first wrote the words as a poem in 1984 to recite at the Woy Woy Business and Professional Women's Club

Australia Day breakfast.

"Last year (1985) she put the words to music and asked Woy Woy School if its choir might be interested in singing it.

"These are the words of the first two verses: Let us all sing praise to Australia Show our loyalty to Australia Then the world will know We love freedom so That peace will reign in Australia.

As the years roll by in Australia To maturity in Australia We shall understand How to use our land And every hand For Australia."

Cec Bucello, February 18

Woy Woy High reviews plans and priorities

Woy Woy High School has started off its new year with a review of its school management plans and priorities, a number of new staff and a re-emphasis on how all concerned can make it a better school.

The school's priorities for the year 2000 are the achievement of seven major outcomes, according to principal, Ms Carolyn Carter.

There are that:

- members of the school show respect for each other;
- students bring to every lesson the equipment necessary for full participation;
- students' literacy levels be equal to or better than the population as a whole;
- students actively use a variety of methods to gather information and apply it in a range of learning situations;
- students demonstrate high expectations of achieving optimum levels of academic performance;
- teaching/learning programs, teaching practice, assessment and school reports all be outcome based; and;
- Woy Woy High School have a positive image in the community.

Students have been asked to focus on three things which, if achieved, will have a great impact on the school.

The first was to remember

that they attend school to acquire knowledge and skills.

If each student does this at their best level, then the entire school would receive good results.

The second was the need to respect others.

Working in large groups required consideration of others' needs.

The result would be that everyone would feel comfortable and happy about being there.

The third key factor was appearance.

By everyone wearing the full school uniform to school every day, the students would develop a pride in their appearance and the entire school will look and feel better.

Not only students are being asked to change this year, but teachers as well.

A new approach is needed in teaching, assessing and reporting, and year 11 students need to be made aware of the new HSC format and what this means to them from day one.

Staff changes at the school are: Ms Hills and Ms Englund as new English staff;.

Ms Pratt replacing Mrs Anderson in Home Economics; Ms Lawler as an addition in special Education for a new Special Education class.

For Term 1, Mrs Bourke will do STLD and Mr Lynn will move to Acting Head Teacher.

Cec Bucello, February 19

Woy Woy program for the first term

Woy Woy Public School has announced its calendar of events for Term 1.

Of more general interest are for February:

- 22 - Swimming Carnival
- 25 - Hair Raising Day
- 28 - Two Weeks with the Queen
- 29 - Surf Fun Day

March:

- 1 - Netball & AFL clinics
- 7 - Zone swimming carnival
- 24 - Sydney North swimming carnival

April:

- 13 - Preschool wildlife show.

Hair Raising Day is a multi school fund raising effort to raise funds for the Rotary Cancer Care Appeal in order to improve facilities for cancer sufferers on the Central Coast.

Students in all participating schools will be asked to wear their craziest hairdo and to make a donation for the privilege of doing so.

'Two Weeks with the Queen' is the name of the Woy Woy Little Theatre production to be attended

by years 5 and 6 students.

The production is being put on at no cost to the students.

Surf fun day is run by Surf Lifesaving on the Central Coast and has been arranged for years 5 and 6.

It teaches the students about reading the surf, safety and other information that may save their or their families and friends lives in the future.

The school swimming carnival will take place at Woy Woy Pool.

Also taking place at the school but not in the calendar is the students' participation in the Australian School Competition 2000 for English, Science and Mathematics.

The University of NSW conducts these competitions on a statewide basis for students in years 3 to 6.

They provide students, parents and teachers with an opportunity to gain a measure of the student's individual, achievement in an external assessment situation.

Cec Bucello, February 18

Challenges face Umina High

A new teachers' award, restructuring of education and a new HSC were all challenges facing Umina High School this year, according to principal Mr Pat Lewis.

"While intending to build on our successes of recent years we return to school this year with several major challenges ahead of us," he said in the school newsletter.

"The first of these is the disruption currently being experienced due to the industrial campaign associated with the development of the new teaching award." Mr Lewis said he apologised for the disruption but assured the community that the

teachers did not embark on their course of action lightly.

"We believe that not to oppose the current award offer would be detrimental to both the learning conditions of students and working conditions of teachers," he said.

He said another challenge was the possible re-structuring of secondary education on the Central Coast.

"Re-structuring could bring advantages to, our students if properly managed but we need to ensure that the wonderful programs which exist are not sacrificed," he said.

"I urge all parents and the community to become fully involved in the re-structure talks."

Mr Lewis also saw the new HSC

format as a challenge.

"The new HSC is welcomed by teachers but we have real concerns as to our ability to support it with new textbooks and resources in the absence of any funding from the State Government," he said.

"Those who read recently that our school had a large amount of money in its bank account might be surprised about our concern.

"The published figures were taken before teachers had placed orders for this year's materials.

"This had a large impact on our reserves and two-thirds of the money we are holding is tied to on-going programs."

Help offered in tertiary education to assist low-income families

Gosford Council IS offering Peninsula tertiary students the chance to receive bursaries worth \$1000 a year to help with their financial requirements while studying.

The bursaries are targeted towards students of low income families and one is given to a TAFE student and the other a university student Mayor Councillor

Chris Holstein said Gosford City Council is committed to furthering education.

"Students shouldn't be denied tertiary education simply because of financial status," he said.

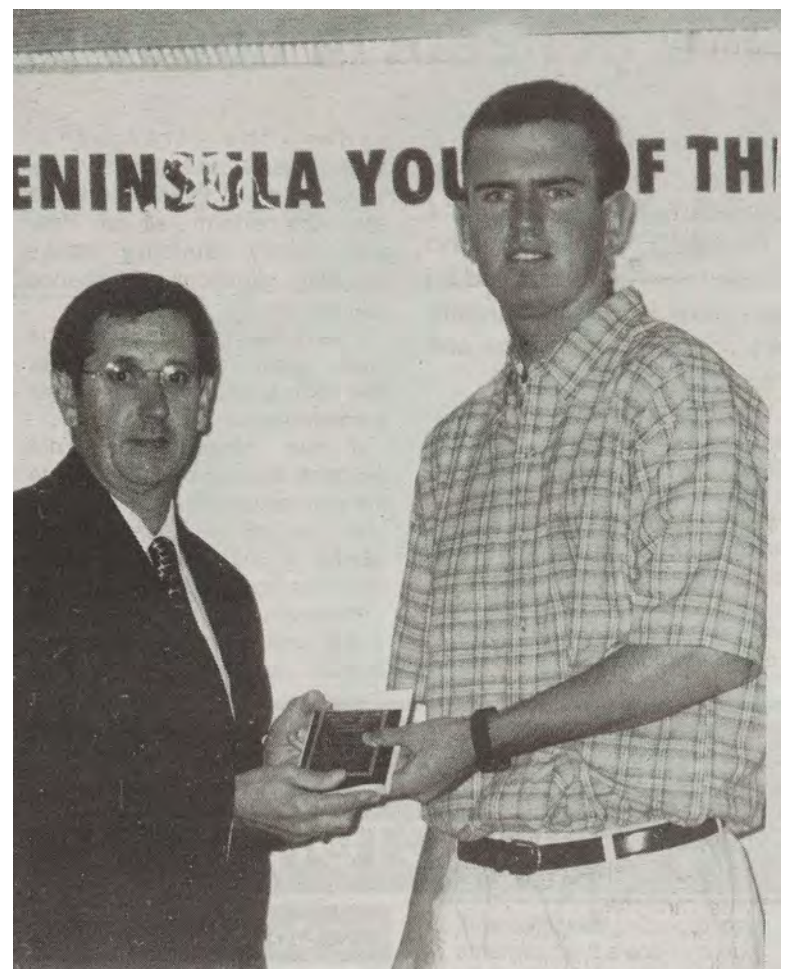
Applicants must have gained entry into an approved tertiary course.

The funding continues each year over the time normally taken to complete the course.

Students who have already started their course and may be in their second or third year are also eligible to apply.

Applications close March 1 and should be addressed to: The General Manager, Gosford City Council, PO Box 21 Gosford 2250.

For more information telephone 43258320.



Brett O'Neill receives his award from the Federal Member for Robertson, Jim Lloyd

Brett receives Youth Award

Brett O'Neill of Umina took out the runner up prize in the hotly contested academic category of the 1999 Peninsula Youth of the Year Awards.

Brett was dux of his year at St Edwards College in Years 10, 11 and 12.

He achieved university admission marks of 98.7 and has been accepted into the Bachelor of Advanced Mathematics and Science course at the University of Sydney.

While at school, Brett was awarded the Edmund Rice Scholarship for Academic Excellence twice.

These outstanding results were achieved under adverse

conditions.

During years 10, 11 and 12, the school was going through a major growth period and there were ongoing building noises including jackhammers on a regular basis.

Additionally, at the beginning of year 12, Brett's Four Unit Mathematics teacher left the school and Brett undertook this most difficult of courses by correspondence with no one to help resolve problems.

In spite of this, he still achieved a final 4 unit assessment mark of 98/100.

At 18, Brett now has the world at his feet.

Cec Bucello, February 19

Helpers needed

Ettalong Public School will over the next few weeks be asking parents to consider volunteering as in-school helpers.

Assistance is required to support students and teachers with reading, craft, computers and other activities, such as the special education class rooms, students banking and school library.

Parents might like to consider the times they have available and how they might like to help.

Parents could volunteer to help in any part of the school and do not specifically have to help in their child's class.

All parents and grandparents are also invited to be involved in helping students in years 5 and 6 with their reading.

The scheme has been operational for a number of years with excellent results having been achieved.

This important program is a wonderful opportunity for adults to be involved directly with students.

No experience in reading tutoring is required.

The program helps to make up for the lack of reading currently being done at home by most children.

Poetry Award

The Central Coast Poets Inc. is conducting a poetry competition.

Cash prizes are offered in adult and under 18 categories.

The second category is split into two sections, over and under 12.

Entries close on March 3 and application forms are available from the Peninsula News.

Woy Woy Committee elected

Woy Woy Public School has a newly elected committee on its Parents and Citizens' Association (P&C).

The committee is made up of extremely hard working parents who are deeply committed to providing the best possible support for all students at the school according to Principal Warrick Hannon.

The P & C Committee Executive members are: President, Kaye Denning; Secretary, Linda Lesley; Treasurer, Karen Egan; Vice Presidents, Karen Anthony and Claire Oliver; Social Secretaries, Tracey Forbes and Feyne Baker.

Ettalong swimming

Ettalong Public School held their annual Swimming Carnival at the Woy Woy pool early in February.

Winning students in each category will now go on to represent the school at zone level.

A fun day camp at the pool will be held at the end of the year.

House captains for 2000 have also been elected and were very useful on the day.

The school currently has four sports houses, Blaxland, Flinders, Phillip and Sturt.

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Arts and Crafts



Prize winners of the "Fiji and me" promotion held at Woy Woy Bowling Club
L to R: Kay Carter, Gwen Cook, Betty Dalby, Jean Harper - winner of the major prize of 7 nights in Fiji,
Dorreen Folley, Decima Tonkin, Gladys Marsh - Winner of a weekend at Dooralong Lodge.
Other winners received prizes that took them on holidays to Port Stephens and the Blue Mountains.



"Arabesque", one of Yvonne's sculptures

Artist of the month: Yvonne Mapstone

Yvonne Mapstone of the Peninsula started performing live at age three, standing on a stool.

From then on she became a dancer, studying classical ballet.

Her first role was at "Her Majesty's Theatre" when she was 17.

She has toured Australia and overseas as a dancer, as well as appearing on TV and in cabarets.

She has also studied, taught and examined dance.

Trips to Europe, especially to Rome awoke her to the beauty of three dimensional art and she began to attend sculpture classes.

She fell in love with the wonder of touch and creation.

"Dance and sculpture are the closest of art forms, each relating to three dimensional composition,

space, line and harmony, form and movement," said Yvonne.

Her work has been shown in Avoca Fine Art Gallery on the Central Coast and her pieces are in private collections in Australia and Europe.

She has won awards and has participated in several exhibitions.

Yvonne said that although it is instinctive to take something in your hand and mould it into a shape, sculpture has developed into a rare field of expertise open only to special people.

Peninsula residents who are interested in getting their hands on clay, plaster and stone to create shapes can contact Yvonne on 4342 6824

Bernard Craft, February 17

Ettalong art, craft activities

The Ettalong Beach Arts and Crafts Centre has workshops in crafts and arts.

The workshops are held at the Ettalong Senior Citizens Centre at the end of Ocean View Road, Ettalong.

Ring Penny for more information on 43601673 To know more about artistic activities of all types on the Peninsula and other parts of the Central Coast, join the Multi Arts Confederation (MAC), PO Box 1382, Gosford 2250.

As an umbrella organisation for the arts, they produce a regular informative newsletter containing a wealth of information for subscribers.

MAC was formed in 1986 to "represent all of the arts and to provide information to council as well as the community at large.

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Sharone Pereira of Umina, daughter of Aileen and Mervyn Pereira of Ettalong married Darren Brain also of Umina, Son of Ken Brain of Fairy Meadow and Gloria Brain of Peakhurst. They were married by Rev. Arthur Copeman at St Pauls Anglican Church, Kinkumber on February 12 and held their reception at Umina.
Photo courtesy of Caris Classic Images, Umina



Louise Carter married Jonathon Heyman at the Pearl Beach Arboretum and held their reception at Sit'n Chats, also at Pearl Beach. Photograph Stine Basks Dress msde by Annette Fallon

News

Basketball skill taught

Tuesday afternoon is the time for Peninsula juniors who are trying to enhance their basketball technique.

The Peninsula Basketball Association has been able to secure the services of Jim Griggs, a fully accredited developmental operator with the NSW Basketball Association.

The classes are aimed at the establishment of fundamental skills as well as refining techniques.

Jim also provides an intensive program aimed at girls.

The classes are run each week in the auditorium of the Peninsula Community Centre from 4pm to 5.30pm at the cost of \$4 per child.

All participants are asked to bring their own court shoes and a drink.

Kerrie Friend, February 16

Patonga gets pentanque

NSW Minister for Sport and Recreation, Mr John Watkins and Member for Peats, Ms Marie Andrews, have announced a funding allocation to construct two pentanque courts at Patonga.

The courts will be built with the \$1256 funding for the Eve Williamson Memorial Oval.

Pentanque is a bowls game similar to bocce and is also known as jeu de boules.

Mr Watkins said the Capital Assistance Program was one of the most important funding programs for sport in the state.

"The State Government's aim is to work in partnership with sporting groups and local government to make sure people of New South Wales have increasing opportunities to participate in their chosen sport or recreational activity," he said.

"The Government's support for the development of these facilities, continues our commitment to the encouragement of a healthy lifestyle."

Clarification on Queen and Princess

In our last edition we incorrectly stated that Joyce Kunze, as "Princess of the Green" was runner up to Lillian Parker who won "Queen of the Green" in the Ettalong Beach War Memorial Club Ladies Indoor Bowls Annual Championship.

The first player to reach eleven points wins the Princess status.

The player who has the most pOints after seven ends wins the Queen status.

Cec Bucello, February 17



Kirby Utterick in her New South Wales Soccer Federation strip

Kirby makes the grade as a future NSW soccer star

Eight-year-old Kirby litterick of Umina has been.selected as one of the few girls ever to take part in the NSW Soccer Federation Coerver Skill squad.

Based at Parklea in NorthWest Sydney, the squad members meet two nights each week for training in the worldwide "new era" Coerver Coaching techniques.

The squad is made up of elite players selected from a state wide talent identification program run by the Federation.

The program consists of less than 20 players, who are asked to give up weekend competition matches so that they can concentrate on skills development.

Players who remain in the squad are expected to move on to playing for top clubs, State squads and eventually to enter an institute of sport for further skills development with the final aim being playing for their country.

It is rare for someone of Kirby's youth and gender to make the squad.

Kirby attends Woy Woy South Public School.

The school had another student in the squad four years ago.

He.was Michael Payne, who now attends Umina High School and plays for the Central Coast Lakers 13-year age group in the State's strongest youth soccer competition.

Cec Bucello, February 17

For the second time, a ladies' team has won the major prize money in the ladies and gents monthly bowls competition at Umina Beach Bowling Club.

Held on February 14, the winning team from Everglades Country Club was M. Ellis, P. Walsh, C. Daniels and 'skip', A. Tucker.

The event has increased in popularity with teams now entering from throughout the district, having been attracted by the increase in

prize money from \$1000 to \$1500 for a one day event.

Competition format consists of ladies Vs ladies and gents Vs gents playing three games of 14 ends.

Entry fee is \$8 per player and includes lunch.

The next monthly tournament at the club will take place on March 6 and any team interested in competing should contact the club.

Charley Robinson, February 18

Woy Woy's Josee paddles for homes

Woy Woy's Josee Van Amerongen will represent the Peninsula in Sydney's largest paddle event Harbour Challenge, Mass Paddle Against Homelessness.

Organised by Sydney City Mission and NSW Canoeing Inc, Harbour Challenge, to be run on February 27, will feature - hundreds of cano~s, kayaks, surf skis, dragon boats and row boats on Sydney Harbour to raise money for Sydney's homeless and disadvantaged.

The inaugural event, held in February last year, raised \$60,000 This year's targ~t is \$100,000.

Ironman and Harbour Challenge supporter, Guy Leech, said the - event was open to everyone, whatever their level of paddling experience.

"You'll have loads of fun in

Harbour Challenge and support a great cause at the same time, no matter what your skill level is," he said.

"You'll also participate alongside hundreds of other paddlers, as well as popular sports people and celebrities, in what is truly an Aussie style event.

"It's critical for partiCipants at all levels to register immediately on 92192040," said Guy Leech.

Harbour Challenge is split into two sections - 17km course starting at Putney on the Parramatta River for more experienced paddlers, and a 4km route from Glebe for beginners.

Both courses finish at Darling Harbour.

Harbour Challenge is also the only event in Sydney which gives paddlers access to Cockle Bay/ Darling Harbour.



Woy Woy Judo star returns from Japan

Woy Woy Judo Club's Drew Evans has returned to the Peninsula after two weeks intensive training in Japan.

Following the Goodwill Games held in Woy Woy last year, head of the Okayama Judo Federation, Mr Yoichi Ogo, invited the Senior Blue Belt to Japan.

Drew stayed with members' families of the Okayama University team, ranked second in their city, and experienced a very different lifestyle with Judo as the central focus.

A typical day consisted of helping the host family with general household chores and sightseeing before heading off to training every day for two hours.

"Training is vastly different to here in Australia," said Drew.

"It was much more intense with

larger facilities and a much greater number of participants.

"I was in awe of the skills of the more senior players." Drew also cited the picturesque scenery of the Okayama region as a highlight of the stay.

"I was extremely fortunate to be chosen for the trip and look forward to returning with the Club next year," he said.

"I hope that Woy Woy Judo Club will have sufficient facilities for the Okayama Club when they return." Woy Woy Judo Club has commenced training for the 2000 season on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at the Peninsula Community Centre.

With enquires. telephone 43 41 9333.

Kerrie Friend, February 16



L to r: Glen Smith, President Mens Bowls, Keith Miller, Bowls Secretary and John Gardner, Woy Woy Bowls Club Chairman jointly responsible for putting together the maestros tournament at Woy Woy

Bowls maestros coming to Woy Woy

Woy Woy Bowling Club will host the 24th Night Maestro Triples Tournament from February 28 until March 10 with both main and consolation matches being played.

Last tournament winner, R. Rogers will be defending his title against a formidable field inducing P. Phlippence, R. Ford, J. Roberts,

B. Windshuttle and C. Robinson. Previous winners of this prestigious event have represented the zone and at state level and spectators can therefore expect to see high quality bowls under lights. The tournament will see a near capacity field of 82 teams including many from Sydney. Woy Woy Bowling Club is delighted with the response.



Teacher, Tracey Bradley with Woy Woy's 14-15 Y O 3rd placed tea!

Peninsula Physical Culture clubs resume

The South Woy Woy Kariong Physical Culture Club has resumed classes on Thursday evenings at Umina Public School while the Woy Woy club holds classes on Wednesdays at the Woy Woy Community Centre..

Physical culture is an enjoyable way for girls to learn poise and deportment and 1 classes are available for ages 3 to adult.

In 1999, the South Woy Woy 1 Kariong club competed in two inter-club competitions against other local clubs and some Sydney based clubs.

One of the competitions was at Allambie Heights in July, where the club won 7 of the 9 possible junior events held and won a total of 17 places.

In the other competition held at Berowra in August, the club won 5 of the 9 junior events.

The club also competed against 13 other local clubs in the Champion Girl of Gosford Tournament, where the club had 18 finalists, 14 of whom

went on to be Grand Finalists. Rebecca Allen was the 7 -year old zone winner and her sister Jessica Allen was third in the 8-year-old zone championships. Both went on to the National Finals in November and reached the semi finals, according to their proud long-term instructor, Mrs. Bev Thompson.

The Woy Woy club is the Peninsula's oldest club having been established over 26 years.

As an un grade club, Woy Woy have also received excellent results for individual and team events.

They had several girls reach junior and senior national finals with one of the seniors, Abby Weeks being ranked fourth best in Australia.

The junior, senior and ladies teams also placed highly.

The 14 to 15 year age team finished 3rd iii the state, the highest Placed team from the Central Coast.

Cec Bucello, February 17

Netball players wanted

The Woy Woy Peninsula Netball Association's winter competition is about to get under way and the Association is looking for new players.

The registration days for the various clubs have already taken place, but association secretary Daphne Short, said anyone who still wants to play can.

Ms Short said the association will also be holding a Fun Net day, which is for boys and girls aged from four to six and teaches them to throw and catch correctly.

The Fun Net day will take place on April 26 and starts at 11am.

There is a small fee. For more information telephone 4342 2962.

New coach for, Ettalong

Roger Smith has been appointed first grade coach of Southern Ettalong Soccer Club.

Smith has had stints with several clubs and is one of the most experienced coaches in the region.

Southern president Lloyd Tait, who will coach the club's under 18's, is confident Smith will be success.

Peninsula sports get grants

Three Peninsula sporting bodies have received funding as part of Council's capital improvement grant program.

Woy Woy District Cricket Club will receive \$7057, Woy Woy Peninsula Little Athletics gets \$2094 and Patonga Tennis Association, \$465.

The program provides financial assistance on a dollar for dollar basis to allow the sporting community to meet their needs.

The cricket club will use the funding to install practice nets, the athletics club for a ride on mower and a discus and shot-put circle upgrade and the tennis association for a gate.

Council considered 21 applicants with seven gaining grants through a priority ranking.

The grant is handed out in September each year and totals \$20,000.

Last year's requests totalled \$99,122.

Next year, the funding will double to \$40,000.

Carl Spears, February 9



Anthony Hayes with his 7 KG dusky flathead

Fishing News:

The big ones are coming in

As reported in December, bumper catches have been made recently both inside and outside of Half Tide Rocks.

Inside Report Good sized bream are being caught near the strong currents.

around the Rip Bridge.

In Paddy's Channel, large flathead are being caught.

Tony Haynes brought one in over 7 Kg last week that looked more like a crocodile.

Around the Woy Woy Bridge, many large whiting have been caught.

Outside Report Nice sand flathead, reddies and leather jackets are being caught in Broken Bay Wide.

Five kilometres off Broken Bay, bonito have been taken on Christmas tree lures.

Dolphin fish have been hard to firJd but are now starting to appear.

John Holman, Jamies Bait & Tackle

Umina senior cricket teams in winning position

With two rounds remaining, Umina Cricket Club's top four grades are all vying for a Semi spot in the regular competition.

Their One Day side is also in contention in the Limited Overs competition.

The First grade side is outright first, while the other grades are either in the top four or well in contention.

Prior to the last round, Umina held a slender lead in the Club Championship.

This is something that Umina has never won in Seniors, although the Junior Club took out the award last season.

Not only are Umina looking at getting as many sides into the semis as they can, but are also looking at being the best club in the

competition.

Highlights since Christmas are: 1st Grade: Jason Riley 93 runs Vs Matcham, Michael Bull 5/44 Vs The Entrance, Paul Sharpe 66 not out and 4/45 Vs Woy Woy, Jamie Doran 61 Vs Woy Woy.

2nd Grade: Scott Brown 78 runs Vs The Entrance.

3rd Grade: Mick Cowan 5/30 Vs Woy Woy, Rob Engelshus 62 Vs WoyWoy, 5th Grade: Paul Watson 60 Vs Woy Woy, Ian Holmes 5/57 Vs Woy Woy & 78 Vs Narara, Robert Duke 65, Adrian Whitten 115 Vs Matcham.

6th Grade: M Bourke 5/15 vs Matcham.

One Day Limited Overs:- A Woods 83 (off 46 balls), T Clarke 60

Michael Barry, February 16

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One of the visible signs of Rotary's good work - the Rotary fountain at Anderson Park, Woy Woy

Rotary celebrates 50 years

This Rotary Club of Woy Woy is celebrating 50 years of service.

The organisation is looking to contact past members who may like to participate in the celebrations.

Among the noticeable signs of Rotary activity are geographic landmarks such as Staples Lookout and the Mt.

Ettymalong lookout.

Both these were built by members of the Rotary Club and are now permanent fixtures of the Peninsula.

To commemorate its 50th year, the club plans to build a monument in Ocean

Beach Rd, dedicated to past President Don Leggett.

Mr. Leggett, who was awarded an Australia Medal, was the last Shire president of Gosford.

He was also the first Mayor.

A time capsule will be placed within the monument.

An anniversary dinner will be held on June 24 this year.

Any past members who wish to be involved may contact the club at PO Box 175, Woy Woy 2256.

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