



Flats in Burge Rd, Woy Woy - part of the strategy for a compact city on the Peninsula as described in the State Government report 'Shaping the Central Coast'

'Compact city' plan for Peninsula area

The Peninsula is to become a "compact city", according to the State Government's draft planning strategy for the Central Coast.

The strategy "Shaping the Central Coast" foreshadows growth in the region of 88,000 people over the next 20 years.

It also claims to incorporate the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

Of seven urban districts in the region, the Peninsula has the single largest area designated for "compact city" urban redevelopment.

The document is currently on public exhibition, with comments being received until May 5.

The strategy recommends "medium density housing in areas with good access to public transport, employment and other services".

It also recommends upgrading infrastructure on the Peninsula "to facilitate urban consolidation opportunities in these established areas".

Details of the potential redevelopment are only given in

the broadest terms.

"Compact urban centres, with varied employment opportunities and higher densities of residential development, are necessary to sustain good public transport and enable services such as education, cultural attractions and retail development to be viable," the document states.

"In a compact city, housing styles and densities need to complement the local character and strengthen rail and road based transport networks.

"The need to provide housing choice means building multi-unit dwellings as well as the traditional detached dwelling." While the document does not define the nature of the "multi-unit dwellings", a presentation by the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning last week showed slides of four and six storey blocks of flats as "medium density" housing.

As well as housing, the strategy addresses transport, the environment, "living", the economy, rural land, industry and infrastructure.

The transport strategy includes support for the "high speed rail"

upgrade, which would see the section of track along Mullet Creek by-passed by a direct route from Brooklyn to Woy Woy through the National Park.

The environment strategy suggests air and water quality improvement, better environmental monitoring as well as "improving standards of urban design".

As for the economy, the strategy says that economic development should only be considered if the natural environment is protected for future generations.

"New investment will need to integrate ecologically sustainable development principles into its activities, policies and procedures." On the other hand, it says "it is imperative that the region fosters entrepreneurial skills".

The department intends to prepare an "Implementation Plan" once comments on the strategy have been received.

Printed copies of the strategy are available from the department for \$15 or it may be downloaded (20mb) from the department's web site.

Mark Snell

Cr Wales attacks State drug inaction

Councillor Debra Wales has attacked the State Government for its "lack of effort to combat the local drug problem in Woy Woy".

"The open use of and dealing in drugs on the Woy Woy waterfront is ridiculous and is increasing daily," she said.

"We need more police to stem the tide of drug activity.

"That is why we elect representatives to the New South Wales parliament," said Cr Wales, who was Liberal candidate for Peats at the last election.

"Where is our Local Member? "It would be nice if for once we had some positive action from our Local Member and some advice .

as to how she and the State Government are going to tackle the local drug problem.

"Both I and local business people have approached the police and I have met with Gosford detectives.

"However, there is little they can do because of the lack of specific resources for drug surveillance.

"They need more police and appropriate resources," said Cr Wales.

Her statement follows the installation of a "sharps bin" at Pelican Park.

"Nobody likes to find used needles in our playgrounds and nobody likes to find drug addicts shooting up in our public places

and toilet blocks," said Cr Wales.

"I have never objected to the placement of needle sharp bins in appropriate areas, so that responsible people who find needles can dispose of them safely," she said.

"The fact is that the sharp bins are not there for the drug addicts.

"They are there for us unfortunately to clean up after them.

They are not the ones who are disposing of the needles properly.

"It is the drug addicts who are leaving them around and creating the health hazard.

"That does not mean that we have to place the needle bins in full public view in the middle of a children's playground under signs that prohibit every other activity other than the taking of illicit drugs.

"If we have to have the bins, place them to the side of Pelican Park against the toilet wall where we don't have to advertise to all and sundry that we have an uncontrollable drug problem in Woy Woy" Cr Wales said that the real issue was not the bins but the lack of State Government action to provide the required resources so that the New South Wales Police Service can attack the local drug epidemic.

"Locals have come to me for help to highlight the growing problem in the Woy Woy CBD."

Peninsula investments help draw top 500 NSW companies to Coast

Peninsula developments such as the fast ferry service and the Ettalong Beach Resort have helped draw reports of interest from Top 500 companies and overseas government departments.

They were looking to invest in the area, according to Central Coast Economic Development Board (CCEDB) chairman Councillor Tony Sansom.

Cr Sansom said the board was overwhelmed with the response to their latest marketing strategy, which involved mailing-out of a prospectus outlining the advantages of doing business in the IATHS \$99 area "We have

received numerous inquiries from Sydney companies regarding relocation and industrial land on the Central Coast," he said.

The board also sent copies of the prospectus to embassies and consulates.

"We received an immediate reply from the United States Department of Commerce, whose senior commercial officer will be meeting with the board shortly to discuss all aspects of investment in the Central Coast," said Cr Sansom.

"The CCEDB will be working hard to ensure that these opportunities are translated into sustainable local jobs."

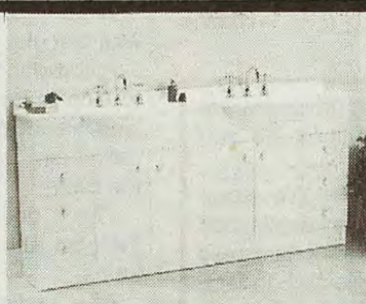
Carl Spears, March 23

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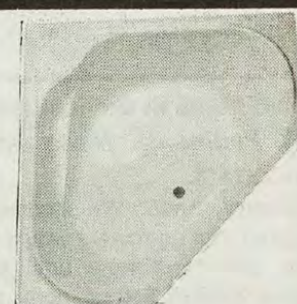
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Forum

Peninsula News

The first of what it is hoped will be several boom times is about to hit the Peninsula.

As this edition goes to press, school holidays have just commenced and local businesses look forward to an increase in their turnover to make up for the quieter times.

Coupled with Easter and Anzac Day activities, the Peninsula will see many tourists around and shopping centres, markets, eateries, cinemas and a host of tourism-related businesses can expect to improve their bank balances.

School teachers, students and staff will also be able to relax and ponder on the major changes to the senior education arrangements being mooted.

Hopefully, the general feeling of prosperity that comes from this increased activity in the community and leisure as a result of a series of public holidays, will rub off on those who have been struggling.

Distribution

Last month our 14,000 copies of Peninsula News were hardly sufficient as more and more people are securing a copy for themselves. It is surprising how many people also take copies for friends or relatives who either used to live in the area and want to be kept informed, or just want to know more about the area.

We have had reports of copies being sent every month to Canada, London, the USA, parts of central Europe and most states of Australia. There are no doubt many more overseas recipients that we do not know about.

Remember, if you miss out on a copy, you can always read news items on the web at www.peninsulanews.asn.au

Feedback

Thank you to those people who take the trouble to let us know what they think of the paper.

It is heartening to be told that what we are doing is appreciated by so many readers from all walks of life and all ages.

Contributors

Matthew Wales, Mark Snell, John Oakley, Stephen McNamara, Jim Lloyd, Amanda Jackson, Kerrie Friend, Bernard Craft, Joan Chippendale, Eileen Canas, Karen Booth, Lynne Bockholt, Debra Wales.

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Next edition

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Legal responsibility for editing, printing and publishing, and election comment in Peninsula News is taken by Mark Snell of Woy Woy. for Peninsula Community Access Newspaper Inc.

Two items in the last issue of Peninsula News were incorrect.

Library fines: We incorrectly stated that borrowers would still be able to borrow until their fines totalled \$10 or more, provided they had no overdue items out. This is incorrect.

Under the new rules, all loan privileges are suspended if any fines are outstanding.

Kayak business: We incorrectly stated that an application for a proposed kayak business in Ettalong was rejected. In fact, the council decided to allow the business to operate.

Carl Spears, March.22

Woy Woy lifestyle worsens

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 topennews@worldpacific.com.au or on disk save us having to retype them.

I am writing to ask if you could please assist us.

We have deep concern for the area of Woy Woy.

We would like that you please take up the concern of the concerned citizens.

During the years that we have been living in Woy Woy, both my mother and myself have seen the area change from a friendly country village.

We have been living in the area for 30 years and 28 years respectively.

We would like you to please help us in some way to prevent any further stress and discomfort from being put on the area and its long time residents by the developers and development which is so rampant in the area.

We feel deep concern for the wildlife of the area and have witnessed its recent decline.

Until recently, the area's long time residents have felt safe to live in their own homes and enjoyed the quiet and friendly atmosphere of the village.

Now they must lock their doors day and night because of the robberies and violence which are occurring so frequently in the area.

Robberies and violence are increasing.

There are punch ups; fights in the streets.

Last week blobs of blood were hosed off the footpath outside the Commonwealth Bank.

No longer is there law and order in the area.

People urinate on the footpaths and against shops in Blackwall Road.

Two days ago a neighbour of mine told me that nine homes had been broken into and robbed within one minute's walk from where I live.

Two school boys have been

hanging about the shops asking for money for bus fares.

Children are riding skateboards down the ramp at Woy Woy railway station and along footpaths in the shopping areas.

Last week an elderly lady was knocked down by a boy riding a skateboard.

Shopping trolleys are dumped in streets around the area of the shopping centre.

Some are tipped over into gutters alongside the footpaths and into drains.

Some trolleys are seen many streets away from the shopping area.

Children ride them along the footpaths.

Shoppers push their shopping across the roads and up the streets to their homes or to the bus stops and then abandon them.

When is somebody going to pull out the grass and weeds which are beginning to grow over the pavers on the footpaths?

When is somebody going to clean up the stinking mess of cigarette butts which fill the gaps between the pavers on the footpaths?

I have been living in the area for nearly 30 years and the Woy Woy area has never been in the dirty, filthy, neglected state that it is presently in.

The area of Woy Woy is fast becoming smothered in villa homes and dual occupancy.

Dual occupancy has two or three family homes built on the

one block of land - land which was originally occupied by only one family home.

There are streets and streets of villa homes.

In some streets as many as 14 villa homes have been built on one or two blocks of land.

Fourteen persons, couples, families are now living on land where once only one or two families lived.

The area is presently suffering, and has been under stress for some time, from much trouble and the many problems caused by too many people coming into the small country town.

We are very concerned about the rapidly increasing development in the area and its effects on local residents and native animal and birdlife of the area.

Woy Woy is a beautiful area.

It is made up of many wetlands and natural bush-covered mountains.

These areas of our clean waterways have been home to teams of native birds and animals for hundreds of years.

We would appreciate any assistance you can offer us to put an end to the over-crowding and over-development of the Woy Woy area.

My mother, Mrs Marjorie Low, is past President of the Ladies Auxiliary South Woy Woy and is a life member.

Mrs P. Paris Woy Woy

Irate rate payer asks, how long?

How long do we have to pay rates and be a resident of Umina? I am a follower of dance venues in this area, which keeps us mature people off the streets and out of trouble.

To keep to the point, dancers can become professional and receive prizes and medals in a short time.

Now the big questions regarding my stay in Umina.

I was advised kerbing and guttering would only be two years away.

Fourteen years later we are still waiting.

I'm delighted for the play areas and skate parks for the children which I see on my walks around this beautiful area, but I am afraid if I keep my exercise program up, I will be a cripple as the roads are so dangerous to walk on.

Second promise broken.

I live beside a creek which was lovely when I came here.

Now it is filthy and infested and the poor birds and wild life have emigrated to a more salubrious area.

Take heed, my "Sleepy Hollow" is disappearing before my eyes.

So come on the powers-that-be. Keep some promises and make Umina a safe place for the older as well as the younger.

M. Robertson, Umina

No light at end of tunnel on CityRail's bad service

This morning, my train (from Woy Woy to St Leonards) was 20 minutes late.

When it did eventually come, it was ridiculously full.

Astonishingly, the driver 'forgot' to stop at Berowra, and only realised his mistake when someone called him using the intercom on the train.

Thank goodness we were in a Tangara and not one of the older trains.

After realising he had forgotten to stop at Berowra, he stopped the train at Mt Kuringai to let off those

people who needed to get off at Berowra.

Not surprisingly, those passengers were quite irate.

By the time the train reached Turramurra, there were so many people on it that quite a few school students were unable to board.

Undoubtedly, they were late for school.

I remember (from personal experience) quite clearly how unsympathetic schools can be when your excuse for being late is "I couldn't fit on the train".

It sounds ridiculous, but

unfortunately it is a regular occurrence in Sydney.

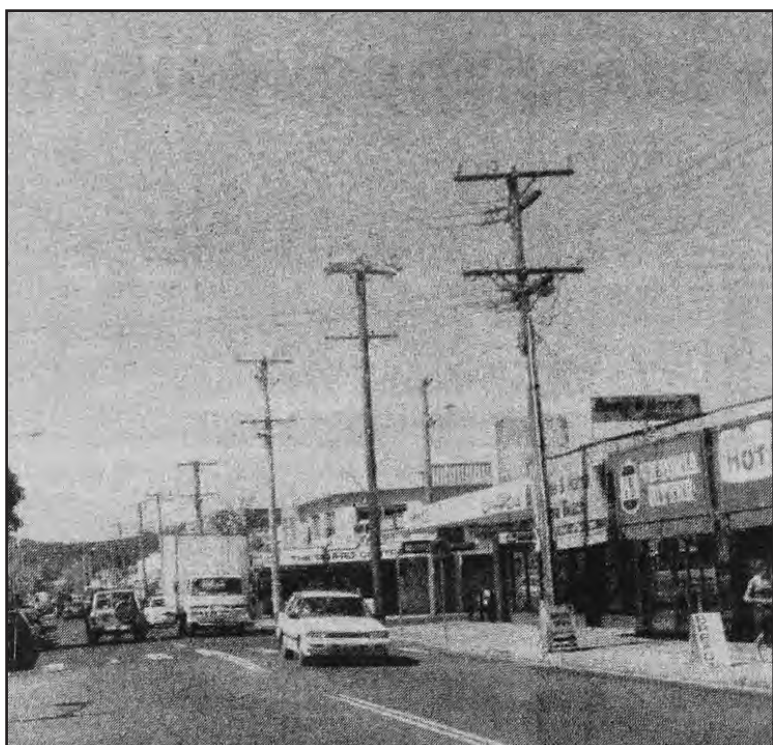
I am offended that commuters are going to be made to pay increased train fares.

I don't feel that the service warrants it.

If the quality of the service improved, I may feel that the fare hike was worth it, but given the rise in fares last year and the fact that nothing improved after it, I have become 'a cynical commuter.'

Rebecca Fenton

More letters on page 10



Overhead wires at Umina CBD will soon go underground

Peninsula CBD power to travel underground

Councillor Lynne Bockholt has welcomed the news that Energy Australia has agreed to contribute to undergrounding power in the Woy Woy, Umina and Ettalong CBD areas on a dollar-for dollar basis.

"Energy Australia's offer is a significant change in policy and shows their support for the community improvements currently under way in the Peninsula CBDs" said Cr Bockholt.

"Council has been negotiating with Energy Australia for some time and it is so pleasing to have support from such a significant player.

"Because Council will contribute 50 per cent of the cost of burying power lines, each Peninsula CBD

Committee will meet to decide which parts of the electrical network will be put underground.

"The Woy Woy CBD Committee has been keen to get rid of the powerlines in front of the Library in particular as well as in other areas of the CBD and the waterfront tourist area.

"As chair of this committee, I am sure we will grab this opportunity with both hands.

"The committee will be keen to get started as Woy Woy CBD could be very different without powerlines to obstruct the view.

I'm sure the same will happen in Ettalong and Umina." "I would like to congratulate Energy Australia on this initiative designed to make the Peninsula even more special than it is already," said Cr Bockholt.

Lynne Bockholt

Council to be audited

Gosford Council has decided to undertake a management structure audit.

Cr Lynne Bockholt said she was delighted with the decision, describing herself as protagonist of the proposal.

"This is the one of the most important and worthwhile things I have done since I have been on Council," she said.

"There is a widespread feeling among councillors that there needs to be a much stronger focus on customer service and outcomes." Cr Bockholt said a change in culture was needed in some sections of the council.

"Much of this council culture is a holdover from the.

days when local government was closed to all public opinion and while some managers have done much to try and rid the organisation of these attitudes they persist," she said.

The council will use a selective tender process to engage consultants, at an anticipated cost of between \$50,000 and \$100,000.

The audit will aim to improve customer focus and enable council

services to be more responsive and better geared to satisfying community needs.

The council has approved a draft brief and tender document for the consultancy.

The draft tender says the appointee will examine the council's structure, customer service levels and operating systems.

The consultant is asked to examine internal control systems, policies and procedures, as well as procedures for appointment, authorisation and validation.

The outcome is expected to include a report on non-compliance with "existing or generally accepted" procedures.

The audit would "review the integrity, reliability and effectiveness of the existing system compared to other models employed by other large organisations, in particular the effectiveness of the current department structure".

The audit process would include interviewing councillors, all levels of staff and members of the community.

A survey of the community will also be undertaken.

Mark Snell, April 12

State opposes factory outlet

A State planning body has opposed plans for a factory outlet at Kariong, which is claimed would create 400 local jobs.

The Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (DUAP) has been criticised by former Gosford mayor and Woy Woy resident, Mr Kim Margin.

Mr Margin said DUAP was the only body that opposed the project that would create 400 jobs for Peninsula and nearby residents.

He said council town planners, councillors, the Central Coast Economic Development Board, the Department of State and Regional Development, the Peninsula Chamber of Commerce and local members of parliament were in favour of the project.

The proposal has been on public exhibition and agreed to by councillors.

The factory outlet would be situated on a 25-acre lot near the

proposed business park at Mt Penang and would sell discount clothing and accessories.

The company backing the venture is Austexx, which already has a successful business similar to that proposed, in Moorabbin, Victoria.

The Mt Penang proposal would be twice the size and the estimate of 400 new jobs was based on the numbers employed at the Moorabbin venture.

"It will be the biggest factory outlet in Australia for clothes," said Mr Margin.

"The outlet will be open seven days a week, and most of the people employed will be youth in the 17 to 21 age group." Mr Margin said Austexx was willing to spend about \$20 million on the project.

"Four-hundred jobs will go begging if DUAP has its way," he said.

He said DUAP had indicated that they would prefer the venture to be at Tuggerah.

"The people at DUAP, many who haven't been to the Central Coast, look at the map and see Tuggerah is central to the region and think that makes it the best place to put it," he said.

"Austexx don't want it at Tuggerah. They would prefer the proposed site."

Mr Margin has contacted the Special Minister for State, and Peninsula resident, Mr John Della Bosca in an attempt to overturn DUAP's decision.

Mr Margin owns the land that Austexx would buy if the proposal goes ahead.

Mr Margin said his interest goes beyond simple financial interest and, having been a past mayor, he can see the benefits to the Peninsula community.

"If Austexx don't buy the land, someone else will," he said.

"I won't lose out and this is a project that will be extremely beneficial to Peninsula residents."

Carl Spears, April 13

Chamber urges full recycling service

The Peninsula Chamber of Commerce has urged Gosford Council to include a comprehensive recycling service in the new waste contract.

"This service needs to include all recyclable goods that currently go to landfill Sites, including electrical appliances and furniture as well as green waste," said Chamber secretary Mr Mark Snell.

"Many other Australian and overseas communities have financially viable, successful, comprehensive recycling services.

"We are also keen to encourage the additional local employment opportunities provided by such services." In a letter to the council,

Mr Snell said: "We are concerned that previous attempts in Gosford to implement such services have been ill-conceived, ill-fated and based on poor business models.

"The contract needs to ensure that recycling is encouraged while landfill disposal is discouraged." The Chamber's submission said the contract should ensure that recycling efforts were focussed at the source, instead of at the destination; the tip.

It suggested a number of other measures be included.

Recycling collections, including bulk kerbside collections, should be made promptly.

Public recycling collection facilities (eg different coloured glass bins and can bins) should be provided and cleared regularly in populous areas.

The contractor should treat recyclable material as a valuable resource rather than "junk".

The standard and quality of storage, handling and retail sale facilities proposed should reflect this.

A sophisticated approach

was required for collection of both household and business recyclable waste and for the salvage recyclable material from the tip.

The Chamber was concerned that recycling efforts were not prejudiced by potential conflicts of interest which can arise if separate entities are operating various elements of the "waste" system.

It was important that employees did not sabotage recycling efforts.

Salvaging rights and procedures needed to be clearly defined and monitored.

The Chamber suggested that any recyclable material not recovered by the contractor should be made available through properly managed public scavenging opportunities.

"Action on this matter is overdue and the preparation of a new waste contract is an ideal opportunity to take it in hand," said Mr Snell.

Peninsula one of first areas to combat graffiti

Woy Woy and Umina will be among the first towns to benefit.

from a new \$3 million State Government anti graffiti program, according to State Labor MP for Peats Ms Marie Andrews.

"Graffiti is a massive community problem and we must all work together to clear it from our streets, homes and public places," she said.

"In my discussions with local families, this issue comes uptime and again.

"The State Government has heard the concerns of local families and responded by announcing this plan for the Central Coast." The Gosford City anti-graffiti package includes a \$25,000 high powered graffiti blasting machine and a 72 hour rapid removal program for graffiti at local train stations and sidings.

Local clean-up teams would be made up of young people serving community service orders.



The program will be overseen by Gosford City Council, with the State Government providing transport, supervision and cleaning materials for the clean-up teams.

"These clean-up teams are not only about graffiti removal, they're about teaching young offenders respect for public property," Ms Andrews said.

"These young people will be repaying their debt to the community by cleaning up the damage they did in the first place.

"In addition, from June 1, the NSW Police will include graffiti

crime in Operation and Crime Reviews." The State Education Minister had agreed to contact all school principals on the Central Coast to reinforce Government policy that students caught painting graffiti on school property would be made to clean up the mess, she said.

The program would be reviewed after 12 months.

The State Government was also considering a ban on Spray paint sales to people under 16; a design requirement for insertion of whistles in spray paint cans, fines for parents whose children are graffiti offenders or vandalise; and rewards for information on graffiti offenders.

"This is a strong step toward eliminating the scourge of graffiti in this region," Ms Andrews said.

"I welcome the State Government's determination to help clean up local streets, and look forward to these teams starting work locally in coming weeks."

Chamber News

Chamber awaits Umina CBO consultant appointment

The Peninsula Chamber of Commerce is awaiting the decision of Gosford City Council in relation to the Appointment of the consultant for the Umina Beach CBD Streetscape Masterplan.

It is the Chamber's understanding that quotations have now been received by Gosford Council for the preparation of the streetscape masterplan for the Umina Beach CBD.

We are expecting a decision by Council in the next few weeks which will enable the reassessment of the street upgrade requirements to begin.

The Chamber has been advised that the consultancy is in two parts, with the first part consisting of the preparation of the draft masterplan by the successful consultant.

The draft masterplan will be prepared through a combination of public consultations and assessment of existing information.

We were pleased to note that the Council had included a requirement for the traffic and pedestrian flows to be assessed in the review.

The plan will be extensively advertised after which it will be put before Council for adoption.

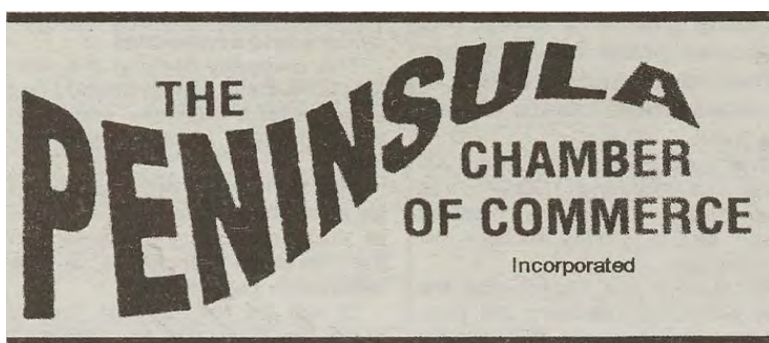
The second part of the consultancy will consist of a detailed design of the adopted plan so that the works can be implemented under Council's Financial Strategy.

The Chamber will be actively liaising with Council and the consultant to ensure that the review process is completed as quickly as possible.

Now that the decision on the planning consultant is imminent, it is imperative that the review be completed in a thorough manner and that all community views are considered.

The Chamber of Commerce is continuing to push for the preparation of a Development Control Plan (DCP) for Umina Beach to deal with the long term planning issues for the CBO.

While the Chamber had



advocated for the DCP to be included in the Streetscape Masterplan consultancy, the Council has decided to pursue this issue separately.

From the point of view of the landowners and business people in Umina Beach, the review of planning controls is a logical flow on from the streetscape review to ensure that the long term planning needs of the town centre are addressed.

Compact city

The Chamber has raised concerns over the "Shaping the Central Coast" discussion document prepared by the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, which is currently on exhibition.

Of particular concern to the Chamber is the "Compact City" status of the Peninsula area.

The document is an important advance by the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (DUAP) in ensuring that the community has a say in the development and growth of the Central Coast and, in particular, the Peninsula area.

In the Chamber's view, the thrust of the planning policy is in tune with business community goals.

The Chamber, as a matter of principle, has for some time advocated for environmentally sustainable development, the ability for people to work close to home, good transport connections and a strong sense of community.

These and other issues are highlighted in the DUAP document which is currently out in the public arena for discussion.

However, like all broad based documents, the devil will be in the

detail.

The Chamber has some major concerns in relation to the emphasis by the Department on 'compact cities' to accommodate the population growth predicted for the Central Coast.

This issue is only described in the discussion document in broad terms.

The document notes that the Peninsula area is identified to become a "compact city" and is the single largest area to be so designated in the Central Coast region.

Whilst the Chamber has supported the notion of medium density development, such development comes at a price and can only be sustained if suitable services and infrastructure are provided.

It is important to ensure that the quality and standard of development on the Peninsula is continually improved and that services are provided to meet the needs of the community.

The DUAP document is an ideal opportunity for the local community to get involved in the planning process at both a regional and 10-college.

Whilst the DUAP document identifies the Peninsula as having capacity for additional growth, the last thing that the business community wants is growth without corresponding infrastructure.

The Peninsula must not be made the sacrificial lamb for the rest of the Central Coast just to meet population growth targets by the State Government.

Great way to meet

The Peninsula Chamber of Commerce exists for the benefit



Busy Umina CBO streetscape awaiting consultant's appointment

of member businesses on the Peninsula and is a great way for business people to meet, network, exchange ideas and contribute to the ever-changing shape of our local business community.

The Chamber represents retailers, professionals, trades and commercial owners, and homebased businesses alike, and is your voice at Local, State and Federal Government level.

New members

The Chamber welcomes all those new members who have joined the organisation over the last few months.

The input of new members is important so as to ensure that new ideas are brought into the Chamber structure and enacted.

For businesses wanting to become members of the Chamber, you can obtain information from the secretary by telephoning 4344 4930 during normal business hours.

What's on

Every third Thursday of the month, the Chamber will be holding a Business Networking Meeting at

the Ettalong Beach Memorial Club from 6pm.

This is an opportunity to network with other business people and exchange ideas and information.

It is also your opportunity to raise Chamber matters for discussion.

Light refreshments will be available and we will be asking special guests to briefly talk about their businesses.

Contact point

For those who require further information regarding the Peninsula Chamber of Commerce and its activities, the following people can be contacted:-

President: Matthew Wales 4343 1141

Secretary: Mark Snell 4344 4930

Treasurer: Derek Britton 4343 1599

Mainstreet coordinator: Debra Wales 43427510

You can also visit the Chamber's Web Page at www.peninsulachamber.asn.au or send an email to chamber@openwindows.com.

Matthew Wales

Councillor Bockholt explains the importance of audit

As the main protagonist of a wide-ranging audit into the Gosford Council, I am delighted that Council has resolved Unanimously to employ a firm of specialist management consultants to carry out a management and structural audit on the entire council and its operations.

Councillors have agreed to find out if the management structure which is currently in place is the best one to deliver services to residents and ratepayers.

There is a widespread feeling among councillors that there needs to be a much stronger focus on customer service and outcomes rather than on internal processes which are the trademark of a traditional bureaucracy.

I want to ensure that there are enough staff at the coalface ie

Gosford Council will now undergo external auditing to ensure quality service and efficient and honest management.

One of the main protagonists in this cause is Cr Lynne Bockholt and here she gives her reasons for the move.

building roads, clearing drains, mowing parks and reserves, looking after the libraries and other community facilities and all the other functions council staff carry out every day.

This service delivery end is what I am interested in and I believe other councillors feel the same way.

Over the eight years I have been at Council, I have been most concerned at the amount of time it takes to get things done.

I stress that this is not all departments.

But I have many specific instances where it has taken far longer than it should for things to get moving.

I want to ensure that council is an open council with managers willing to listen to the public and act on their suggestions and responses.

While this happens in some sections, there are still too many areas which believe they are immune to both councillors and the public.

Nothing ever sees the light of day unless they approve of it.

Much of this council culture is a holdover from the days when local government was closed to all public opinion.

While some managers have done much to try and rid the organisation of these attitudes they still persist.

I was very pleased that Mr Peter Wilson, Council's General Manager, gave his total support to the audit.

He indicated that he sees merit in getting expert outside opinion on council's performance.

In large organisations management audits are common practice.

I believe it's time Gosford Council was put under the microscope.

There will be opportunities for the community and staff to have input although at this stage I am not sure how this will be carried out.

Currently Expressions of Interest are being prepared for insertion into Sydney papers.

After culling by councillors, interviews will take place.

One of the most important issues will be how the public

consultation and participation will be conducted.

I am only too aware that if the community doesn't have a say they will not see any value in the audit.

I expect the audit to take some months to complete.

Every aspect of council will be put under the spotlight.

But I believe by the end of this year, councillors will be able to present to the public a blueprint of the way to achieve better service delivery.

It will also make council much more responsive to the needs and wants of local residents.

I believe this is the one of the most important and worthwhile things I have done since I have been on council and that the community can only benefit by this long overdue action.

Cr Lynne Bockholt

Proposed bottle shop proprietor joins objectors

The proprietor of a "proposed bottle shop" in Booker Bay has joined objectors who oppose drunkenness in the street.

Mr Ian Thomas said he had applied for a liquor-free zoning outside his shop.

"I don't want anyone drinking out the front either," he said.

"Council assured me that the liquor-free zone would go ahead concurrently with permission for me to sell alcohol," Mr Thomas said he wanted to supply liquor, but only as an adjunct to the existing Booker Bay General Store business.

"It won't be a big component of our sales," he said.

"It's only meant to be a service because people have asked for it.

"I got about 125 signatures in two days in support of what I want to do.

"Often the nearby marina's

customers ask where the nearest bottle shop is.

"A lot of people can't walk up to a kilometre away to buy alcohol and if they drive into Ettalong they often can't get parking easily.

"It was never meant to be a full-on bottle shop," Mr Thomas said he had also applied to Australia Post to be a sub-agency.

Council had received objections from 83 residents about the proposal.

They said they believed that, if the development were to go ahead, a similar situation to that of Empire Bay would be created where alcohol was consumed near the shop.

They were worried that this would lead to an increase in crime and accidents.

Mr Thomas said any of the objectors were welcome to visit him or his wife at the shop to discuss the matter.

Carl Spears, April 4



The intersection of Maitland Bay Drive and Picnic Parade shown above will soon receive an upgrade.

Ettalong road plans displayed

Plans for roadworks at Ettalong are on display at Umina and Woy Woy libraries.

One plan is for a roundabout to be constructed at the intersection of Bourke and Barrenjoey Roads.

The single lane roundabout is designed for improved traffic safety and will have pedestrian refuges

on all approaches.

A second display is of plans for improved traffic safety at the intersection of Picnic Parade and Maitland Bay Drive.

This project will provide a protected right-hand turn into Picnic Parade, a left-turn lane for traffic turning from Picnic Parade, an acceleration lane for traffic

turning right from Picnic Parade, improved traffic lane definition and an on-road cycleway in both directions.

Both sets of plans will be on display until 5 pm on April 21.

Further information can be obtained from Allan Garlick or Peter Dunn of Gosford Council on 4325 8137.

Cec Bucello, April 12

Library upgrade handling criticised

Council's heritage committee has criticised the way the Woy Woy Library upgrade has been handled.

It has asked that all matters impacting on heritage items, whether directly or not, be referred to it.

The committee said it was not contacted about the Woy Woy library forecourt landscaping because it did not involve a development application.

The committee said in a report to Council: "It seems that some sections of Council are not aware of heritage items and their responsibilities regarding them." Committee member Ms Tracy Sharp has sent a memo with a list of heritage items to Council staff and CBD committees.

The committee said it was not involved in consultations with the architects in the drawing of a draft

conservation management plan for the library upgrade even though the committee had requested to be part of the process.

The draft plan was forwarded to the committee, which it described as containing good descriptions and policies.

But the committee was concerned about the lack of an action plan for conservation works, as well as priorities, estimates of cost and time frames.

"The draft plan should also be addressing the landscaping more fully," said the committee's report.

Meanwhile, the committee was still awaiting a reply to discuss action on the roof signs on the Bay View Hotel.

Council passed a resolution to deal with the signs in September last year.

The committee claimed the signs were illegal.

Carl Spears, April 5

Petitioners voice concerns over issues

Council has received four petitions with a total of 1045 signatures on matters pertaining to the Peninsula.

Concerns have been voiced by 454 residents from Empire Bay and surrounding suburbs over a proposed residential flat building in Rickard Rd.

The petitioners said that, as a community, they were not consulted and were worried that a large development would be detrimental to the existing village atmosphere.

A total of 373 residents from Umina and other parts of the Peninsula said they were in support of a home-based fruit and vegetable store, which was run



Land acquired by Fast Ships

from Ocean Beach Rd.

Council officers have since closed down the business.

The acquisition by Fastships Limited of the grassed foreshore reserve area south of the toilet

block at the intersection of Bangalow St and the Esplanade, Ettalong Beach has been opposed by 141 Ettalong residents.

Cr Bockholt said the matter would be coming back to Council in about a fortnight.

A development application for a business near Trafalgar Ave has drawn objections from 77 residents and shopkeepers at Umina.

The petitioners said the laneway between Trafalgar Ave and Norman St was too narrow and would be unsuitable to take the extra traffic that would be generated by the business.

The petitioners requested Council reject the application.

Carl Spears, April 5

Waterway funds sought

Gosford Council is seeking a dollar-for-dollar grant from the Waterways Authority for the Patonga boat ramp, car park and foreshore projects.

The council has already received \$10,000 for work on the Rawson Rd wharf at Woy Woy South.

The wharfhead will be replaced and a seat will be installed.

Other projects being considered for Waterways funding include the provision of sewerage pumpout facilities, upgrading of small boat harbours, and feasibility studies for other infrastructure projects.

Carl Spears, April 5

Umina's exciting new gift shop

Capri Gifts

For ALL your homewares at affordable prices

DECORATIVE INDOOR POTS

BEAUTIFUL SILK FLOWERS

TABLEWARE & GLASSES

LARGE RANGE OF CERAMICS OR THAT SPECIAL GIFT FOR

Birthday or Anniversary.

Extensive range of Baby gifts.

322 West St, Umina 4342 7070 (Opposite Radlards)

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Umina's award-winning Bremen's Patisserie

Easter Special

GOURMET HOT CROSS BUNS

\$8 A DOZEN

\$4.50 HALF DOZEN

As part of our celebrations for winning six awards at the 2000 Royal Easter Show

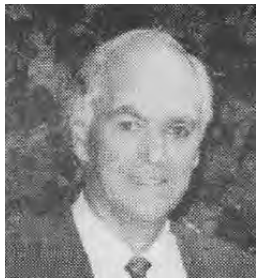
and three awards at the Castle Hill and Hills District Agricultural show as well as receiving the Champions Award for 3rd and 4th year apprentices and trainees

302 West St, Umina 4341 4177



News

Council Matters



with
John Oakley

An application for a development on steep land has highlighted new procedures for all new building applications.

In the past, requests for permission to build were divided into "building applications" for single dwellings and "development applications" for other types of development.

All building activity now requires a development application.

Most development applications are processed by council officers under delegated authority.

However, when there are difficulties or uncertainty, development applications are often submitted to Council for a decision.

There are also special conditions applying to certain types of development and requirements pertaining to certain types of land.

For example, "all development applications lodged in respect to land in the 9(a) flood prone or 9(c) steep land where the application is the subject of an objection or is recommended for refusal" must be brought to Council for determination.

For steep areas, there are also requirements of an area not less than 1850m2 and a width at the building line of 30 metres.

Development on steep land is very common on the Peninsula and brings with it special problems such as overshadowing of neighbouring properties, and loss of privacy for neighbours.

Council prefers that any objections be resolved through negotiation.

In one matter brought to Council on March 14, although the applicant was prepared to move the proposed dwelling a little and modify a deck, agreement could not be reached.

In the ensuing debate in Council some of the comments were: Cr Bockholt: The height, bulk and size is enormous.

Overshadowing doesn't worry me. Size is the problem.

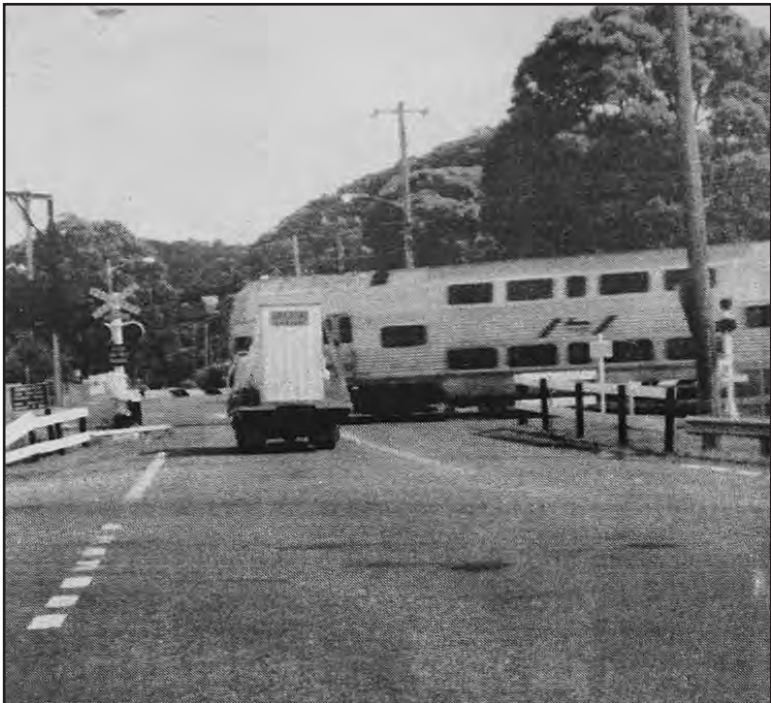
Cr Wales: I agree. The house doesn't suit the block. The owner has the option to reduce the size.

Cr Doyle: The house is huge but if it is permitted within the regulations then the owner should be allowed to build it.

Ultimately the application was approved.

Without Notice

Cr Bockholt: There is a bus stop on the corner of Waratah Street and Ocean Beach Road, Ettalong. Ages ago the residents in



surrounding streets were informed a concrete path would be laid from Waratah Street to the bus stop.

When will this happen?

Answer: The footpath is included on the 1999-2000 Footpath Program.

The works are programmed for completion in early April.

Medium density

Motion by Cr Bockholt for Establishment of a Council Committee to Limit Medium-Density Housing The purpose of this committee would be to make a submission on the regional Planning Strategy entitled "Shaping the Central Coast" which is currently on exhibition.

Cr Sansom opposed the motion on the grounds that he didn't believe there was merit in forming a committee while Council's Residential Strategy existed.

Cr Bockholt responded to Cr Sansom that "it mightn't affect you in Pickett's Valley but it affects us on the Peninsula".

She went on to speak of the problems facing the Peninsula which has taken 70% of all development in the Gosford City area and under Council's Residential Strategy, will continue to do so.

She commented on the lack of State Government funding for infrastructure required to support such rapid population growth.

Within the report, Gosford City is divided into "urban districts" with some areas within those districts being described as having "compact city emphasis".

Those areas are: immediately to the north, west, and south east of Gosford CBD, to the south west of Erina CBD and all the Woy Woy Peninsula.

Public meetings on this report will be advertised and submissions invited.

Bays DCP

It has been proposed that the Woy Woy Bays area should have a Development Control Plan (DCP) aimed at the special needs of that area.

It was decided that before work would commence on such a plan,

reports that have been developed on proposed DCPs for Pearl Beach, Patonga and other areas should be brought to Council.

Trading hours

The State Government has passed legislation allowing 24 hours per day, seven days per week trading for liquor outlets in some parts of the State and other areas with Council approval during the Olympic period.

Cr Doyle spoke strongly against any extension of existing trading hours and said he believed that any support by.

Council would send mixed messages to the community.

Cr Wales initially spoke in favour of the proposal but later voted with the rest of Council to reject extended trading hours over the two-month period.

CBD Upgrades

A tender has been accepted to prepare a Streetscape Master Plan for the Umina CBD area, subject to Council satisfaction with the details.

The Traffic Committee has approved a proposal from the Woy Woy CBD Committee to close the Brisbane Water Drive end of the Boulevard to through traffic.

Railway crossing

Gosford Council has recently undertaken a detailed survey of railway crossing options.

The study follows Council's decision in February last year to investigate replacing the Rawson Road level crossing with either a road tunnel under the rail line or a railway bridge over the road near the foot of Bull's Hill.

The council had sought \$100,000 in funding for preconstruction works for the project.

The options would allow traffic to travel down Nagari Rd and Railway St.

This would avoid the single-lane underpass off Shoalhaven Drive and the Rawson Road Level Crossing, and may also eliminate the steep grades and severe curves along Woy Woy Rd near Bull's Hill.

Council opens doors to public

Ordinary meetings of Gosford Council are open to the public and are generally held the first, second and fourth Tuesday of each month starting at 6.30pm at Council Chambers in Mann St, Gosford.

Gosford Council has 10 councillors who are elected by residents every four years and one of those councillors is elected mayor by the other councillors.

Council's general manager is appointed as the chief executive officer responsible for day-to-day council operation.

The general manager oversees the three divisions of Council, which are headed by managers.

The three divisions are: Corporate and community services; development and the environment, and, works.

At each meeting there is an agenda paper which outlines subjects under consideration.

The agenda can be obtained at Council Chambers before the meeting or viewed at libraries from

the Thursday before the meeting takes place.

Only items listed on the agenda can be considered at a meeting.

At the meeting, decisions are made by resolutions that are moved and seconded, debated and voted upon by councillors.

Councillors view the agenda before the meeting, giving them time to liaise with officers and the community to help them come to their decisions.

Most items on the agenda have officers' recommendations and, if councillors have no objections to those recommendations, they are passed in one motion at the beginning of the meeting.

Other items are debated to reach a resolution.

Residents who wish to address the council on any agenda item should notify the council's secretariat on 4325 8316.

For various reasons including commercial sensitivity and some internal matters, councillors can decide to close parts of the meeting to the public and media.

Carl Spears, March 28

Peninsula drainage problems explained

Woy Woy Peninsula in Gosford is a sandy plain that has been extensively developed since the 1940's.

As a result, it now experiences drainage problems including minor flooding and the ponding of water in streets and at low points.

Investigations have revealed that the pipe enlargements required to provide a reasonably high standard of drainage would be very costly, and that the scope to provide alternative flowpaths is limited.

In 1997, Council, together with the University of Technology, Sydney, assessed the potential for the use of alternative on-site stormwater systems for the Woy Woy Peninsula.

One of these alternatives is stormwater infiltration, the percolation of water into soil layers through built devices such as soakwells and infiltration trenches.

The assessment concluded that: stormwater infiltration appears to be a promising option for dealing with the problems.

infiltration systems would provide benefits in controlling stormwater, and, further investigation and field trials of infiltration devices should be carried out.

Council took note of the outcomes of the assessment and undertook to further investigate the feasibility of stormwater infiltration by commissioning a Stormwater Infiltration Study.

The trial project was jointly funded by Gosford City Council and the Stormwater Trust of the New South Wales Government.

It concentrates on the use of

source control of stormwater and its pollutants using stormwater infiltration.

The trial project involved the installation and monitoring of seventeen infiltration devices of different sizes and types at various locations across the Peninsula.

The objectives of the project were to establish the pollutionreduction potential of stormwater infiltration at Woy Woy, and also to assess its potential for reducing the volumes and peak flows of runoff.

This project included comparing stormwater movements, pollution removal between these devices, and a comparison with the equivalent process in areas serviced by conventional drainage systems.

Monitoring for the project included rainfall, watertable position and pollutant levels in collected runoff and groundwater, using comparisons over time.

Soils have also been sampled to detect any build-up of pollutants.

Over the short and long terms, this data will show the effectiveness of pollutant-removal, and reveal adverse site effects such as the raising or lowering of water tables or the concentration of pollutants in the soil.

If infiltration devices are found to be a feasible solution to the management of stormwater on the Woy Woy Peninsula, then Council will consider applying this technique for future stormwater management applications.

Edited extract from: Statement of the Environment Report 1999 • Stormwater Infiltration Study Woy Woy Peninsula

Funds sought to finish road ...

Gosford Council's director of works, Stephen Glen, has admitted that work started on the Woy Woy Rd realignment without knowing the total cost.

"We didn't know what the total cost of the construction would be when we started, but it will probably be \$1 million in total," he told the April 4 council meeting.

The council has now decided to approach both the Federal and State Governments to seek more funding to complete the Woy Woy Rd works.

Mr Glen said the council had received \$500,000 for the project from the Federal Government as part of the Black Spot program.

"We started straight away because the Black Spot funding was given under the condition that work commence immediately." Cr Lynne Bockholt said the road was one of the worst on the Central Coast.

"It's a death-trap," she said.

"Remember, the Peninsula is getting 70 per cent of planned medium density housing but no infrastructure.

"The stress and strain on people commuting is horrendous.

"Not finishing the work is disgusting." Mr Glen said work could start in as little as four weeks once he was given the go-ahead.

Cr Bockholt said she did not expect any funding to be forthcoming.

"Last night I watched palm trees going to the Olympic site," she said.

"That's where all the money is going at the moment." Council

officers have estimated that a further \$550,000 must be found to complete the project.

They said possible Federal Government funding included the Black Spot program.

As the program has a maximum of \$500,000 for anyone project, no further money would be given to the Woy Woy Rd works under that program.

The Federal Government also provided councils with funds for roads from its Federal Local Roads program, but Council had already allocated those funds to other projects.

At the State level, funding was available through an annual block grant from the Roads and Traffic Authority.

Mr Glen said the council received \$1.36 million in the last financial year.

"This was for the maintenance of the 170.5 kilometres of regional roads within Gosford City, an amount barely able to cover the cost of repairing areas of major road failure," he said.

"The allocation of any part of these funds to what is essentially a capital upgrading project cannot be supported." Another form of State funding was a special grant.

"Council has never secured such a grant and this must be regarded as an unlikely funding source," said Mr Glen.

"However, it is considered worthy of continued pursuit." The council was told that all State Government funding had to be matched dollar-for-dollar by the council.

Carl Spears, April 5

... while politicians feud about responsibilities

Local State and Federal parliamentary members have blamed each other's governments for failing to provide funds to fix Woy Woy Rd.

Federal Liberal Member for Robertson Mr Jim Lloyd said Woy Woy Rd was classified as a regional road and funding was the shared responsibility of Gosford Council and the State Government.

State Labor Member for Peats Ms Marie Andrews said the lack of funds was due to the Federal Government's inadequate funding of its Black Spot Program.

Mr Lloyd said: "Peninsula motorists will have noticed that the work to eliminate a section of dangerous roadway has ground to a halt, as a direct result of the State Government's failure to meet its own funding obligations for Woy Woy Rd.

"Back in September 1998, following extensive negotiations, additional funding of \$500,000 was secured for Woy Woy Rd from the Federal Black Spot program," he

said.

"This was as the result of an urgent request for assistance by Gosford Council.

"I note that the State Government has obviously recognised the dangers of this road by their installation of permanent digital speed cameras.

"Surely some of the revenue raised from these cameras could be directed to these vital works to make the road safer." Ms Andrews said: "The Federal Member for Robertson is clearly embarrassed by his Government's inadequate funding of black spots across our state and is looking for a scapegoat.

"The black spot project on Woy Woy Rd is a joint Federal Government and Gosford City Council project, agreed between the parties in late 1998: Mr Lloyd said he had asked Ms Andrews to make urgent representations to NSW Roads Minister Mr Cari Scully to secure the required funding to finish the project.

Carl Spears, Mardi 29

Unsung heroes awarded



Member for Robertson, Mr Jim Lloyd with Edna Lane, Frank Overton and Umina Rotary's Tom Tregent

Umina Rotary Club has presented community service awards to two "unsung heroes".

The awards were made at a specially convened ladies' night attended by nearly 70 people.

Mr Frank Overton received an award for nearly 30 years' service with the Rural Fire service.

Mrs Edna Lane received an award as a committee member for Meals on Wheels since 1984 and a founding director of Peninsula Village Ltd since 1985.

Member for Robertson Mr Jim Lloyd presented the awards.

"It was a great opportunity to honour two distinguished people totally committed to community service who have remained for many years unsung heroes," said the club's public relations officer, Mr Geoff Melville.

Those attending the night were told that Frank Overton had been associated with the Rural Fire Service since 1972, when he

joined at the age of 15.

From a volunteer fire fighter, he worked his way through the ranks to become captain of the then Empire Bay Bush Fire Brigade.

In 1984, Frank was chosen by fire control officer Jim Saunders to be the volunteer group captain for the Gosford Rural Fire Service.

He held this position until 1989 when he was appointed full-time fire control officer for the OrangeCabonne district where he was leader of 52 brigades covering an area of 6500 square kilometres.

In 1994 Frank was promoted to the position of training officer for the Gosford Rural Fire Service and is currently responsible for the training of 1000 personnel and educating the local population in the Gosford area in fire prevention.

During his time with the Rural Fire Service, Frank has also managed to write a text book on Fire Fighting Management and Techniques and this is widely used to train volunteer fire fighters.

Edna Lane has devoted much

of her time to the service of others.

She served as a committee member for Meals on Wheels from 1984 to 1992, assisting the treasurer and secretary of the organisation and acting as relief coordinator.

Edna was awarded life membership for her tireless efforts and commitment to the senior members of the Peninsula community.

At the same time as her involvement with Meals on Wheels, Edna became committed to the establishment of a Retirement Village on the Peninsula.

She was a foundation director of Peninsula Village Ltd in 1985 and has remained on the board in various positions to this date.

In 1999, Edna was awarded a life membership to the Village in recognition of her long service and commitment to the residents and the older person in the wider community.

Geoff Melville

BULK WASTE PICK-UP

Residents receiving a domestic garbage service are reminded that they are entitled to four (4) Bulk Waste Pick-ups per financial year.

***BEFORE* placing any bulk waste on the footpath residents *MUST* contact Council's contractor Pacific Waste management on 4324 6133. The contractor will advise of the first available date for collection and of the restrictions that apply.**

Residents placing bulk waste on the footpath more than 48 hours prior to the arranged day of service will be liable for a fine for obstructing the footpath.



Gosford City Council

Leading to the future

Whilst serving for today

Events

i

What's on in and around the Peninsula

To have information about your group's events and activities included, just drop the details into the 'Woy Woy Visitor Information Centre' at 18-22 The Boulevard Woy Woy (around the corner from Fisherman's Wharf) or phone 4341 2888 or fax 4341 8555.

Happy Easter! Please come and see us anytime for free maps, ferry times, accommodation and lots of 'other information'.

Tuesday April 18

Woy Woy Vacation Care Centre will operate till Friday April 28 from 7am to 6.30pm.

Fun activities and outings.

Bookings Essential.

Ph Jenny Phillips 0414 511 839.

Arthritis Foundation Woy Woy Branch meets 10am at Meals on Wheels Hall Woy Woy. Morning Tea & Door Prize. All welcome. Enquiries Gladys 43 421790.

The Troubadour Folk Club performance night at 304 West Street, Umina.

Free (3rd Tuesday each month) Enjoy coffee or meal with free entertainment.

Performance inquiries welcome.

Enquiries Frank 43 414060.

Wednesday April 19

Endeavour View Club monthly lunch at Woy Woy Leagues Club 10.30am. Enquiries Audrey Dominello 43 601464 or 43 731355.

Ettalong Umina Lions Club meets at 6.30pm for 7pm Woy Woy Leagues Club. Ph 43 421352.

(3rd Wednesday of each month) Bananas in Pyjamas at EUalong Beach War Memorial Club 'Get Up and Dance' show from 11am. Cost \$10 children 18 months & over. Enquiries 43 411166.

Woy Woy District View Club meet (every 2nd & 3rd Wednesday of the month). Ph 43 444309.

Patonga Housie Night 7.30pm at Patonga Progress Hall, Brisk Street Patonga. Refreshments. Enquiries Norma 43 791171.

Thursday April 20

Peninsula Chamber of Commerce Business Networking

meeting 6pm Ettalong Beach War Memorial Club.

Enquiries 43 27510.

Seniors Social & Friendship Club (formerly VOTE) ferry trip to Cronulla.

Enquiries 43 324761.

Saturday April 22 - Easter Saturday Ye aide Patonga Traditional Fete.

10am Progress Hall, Brisk Street Patonga.

All the traditional stalls plus Devonshire teas, BarB- a, kids jumping castle & live music.

All welcome.

Enquiries Norma 43 791171.

Patonga Trivia Night.

7.30pm Progress Hall with

Woy Woy District View Club (see Wed April 19). Patonga Housie (see Wed April 19).

Thursday April 21

National Parks Discovery Walk 'Bilby Craft, Fun & Games'. 10am - allow 2 hours. Suit children 3-10yrs. Meet Girrakool Picnic Area. Booking essential Ph, 43204205.

Charity trading table, Everglades golf clubhouse Friday April 28 Ettalong Umina Lions Club Debutante Ball. Ettalong Beach War Memorial CIUb.

Enquiries Helen 43 417177 Woy Woy Civilian Widows meet at 1 pm Ettalong Senior Citizens Building.



Gosford Town Crier Mr Clarke.

Enquiries Norma 43791171.

Melaleuca Wetland Regeneration Group - meet from 8am at the end of Boronia Avenue Woy Woy (held every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month). Tools and gloves provided. All Welcome. Enquiries Norah 43 413960.

24th Annual Easter Fair, Pearl beach Community Hall, 1 Dam to 5pm Tuesday April 25 - Anzac Day Patonga Dawn Service at the Memorial Cnr Patonga Drive - Bay Street. Enquiries 43 791344.

Ettalong Beach Toastmasters meet 7.30pm (every 2nd and 4th Tuesday). Ettalong Beach War Memorial Club. Enquiries Jan 43 416842.

Wednesday April 26

Skateboard Clinic at Umina Skate Park. Registration essential. Intermediate level only. Cost \$6.

Enquiries John Ferguson 43 258430.

New members very welcome.

Enq Gladys Murray (last Friday of the month).

Saturday April 29

Deepwater Seniors Club Day Trip to Parklea Markets. Cost \$25. Bookings Tony Arico's 43 417200.

Sunday April 30

Charity Golf Day. Mixed eventgreat prizes. Everglades Golf Club Monday May 1 View Club Deepwater Social Day 11am. Featuring Personal Colour Consultant Dillis Griffiths. Enquiries June 43 422046.

Ettalong Beach Toastmasters will commence a 6 week speech craft course (6 monday nights). Enq 43 441124.

Ettalong Beach Arts & Crafts Centre begin Term 2 classes. Painting, Folk Art, Decoupage etc. Enq 43 601673.

Wednesday May 3

Work Wise. Helping Early School Leavers Program starts at Ettalong Beach. A variety of courses for 15-24yr olds. Enrolment details 43 443040.

Saturday May 6 Ettalong Beach Arts & Crafts Centre Mothers Day Exhibition & Sale. 9am-4pm (also Sunday 7th 9am-3pm). Cnr Picnic Pde & Maitland Bay Dr, Ettalong. Enq 43601673.

Patonga Progress Association meeting 2pm. Progress Hall, Brisk St. Enq Ron 43 791133 National Malaysia Borneo Veterans Association meet at 2.30pm at Ettalong Beach War Memorial Club. Ph: 43421216

Monday May 8

Woy Woy Business & Professional Womens Group. Business meeting at the Happy Belly Restaurant Umina. New members welcome. Enq Jill James 43 411844.

Tuesday May 9

Troubadour Folk Club - special guests Us Not Them - performance and workshop. All welcome 7.30 pm Woy Woy Masonic Hall, Railway Street \$5 incl. supper Ettalong Beach Toastmasters (see April 28).

Saturday May 13

Umina Garden Society meets 1.30-3.30pm (held 2nd Saturday each month).

Community Hall, Sydney Avenue, Umina. Melaleuca Wetland Regeneration Group (see April 22).

Tuesday May 16

Arthritis Foundation Woy Woy Branch (see April 18). Troubadour Folk Club (see April 11) Wednesday May 11 'Introduction to the Internet' to be held at Umina Branch Library 1 Oam-11.30am. Bookings essential. Free. Ph 1300 369 033.

Thursday May 18

Storytime for pre-schoolers (to celebrate Library Week) to be held in Deepwater Plaza Centre court 12pm-1pm. Free for participants. Storytime at Woy Woy

and Umina Branch Libraries will be as usual on Tuesdays & Thursdays at 11am.

Saturday May 20

Jubilee Cross arrives Woy Woy wharf.3pm

Monday May 22

View Club Deepwater monthly meeting (see May 1).

Tuesday May 23

Ettalong Beach Toastmasters meet (see May 9) DAILY EVENT Woy Woy Pelican Feeding at 3pm Pelican Park in front of Fishermans Wharf. Bring the camera.

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. Leave 2pm from Ettalong Bike Shop, your bike or hire a bike. Also mountain bike tours daily on request - all equipment supplied at \$75 per person. All fitness levels catered for. Phone 4341 3906

Cash Housie St Mary's Hall Ocean View Road Ettalong 7.30pm (every Saturday night). Free Tea and Coffee. Cash Prizes.

Proceeds Woy Woy Catholic Parish Community Fund. Enquiries Rob 43 690626.

Ettalong/Umina Lions **Bingo** 10.30-12.30pm (held every **Monday**) Ettalong War Memorial Club Entertainment Centre. Cash Prizes. All Welcome. Ph 43 421352.

Outreach Crisis Recovery Group meets from 7.30pm (held every **Monday**).

Rear Hall Anglican Church 151 Blackwall Road Woy Woy.

Addiction, dependency & crisis help. Enq Bill 43 68357.

Fairhaven Services **Cash Housie** 7.30pm (held every **Monday**). Umina Bowling Club.

All proceeds Intellectually Disabled Adult Services. Ph 43 253608.

Joan Chippendale, April 15

SCHOOL HOLIDAY MOVIES !!!!**CINEMA****PARADISO****STUART LITTLE – THE TIGGER MOVIE – THE IRON GIANT – MISSION TO MARS****CRAZY PRICES**

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Forum

Library forecourt is not the place for civic square

Some in the community in the past have wanted to create a civic square in front of Woy Woy Library where people can meet.

I think this would work out to be highly inappropriate.

Although people do meet there, it is much too small with too much traffic passing through to be a major meeting spot for the community at large.

Anderson Park on the waterfront seems to have become the unofficial civic square for the community.

This is ideal.

The park is big enough and, if warranted, traffic can be closed off.

Nearby Pelican Park has been a great idea and well patronised, and Rotary will reactivate their fountain soon.

A lot could be done to the park to make it even more amenable and "official".

Perhaps we could close off the area to vehicles and make it a pedestrian-only area.

Just a thought, but I think one well worth discussing.

Discussions are now taking place as to whether the road should be one way or two.

I urge the community to write to Peninsula News or the Peninsula Chamber of Commerce and have



Mr Harry Boyle says the library is not the place to meet

a say.

C Jay's Restaurant has helped facilitate movement between the CBD and Anderson Park by opening up the walkway near their premises.

Anderson Park has space, is used, is getting known and businesses in the area are keen to see this movement to the park continue happening.

The Country Women's Association (CWA) hall adjacent

to the Park could be transformed into a commemoration to the CWA's contribution; perhaps as an historical exhibition citing the importance to their role in creating community.

Of course, the CWA's members should be involved in the process.

The idea of a civic square where we can meet and escape the hurly-burly of the main CBD is one worth investigating, Harry Boyle

Local environmentalist looks to 'form group to limit medium density

At a recent Council meeting a Notice of Motion was put by Councillor Bockholt that council establish a committee to Limit Medium Density Development in the city.

This will be welcomed by most residents especially those where medium density (formerly dual occupancy) building has been rapid and unplanned, like here on the Woy Woy Peninsula.

The motion was not put because Councillor Sansom argued that by stopping medium density development the city will forego Section 94 contributions, which are needed funds from developers that would otherwise be used by council to provide funds for infrastructure.

Infrastructure that has not kept pace with burgeoning development.

S.94 simply requires that a

development that "will or is likely to require the provision of or increase the demand for public amenities and public services within the area ... " pay for that increase.

S.94 is not designed for councils to levy punitive payments on developers.

Cr Sansom claims that the city has a "Residential strategy that is effectively in checking uncontrolled and unplanned growth.

If this is so there is no evidence on the Peninsula.

As SJ Drake points out in 'Woy Woy overdeveloping' in Peninsula News 13, "Resident action groups in Kuring-gai have successfully opposed aspects of urban consolidation" it is time to 'organise a similar action group on the peninsula, anyone interested? phone me on 4342 2251.

Bryan Ellis, Umina

'Over-development' worries

In response to the letter from S. Drake (Woy Woy 'overdeveloping', Peninsula News 13), I would like to lend my support.

Overdeveloping is so apparent and a really serious problem on the Peninsula and other areas.

Many permanent residences are being vacated, because of being squashed out and then replaced by a transient population.

Let's do something about this problem before the people who enjoy a better lifestyle are forced out by those developing.

M Fleming, Woy Woy

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@worldpacific.com.au or on disk save us having to retype them.

Thank you

My wife and I arrived at Woy Woy on Saturday, March 18, to stay for one night.

We assumed we would have no trouble getting accommodation, but owing to some local events, there appeared to be not a room vacant in the area.

The reason for this letter is to let the locals know how grateful we are to the lady at the Way Way Information Centre, who went to no end of trouble to find us a room, finally at the Ettalong Beach Village.

We are sorry we did not get her name, but wish to let the locals know they have the right person for the job at the Woy Way Information Centre.

Thanks for a pleasant stay.

A. Wallace, Eildon, Victoria

Libraries have little resources

Franklins opens at 8am and closes at either 5pm or 9pm everyday.

It has plenty of space and resources.

Yet our municipal libraries at Gosford and Way Woy open very few hours, have very few resources and very little space.

These outdated municipal libraries don't even collect many local newspapers and they open

when they like.

Have you ever tried Wednesday mornings? They're always closed.

How can our children, let alone our adults, learn with so few and such outdated library facilities? One can learn more at the local club, the local TAB, or at the local pub.

Nobody ever finds the library open. Residents deserve better.

These libraries are outhouses.

P. Eyland, Wyoming

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Seniors Club offers value

Deepwater Plaza at Woy Woy has a Seniors Club, which is open for those people who have a current Government Seniors or Pension Card.

Membership is free and members have the opportunity to take advantage of a 10 percent discount at both Coles and K-Mart, and to receive discounts and offers from other participating stores in the centre on the first Wednesday of every month. Members also have the chance to win a fruit hamper drawn at 3pm on the day by presenting their shopping dockets to the hostess at centre court and filling out an entry form.

Once a month, the club offers bus tours to various destinations.

The next trip will be on Saturday, April 29, to Parklea Markets at a cost of \$25.

Morning tea is provided and lunch will be available from food outlets through the markets.

Members can book a ticket for the tour at Tony Arico's Traveland in Deepwater Plaza.

Amanda Jackson, April 11

Employment agency is First Contact

Employment agency First Contact has established a branch in the Rocks Arcade at Ettalong.

Head office is at Gosford where the business has operated for nine years.

First Contact has been listed on the Federal Government's Job Network for some time but is now also included as one of the providers of intensive assistance for long term unemployed.

Cec Bucello, April 12

Ettalong hosts Easter festival

Ettalong will host a variety of special activities for the Easter weekend.

An array of vintage cars, trash and treasure, and an arts and crafts market will grace Memorial Ave on Saturday, April 22. Real estate agent John Upton will run a "cheap, as chips" auction at noon.

Orlando wines will give visitors a sample of their wines, and Villis pies will also be available.

Ettalong Beach Club will offer special Easter lunches and has a program of entertainment for the five days.

The Whispering Jack Show will be held on Saturday night and Doug Parkinson will perform on Sunday night.

A free film festival will be held on Easter Monday, with titles such as Elmo in Grouchland, From Here To Eternity, The Mask Of Zorro, and Godzilla.

On Easter Saturday and Sunday night, the club will present a special seafood buffet



Unfinished resort work to re-start in four to six weeks says Mr Hale

Resort work to continue

Building work on the Ettalong Beach Resort should restart in four to six weeks, according to club manager Mr Peter Hale.

He said work on the resort had been halted to seek council approval for design changes.

Mr Hale said: "With the approach now of the Fast Ferry, it was considered prudent to revisit the design, in particular the club facility."

"This process required submissions to Council of altered designs."

"The short pause in construction to complete this and the final finance package, which required a syndicate of three banks, was considered prudent," he said.

The enterprise was the largest private project of this nature attempted on the Central Coast, Mr Hale said.

Its development had involved "a long and intricate series of processes".

The original concepts were designed in 1997.

The final sale of units that would permit the full completion of the resort did not occur until early this year.

Meanwhile, the design process for the Fast Ferry facility and financing of the operating company was occurring concurrently, said Mr Hale, who is also Fast Ships' chairman.

A prospectus to assist fundraising for the final implementation process was almost complete, he said.

The company was also in the final throes of vessel design, and construction was due to commence shortly.

"It is anticipated that the vessel will be operating in December or January," he said.

Extra funding given to Peats

New social and community development projects in the Peats electorate will share \$150,032 in additional funding this year.

The grants were made under the State Government's Area Assistance Scheme (AAS) and were approved by the Deputy Premier and Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Dr Andrew Refshauge.

Member for Peats, Ms Marie Andrews, announced the grants as part of grants for a total of 145 community projects state wide totalling \$3,529,472.

Peninsula related projects that received grants are: Peninsula Community Services (\$20,186) to employ a social welfare worker for 20 hours per week to run a drug awareness program for parents; Central Coast Community Women's Health Centre (\$34,643) to provide relevant health and

lifestyle education for women and girls in the Peninsula; and, RAISE Network (\$14,363) to establish drop-in centres meeting venues and provide workshops for families and carers of people with disabilities.

"The State Government, local government and community organisations are working together through the Area Assistance Scheme (AAS) to meet community needs in regions experiencing the impacts of significant population growth or economic change," Ms Andrews said.

"The AAS builds the capacity of the community and local councils to deal with the challenges of change."

"The scheme is able to respond strongly and effectively to local and regional needs because the community and local councils are actively involved in setting funding priorities and in developing and assessing proposals," she said.



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News

Peninsula residents excel at University

THE

Two Peninsula residents have come from less than fortunate backgrounds to receive recognition at last Friday's University of Newcastle graduation ceremony.

Woy Woy resident, Jennifer Davis, received her Bachelor of Science, which has seen her on the Dean's commendation list for the last three years.

Only students who have achieved at least distinction level in all subjects studied within a particular year are eligible.

Distinction is achieved when the total mark for the subject exceeds 74 per cent.

Ms Davis majored in Marine Science and has also received a scholarship based on her under graduate performance, to study for an honours degree.

But Jenny, 27, did not have a dream run to achieve her ambition and it is a credit to her determination that she has done so.

For most of her life, she has lived near water on the Gold Coast, the Port Stephens area.

and for the last ten years at Woy Woy. She said she has always had an affinity with water, so much so that since the age of 14 she has had a burning desire to study marine science.

Jenny left school after Year 10, but realised that she needed higher qualifications to achieve her dream.

So, she went to TAFE at Hornsby for a one year course to get her Higher School Certificate.

Then after a few years work, enrolled to study the University of Newcastle's Open Foundation certificate, which prepares students

for a full university degree.

However, when she was informed that vacancies existed for the full university degree, she decided to take the opportunity despite self-reservations about her ability.

And her willingness to take the challenge has paid off.

"It was just what I was looking for," said Jenny.

"I have really enjoyed the course and it's the first degree in my family.

"My family don't necessarily understand what I do and why I do it, but they have been extremely supportive and I'm sure they are very proud.

"My study has involved me in inter-tidal work and marine protected areas.

"Marine protected areas is a new area of research where there is a lot of work to be done.

"It's very exciting." Currently looking for work in her field, Jenny is looking forward to the challenge of a career that is far from ordinary.

"I like to be outdoors and I'm not a nine-to-five girl," she said.

Another Peninsula resident, Umina's Deborah Dunn has taken achievements one step further by winning the University medal.

Although over a thousand students graduated at various levels at the ceremony, only one is awarded the University medal for outstanding academic results.

Deborah is an honours Class one graduate in Arts and said that curiosity about other cultures and how people see the world prompted her studies.

Deborah, 44, specialised in Sociology and Anthropology, but started off with Open Learning before getting to the point where she thought she should do "the



Woy Woy resident and recent University graduate, Jennifer Davis real thing".

She is now enrolled in doctoral studies.

"I left school in Year 10 and I guess I didn't have the opportunity for University study then," she said.

"I have found my studies so interesting and it has given me an understanding and appreciation about how other people live and see the world.

"My main research interest is in

Papua New Guinea.

"It's a very rich culture." Deborah who has three grown children, said her family was very proud of her achievement.

"I'm very excited about graduating - it's a great feeling." The results for these two Peninsula women is all the more remarkable as Friday's ceremony had people from 22 different countries graduating.

Carl Spears, April 16



The Web's Dion Richardson (L) receives a cheque from Central Coast Area Health's Ian Eather

Peninsula benefits from Community Chest

The Peninsula has benefited from the latest round of distributions from the Central Coast Community Chest.

Distributions are made twice a

year and the latest round on March 27, coincided with the Chest's annual general meeting.

Recipients were The Web Neighbourhood Centre, which received \$1000 for a stereo

system, and Woy Woy Aged Care Centre, which received \$1023 for a floatation chair.

Carl Spears, March 31

Speech course

Ettalong Beach War Memorial Toastmasters are conducting a six-week Speechcraft Course on Monday evenings from May 1.

The course aims to improve communication and speaking skills.

For more information, phone 43441124.

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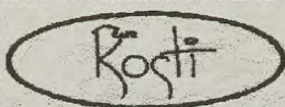
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Features

First settlers arrived in 1790

Only five weeks after the First Fleet sailed into Port Jackson, Arthur Phillip and a party of officers and men made a voyage of discovery to what is now known as Brisbane Water, in search of land suitable for growing crops for the early settlement. It is known that these early explorers landed on the Woy Woy Peninsula.

It was another thirty-five years before the first grant of land was made on the Peninsula - to James Webb.

Webb was a soldier who arrived in Australia in 1790 on the 'Scarborough'.

Webb's land grant was in the area of Blackwall/Orange Grove.

Webb later purchased two more parcels of land on the northern part of the Peninsula, and this area became known as Webb's Flat, but was also referred to as 'Wye Wye'. Part of this area later became the main centre of the Peninsula.

and includes the modern town of Woy Woy.

For many years after settlement, Webb's Flat remained undeveloped.

The area would have been exploited for its timber, mangrove

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).

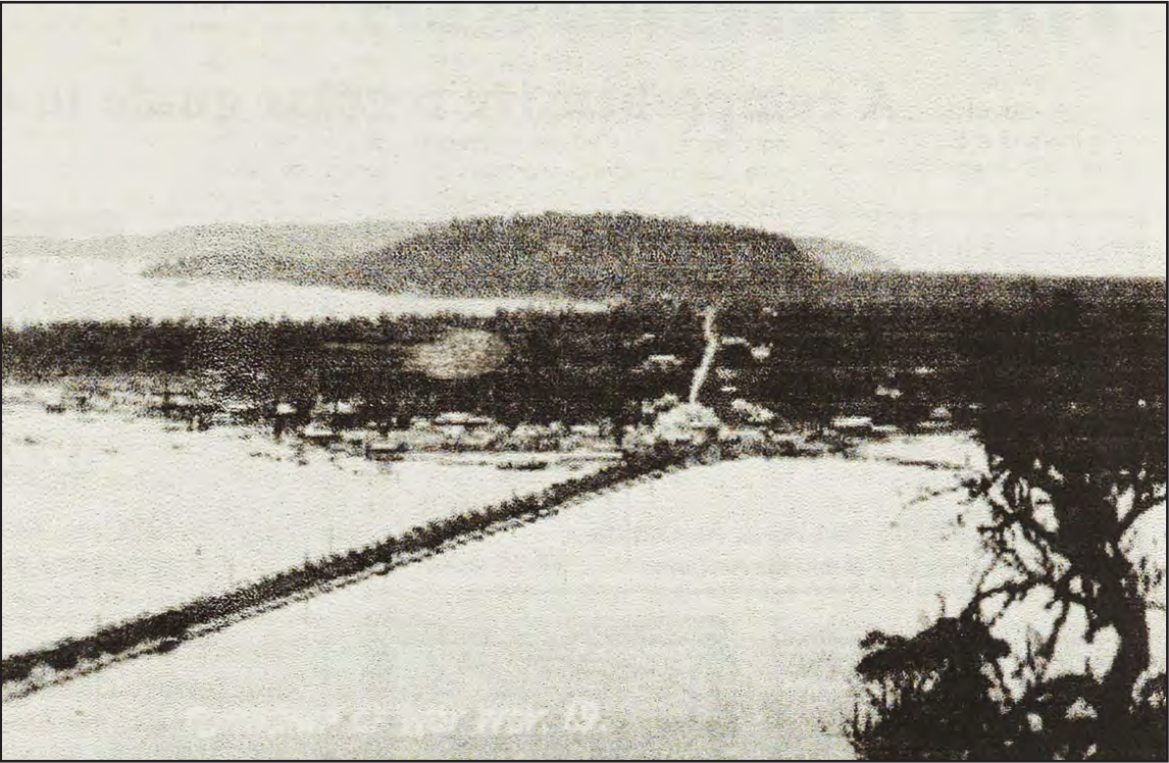
and shell resources, but on early maps, not even one dwelling can be found.

The Blackwall area grew slowly, due to the ship building industry carried on in that 10- cality.[5] It was not until the coming of the railway in the late 1880s that the northern part of the Peninsula became a settled area.

The town of Woy Woy grew from a cluster of dwellings and shops that remained after the railway workers left in the 1890s.

For Sydney-siders, Woy Woy was the closest Brisbane Water town on the Great Northern Railway, and was a popular choice for holiday-makers.

The area was advertised to visitors offering fish ing, bathing



Woy Woy township in the early 1900s

and shooting. Guest houses were built near the Railway Station, and those wishing to visit nearby areas were transported either by horse and cart or small ferries.

The local newspapers regularly reported the number of visitors

to the area, and at the end of each year much was made of the number of train tickets that had been handed in at Woy Woy over the preceding twelve months.

Buildings for shops and services were erected near to the railway station where they would catch the

eye of the visitor. Perhaps there was an ice-cream to be savoured on the way to the wharf to catch the ferry to Sorrento; perhaps an extended holiday was to be enjoyed at Wagstaff and a car was hired to carry the heavy bags to the ferry.

Happy day for our town crier

St Hubert's Island resident, Stephen Clarke, was judged runner-up in the Australian Town Crier's Championships held in Ipswich, Queensland, on April 7 to 9.

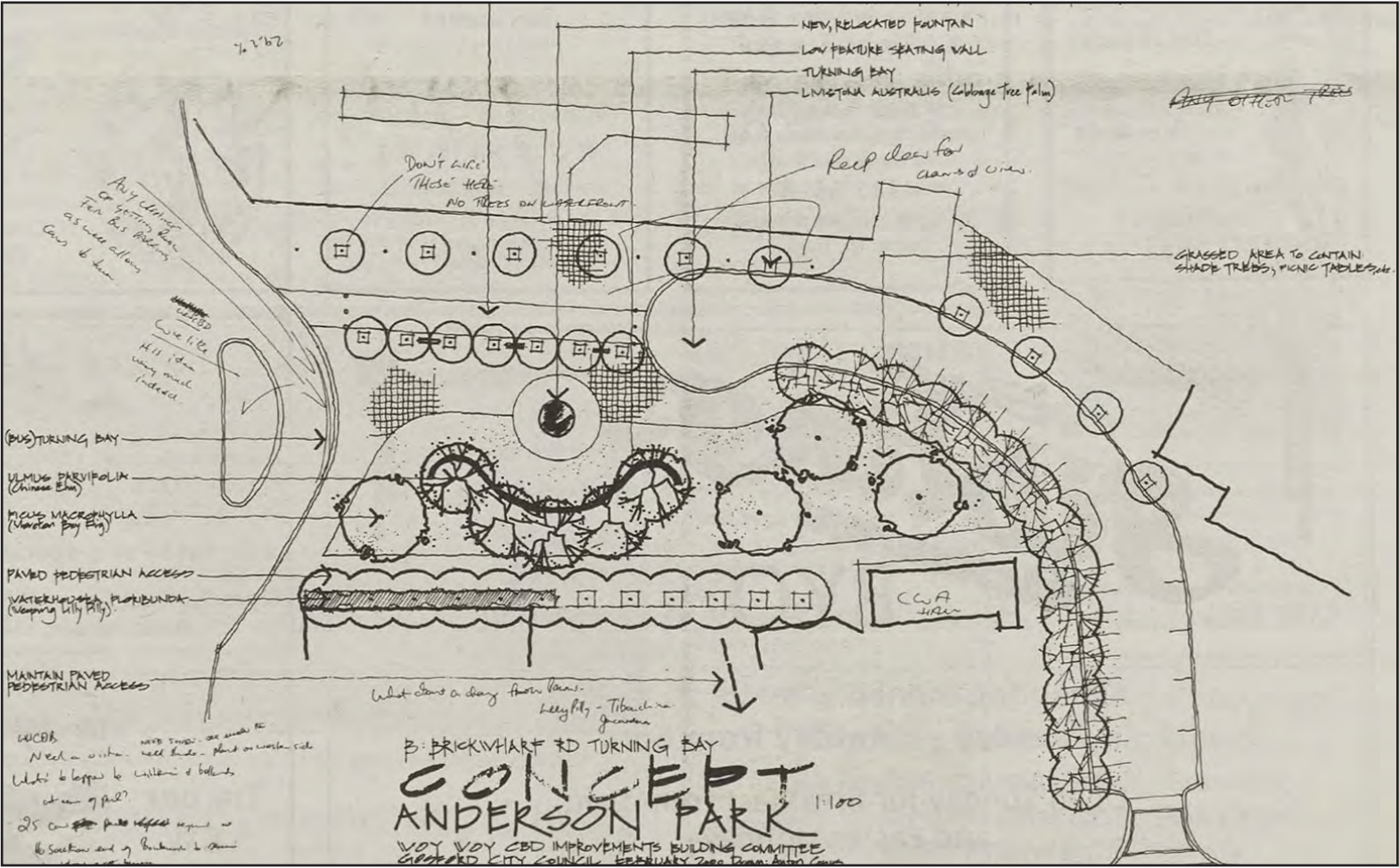
Gosford mayor, Cr Chris Holstein, said: "Entrants from all over Australia compete for the title so we are very proud of our official entrant's efforts."

"Runner-up in the national championships is a wonderful achievement," he said.

The City of Gosford also won the bid to host the 2001 National Town Criers' Championships.

They will be held as part of the Australian Springtime Flora Festival in September 2001.

Cec Bucello, April 16



A plan showing the proposal to close the Boulevards at Woy Woy, which was recommended by the Woy Woy CBD Committee

Proposal to limit boulevard traffic

The Boulevard on the Woy Woy waterfront would be closed to through traffic, under a proposal recommended by the Woy Woy CBO Committee.

The road would be turned into a cul-de-sac with entry from the Pelican Park end, said committee chair Cr Lynne Bockholt.

The current parallel parking

would be replaced by angle parking near Pelican Park and the CWA Hall.

Removable bollards would allow for yachts to be put into the water and for tankers to bring fuel to the wharf.

"The matter went to the Traffic Committee last week where, as I understand it, the committee's recommendation was supported," said Cr Bockholt.

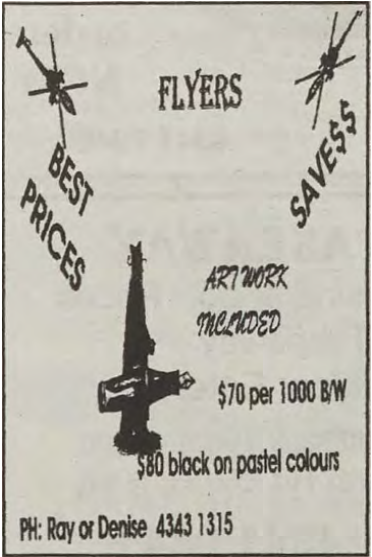
"Part of the recommendation is that the matter be placed on public exhibition." Cr Bockholt said the proposal dated back several years to the time of the Woy Woy Village Renewal Committee.

That committee wanted to close the Boulevard at the waterfront, "believing that it is a great community meeting place", she said.

"And this is indeed the case as

increasing numbers of functions are being held there, showing a real acceptance by the community of this special place.

"Plans are currently being prepared to upgrade Anderson Park, including the Rotary fountain, to make the waterfront an even better place for locals and visitors alike."



Bockholt calls for development limit

Councillor Lynne Bockholt wants Gosford Council to form a committee to attempt to limit over-development.

"Locally there is a great deal of opposition to medium-density housing development and I think it is time Council addressed these concerns," she said.

Cr Bockholt wants to establish the committee, consisting of councillors and Council planning staff, to emulate Sutherland Council's attempts to limit overdevelopment.

"The Labor party and independents won control of Sutherland Council by promising to limit medium-density development, and newspaper articles from the area appear to suggest that the State Government is supporting the moves," said Cr Bockholt.

"The first step Sutherland took

to limit over-development was the establishment of a committee and I believe we should do the same," in an indication of how highly charged the local debate may become, the Sutherland Council movements on over-development have been eagerly watched by other councils and government bodies.

Leichhardt Council held a public meeting on medium-density housing late last year.

A leaked Leichhardt Council memo indicated that the Carr Government would provide stiff resistance to any changes to their urban consolidation guidelines.

State opposition leader Kerry Chikarovski took the opportunity to lambast the State Labor government and promised to repeal key planning laws if elected in three years time.

"The Carr Government imposed urban consolidation on

communities and they haven't really been asked what they think and where it should go," she was reported as saying.

Cr Bockholt said Gosford Council was very much aware of the feeling of dismay in the community over increasing development being foisted upon the local area by the State Government's urban consolidation policy.

She said Gosford Council had petitioned the State Government on several occasions to allow changes to the draft Local Environment Plan (LEP).

"The current LEP encouraged rampant development throughout the Central Coast," she said.

The State Government has identified Gosford City as an urban growth area to cater for Sydney's population growth for over three decades.

Carl Spears, March 27



A clear part of Kahibah Creek - work has been deferred

Kahibah Creek work deferred

Further council clearing work on Kahibah Creek at Umina has been deferred pending the results of a site inspection.

Councillors, council officers and Fisheries Department representatives are expected to attend.

So far some trees had been removed, some typha reeds cut and painted, and a section of the creek at Calyptra Rd has been excavated.

Officers have recommended the council spends an additional \$57,000 on typha reed control near Greenhaven Rd.

Officers had originally recommended spraying herbicide to rid the waterway of the reeds, but councillors decided to use a more environmentally-friendly cutting and removing technique.

Council's director of development and the environment, Mr John Murray, said a detailed estimate had not been prepared for the councillors' preferred method.

Following the councillors' decision, detailed specifications were prepared.

"The lowest quotation represents a large increase in the cost of the work beyond the original estimate," he said

Carl Spears, April 5

Community input sought on City plan

Gosford Council is seeking community input into the Draft City Management Plan to be implemented during 2000-2005.

The Draft City Management Plan comprises a Draft Strategic Plan and Draft Capital Works Program; Council's Draft Program Budget and Draft Revenue Policy; and Council's current State of

Environment Report.

The documents will be on public exhibition between April 14 and May 12 at Council's Woy Woy office and at Woy Woy and Umina libraries.

Two public meetings will also be held to review the Draft Strategic Plan which outlines Council's priorities for works and services over the period 2000-2005.

The Peninsula will host one on Wednesday, May 10, from 7 to 9pm at the Umina Community Hall, Sydney Ave, Umina. The other will be held in Gosford on Saturday, May 6, from 9am in the Council Chambers.

Vicki Brown, Community Liaison Officer

Easter Vintage Weekend

Live a little!

Street Festival

Easter Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 from 11am

Memorial Avenue comes alive this Easter!

With Vintage Cars, Orlando Wine Tasting, Trash & Treasure sale, "Cheap As Chips" Auction & loads of family fun.

Saturday 22 April 8pm

The Whispering Jack Show

A tribute to the music of John Farnham

Tickets \$10
(includes entry into Evolution nightclub after the show)

Sunday 23 April 8pm

Doug Parkinson & Friends

Tickets \$20
(includes entry into 'Q36' live band from 10pm)

Monday 24 April 8pm

Film Festival

10am
Elmo In Grouchland
1.30pm
From Here To Eternity
4pm
The Mask Of Zorro
7.30pm
Godzilla

FREE ENTRY
(An adult must remain with under 18yr old)

Seafood Buffet

Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 April
Doors open 5.30pm

Enjoy the freshest selection of seafoods, salads & desserts

\$25 per person

Ettalong Beach War Memorial Club Ltd ~ 4341 1166

Memorial Avenue Ettalong 2257 For the information of members & their guests

Health and Welfare

Veteran's liaison officer appointed to improve service

Brisbane Waters Private Hospital has appointed Wendy Munro as Veteran Liaison Officer "to oversight the veteran's stay in hospital".

The appointment will further improve the hospital's veteran services and coordinate veterans' post-discharge needs, according to the hospital's chief executive officer Mr Graham McGuinness.

Part of the role is to liaise with all veteran groups and organisations on the Coast.

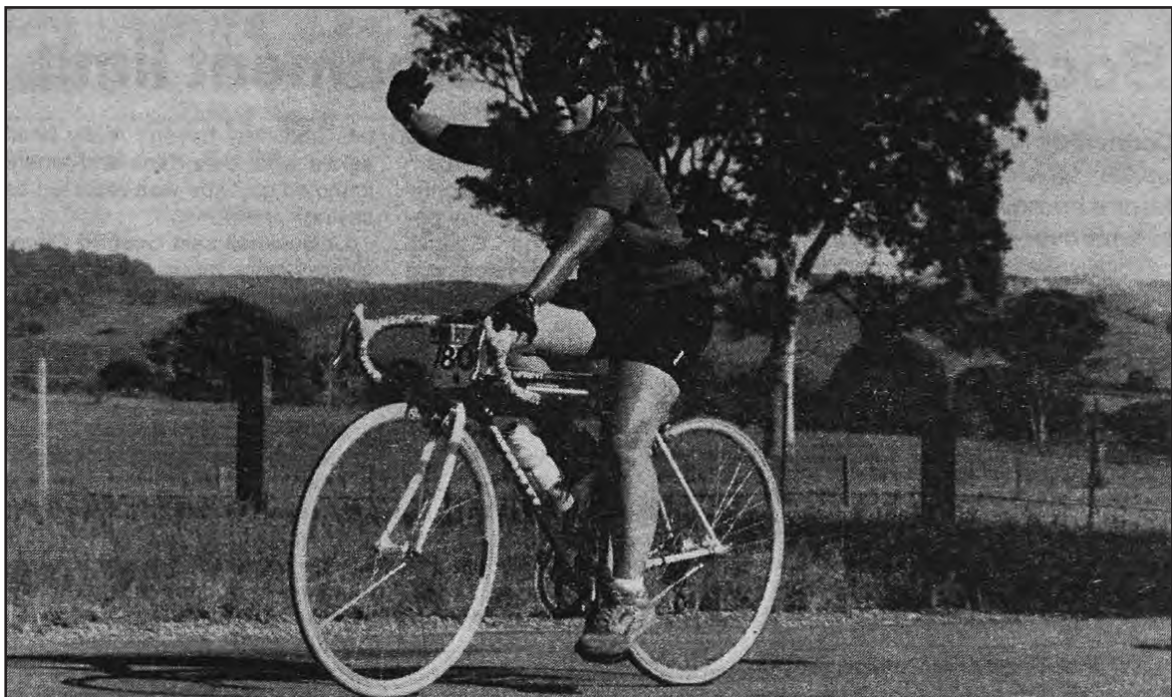
Brisbane Waters Private Hospital has long been conscious of the large veteran community residing on the Central Coast and has introduced a number of initiatives to better cater for the

expectations of veterans when admitted to the hospital, he said.

Mr McGuinness believed that both the quality of service the hospital provided and its commitment to the Coast's veterans were having a positive impact as an increasing number of veterans were attending the hospital.

"This was recently confirmed when Brisbane Waters became the fourth busiest private hospital in NSW in terms of veteran admissions, and accounted for 43% of all veteran admissions to the Coast's private hospitals," he said.

Anyone wishing to contact Wendy can call her at the hospital on 4341 9522.



Ettalong hairdresser, Beth Fawcner, cycles for Multiple Sclerosis in this year's RTA Big Ride

Beth cycles for MS

"I was part of a special event", was Ettalong's Beth Fawcner's comment on returning from being a participant in the 10th anniversary RTA Big Ride, a fund raising event for Multiple Sclerosis.

Multiple Sclerosis is a debilitating disease of the nervous system.

"I enjoyed the atmosphere and the camaraderie of riding for 16 days with 1350 others," said Ms Fawcner.

Ms Fawcner rode alongside participants from the UK, US, Mexico, Singapore and a 65 year

old lady fresh from an Alaskan winter.

Participants ranged from an 80 year old man who rode the whole distance from Tweed Heads to Hornsby, to a postman with a one geared postal bike and his dog Monte.

Ms Fawcner, a hairdresser and her partner Dennis rode between 37 and 11 0 kilometres each day weaving through coastal and country areas such as Byron Bay, Coffs Harbour, Dungog and Gloucester.

The small towns went out of their way to make the riders feel welcome by providing activities such as bush dances and pa

rades which contributed to the \$250 000 fundraising target.

The riders were accompanied by eight motor cycle police, members of the Volunteer Rescue squad, St Johns Ambulance and various non-riding participants who cooked meals, handled baggage, staffed drink stops, repaired bikes and provided entertainment in the evenings.

"I enjoy the challenge and friendship," said Ms Fawcner on returning from her sixth MS Big Bike Ride.

"It's a great way to see and hear the countryside."

Karen Booth, April 15

Simplicity Funerals

WOY WOY Ph: 4344 2333



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Allan Maidment J.P. Area Manager

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Fathers' group starts

The Child and Family Health Service has started a group for fathers.

The service believes fathers have a specific role and need as parents.

Dates for the fathers' nights

at Woy Woy are April 27, July 27, August 21 and December 14.

Phone 4320 3618 for more information.

Karen Booth

The Pitter Patter Baby Club at Umina Mall Pharmacy

Ocean Beach Rd Umina Phone 4341 6906

The BEST Pharmacy Baby Club on the Central Coast

- ✓ Baby Club is held every Wednesday and Thursday from 10am until noon
- ✓ FREE monthly photo of your baby
- ✓ FREE baby record card, indicating growth and weight changes
- ✓ VIP Card – our exclusive customer card giving you discounts on purchases

Special annual activities including **Easter Picnic in the park with Easter Bunny**. FREE sausage sizzle, photos with Easter Bunny, Easter egg hunt and LOTS MORE

Fathers Day photos – have a professional photo taken to give dad and **Christmas celebrations with Santa** – photos and a free gift from Santa

Information coffee mornings and demonstrations throughout the year

- ✓ Free Guardian Pharmacy colour baby magazine and Pitter Patter newsletter mailed to you
- ✓ Advice and professional Pharmacy service second to none.



Dr John Fawcett receiving a donation from Rotary Club of Umina's International Service Director, Peter Maitland

Rotary donation helps save sight

Umina Beach Rotary Club's international service director, Peter Maitland, has presented a cheque to cover sight restoration for 300 young people.

Cheque recipient was visiting Rotarian Dr John Fawcett from

Bali who said that because of bad diet and hereditary factors, young children in Bali are often either born blind or very soon go blind.

Umina Rotary has had an ongoing association with this project for two years and continue to support it.

Geoff Melville, April 10

Skateboard clinic aims to develop higher skills

A clinic for intermediate skateboarders will be held at Umina Skate Park on Wednesday, April 26, from 10am.

The clinic aims to take intermediate skaters to a higher standard, according to organiser Mr John Ferguson from Gosford Council.

Experienced instructors will conduct one-hour classes with a maximum of four people per instructor.

Each applicant must wear a safety helmet to participate in the clinics.

Mr Ferguson said the clinics provide an ideal opportunity for skaters to visit the park and be comfortable mixing with other users.

The skate park was designed to be used by all standards of skaters, he said.

Registrations cost \$6 and are taken by the cashier, Gosford City Council, Mann St, Gosford.

Registration forms are also available at most skateboard shops.

For more information, contact John Ferguson on 4325 8430.

Vicki Brown

Ladies golf trade for charity

Everglades Lady Golfers are running a charity trading table on April 27 in the club house.

This will be followed on April 30 by a charity golf day, which will be a mixed event with prizes.

Last year's chosen charity was the Woy Woy Rehabilitation Unit

which received a cheque for \$2400 from the event.

The selected charity this year will be the Woy Woy Community Aged Care facility which is raising funds for a community bus.

Everglades Lady Golfers are looking forward to a strong response from the community for this worthy cause.

Competition results

The 10th edition of the Central Coast UBD street directory has just been published and last issue we offered to give six away.

The winners of the directories were:

David White of Ettalong Beach, J. Smith of Woy Woy, F. Leake of Woy Woy, Lucinda Cann of St Huberts Island, Edna Lay of Point Clare and Jodi Shaw of Umina.

Thank you to all who entered

Easter Fair at Pearl Beach

The 24th Annual Easter Saturday Fair will be held at Pearl Beach Community Hall from 10am until 5pm.

The fair features books sales but also includes bric-a-brac, fine arts, plants, a raffle, anniversary shirts, carry bags and stationery.

The fair is sponsored by the Pearl Beach Progress Association and coincides with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Pearl Beach Community Hall.

The hall at 9 Diamond Rd is used almost daily as a meeting place for the community as well as for activity groups.

A children's competition with prizes based on the theme "The best time I had in the Pearl Beach Community Hall" will also take place with prizes available in four age groups.

For further details; phone 4341 5053

Cec Bucello, April 15



Megan Hay and Neil Ferguson of Booker Bay who were married on March 18 at the Gosford/Edogawa Commemorative Garden, Caroline Bay and held their reception at the Gosford Race Club

Photo courtesy Bowen's Photographics

Car rentals on the Peninsula

A car rental and sales business has opened on the Peninsula on the corner of Ocean Beach Road and Mutu Street, Woy Woy.

Trading as Abbco Rent-a-Car and Calibre Autos, the business plans to cater for vehicles priced

between \$2000 and \$6000.

Similarly, they also provide low cost car rentals using older vehicles.

Proprietor Paul Lee has a similar business in Long Jetty which has been established for eight years.

Cec Bucello, April 12

New book exchange

Ettalong's first book exchange, My Book and Me, has opened for business in the Rocks Arcade.

Proprietor Lisa Fain has lived in the area for five years and chose to open the business because of her love of books.

It is her first venture into private enterprise and she is open for business from Monday to Saturday each week.

The exchange operates on the basis that anyone purchasing a book will receive a credit to be used off their next purchase when they return the original publication.

Lisa also issues credits to people who bring in their own books for her to buy for the business.

Cec Bucello, April 15

Early school leavers get HELP at Ettalong

A free program of part-time courses is available at Ettalong for unemployed 15- 24 year olds who did not complete year 12.

The Helping Early Leavers Program (HELP) was introduced in 1989 as a component of the youth initiative package.

It is funded by the State Government through the Youth Assistance Strategies Section of the Department of Education and Training.

HELP aims to provide early school leavers with opportunities to improve everyday literacy and numeracy, self esteem and social skills.

On April 12, students from within and outside the Peninsula graduated after completing Term One.

They had completed introductory courses in childcare, computers, creative arts and performing arts.

Graduates will now use their newfound knowledge and self esteem to look for work on their own and with the ongoing assistance of employment services organisation Workwise.

Workwise will also provide an ongoing resume update service for all participants.

Graduate of the introduction to computers course, Clare Dawes, said: "The course was a great deal of fun and very interesting at the same time.

"I am certain that it will help a great deal in finding work.

It This year, the Ettalong Baptist Church made a financial donation to the HELP program as part of their 50th anniversary celebrations.

Enrolments are now being taken for term two courses, which are introduction to trades, computers, creative arts and performing arts.

For details, phone 4344 3040.

Cec Bucello, April 12

"SHORT of CASH ? LETS TRADE !"

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- Sell fish
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- Portrait modeling for an artist
- Office & home cleaning
- Handyman work
- Gardening service/advice
- and any other services and goods

**Call for more information: Ray 4343 1315
Sabine 4344 6601**

Education

Judy retires after 16 years cleaning work

Ettalong School cleaner Judy Keegan has retired after 16 years at the school.

Her level of dedication, her interest in our students and her commitment to this school was always evident, said school principal Mr Bruce Donaldson.

"We will miss Judy very much, but wish her well in her retirement years."

Club assists Ettalong School with computers

Following a submission made in 1999 by the school's Parents and Citizens' Association, the club agreed to match the school's target amount dollar-for-dollar.

The result for students, staff and the school community is a modern computer network which allows access to email, programs, safe data-storage, shared resources and the Internet.

Shed built for Umina High agriculture

At the Umina High School farm, a new shed has been constructed for storage of hay, a utility, and other farm machinery.

Classes have so far harvested corn, rockmelons, grapes and dinosaur gourds.

The school continued its impressive achievements at agricultural shows with success at Maitland.

Umina High entered a team of bulls and heifers and the animals took out most of the major awards, gaining Champion and Reserve Champion ribbons.

Two senior students, Wendy Lowe and Kelly Lawson, performed well in the Senior Paraders' Compo

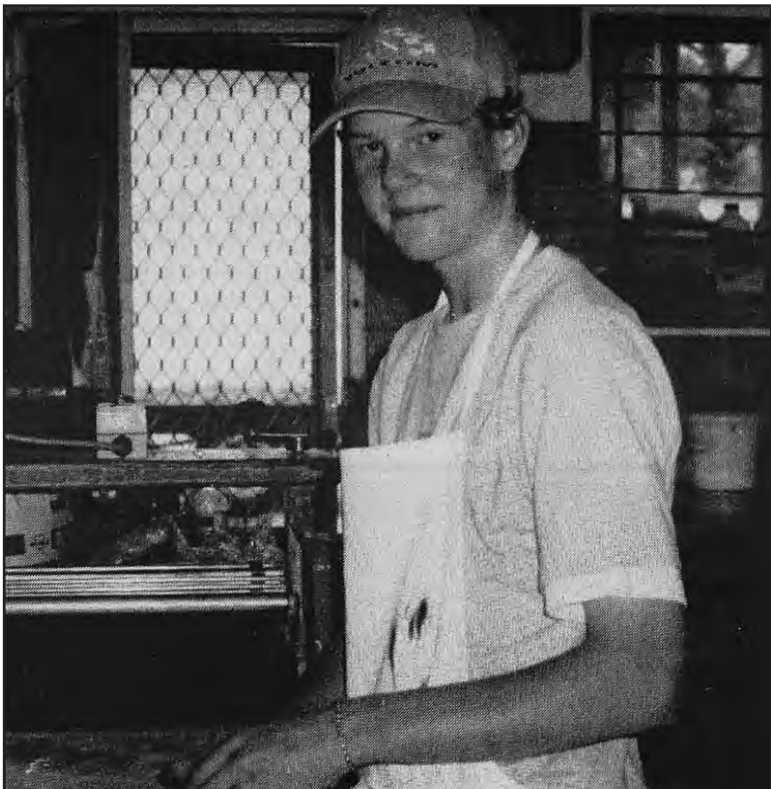
Life Education continues

The Life Education program has continued at Ettalong Public School.

Life Ed is described as a "positive health and drug prevention program" for children.

"We would like every child to participate," said school principal Mr Bruce Donaldson.

Funding for the Life Ed program at school relies on the payment of \$4 per student and covers the cost of the child's visit and an activity booklet which the children use.



Daniel Bruns at work in the bakery

Daniel takes first prize

Year 12 student and trainee pastrycook Daniel Bruns, has won first prize for a decorated birthday sponge at the Castle Hill and Hills District Agricultural Show 2000.

Daniel also won the champions ribbon for third and fourth year

apprentices and trainees.

Daniel has been trained by his father, Ron Bruns, of Bremen's Patisserie in Umina.

The patisserie has won several prizes recently in major state and national bakery competitions, including another three awards at the Hills District Show.

Cec Bucello, April 12

Woy Woy High wins

Woy Woy High School and Umina High School met in a table tennis match with Woy Woy victorious 4-0.

The match was to be played over seven rubbers but, with four straight wins to Way Way, Umina conceded the match.

The win should put Way Woy in good stead for the up coming third round clash with Homebush Boys High School.

Members of the Way Woy team are Dean Packer, Jack Neri, Brad Watson and Reuben Flanagan.

Carl Spears, March 21

School looks to market researchers for funding

Woy Woy High is considering joining forces with a market research company to raise funds for the school.

A spokesperson for the school said: "The cost of running schools is ever increasing so a proposal put forward by one of the staff is to join forces with a market research company, that periodically needs test subjects to test a variety of consumer products such as food and soap.

"Woy Woy High would have to provide, at relatively short

notice, a large number of people to participate in the market research and it would take about one hour." "The testimonials from other groups which have entered such agreements have been quite positive.

"I hope the school and community will support the idea because it appears to be a fairly painless way of raising significant amounts of money." Other schools on the Peninsula have adopted similar schemes to raise funds said the spokesperson.

Are you facing CHANGES?

FREE PUBLIC TALK

BY
Mrs Dorothy Maubane C.S.B.

Saturday, 6 May, 2 pm Kibble Park Kafe

Sponsored by the Christian Science Church, Gosford

Free child care available

Woy Woy High starts recycling

Woy Woy High School has started a recycling project.

The project is being undertaken in conjunction with the School Communities Recycling All Paper Limited, and ASD Recyclers.

The intention of the school is to recycle used office white paper and miscellaneous coloured paper, newspapers and cardboard.

A spokesperson for the school said: "It is surprising how much

paper and cardboard is generated or comes from the school in the course of a week.

"This project is good for the environment because what we recycle won't find its way into the local tip." Staff and students have been informed of the project and with their cooperation and the support of the recycling businesses, will be doing their bit for the environment.

Carl Spears, March 29

Nathan's efforts are recognised

Nathan Crowson of Ettalong Public School has been recognised by his school for his achievements.

Nathan was captain of the Umina under-11 cricket team that won the G&W.D.J.CA Saturday morning competition.

In the process, he scored 113 in one game and was awarded the Mingara Sports Star of the Month Award.

He is captain of the Ettalong Public School Cricket team that is into Round 3 of the State-wide Primary Schools Knockout

competition.

He plays goalkeeper for the Coasties under-12 soccer team and was selected in the Peninsula District Primary Schools Sports Association train on squad.

He has been asked to participate in the final trial that could lead to selection in the Sydney North Region Primary School Australian Football Team.

He approaches his schoolwork in a mature way and is a prefect at the school, said principal Mr Bruce Donaldson.



Standing in front of their newly decorated shed are l to r, Renee Keene-Time Out Coordinator, Wendy Orth-Tutor, Tara Fenton, Jessica Dumbrell, Natasha O'Malley, Bonnie and Debbie Field

Time Out at Ettalong

Non-profit organisation, Workwise, has completed a horticulture program as part of their Time Out program for year 7 and 8 children.

Based at Ettalong, the program was funded by the State Department of Education and Training and included girls from Umina and Woy Woy High Schools.

This year's project was to create a new backyard at the Ettalong cottage complete with greenhouse, vegetable and herb gardens, decorated garden shed and fish pond.

Assistance in meeting some of the costs came from Umina Rotary club.

Cec Bucello, April 11

Education

Public schools discuss high school restructure plans for the Peninsula

Woy Woy South Public School's P&C has organised a forum to discuss the proposal to restructure high schools after concern that primary schools had little involvement in the process.

Principal Mr Warrick Hannon said it was important for parents to come to the meeting because, "it is your children who will be attending these restructured high schools in the future." The special Peninsula Primary Schools Forum will be held at Woy Woy High School on May 3 at 7.30pm.

P&C president Ms Kay Denning has contacted the Empire Bay, Ettalong, Umina and Pretty Beach Public Schools' P&Cs to invite them to the forum.

The meeting will be addressed by the facilitator of the restructuring process, the Department of Education and Training's Mr Owen Kenny.

The aim of the restructuring proposals is to form relationships between schools with defined structures that focus on the allocation and sharing of resources across campuses.

Recent talks have discussed different ways of achieving this, including forming senior high schools containing only years 11 and 12 students, with junior high schools containing younger years.

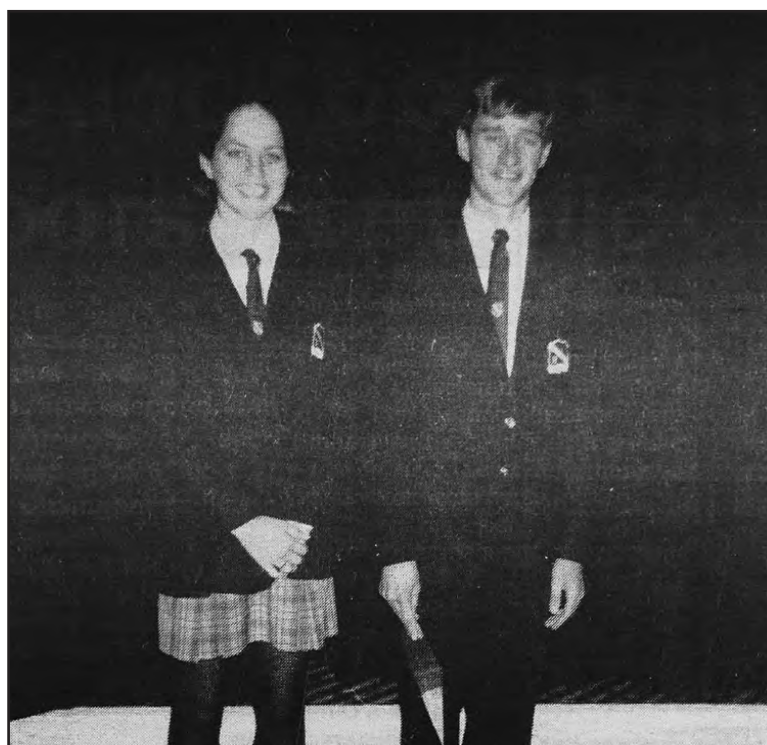
Other options are the development of academies along subject lines such as sport or performing arts.

There is opportunity for interested parties to prepare submissions on the proposed restructure.

Closing date for submissions is June 2.

For more information on the Primary Schools Forum, telephone Woy Woy South on 4341 3555.

Carl Spears, April 6



Jessica Mitchell and Phillip Bernie

Jessica wins zone 1 of Youth of the Year

Year 12 student Jessica Mitchell from Woy Woy High School recently won the zone 1 public-speaking section in the Lion's Youth of The Year contest and was overall winner for the night, Philip Bemie, also from Woy Woy High School, took second place.

The students were eliminated in a later round.

Representing Woy Woy Lioness Club, Jessica was one of six Woy Woy High students who entered the competition.

She said: "First of all we had to fill out forms at school.

We were then selected by our answers and had to attend the first interview.

"The students were allocated 80 per cent of their points during the interview.

These were given for leadership, sporting, cultural and community interests, personality, general knowledge and academic achievement.

Jessica said she was asked five questions which involved the topic East Timor and her views on the United Nations and their part in mandatory sentencing.

The remaining 20 per cent of points were allocated according to the student's public-speaking ability.

She said: "We were given two impromptu questions on the night.

The first question required us to speak about heroin injecting rooms and whether or not they save lives.

The second question was to comment on the statement 'Children should be seen and not heard'." Each student was required to speak for two minutes on each question, and later on in the night gave a five-minute prepared speech.

Mrs. Willingham from Woy Woy High said that Jessica gave a moving speech on health care, using the example of her very ill grandfather.

Jessica and Philip then competed in the regional finals of the contest at Central Coast Leagues Club.

Both performed very well but the competition proved tough and they were beaten on the night.

Jessica enjoyed the contest. She said: "It gives young people the opportunity to improve their public-speaking skills and to have their views and opinions heard."

Amanda Jackson, April 9.

Traffic problems at Ettalong

Parents of Ettalong Public School have been asked to help control the traffic problem around the school.

Parents were asked to report incidences of speeding,

dangerous driving, illegal parking and "near misses" to: Woy Woy police on 4341 9122.

They were also asked to write a brief report of the event and pass it on to the school office.

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Peter Tulk Swimming School
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Dancers aim for Olympics

Fifty Woy Woy High School dancers have made it to the final live auditions for the Olympic Games opening ceremony.

The achievement has been attributed to the work of both dancers and dance teachers out of class time.

"This would be an experience of a lifetime if our dancers were chosen and we wish them luck for their live performances," said principal Ms Carolyn Carter.

More Ettalong vandals nabbed

Another five young people have been caught after hours in the Ettalong Public School grounds.

They were caught climbing on the school roof and vandalising school property.

This follows the arrest last month of four people for trespassing, breaking and entering and stealing from the school.

"We would ask all parents, friends and neighbours to report anyone on school grounds," said principal Mr Bruce Donaldson.

Phone School Security on 1800 809 604 with details.

Year 6 visit high school

Woy Woy High School will have its Year 6 open night to introduce primary school students and their parents to high school on May 10 at 6.30pm.

All subjects studied at the high school will have lessons and demonstrations.

The night will start with a barbecue and entertainment in the hall.

Earlier this month, Woy Woy High students visited students at Kariong, Ettalong, Woy Woy, Woy Woy South, Empire Bay and Pretty beach primary schools to field questions from Year 6 students.

The Woy Woy High students, Lauren Brown, Max Harwood,

Heidi Robertson, Clayton Wheeler, Kim Honan, Leanne Brown and Matthew Arrua said they found the experience rewarding.

"It was good fun talking at the schools," said Heidi.

"I talked to the students about the student representative council and how they could be on the council and try to work out ways to improve the school and arrange discos." Matthew said he loved revisiting his old school.

"I told them about all the different sports they can do at high school and how they could do experiments in Science," he said.

"They loved hearing about how you can cut up frogs."

Carl Spears, April 10

Ettalong has e-Homenote

Ettalong Public School is offering families an e-mail subscription to its school newsletter, the "Homenote".

The school is the first on the Peninsula to do so.

"We can now e-mail our school news directly to your e-mail address at home or work," said computer co-ordinator Mr Tim Nash.

"We are already sending our Homenote to 10 families every week.

"If you or grandma or Pop or brothers or sisters would like to receive our weekly newsletter via e-mail, please send your e-mail address to the school," he said.

The request could be made by e-mail to enquiries@eUalongps.nsw.edu.au.

Mark Snell, April 12

Woy Way play the untouchables

The open girls' touch football team from Woy Woy High School played The Entrance High School in a heated match.

It was a very close first half with some great defensive moves displayed by the Woy Woy girls.

The Entrance only scored in the last minute of the first half to make the score 1-0.

Brooke Ferguson and Haley Oliver were outstanding, using their skill and experience on the field.

Newcomer Year 7 student Holly Johnstone had a great game and is one to watch in the future.

Overall the team just lacked the fire power in the second half, losing 5-0.

Amanda Jackson, April 11

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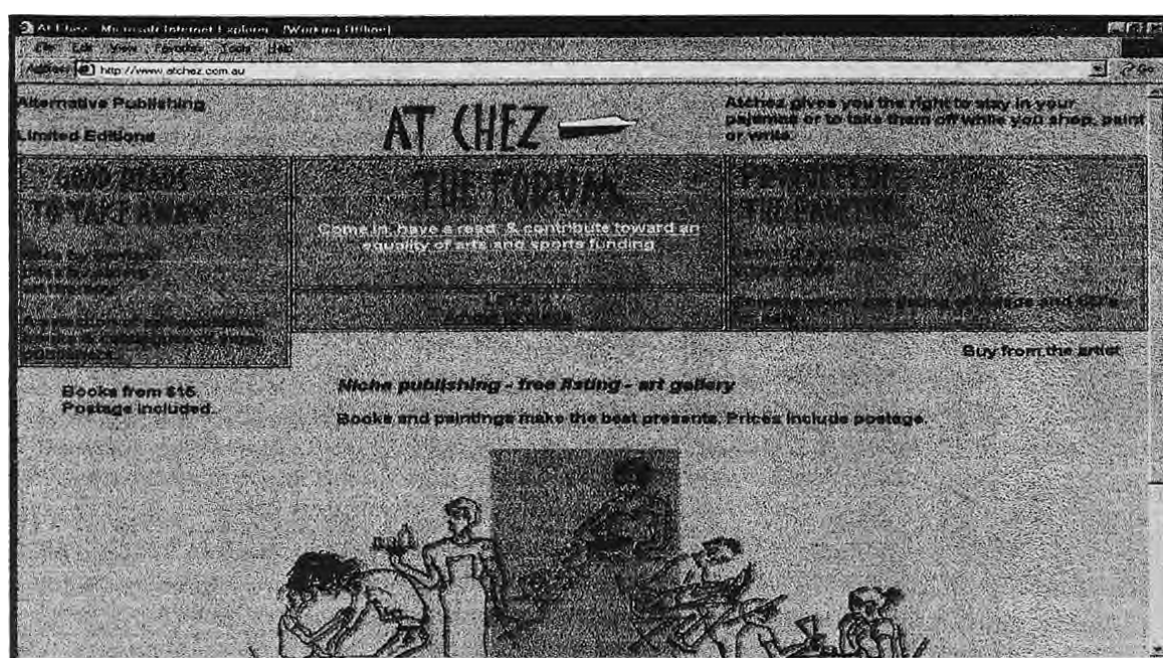
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Arts and Entertainment



Chez so; - page: At Chez allows local painters and writers to show their wares at home and abroad

Artist's website under review

At Chez, an alternative local art gallery, provides an on line outlet for painters and writers to display their products to a worldwide audience that only the Internet can command.

By quickly downloading, the home page provides a glimpse of some of the talent from the gallery.

Fine line drawings, reviews of books and thumbnail size pictures of over 20 watercolours lie behind the various internal links that At Chez provides.

The Products of the Palette link enables viewers to click on a painting to get an enlarged image

of that painting.

The time taken to download the images is minimal when compared to many other commercial pages on the net.

Other internal links include a descriptive page on the LETS program and a page of art from other artists.

There was only one other artist shown when I visited the site.

All the products can be purchased by mail or fax.

The site lacks any links to other galleries but provides two external links; one to the Central Coast ECoast site and the other to a Central Coast web designer.

At Chez is a site you may wish to revisit and I rate it seven out of 10.

The site does not state when it was last updated and has some errors.

The site can be accessed at <http://www.atchez.com.au/> 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, March 26



Jason and Chloe Roweth of Us Not Them

From tradition to the future

The folk music duo "Us Not Them" will visit the Peninsula in early May to facilitate a workshop in arranging traditional music for present day performance.

Us Not Them will hold their workshop at the Masonic Hall, Woy Woy, on May 9, as special guests of The Troubadour Folk Club.

The duo, Chloe and Jason Roweth, specialises in combining strong original songs and contemporary comment with old style ballads and thoughtful arrangements of lesser-known collected Australian material.

Using vocals, guitar and mandolin, their striking, distinctly Australian mix of folk with older country/blues is dynamic and captivating, said folk club treasurer Marilyn Stephenson.

"I am delighted that Us Not Them has agreed to come to the Peninsula to perform and hold their workshop," she said.

"Their like has not been seen here before and to get the workshop as well as the performance is really special." The evening will start at 7.30pm with performances from local folk club members, followed by a

performance by Us Not Them.

The "From Tradition to the Future" workshop will take place after supper and a cover charge of \$5 applies for the evening.

Us Not Them has performed at major folk music festivals at Woodford, Port Fairy, Major's Creek, Jamberoo, Gulgong, the National Folk Festival in Canberra and at St Albans.

The duo has produced three CDs, as well as performing and recording with several other bands including Jindi and Wongawilli.

Cec Bucello, April 11



Club Secretary Manager Noel Pate with plans

Multimillion dollar club development

Umina Beach Bowling Club is undertaking a multi million dollar rebuilding program.

The club's Secretary-Manager Mr.

Noel Pate said: "The club is embarking on a change of image.

"The construction of new premises on the present site will provide something new and exciting for members and guests of the club."

The club has had architects design features to meet its entertainment needs.

The planned developments will be staged over several phases to minimise disruption to members.

The first phase in the club's expansion will be an internal refurbishment and modernisation.

Plans to construct a multi level club with ocean and district views from its top floor have been approved by Gosford Council.

Construction started on Monday, March 13, and is expected to be finished by August.

Umina Beach Bowling Club chairman Mr Don Jolly said: "The board of directors are excited about the new plans not only for the club members but also because the local community will benefit".

The new facilities will include a dining room as well as an "intimate cafe".

There will be several lounge areas and a room with on-line interactive entertainment.

The club will also have an innovative sports bar.

The plans include a 130 seat function room.

Noel Pate, Secretary Manager of the Club, said "let the construction begin.

"This all adds up to jobs in the construction industry and more hospitality employment for the Peninsula when phase one of the development is complete."

Peninsula artists meet

A group of artists has started to meet regularly on the Peninsula.

The group does life drawing on the first Monday of each month and has a social meeting on the third Monday of each month.

Both meetings start at 6.30pm.

Newcomers are welcome.

There is no fee and meetings have an open structure.

The group's aim is to share general and local information, to look at what others are doing and to offer support.

Eventually the group plans to consider joint exhibitions and other projects.

Organiser Bernard Craft can be contacted through his website at www.atchez.com.au

The Influence of Taurus *April to May 21*

Not only those born during this month can expect to feel influenced by Taurus. We are all affected by the Zodiac signs year round, as the cosmic energies reach this planet, and all who live upon it.

Unlike the passionate, active time of Aries, Taurus is a time for consolidation, not a great time for new ventures, anyone attempting something new can expect to feel outside their comfort zone for the next few weeks.

Being an Earth sign it is a good time to buy material things, maybe a piece of furniture for the home would bring pleasure.

During Taurus travel is not favoured, as the home life is on our minds. Cosy nights at home with a video are more satisfying than rushing away for a few days. Family and loved ones are important to us at present. Fine food will be tempting and we should be mindful of calories.

In general Taurus is considered a lucky sign financially, so you can be optimistic about money at present.

Enjoy this stable, secure time.

Namaste



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Sports



Woy Woy 4th Grade Cricket Premiers L to r: standing: Steve Eddy, Ravi Shenna, Darren Trigg, Glen Minnet, Ryan Johnson and Terry Reagan. Front: Mark Drysdale, Dave Monahan, Brendon James, Craig Cartwright, Darren James, Mick McMann, Roger Clements

Woy Woy Cricket Club comes away with two premierships

Woy Woy Cricket Club has scored a double success in the Gosford-Wyong District Cricket Finals.

Woy Woy's fourth grade and sixth grade sides were both premiership winners.

Both sides scored triumphant and resounding wins over the determined and resolute Kincumber Cricket Club.

The finals were played over the weekend of March 25 and 26 under fairly poor conditions on heavy, rain-affected grounds at Tacoma Oval (fourths) and Sohier Parks at Ourimbah (sixths).

With the sixth grade match, Kincumber batted the first innings on Saturday to be all out for 114 runs off 51 overs.

The Woy Woy side, in a tense match, narrowly defeated their opposition, scoring 120 runs with only five overs to spare and no wickets in hand.

It was a game of varying fortunes from start to finish with both sides taking the upper hand a number of times during the match.

Although all players contributed to the win, outstanding players were Chris Lee with excellent bowling figures of six wickets for 43 runs from an intense 24 over spell, and Paul Flindell who topscored hitting 37 runs.

Bob Druitt and Paul Tonkin

also took sensational catches for Woy Woy, changing the tide of the game.

Because the pitch.

was so heavy, a score of 114 was like chasing about 220 given the abysmal condition of the wicket.

The fourth grade Woy Woy side also defeated a Kincumber team after chasing only 80 runs.

Woy Woy scored 87 runs with three wickets in hand, off a raindelayed game and also poor conditions.

David Monahan tipped the scales in Woy Woy's favour with top bowling figures of six wickets for 38 runs.

The Woy Woy club contested all six senior grades fielding nine teams in this year's competition.

Three teams, seconds, fourths and sixths, had a shot at the title in the finals with fortuitous results for the fourth and sixth grade sides.

The second grade side, who were in fact minor premiers, did not follow on with the earlier success and were beaten narrowly in the minor final by an in-form Mountain side.

Winning the two premierships has been somewhat of a revelation for the Woy Woy club as it has been eight years since any senior grade team has brought home the gold medal and baggy caps for the

club.

Although records are not available for the early history of the club, it is understood it is the first time the club has brought home two premiership trophies in the one year.

Club supporters were ecstatic with the results and it was definitely a fine way to start the new millennium.

The club discovered a new realm of support with the signing of the Everglades Country Club as chief sponsor.

The eight other local business sponsors were Wilsons Real Estate, Dewars Cabinets, Col Breese & Son Electricals, Tonkin Drysdale Partners Solicitors, Deepwater Leisure Tours, Coastwide Property Inspections, Umina Mall Cake Shop, and We're Sportswear.

The club's victories were attributed to this financial backing and the direction provided by club officials Kevin Dewar, Aidan Cuddington and Col Breese. The club also has strong talent emerging into the senior ranks from the junior grades with some very capable and skilful young players putting their hands up for selection.

This will make the club stronger again in this next season.

Jim Martin



Woy Woy 6th Grade Cricket Premiers, Umpires and supporters

Bensville's Kevin wins NSW Masters Athlete of the Year

Bensville resident, Mr Kevin Vickery, 77, has won the NSW Masters Athlete of the Year Award at the NSW Sports Federation.

Kevin was presented with his award at the annual awards night, held at the Homebush Super Dome.

The award is judged across all sports and nominations are narrowed down to three finalists.

This year 140 nominations were received from 30 sports and included nearly 70 world champions.

Kevin was nominated for his more than 20 years of competition in Masters swimming events.

He has set new state and national records in 128 events in all the strokes and presently holds 20 state and national records in his latest age group of 75 to 79 years of age.

In 1998, at the FINA World Masters Championships, he won six gold medals in the 100 metres, 200 metres, 400 metres and 800 metres freestyle, 200 metres butterfly and five kilometre open water swim.

In last week's State long course championships in Sydney, Kevin won five gold in the 100 metre, 200

metre and 400 metre freestyle, and 100 metre and 200 metre backstroke.

This weekend, he will swim at the Australian Masters Swimming Championships in Queensland, where he will compete in the 100 metre, 200 metre and 400 metre freestyle, and the 100 metre and 200 metre backstroke.

Kevin also hopes to compete at the FINA World Masters swimming championship to be held in Munich in August, and is currently seeking a sponsor.

The World Masters is open to anyone over the age of 25 and competitors are grouped into age groups spanning five years.

World Masters takes place every two years and regularly attracts up to 4000 swimming competitors.

Even though the events are open to anyone to take part, competition is extremely tough.

Kevin said a 100 metre freestyle final winner in his age group of 75 to 79, would have to swim the distance in about one minute and 10 seconds.

To give an idea of how fast this is, in the Melbourne Olympics in 1956, Dawn Fraser swam the 100 metres freestyle in one minute and two seconds.

Fishing News: They're biting

Inside Report: Over the past month, fishing has greatly improved.

Around the oyster leases, there have been good catches of bream, flathead and leatherjacket.

On Saratoga Flats, the odd jewfish is still about and some fairly good-sized whiting are also there to be had.

If throwing a line out at night, try for some tailor in Booker Bay.

Davistown and Woy Woy Hotel fishing clubs held fishing competitions on the weekend of April 8 and 9.

In Davistown, there were some good catches with the junior competition being taken out by Riley.

Newcomers to the area, Shannon Barling and son Chris did well ..

with 10 year old Chris landing a 64 cm kingfish.

For Woy Woy, Jamie Hayes caught a nice trevally.

(I don't think his dad helped with this one!).

Outside report: In a boat, off the

rocks or on a beach, there are fish everywhere to be caught.

Kingfish are responding to metal lures on and around the reefs.

For the land-based angler, try Putty Beach for salmon, tuna and drummer.

Davistown competition outside winner was me with some nice samson fish, whiting and leatherjacket.

For the Woy Woy Hotel club, Bob Hall did well with some good catches of bream and kingfish.

Catch of the day went to Rob Langston with a bull mullet weighing 1.1 kg.

Fish of the month Each month, running in conjunction with Peninsula News, a particular species of fish will be announced and the largest one of its type caught and weighed in at the shop before the next edition of the newspaper is published will win a \$20 gift voucher.

This month's fish is kingfish and entries close on May 17.

Good fishing!

Ken Bartlett, Jamie's Bait & Tackle, April 13

Jamie's Bait and Tackle

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Bill Vrolyks (centre) flanked by former soccerroo and current national team coach, Frank Farina on his left and former soccerroo and current national league team Parramatta Power coach on his right

Kerry competes with the world's best ironwomen

Umina Surf Club's Kerry Armstrong-Smith has claimed fourth spot at the World Masters Ironwoman event, third in the malibu board race and fourth in the single ski in the 30-34 age group at Manly.

Competitors from around the world, including South Africa, the United States and Belgium also competed.

The result was all the more remarkable because Kerry only trains twice a week.

"I had a baby last year and with working full-time at the school, I don't get to train as much as I used to," she said.

Kerry was given the opportunity to compete after performing well in the Australian Masters and winning the 'inaugural Australian Women's Champion Lifesaver event last month.

Each state had one representative.

The Champion Lifesaver event takes stamina as it is run over numerous' events and different disciplines.

The events include patient resuscitation, setting up oxygen equipment, a beach run, a runswim- run event and tube and board events.

"I competed three years ago in the Open Championship against the men because there was no women's event then," said Kerry.

Kerry, 31, also had to compete against younger athletes in the open event Before that, in the State Masters she won two bronze medals and a silver medal for tube, ski and ironwoman (30-34 age group).

"The competition was very tough," she said.

Carl Spears, March 31

Ettalong reaches Maestro final

One of the Central Coast's most prestigious bowls events, the Woy Woy Night Maestro Triples, has finished with the Ettalong Club as runners-up.

Eighty-two teams from the Central Coast, Sydney and as far afield as Taree entered the competition held at the Woy Woy Bowling Club.

Mr Ray White, Woy Woy Bowling Club publicity officer, said the final was a beauty.

Col Bray, Ken Mounter and Barry Eyles from the Bateau Bay side beat Col Brooks, John Falconer and John Milne from the Ettalong Club 22-14.

In other Woy Woy Bowling Club news, Jamie Noonan and Graham Kenney will play the club singles championship final after beating Alan Rogers and George Evans respectively in the semi-finals.

The Woy Woy Club will also waive all green fees for Mens bowls during May.

Carl Spears, April 10

Soccer pioneer to carry torch

Umina's Bill Vrolyks, 74, has been selected as one of the Olympic torchbearers for his services to New South Wales soccer.

Bill was "absolutely stoked" to be invited to carry the torch on August 28 at Bateau Bay, after his granddaughter Kim had nominated him.

Kim had nominated her grandfather for his outstanding services to soccer as a player, coach and administrator over 52 years, as well as for other community involvement such as working as a volunteer for Meals on Wheels for 10 years.

Bill is still a soccer coach.

"At 74 years of age, I must be one of the oldest coaches around," he said.

He also was awarded an Order of Australia in 1988 for his services to the game.

Bill played 450 first grade games and has coached Sydney

first grade sides and NSW teams.

However, one of his longest legacies is to the development of youth in the game.

Bill was one of the instigators of the Parklea soccer complex in Sydney's western suburbs.

Parklea has five fields and accommodation for 160 young players.

Parklea is now the headquarters of New South Wales soccer, senior and junior.

"People thought I was crazy at the time and it took 10 years of hard work to get the place up and running," he said.

Asked if he was in training for the 500-metre torch relay, Bill replied that he and his wife ran along Umina Beach every morning.

The Sydney 2000 Olympic Torch Relay will travel over 27,000 kilometres and be carried by 10,000 torchbearers in what is the longest torch relay in Olympic history.

Carl Spears, April 10

Woy Woy Bowling Club scores a 'first' with synthetic green

Woy Woy Bowling Club is having the Central Coast's first synthetic grass bowling green installed.

At a cost of over \$110,000, the green will improve facilities for members and their guests by having a bowling green that can be used in all weather conditions, day and night.

The synthetic grass green also provides consistency in speed and has low maintenance costs even though, to the surprise of many

people, it does require regular watering.

Woy Woy Bowling Club secretary-manager Trevor Haynes said: "We are delighted to be able to have this facility for our bowlers and visitors.

"Bowlers who use the green will be required to pay \$2 each towards its cost but this is not considered to be a great imposition for up to four hours of use.

"The green should be operable towards the end of May," he said.

Cec Bucello, April 11

All Umina soccer grades score wins

Umina United Soccer Club has kicked off the 2000 season with wins in all grades for the first two rounds.

Round one saw Umina up against Wyoming, with the U 18's producing a hard-fought 1-0 win.

Reigning Premiers third grade waited till the last 10 minutes to finish off their opponents with a good 2-1 victory.

Meanwhile reserve grade punished their opponents with a classy display of skill to win 6-1 and first grade showed glimpses of the potential they displayed towards the end of last year with a 3-1 victory.

Lee Stone opened the account for the first grade side with a goal early in the game, though he was then forced to leave the field due to injury.

This gave reserve grade striker Michael Murphy the chance to step in and put two goals away for the first grade side.

Round two saw convincing victories for the 18's (6-1) and third grade (5-0), while reserve grade had to fight hard for their 2 nil victory.

Meanwhile in first grade, Umina defeated reigning premiers Wyong 3-0.

All three goals went to Lyle Hubbard who played a great game.

With some great attacks, Umina showed that they are likely to be a force to be reckoned with again this year.

Glen Aitken, April, 9.

Umina senior cricket has a bumper year

After the end of the preliminary rounds, Umina cricket club's first and third grade cricket sides were successful in reaching semi-finals.

First grade finished the season's competition rounds as minor premiers for the second successive year and third grade finished second.

The club also finished second in the Gosford Wyong regional club championship.

After completion of the first semi-final weekend, first grade

were 'defeated by Kincumber.

As a result, Kincumber progressed through to the grand final.

Umina now take on Gosford at Baker Park, Wyong in their second attempt as minor premiers to reach the grand final and have another shot at beating Kincumber.

In third grade, Umina defeated Kincumber and progressed through to the final.

Umina scored 161 from 50 overs then dismissed Kincumber for 126, with John Alchin and Scott Fisher both taking four wickets each.

Michael Barry

Bowls and the GST

With the Goods and Services Tax a little over two months away, the Woy Woy Bowling Club is among

those local businesses struggling to come to terms with its impact.

The club's board of directors has resolved to absorb the GST on bar products for July and revisit pricing following the CPI announcement due in August.

Membership will attract the full impact of the GST.

Social membership will remain at \$5 plus 10 per cent GST.

Full membership will increase from \$35 to \$44.50 which includes the RNSWBA increase of \$4 and CCDBA increase of \$1.50.

Women's Club fees are yet to be determined.

Lockers for men bowlers will be free so that GST will not apply The caterer's subsidy will attract a full 10% increase.

Once the caterer has determined the full impact of GST to his business and he has restructured accordingly, lunch and dinner specials will be increased by 10% respectively.

Green fees and raffles remain undecided.

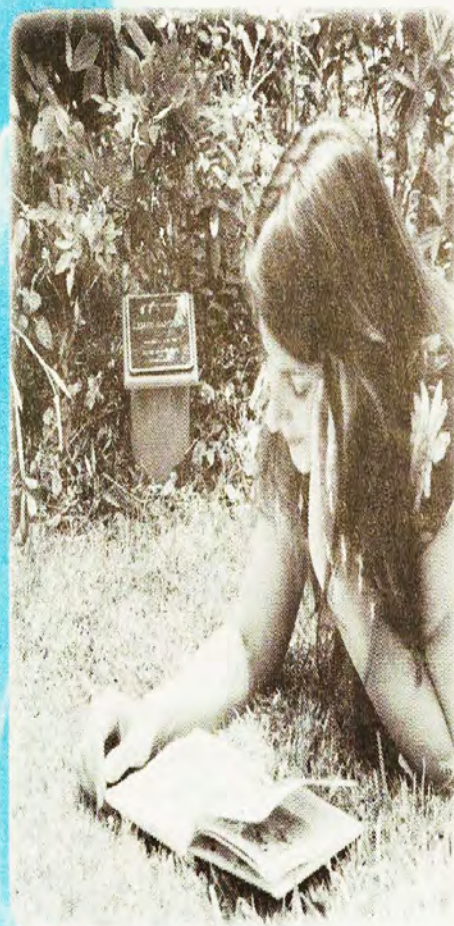
The board has decided that every effort will be made to enable the Club to trade to the same historical profit margin and will not pass on unwarranted price increases to Members.

The club is waiting to see whether its patrons will increase their budgets by 10 per cent to cover GST.

"Mum would sit and read
to me, here for hours..."



"Now I read to her"



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ANZAC Services on the Peninsula will take place at Patonga and Woy Woy.
Day long activities will be held at Woy Woy Bowling Club and Ettalong Beach War Memorial Club.

Jubilee Cross comes to Woy Woy

The Peninsula will host the Jubilee Cross during the week of May 20 to 27.

The Jubilee Cross is the symbol of the Christ of 2000 years and it will arrive on one of a flotilla of boats on May 20.

Some of the boats will travel from Kincumber representing the journey that was made many times by Blessed Mary Mackillop.

Travelling with the cross will be Bishop David Walker and other denominational leaders.

Organisers are holding talks with Aboriginal groups to have the boats met by a group of aboriginal dancers who will challenge the arrival, the disunity among Christian groups and their history of discord.

This will lead to a ceremony of reconciliation.

Throughout the week there will be a series of special religious gatherings and pilgrimages at South Woy Woy and Umina as well as visits to churches, schools and hospitals.

This will culminate in an all night vigil on the beach and an ecumenical dawn service as the sun rises on May 27.

The celebration is intended as a multi-denominational activity for all members of the Christian community.

It is hoped that this will be a good time to experiment in responding to real needs in the local community and providing new ways of being more integrally Christian and responsive to the "cry of the poor" ..

Further details are available from the

Parish Office of St John the Baptist on 4341 1073.

Cec Bucello, April 15

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