



Peninsula anglers appear to walk on water while standing on Woy Woy last week.
A nearby pelican looks no doubt also hoping for a good catch

Peninsula will get strategy

Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Dr Andrew Refshauge, has announced that a State Government planning team will undertake a special planning strategy for the Peninsula.

He told the Central Coast Moving Forward forum earlier this month that a case had been made for special attention to be paid to the Peninsula.

"The community in this area has indicated that it has a number of concerns, including population growth in the area, medium-density housing and urban design," said Dr Refshauge.

"We will be looking to address those concerns in partnership with Gosford Council through such things as:

- re-examining the relevance of existing residential controls,
- assessing the state of existing physical and human services infrastructure and determining priorities for improvement,
- investigating urban renewal opportunities to revitalise town centres,
- investigating transport needs, and
- preparing an Urban Design Framework to improve the built outcomes and create a stronger sense of place."

Dr Refshauge said: "To reinforce these intentions, Gosford Council and the Department are currently developing a proposal to revitalise the Ettalong area on the Woy Woy Peninsula under our Urban Improvement Program."

A new Department of Urban Affairs and Planning office with a staff of four would be established at Gosford by the end of January, with priorities which would include the Peninsula plan.

Member for Peats Ms Marie Andrews has welcomed the announcement.

"This is particularly heartening news for residents of the Woy Woy Peninsula who have expressed their concerns over the degree of medium-density development occurring in this compact area," she said.

"It is my firm belief that we will now see more good old commonsense used in planning



A zoning review will look at medium density development

proposals for the Woy Woy Peninsula."

Cr Lynne Bockholt said: "It was refreshing to hear the Minister nominate the current state of development on the Peninsula as one of the main reasons for the establishment of the Gosford office of DUAP."

"This is timely as local residents are getting increasingly desperate at what they see in the streets around them."

The overwhelming feeling was that the Peninsula was being covered with concrete to the detriment of our lifestyle and amenity, she said.

Dr Refshauge said it was no longer appropriate to build lifeless dormitory suburbs where people slept and lived only on the weekends.

"A strong message we are getting is that people are not opposed to development per se, they are opposed to poorly-planned and poorly-designed development."

"We need to be ever vigilant that we don't destroy the unique natural assets which attract people to the Coast."

"And we have to prevent burying the Coast in a landscape of bricks, tiles and bitumen."

December 12

Off-duty police to join council security patrols

Gosford Council will fund after-hours security patrols staffed by off-duty police officers targeting "hotspots" in an effort to lessen crime.

Mayor Cr Chris Holstein said the patrols are about taking a "proactive" role.

"It culminates from a frustration with the inability to increase police numbers by the State Government," he said.

Cr Holstein said there were several targeted areas city-wide.

Although loath to "telegraph" to potential perpetrators the council's plans of when and where the patrols would take place, he said: "We are moving post-haste to start."

"The patrols are going to be all over the place."

"If you don't do anything wrong, you don't need to worry."

Last month Cr Holstein called for a greater police presence in an attempt to stop vandalism at Umina Surf Club.

Cr Holstein said off-duty police would have a greater understanding of how to perform the patrols than normal council rangers.

Council's director of development and the environment, Mr John Murray, said the NSW Police Service had no objections to council employing off-duty police as casual council rangers.

"Inquiry has indicated that there is an adequate number of local

officers who are interested in the casual positions," he said.

Mr Murray said it was initially proposed to conduct a routine one six-hour patrol on Friday and Saturday starting at 8pm and finishing at 2am.

"Each patrol would consist of a ranger and casual ranger operating from a vehicle fitted with a police radio, mobile phone and council radio," he said.

"The patrols will target identified locations where vandalism and graffiti has been a problem."

Under the proposal each officer would be issued with a baton, baton holder, handcuffs, handcuff holder, Mag Lite torch, torch holder, an inner belt and utility belt.

The three-month trial has an estimated budget of \$11,300.

Apart from the routine patrols, council will also have "hoodlum patrols", which would target the hotspots.

The hoodlum patrols will target areas exposed to anti-social behaviour and may not be conducted every week.

The cost of the hoodlum patrols is estimated to be \$4164.

State Member for Peats, Ms Marie Andrews, said police numbers had increased on the Central Coast over the past few years.

"Since coming to government in 1995, NSW Police numbers have increased significantly," she said.

"The State Government has undertaken to increase those numbers by 2000 in the next couple of years."

"In the meantime, the police assistance lines have been set up for minor crimes, freeing-up officers to be in the community."

"The police service is now more mobile."

Ms Andrews said an example of the new police structure was the incident at the Colonial Village Bakery in Woy Woy.

"Contrary to media reports, six cars arrived at the scene and two arrests were made," she said.

"Also, a third person was questioned the following day."

"This wouldn't have happened in the old days (of the previous structure before changes brought on by the Royal Commission)."

A proprietor of the bakery, who did not want to be named, said she was pleased with the police response but thought the old system was better.

She said her brother had to contend with being assaulted for about 10 minutes while police arrived.

"My husband had run to the police station to seek help, but there was only one guy on duty and he couldn't leave his post," she said.

"Before there would have been five or six officers at the station."

Carl Spears, December 8

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Peninsula COMMUNITY ACCESS News

Welcome to the final edition of Peninsula News for the year 2000. In this edition, more than any previous edition, readers will find a great deal of entertainment information. Major clubs, eateries, community groups and businesses have ensured that their information is included to complement the *What's On* section.

Readers will be able to use the paper as an entertainment guide for the entire four-week period.

Observant readers will also notice a new name, Sally Lambert, appearing at the bottom of many articles.

Sally hails from Wagstaffe and has just completed her first year of a communications degree at Newcastle University.

Sally has been able to put her journalism skills and what she has learnt to good use on our behalf and her assistance has been most welcome.

The office of Peninsula News will be closed from December 25 until January 3 as we take a short break.

Staff, volunteers and committee members would like to wish all of our readers, advertisers and supporters a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year.

We look forward to even greater communication with you next year.

Cec Bucello, Manager

About Peninsula News

Peninsula News is owned by Peninsula Community Access Newspaper Inc, an incorporated non-profit association.

Its aims include providing a viable, non-partisan news medium and forum exclusively for the Peninsula and developing a sense of community on the Peninsula.

The newspaper is operated by Mail Order Mall under licence from the association.

The paper actively encourages all groups and individuals on the Peninsula to contribute their news, opinions and items of interest for publication.

Contributions to the paper are edited to consistent standards of readability. Guidelines are available for intending contributors.

Community members are also invited to contribute by taking photos, typing, joining the association, or participating in committees (the association needs a secretary).

There are 14,000 copies printed and distributed within the 2256 and 2257 postcode areas, as well as to subscribers outside the area.

Over one third of these are distributed through schools, with the rest at licensed clubs, libraries, retirement villages and other key sites to be picked up by readers. Call for a list of distribution points

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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.

New environment group forms



A new environmental group has been formed on the Peninsula.

The Peninsula Community Environmental Committee combines existing Peninsula community environmental groups and includes "local people who actively commit their time to conserve and protect the natural environment of the Woy Woy Peninsula".

Organiser Mr Tony Whitehead said that environmental awareness was necessary if the Peninsula was to become the tourist and holiday gateway to the Central Coast.

"The fast ferry from Sydney, high-quality housing development and a focused, much-needed upgrading of the central business districts are priorities within the area," he said.

"Community awareness of the close association that exists between social, economic and ecological systems is also a priority," he said.

The committee was proposing a Coast Care group, "conserving our magnificent beach dunes by helping to stop vegetation vandalism and removing invading weed species destroying native

dune vegetation", he said.

It would also address "issues such as the habitat values and enhancement of Blackwall Mountain Reserve as a nature reserve and the need to help conserve the small, locally-threatened and magnificent Superb Lyrebird population isolated by urban development within the reserve".

Also to receive attention would be the wetland areas of Umina, "habitat for many unique migratory water-birds and another magnificent natural area in need of important long-term community environmental input now".

Water and air quality, flooding and erosion, management of renewable and non-renewable natural resources (for example, soils), recreational, educational and aesthetic beauty of the area were all issues to be considered by the committee.

"The committee welcomes all community and business input and support," said Mr Whitehead.

"Experience is not necessary as environmental training is supplied in conjunction with Gosford City Council's Bush Care Program."

For more information, contact Tony Whitehead on 4342-7849.

December 7

Isolated remnant native vegetation cleared from Blackwall Mountain reserve

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A garbage truck collects waste. Changes to next year's contract mean more services at a possibly higher cost to ratepayers

Garbage rate set to rise

Garbage rates are expected to increase by about \$40 with changes to the collection of household waste starting next July.

Under Pacific Waste's new waste contract with Gosford Council, garbage bins will be reduced by half to 120 litres with an option to pay more for a 240-litre bin option.

However, residents will also get a garden organics bin with a 240-litre capacity serviced fortnightly in urban areas.

The fortnightly recycle bin will remain.

In effect, residents will have the same amount of waste collected, an average of 360 litres per week, but with waste collection broken down into the extra garden waste component.

The option to retain the current "black bin" at its current 240 litre a week capacity will remain if wanted at an extra cost of \$40 per year.

The recycle bins will also take a greater range of materials.

Council's director of development and the environment, Mr John Murray, said: "The inclusion of all paper and paper products in the recycling service will substantially lessen the

quantity of domestic (black bin) waste for disposal.

"It is essential that council implement a differential charge for the 240-litre garbage bin (to) provide an incentive for residents to minimise their waste," he said.

The current domestic waste service charge was \$169.84 a year and Mr Murray said he anticipated this would rise to about \$208 for the new three-bin system and \$248 with the 240 black bin option.

Mr Murray said only households with more than five adults should need to use the 240-litre black bin option.

Carl Spears, December 6

Works program to be reviewed

Gosford Council's strategy and policy forum has been asked to review the Council's capital works program, with a view to taking money from larger projects to fund smaller projects.

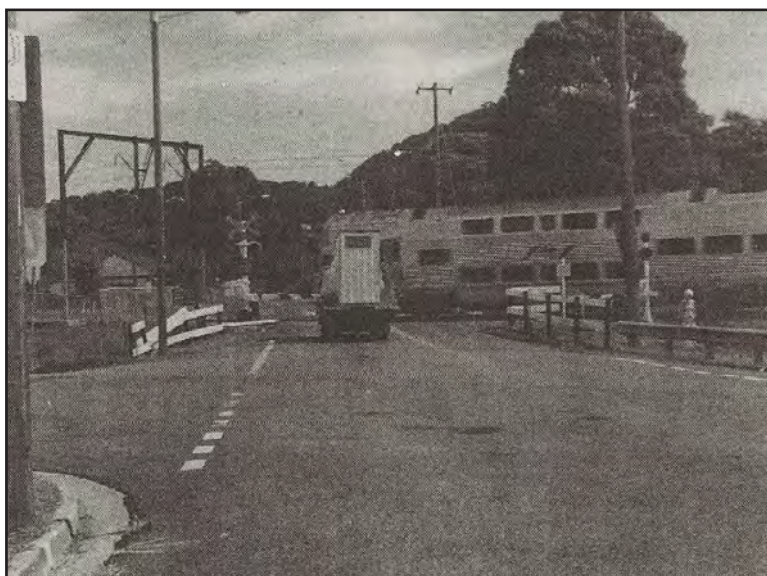
The committee will investigate the possibility of completing a large number of small works at the expense of some big-ticket items.

Projects costing more than \$100,000 would be targeted.

On the Peninsula, these included Middle Creek flood mitigation works, Pearl Beach, at an estimated cost of \$127,000.

Other projects under review on the Peninsula include the Patonga Fire Boat Shed renovations, provision of pumps at Woy Woy tip and the upgrading of Brisbane Ave in Umina.

Current "unfunded" Peninsula projects include oval irrigation at Ettalong and Woy Woy and the elimination of the Woy Woy Rd



Woy Woy rail crossing's removal remains unfunded

level crossing.

The report said the review would have an aim of "embellishing

and enhancing the city's current assets".

Carl Spears, December 11

Dogs on trial at Ettalong

The Ettalong Beach CBD area will be patrolled by security officers with dogs on a six-week trial leading up to Christmas.

Peninsula Main Street coordinator Cr Debra Wales said Specialised Dog Services International had been contracted by the Ettalong Beach Heritage Committee to give the town a

sense of added security.

She said patrols would be made on a random basis day and night.

The Peninsula Chamber of Commerce was backing the move and was looking into similar services in Umina Beach and Woy Woy CBD areas.

Cr Wales said the service would work in close liaison with the police.

December 8

Ron wins trip to Hollywood

Umina resident Ron Connell has won a holiday to Universal Studios in Hollywood for two adults and two children.

He won the prize in McDonald's "When Australia Wins You Win" Olympic Games promotion.

The prize is valued at \$8,396 and comprises return air travel and transfers to Los Angeles, accommodation at the Ramada West Hollywood Hotel for five nights, and one day entry for the Party to Universal Studios.

Ron's entry was drawn in the

second-chance prize draw from unclaimed prizes in the promotion.

Ron Connell is a regular at the McDonald's Woy Woy restaurant where he saw the Second Chance Draw barrel and thought "why not?".

"I am full of praise for McDonald's. The staff are wonderful," Ron said.

"I am elated to have won this prize."

Owner-operator of McDonald's Woy Woy, Mr John Ursino, said: "We are thrilled that one of our customers has won a major prize."

December



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Water levy may rise for surf club repairs

Gosford Council is considering increasing its water safety rate levy to cover the cost of maintaining its surf club buildings.

The council's strategy and policy forum has found that the budget for each surf club averages less than \$2000 a year.

It has estimated that the Umina Surf Club building requires about \$75,000 of building repairs and Ocean Beach Surf Club requires \$42,500 of repairs.

The buildings may need replacing within seven years.

Council's strategy and policy forum has been asked to provide council with a report that examines the long-term benefits of increasing the maintenance budget for surf clubs.

The forum committee will look at increasing the recurrent maintenance budget for surf clubs in an attempt to give the clubs a longer life before replacement is needed.

Currently however, both Ocean Beach and Umina Surf Clubs have been deemed in a state of serious deterioration.

"The buildings were all built to a price and now items such as metal structural elements are rusting and bricks collapsing in the salty, humid environment," said the forum's report to council.

"Council's building operations section have a recurrent budget allocation of \$16,000 per annum which is shared between all nine clubs (city-wide) on a three year rotating cycle.

"That is, each club receives, on average, \$5300 worth of maintenance every three years.

"The budget falls well short of required levels.

"The result is that buildings require replacement within a shorter timeframe than that which would be expected given a reasonable level of maintenance funding.

"Even the basic works required to upgrade the buildings to a minimum deterioration condition cannot be achieved.

"The better a maintenance program is, the longer buildings will last."

The Ocean Beach surf club has received a new roof in the last year.

A further study will be undertaken to "identify a strategy to maximise the effect of funds in a strategic and structured maintenance program; and a strategically-planned building replacement program".

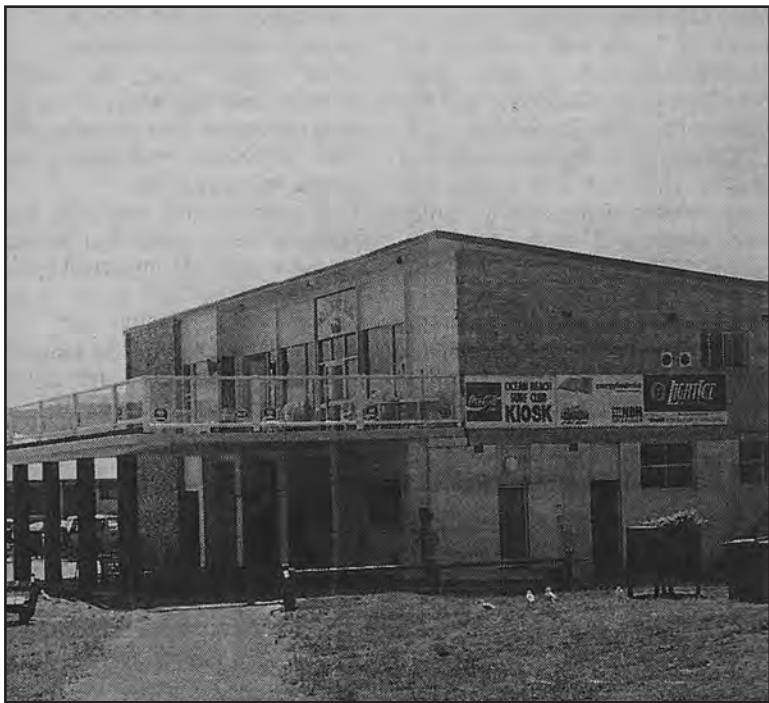
The strategy and policy forum reported that council was regularly called upon to undertake maintenance works, which were the responsibility of delegated committees for the clubs.

Cr Lynne Bockholt said the report would detail the problems faced by the clubs to keep their buildings operational.

"Council strongly supports the Surf Lifesaving movement on the coast, believing the volunteers do a magnificent job patrolling our beaches and keeping us all safe," she said.

"I believe the surf clubs are a wonderful community asset, particularly for young people, a place where they can learn about caring for the community without payment or reward.

Carl Spears, December 11



Ocean Beach Surf Club is in need of repairs. Both Peninsula surf clubs need to be replaced within seven years, according to Council.



Dogs should always be on a leash when walked on a beach like the one above. Dogs will no longer be allowed on beaches leashed or unleashed except for designated 'exercise areas'

Dogs face beach ban

Dogs may be banned from Peninsula beaches, apart from limited areas at Ettalong and Patonga.

Gosford Council will advertise the proposals in February for public comment.

The proposals allow dogs at Ettalong on the portion of beach bounded by Barrenjoey Rd and the boat ramp opposite Kourung St and at Patonga east of the Dark Corner Boat Ramp.

At both areas, dogs will be permitted "off the leash" at any time of day.

The proposal has been put to Gosford Council in a report from its strategy and policy forum.

"During summer, many complaints arise as a result of family visits to beaches spoiled by interference from unrestrained dogs and the unwillingness of many owners to pick up (droppings) after their dogs," according to the report.

"Lifeguards bare the brunt of the community's frustration.

"Unfortunately, each year a number of dog attacks are reported involving young children.

"Council has the most relaxed rules governing beach access for dogs of any of the coastal councils from Newcastle to Wollongong.

"However, dog owners are stakeholders in the city and enjoy and expect the opportunities to exercise their dogs on the city's many beaches."

The current policy allows dogs access to all Peninsula beaches,

24 hours per day provided they are on a leash.

There are also a number of "off-leash" exercise areas on all beaches where dogs can run free between the hours of 6pm and 9am provided they are accompanied by a competent person who has control of four dogs or fewer.

Currently Ettalong and Patonga have off-leash areas.

The forum's proposal will ban all dog access to beaches apart from designated off-leash areas.

The strategy and policy forum identified a number of problems with the current policy including:

Few dog owners walk their dog on a leash, which increases the chance of attacks and nuisance behaviour.

Enforcement is almost impossible with owners having a leash handy to put on the dog if they see a ranger and rangers are unable to divert sufficient resources to enforce the policy.

Waste is left on the sand

creating health and environmental issues.

Off-leash areas are poorly defined and located.

State Government legislation allows councils to prohibit dogs from any public reserve if it deems it suitable, although it compels councils to provide "off-leash" exercise areas.

The report said the new off-leash areas would be away from popular swimming and family locations, in areas that can be clearly defined. Signs would be erected and there would be no time limit.

Dog bins would be located at access ways surrounding the designated exercise area.

The proposed amendments will be on public display between February 1 with submissions accepted until March 16.

The existing off-leash area on public reserve in Hillview St between Nambucca Dve and Railway St, Woy Woy, will remain.

Carl Spears, December 11

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Councils

Australia Day birthday search

The Gosford City Australia Day Committee is looking for local people born on January 26, Australia Day, to register with the "26ers Club".

They will then be officially recognised at Gosford City's Australia Day celebrations.

Each year, the "26ers" are

presented with a gift and share the birthday cake at Gosford Waterfront as part of the day's celebrations.

To register your birthday with the Australia Day Committee, please contact 4325 8332.

Vicki Brown, December 7



Council reports on petition action

Gosford Council's director of corporate and community services, Mr Chris Gallagher, has released a report to council on action taken with previous petitions received from July to September this year.

Mr Gallagher said he had sent a letter to the 284 petitioners objecting to the closure of Bullion St in Umina CBD.

He said the issues raised by the petitioners in July were still being considered by the consultant drafting the final proposal for the Umina CBD upgrade.

Mr Gallagher also sent a letter to the 38 petitioners who asked for

rubberised soft-fall to be placed under the gym equipment at the park on the corner of Ryans Rd and Haynes Ave in Umina.

He said council had insufficient funding to lay the "soft-fall".

He suggested council replace the existing sand with sand that complied to Australian Standards.

Mr Gallagher has sent a letter to 46 petitioners who objected to the allegedly illegal removal of trees on Lot 17 Nambucca Drive, South Woy Woy.

Mr Gallagher said that amended plans from the developer had been received that retained a significant portion of the remaining swamp mahogany trees on the site.

"The matter of illegal removal of trees is currently being investigated," he said.

The eight petitioners who requested council clarify the use of Mary MacKillop Cottage after concerns of "squatters" camping for extended periods of time have been told by Mr Gallagher that the cottage has been closed.

"Council has spoken with the Church secretary and a sign has been erected saying 'Private property - keep out'," he said.

The 16 residents near Kahibah Creek at Umina who asked for existing bushland near the creek be maintained regularly and typha

reeds be removed without dredging or the use of herbicide have been told their concerns will be raised in an assessment of the creek and a subsequent report to council.

Eight residents who voiced their concerns about a lack of street lighting in Wentworth South Ave in Woy Woy have been told that no extra lighting is needed.

The 68 petitioners who objected to the syringe bin in Pelican Park and asking for its removal or relocation have been told the six-month trial of the bin was successful and had been extended for another six months.

The 106 residents of Flounder Rd, Ettalong, who requested an upgrade of their road "before a serious accident occurs" have been sent a letter from Mayor Cr Chris Holstein.

The letter said that Flounder Rd was listed for consideration of funding in this year's budget.

The mayor said the works would include upgrading of the existing pavement and where appropriate improve the surface of the existing footway area.

He said kerbing, guttering and footpaths were rated low priority and work was not expected to be undertaken for at least three years.

Carl Spears, December 8

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.

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Petitioners object to Umina land sale

Gosford Council received nine petitions with a total of 639 signatures at its November 28 meeting.

The largest petition was from Umina residents who objected to the sale of land in Brisbane Ave.

The petitioners said they have petitioned several times for footpaths, kerb, guttering and drainage to no avail.

They requested that if the land was sold, the money from the sale go towards the previously-requested upgrades.

Orange Grove Road residents in Woy Woy have also requested a footpath in a 154-signature petition.

The petitioners asked for council to approve funding for the construction of a footpath and vehicle hard-stand areas along Orange Grove Rd.

The residents said they wanted draft plans presented to them for consideration.

Council's general manager has said at public meetings in the past that it was difficult for council to address all requests because of a finite budget.

"If we spend more on footpaths, then the money must come from somewhere else," he said.

Ettalong Public School students have asked council for a skatepark at Umina dedicated to children from the ages of five to 13.

The 111 petitioners said the skatepark for the youngsters was needed to avoid being knocked down by teenagers at the current skatepark.

Also from Ettalong, 36 Lagoon St residents have given council a petition regarding the "dangerous state of their street".

The petitioners said there appeared to be a problem with the foundations of the road after rainfall.

They said 20 to 40 cm parts cave in after rain.

They also said water lies in puddles all along the road making it hazardous for pedestrians.

"House foundations shake and vibrate more than normal when heavy vehicles use this road," they said.



Ettalong Public School students have petitioned council to provide a dedicated site for a skate park for younger children

The petitioners asked council to assure them that the road would be repaired this financial year.

Council received a 31-signature petition from Umina asking council to replace filling in front of the bus shelter.

The petitioners said that because the section in front of the bus shelter had washed away, it was difficult for elderly people to get in and out of buses.

Umina Beach residents in Timbertop Drive have sent a petition to council regarding the access road to their properties.

The 11 residents asked council to resolve the problems with their access road including: lack of maintenance, overgrown areas and parking across their driveways.

The proposal to zone an alcohol-free zone in Patonga has drawn a six-signature petition from residents.

The petitioners objected to the proposal and said they have spent many an afternoon socialising at the local shop with a beer in hand, with never a hint of aggression or unruly behaviour being witnessed.

Other petitioners from Ettalong asked council to investigate a sighting of rats at Flathead Rd and barking dogs in Broken Bay Rd.

Carl Spears, December 6



Youth rehearse for their PUPS performance. The plays were written by youth who had been told inappropriately '10 move on' by private security guards on the Peninsula.

Treatment of youth portrayed

The way youth are treated on the streets is the topic of a series of street theatre performances being given this month.

Called PUPS (People Using Public Spaces), the project is part of Gosford Council's community safety initiatives.

aimed at giving young people the opportunity to express their concerns about safety in public spaces.

The young people involved have been meeting regularly at the Web Youth Service to identify the problems faced when using public space.

Narrator for the performance, Shannon Male, said it was not just about presenting problems but

also about the solutions.

"We are not here to just complain but to help the community understand that today's youth are not all bad," Shannon said.

While many of the concerns raised related to changes in security on the Peninsula, Shannon said that safety was a concern for young people as well.

Issues relating to use of pay phones, access to shopping centres and security were portrayed in six mini-street theatre performances.

The PUPS performance represented the first step in including young people in discussion on public space issues.

The next step was for young people to be involved in making decisions about public spaces,

particularly in regard to security.

Mayor Cr Chris Holstein supported the innovative way the street performances had allowed young people to identify their concerns for safety.

"Our public spaces are for all members of the community and young people, as important users of these areas, need to be consulted to sort out any problems." "We need to think more broadly about how we include young people in decision-making - and using street theatre to identify issues is a good first step," said Cr Holstein.

Performances have been given in the lead-up to Christmas at Deepwater Plaza, Woy Woy, and at Ettalong Markets.

Sally Anderson-Day, December 8

Accidents can be painful.

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EAST'S Peninsula Fireworks 2001

NEW YEAR'S EVE

6pm to 10pm

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- * Battle of the Band winners "Fetal Mishaps"
- * Show Bags
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- * Cooee the Clown
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GOSFORD CITY COUNCIL

An initiative of The Rotary Club of Umina Beach Inc

Prizes on offer for Peninsula research

Prizes are being offered for research conducted about the Peninsula.

Open Windows Computer Consultancy is offering prizes in four categories for projects undertaken over the school holidays.

Managing director Mr Mark Snell said prizes of \$25 would be offered for the best junior primary project, \$50 for the best senior primary, \$100 for the best junior secondary and \$200 for the best open-age project.

Mr Snell said he was motivated to hold the competition because "there is very little statistical information publicly available about the Peninsula and most of it is at least four years out of date".

"The research that does exist shows us to be different in many respects from the rest of the Central Coast and NSW generally," he said.

"The better we understand the Peninsula the better equipped we are to make decisions about our future here."

Projects would be assessed on presentation and content.

Particular emphasis would be Particular emphasis would

be placed on research which provides a fresh insight into our community, new data which is statistically significant and innovative research methods.

The competition is open to any member of the Peninsula community and entrants are encouraged to choose their own topic.

However, Mr Snell suggested a list of possible topics:

- Level of crime - reported and unreported
- Impact of drugs on lifestyle
- Traffic movement on and through the Peninsula
- Usage of Woy Woy carparks
- Skills of our residents
- Attitudes to community involvement
- Factors in deciding to live here and commute
- Stormwater drainage
- Water quality of our bays and beaches
- Flora and fauna
- Visitors to the Peninsula

"These are just topics that have occurred to me," said Mr Snell.

"Entrants should feel free to undertake a project that is important to them and not restrict themselves to the list." Projects must be about the

Peninsula but may contain comparative information (with the Central Coast or Sydney or the nation).

A panel representing the Peninsula community will be invited to assess the entries.

Research results will be placed in the public domain, and may be published by Peninsula News or placed on the Peninsula community web site www.thePeninsulaR.net.

Wherever possible, a floppy disc should accompany the submission containing the research results in Word format to facilitate publication.

Mr Snell said: "It is often claimed that 'there is nothin.g for the kids to do', particularly over the holidays.

"Here is an activity that should be both personally rewarding and of benefit to the community, as well as offering financial incentive for the best results in each category."

Entries close on February 14 and should be addressed to "Peninsula Research", Open Windows, PO Box 585, Woy Woy 2256.

December 13

Osborne Ave tender let

The tender for the reconstruction of Osborne Ave, Umina, has been let to Matcham's Coastal Asphalt.

The work involves the full reconstruction of about 350 metres of kerb and gutter, a concrete footpath, stormwater drainage works and associated works for the area near the Police Community

and Youth Club (PCYC).

Crs Lynne Bockholt and Judith Penton successfully moved that residents of Osborne Ave should not be charged for contributions towards kerb and guttering because it was ostensibly for the PCYC.

Carl Spears, December 8

Kirsten makes quest final

Ettalong's Kirsten Beverley has made the final of the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children's Quest held in Sydney this month.

Kirsten won the Hunter regional final to be one of the 80 grand finalists.

At the start of the competition earlier this year, there were 1500 entrants from NSW and the ACT.

Kirsten was among 20 contestants to make the 8-11-year-old age group final.

Entrants are judged on deportment, catwalk technique, presentation and style, appropriateness of dress for age

and the ability to participate in a choreographed event.

Kirsten will be vying for modelling contracts with Shelleys Model Management and Lollipops Children's Model Agency, and the winner of the most potential award will be travelling to Egypt with the Great Australian Fashion Show next month.

All money raised from the competition will go towards the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children's VisionEd preschool at North Rocks, which was opened last month.

December 7

Membership opens for seniors

Ettalong senior citizens' centre is accepting memberships now for next year.

The centre is available to all citizens over 50 years of age and offers a range of activities such as fitness, dance including line dancing, leatherwork, tai chi, fabric painting, cards, bowls, table tennis, discussion groups, handicraft and painting. The centre provides

social, edu-cational, physical and cultural opportunities for the over-50s.

Last month, The Council on the Ageing presented Gosford Council with an award for "outstanding practice in managing and supporting senior citizens' centres".

For more information, contact Ettalong Senior Citizens' Centre on 4341 3222.

Vicki Brown, December 8

National Parks service to hold half-day bushwalk

The National Parks and Wildlife Service will hold a half-day bushwalk around Patonga, Pearl Beach and Umina Beach on January 20.

The walk, as part of the Service's Discovery program, will be led by a guide and starts at 6.25am, finishing at 12.30pm.

According to National Parks, the walk will be an "early morning

ramble" from Brisk Bay in Patonga.

The walk will start at Brisk Bay, climb to Warrah Lookout to experience "magnificent views" onto the Hawkesbury River and Pittwater.

The walk will then descend to Pearl Beach for a breakfast break via the Crommelin Native Arbore-tum.

Bushwalkers will spend an hour at Pearl Beach and have a chance to explore the beach and swim.

The walk will then go to Umina Beach below Mt Ettalong.

The walk will suit adults and children above the age of 12 and costs \$11 for adults and \$5.50 for children.

Walkers should bring snacks, lunch, drinks, water, sturdy walking shoes and sun protection, although light refreshments are available from the local shop in Pearl Beach.

The walk is recommended for

people who regularly exercise, and includes a steep climb.

Bookings are essential on telephone 4320 4205 Monday to Friday during business hours.

The Discovery program is designed to show communities the wealth of cultural and environmental heritage available within the Central Coast region.

The program runs all year round, mainly on weekends and school holidays.

National Parks and Wildlife will also design an activity for groups on request.

For more information on the full range of activities available through the program, telephone 43204205.

Carl Spears, December 7

Corridor ownership

In our page one story "Wildlife corridor protected" last issue, we stated the corridor was previously part of the Crommelin Research

Station.

A station committee member has advised that the property concerned was in fact adjacent to the research station.

December 7

Watersedge



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Also available from the wide selection of locally authored books at the Peninsula News Book Club located at 4/115 Blackwall Rd, Woy Woy

Phone: 4342 2070 for a book sales list.

Little Theatre to hold tribute

The play "Tribute", to be performed by Woy Woy Little Theatre in February, is a comedy-drama set in present-day New York.

It takes the form of a tribute night for Scottie Templeton (Alan Bird), a man who has done just about everything in the world of show business.

During his life, Scottie has made many friends through his ability to make people see the humour in every situation.

His long-time friend and manager Lou Daniels (John Hickey) opens the proceedings and hosts the tribute night, while a number of recent events in Scottie's life are enacted through intermingling flashbacks.

Always the clown, Scottie has never had a great deal of success with personal relationships.

It is therefore with mixed emotions that Scottie is forced to face his most dramatic personal

crisis at the very time that his former wife, Maggie (Judy Dungate), brings his estranged son, Jud (Ric Payne), to stay.

Add to this powerful combination Scottie's newest "friend", Sally (Jo Cooper), and the professional demands placed on him by his long-time doctor, Gladys (Colleen Bracher), and sparks are bound to fly.

Director Fran Kendall said: "Rehearsals are going extremely well for this wonderful play.

"The powerful dialogue full of comedy, drama and pathos gives the cast something fulfilling with which to work and I am excited to see the cast develop their characters.

"As usual Bob Farmer is invaluable as stage manager and everybody involved proves what a professional group we have at Woy Woy Little Theatre."

Dates for the production are Fridays, February 2, 9 and 16 at 8pm, Saturdays, February 3, 10

and 17 at 8pm, Saturday, February 17 at 2pm, and Sundays, February 4 and 11 at 2pm.

Ticket prices are adult \$15, concession \$12 and child \$5 (under 16 years).

Bookings may be made at the Olympic General Store, Blackwall Rd, Woy Woy (opposite the Olympic swimming pool) on 4341 4067.

Discounts are available for group bookings of 10 or more and for season tickets.

Tickets not picked up and paid for 10 minutes before the show may be sold.

Auditions will be held for "The Anniversary" by Bill McIlwraith, directed by Barabara Hickey, on Tuesday, February 20, and Thursday, February 22, at 7.30pm at Woy Woy Public School.

Performance dates will be from May 25 to June 9.

For further information, telephone 4341 2931.

Steve Cummings, December 8

Troubadours to hold children's workshop

The Troubadour Folk Club will present a Children's Music Workshop in support of Aunties and Uncles Family Co-Operative on Friday, January 12.

The workshop is an all-day event for children aged seven to 12 years and concludes with an evening concert.

The workshop fee is \$25 and includes cost of instruments, materials, instruction, lunch and evening barbecue.

Concert entry is \$5.

Registration, instruction and preparation for the workshop is from 10am to 12 noon at Umina on Saturday, January 6.

Activities for the day include percussion, instrument-making and instruction, recorder instruction,

drama, acting and song.

Children will use their skills learnt throughout the day to participate in the evening concert.

Organisers recommended early booking to ensure a place at the workshop.

More information and registration information, contact Frank or Marilyn on 4341 4060, 0417 456 929, or e-mail frussell@fastlink.com.au.

The Troubadour Folk Club performs on the first Thursday each month at 304 on West Umina, with its main club evening on the second Friday of each month at the CWA Hall, Woy Woy.

Acoustic musicians are always welcome so come along and enjoy the evening and perform a few songs.

December 7

Pharmacy gains accreditation

Clarke's Pharmacy, located within the Peninsula Plaza WoyWoy, has been accredited under the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Quality Care Pharmacy Program.

Owner Mr Lance Clarke was presented with an accreditation certificate by the Member for Peats Ms Marie Andrews.

The accreditation was a major achievement by Clarke's Pharmacy and all credit was due to Mr Clarke and his dedicated staff, said Ms Andrews.

"The program is a Guild initiative which demonstrates that the public is receiving the best possible quality of pharmacy services and health care advice.

"Further, it demonstrates

the public benefit of the current pharmacy ownership arrangements at a time when legislation governing community pharmacy is being reviewed.

"I wish to congratulate Mr Clarke and his staff on receiving this accreditation," Ms Andrews said.

Marie Andrews, December 7

Lodge gives money to hospital

The Peninsula's Morning Star Masonic Lodge 410UGL has donated \$1100 to Woy Woy Hospital.

The money was raised through the annual "grippers and kneelers" bowls day between local Masons and Catholics.

The funds raised on the day are split, with each organisation giving their half to a charity of their choice.

Along with the donation, one of the Masons, Alex Gilroy, brought along his pipes to do a short concert for the patients and staff at the Hospital.

Pictured are (from left) treasurer Len Doughty, secretary Alex Gilroy, Director of Nursing Helen

Merkenhof, Lodge Master Neale Norman and past Lodge Master Dennis Hellyer.

Terry Hayes, December 7

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Peninsula News needs your support

Peninsula Community Access Newspaper Association Inc, the non-profit association which owns this newspaper, needs your support.

Membership of the association is open to any member of the Peninsula community and costs just \$5.

Membership entitles you to have a say in setting the policy of the paper and to legitimately regard yourself as holding a significant stake in this newspaper.

Your support through membership or donation enables the association to meet the expenses involved in overseeing the operation of the paper.

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WEST ST UMINA

What's on in and around the Peninsula

Compiled by Cec Bucello

Following is a comprehensive listing of events planned for the Peninsula over the next four weeks.

To have information about your group's events and activities included, let us know by fax, email, or post., or drop in to our office.

Contact details and deadline date are shown on page two.

All inserts for community groups and not for profit organisations are published free of charge.

Commercial organisations are also invited to include their information but a small charge will apply.

Commercial inserts are single column only and will be boxed.

The minimum size is 3cms and are charged at \$7.80 per cm.

DAILY EVENTS

Woy Woy Pelican Feeding at 3pm Pelican Park in front of Fishermans Wharf. Brisbane Water Bridge Club meets .

Monday and Friday at 12.30pm and on Wednesday from 9.30am till 7.30pm at Ocean beach Surf Club, Umina.

Also on Saturday at 12.30pm, Woy Woy Leagues Club.

Players welcome, partners arranged. Phone: 4341 0721

WEEKLY EVENTS

EVERY FRIDAY

Club X-Isle dual dance parties, Woy Woy Leagues Club, free before 11 pm.

EVERY SATURDAY

Free bike tours every Saturday. Leave 2pm from Ettalong Bike Shop, your bike or hire a bike. All fitness levels catered for. Phone 4341 3906 Cash Housie St Mary's Hall, Ocean View Rd Ettalong 7.30pm. Free Tea and Coffee. Cash Prizes.

Proceeds Woy Woy Catholic Parish Community Fund. Enquiries: Rob 4369 0626.

Social Bingo at Progress Hall, Woy Woy Rd at 12pm.

Cabaret at Everglades Country Club, Dunban Road, Woy Woy Evolution Nightclub, Ettalong Beach Memorial Club from 10pm.

Classic Night Spot - free entertainment from 8pm, Woy Woy Leagues Club

EVERY SUNDAY

Children's entertainment at the Ettalong Beach War Memorial Club 11.30am - 3.30pm - Clowns, jumping castle, disco, cost \$2. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Free Jazz from 4pm, Woy Woy Leagues Club.

EVERY MONDAY

Ettalong/Umina Lions Bingo

10.30-12.30pm Ettalong War Memorial Club Entertainment Centre. Cash Prizes. All Welcome Phone: 4342 1352.

Outreach Crisis Recovery Group meets from 7.30pm Rear Hall, Anglican Church 151 Blackwall Rd Woy Woy.

Addiction, dependency & crisis help. Enquiries: Bill 4368 357.

Fairhaven Services Cash Housie 7.30pm Umina Bowling Club. All proceeds Intellectually Disabled Adult Services. Phone: 43253608.

Free Race Game, Ettalong Beach War Memorial Club, 1 pm Free bingo Woy Woy Leagues Club. 11am.

Mah Jong at Pearl Beach Progress Hall, 3pm Enq: 4341 1243

EVERY TUESDAY

Free bingo, Woy Woy Leagues Club. 11am.

Ettalong Pelicans Masters Swimming Club meet at Woy Woy Indoor Heated Pool, 7.45pm Enq: 4360 1220

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Social Bingo at Progress Hall, Woy Woy Rd at 12pm.

Peninsula Choir meet & rehearse 7.30pm at St Andrews Hall Umina.

Pearl Beach Play Group (except school hols.) 10am-12pm Pearl Beach Progress Hall Enq: 4342 7182 Brisbane Waters Scrabble Club, CWA Hall, WoyWoy. Enq: 4341 8734

EVERY THURSDAY

Scrabble at Progress Hall, Woy Woy Rd 12.30pm.

Old Time & New Vogue Dance Umina Community Hall, 1.30pm \$2 Gala Day Everglades Country club, Dunban Rd Woy Woy Tai Chi, Pearl Beach Progress hall, 9.30-10.30am Enq: 4341 1243 Ettalong Pelicans Masters Swimming Club meet at Woy Woy Indoor Heated Pool, 7.45pm Enq: 4360 1220

EVENT CALENDAR

Wednesday December 20 Ettalong Umina Lions Club meets 6.30pm Woy Woy Leagues Club (3rd Wednesday).

Ettalong Beach Arts & Crafts market, Ettalong 9am (3rd Wednesday).

Bays Progress Assoc., Bays Hall, Woy Woy Bay Rd. 7.30pm (3rd Wed) Enq: 4341 1070

Saturday December 23

Ettalong Memorial Club presents The Four Kinsmen, 8pm \$20 Rock 'n Roll with Tezza and the Twist Tops plus guest OJ Dave Greville, 8pm

Sunday December 24

Masonic Lodge, Woy Woy 381 meet Umina Community Hall, 11 am (2nd & 4th Sunday).

Monday December 25

Woy Woy Branch of Business & Professional Women - dinner meeting (last Monday). Members welcome. Enq: Jill 4341 1844.

Woy Woy Deepwater View Club luncheon meeting (4th Monday). 11am Woy Woy Leagues Club. All welcome. Enquiries: Jan 4341 0272.

Tuesday December 26

Aboriginal Art & Natural Heritage Walk, NP&WS, Staples Lookout, Woy Woy Rd. 8.50am \$5.50. Enq: 4320 4205 Ettalong Beach Toastmasters meet 7.30pm

(every 2nd & 4th Tuesday).

Ettalong Beach War Memorial Club. Enquiries: Jan 4341 6842.

Pearl Beach Craft Group, 1.30-4.30pm, Progress Hall (2nd & 4th Tues) Enq: 4342 1459

Wednesday December 27

Umina Progress Association, Umina Community Hall, 1.30pm (last Wednesday) .

Friday December 29

Woy Woy Civilian Widows meet at 1 pm Ettalong Senior Citizens Building.

New members welcome (last Friday).

Sunday December 31

Peninsula Fireworks 2001, Umina Sports Oval, Melbourne Ave, 6-10pm. Bands, rides and entertainment.

New Years Eve Celebration featuring The Nye Jazz Band & The Good Old Daze Band, Everglades Memorial Club, 7.30pm \$12

New Years Eve celebration at the Ettalong Beach Memorial Club with the Australian Blues Brothers Show from 8pm followed by Evolution Nightclub and Retro Night \$14

New Years Eve celebration with the Roy Orbison Tribute Show ' at Woy Woy Leagues Club \$10

New Years Eve celebration at Club Umina with Coastal Front.

Wednesday January 3

Seniors' shopping day, Deepwater Plaza (1 st Wed).

Thursday January 4

Star Focus with NP&WS, Beach Rd, Killcare, 6.50pm \$5.50 Enq: 4320 4205 The Troubadour presents live entertainment at 304 on West, Italian Restaurant, 304 West St, Umina, 7.30pm.

Performance bookings: 4341 4060.

Restaurant bookings: 43445533. (1st Thurs) South Woy Woy Progress Assoc. meet (1st Thursday) 7pm All Welcome.

South Woy Woy Progress Hall, Woy Woy Road.

Friday January 5

Woy Woy Older Women's Network meet 10.15am (1st Friday), Woy Woy Leagues Club.

Morning tea will be provided.

Enquiries: Coral 4343 1079.

Saturday January 6

Tivoli by Night Ettalong Beach Memorial Club, 7.30pm \$10 Reserved seating.

Maitland Bay Excursion with NP&WS, Marie Byles Lookout, Scenic Road, Killcare, 6.25am \$11 Enq: 43204205 National Malaysia Borneo Veterans Association meet at 2.30pm, Ettalong Beach War Memorial Club (1 st Saturday). Enq: 43421216.

Ettalong Beach Arts & Crafts Market, Ettalong 9am (1 st Saturday).

Sunday January 7

Blackwall Mountain Bushcare Group. 9am at the banner at the base of the mountain.

Working to protect the remaining 'Superb Lyrebirds' in the area and regenerate the vegetation.

All welcome.

Gloves provided (1st Sunday).

Enquiries: Tony 43427849.

Monday January 8

Pearl Beach Women's Club 12pm, Progress Hall, (2nd Monday) Enq: Ruth 4341 8817

Tuesday January 9

Madness & Melodies, Ettalong Beach memorial Club, 10.30am. (2nd & 4th Tues) Ettalong Beach Toastmasters meet 7.30pm (every 2nd & 4th Tuesday).

Ettalong Beach War Memorial

Club.

Enq: Jan 4341 6842.

Pearl Beach Craft Group, 1.30-4.30pm, Progress Hall (2nd & 4th Tues) Enq: 4342 1459

Wednesday January 10

Breakie in Bouddi with NP&WS, Picnic area end Mt Bouddi Rd, Killcare Heights, 6.55am \$5.50 Enq: 43204205 Free childrens movie, Stuart Little.

1.30pm Woy Woy Leagues Club.

Endeavour View Club meet at Woy Woy Leagues Club, 10.30am (2nd Wednesday).

Friday January 12

The Troubadour Acoustic Music and Folk Club CWA Hall, Woy Woy (opposite Fishermans Wharf) presents a Childrens Music Workshop followed by BBQ & evening concert 7pm. \$5 inci. supper. All welcome. (2nd Friday).

Enq: Frank 4341 4060 or 0417 456929.

Saturday January 13

Ettalong Beach Memorial Club presents Rhonda Burchmore 8pm \$15.

Sunday January 14

Masonic Lodge, Woy Woy 381 meet at Umina Community Hall, 11 am (2nd & 4th Sunday).

Monday January 15

St John's Ambulance Junior First Aid course (11 to 14 years), 9am-1pm, \$43 Enq: 4324 6047

Tuesday January 16

Arthritis Foundation, Woy Woy Branch meets 10am (every 3rd Tuesday), Meals On Wheels Hall, all welcome.

Enquiries: Gladys 4342 1790.

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Fri 29 December "Karaoke Night"
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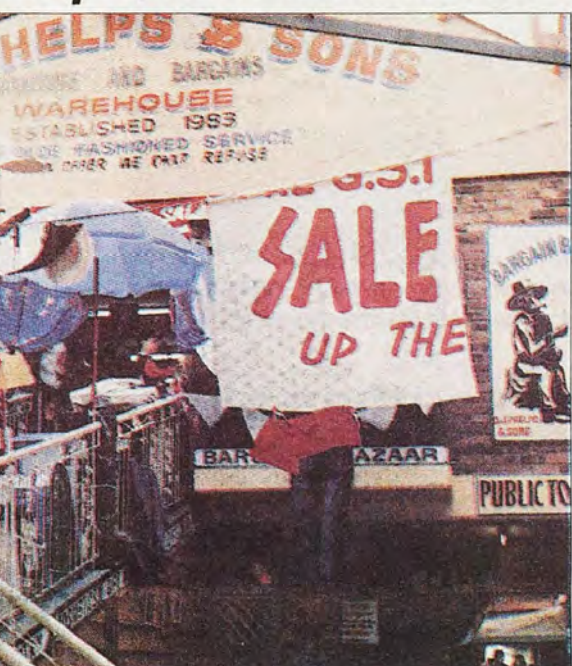
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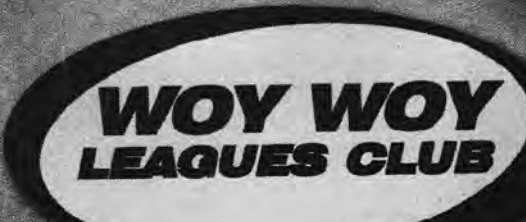
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December 13





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For the information of members and their guests

Parks service identifies plants



Part of the natural beauty at Pearl Beach

The National Parks and Wildlife Service has released a list of plant species which are native to the Peninsula.

The service's scientific committee "found that the Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland is the name given to the plant community recorded on coastal sands on the Woy Woy Peninsula ...

characterised by the following species".

"In view of the small size of existing remnants, and the threat of further disturbance, the scientific committee is of the opinion that Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland in the Sydney Basin Bioregion is likely to become extinct in nature unless factors threatening its survival or evolutionary development cease to operate, and that listing as an endangered ecological community is warranted."

Acacia elata (mountain cedar wattle)
Acacia floribunda (white sallow wattle)
Acacia irrorata
Acacia longifolia (Sydney golden wattle)
Acacia suaveolens (sweet scented wattle)
Acacia ulicifolia (prickly moses)
Aiantum aethropicum
Allocasuarina littoralis (black she-tlak)
Allocasuarina torulosa (forest oak)
Angophora floribunda (roughbarked apple)
Aotus ericoides
Banksia ericifolia (heath-leafed banksia)
Banksia integrifolia
Banksia serrata (old man banksia)
Billardiera scandens
Bossiaea ensata (small leafless bossiaea)
Breytia oblongifolia

Caesia parviflora (grass lily)
Cassytha glabella (slender

devil's twine)
Cayratia clematidea (slender grape)
Cheilanthes sieberi (mulga fern)
Clematis glycinoides (forest clematis)
Clerodendrum tomentosum (hairy clerodendrum)
Commelina cyanea (scurvy weed)
Cymbopogon refractus (barbedwire grass)
Dianella caerulea (blue flax lily)
Dodonaea triquetra (common hop bush)
Duboisia myoporoides (corkwood)
Echinopogon ovatus (hedgehog grass)
Elaeocarpus reticulatus (blueberry ash)
Entolasia stricta
Eriostemon australasius (pink wax flower)
Eucalyptus botryoides (southern mahogany)
Eucalyptus paniculata (grey ironbark)
Eustrephus latifolius (wombat berry)
Exocarpus cypressiformis (cherry ballart)
Glochidion ferdinandi (cheese tree)
Glycine clandestina (love creeper)
Gompholobium latifolium (broad-leaf wedge pea)
Gonocarpus teucroides (germander raspwort)
Hakea sericea (bushy needlebush)
Hardenbergia violacea (false sarsaparilla)
Hibbertia scandens (golden guinea flower)
Hibbertia vestita
Imperata cylindrica (blady grass)
Isoplepis nodosus
Kennedia rubicunda (dusky coral pea)
Lasiopetalum macrophyllum
Leptospermum polygalifolium (lemon-scented tea-tree)
Leptospermum trinervium

(paperbark tea-tree)
Lomandralongifolia (mat rush)
Macrozamia communis (burrawang)
Melaleuca quinquenervia (broad-leafed paperbark)
Monotoca elliptica (tree broom heath)
Notelaea longifolia (mock olive)
Pandorea pandorana (wonga wonga vine)
Persoonia levis (smooth geebung)
Persoonia linearis (narrowleafed geebung)
Phyllanthus hirtellus (thyme spurge)
Pittosporum revolutum (roughfruit pittosporum)
Platysace lanceolata (native parsnip)
Podocarpus spinulosus (plum pine)
Pomax umbellata
Pseuderanthemum variabile (pastel flower)
Pteridium esculentum (bracken)
Rapanea variabilis (mutton wood)
Restio tetraphyllus
Sarcopetalum harveyanum (pearl vine)
Smilax glycyphylla (native sarsaparilla)
Stephania japonica (snake vine)
Themeda australis (kangaroo grass)
Veronica plebeia
Viola hederacea (native violet)
Xanthorrhoea arborea (broadleaf grass-tree)
Xylomelum pyriforma (woody pear)

December 13



Council's road safety officer Jacqui Clarke, State Member for Peats, Ms Marie Andrews and Mayor Holstein at the launch

Drinks without Dramas launched

Designated drivers will be the focus of a Central Coast road safety initiative to combat drink-driving with many Peninsula businesses being involved.

Member for Peats, Ms Marie Andrews, said last week that the State Government is providing \$16,000 in funding support for "Drinks without Dramas," a campaign against drink driving on the Central Coast.

"Participating licensed premises will reward a designated, nondrinking driver with complimentary soft drinks in recognition of the responsibility

they have taken in agreeing to get their colleagues home safely at the end of the night.

"Drinks without Dramas will coincide with Brisbane Waters Highway Patrol random breath-testing patrols and other RT A anti-drink messages in an effort to make a difference over the holiday period."

The licensed premises on the Peninsula involved in "Drinks Without Dramas" campaign are Umina Beach Bowling Club, Ocean Beach Hotel, Ettalong Beach Hotel, Hardys Bay RSL Club, Ettalong Beach Memorial Club.

Sally Lambert, December 11

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Reverend Edgell gives thoughts on Peninsula

For Umina's Uniting Church minister, the Reverend Bruce Edgell, the Peninsula community is unique.

While it was not self-contained like a country town, it was not the busy crowded sprawl of a city.

V:Je made up a part of two separate cities: Gosford and Sydney.

Mr Edgell said that we came under Gosford City Council and thus relied on it for many things.

However locals were often heard saying that the Peninsula was "the land that Gosford Council forgot".

Mr Edgell said that he believed people could get frustrated with this lack of control over their lifestyles and facilities.

In some ways, this frustration defined us, he seemed to say.

The Peninsula also had an affiliation with Sydney.

Many people worked in Sydney and commuted there regularly.

The Peninsula was also made up of Sydneysiders who, having visited here during holidays, had retired and, having loved it so much, came to take up permanent residence.

And why wouldn't you? The natural beauty of the area creates so much to do.

The beach and the bush, as well as some spectacular views create a sense of pride amongst the people who live here.

So much of the natural beauty has

Minister at the Umina Uniting Church, the Reverend Bruce Edgell, is one of many people on the Peninsula whose lives centre on our community.

He spoke recently with Sally Lambert, a work experience student with Peninsula News, about his thoughts on what defines the Peninsula community.

been preserved, and in the residential areas, people take the time to keep gorgeous gardens.

But the geography was not all that was attractive about the Peninsula.

Mr Edgell said that there was an interesting mix of people from different socio-economic backgrounds and ages.

The Peninsula had a large number of retirees, many of whom had lived here all their lives, others who had recently moved here to retire.

There was also a large proportion of younger families, whose dream of home ownership had come true because they could afford to buy here.

Mr Edgell said that the standard of accommodation on the Peninsula reflected this mix.

He had seen the most luxurious houses as well as the very basic

cottages and granny flats, all in the same area.

Another strength was the number of community services, he said.

He cited Meals on Wheels, Red Cross, day care centres, aged care centres, play groups, after and before school care and senior citizens' associations.

He said many of these involved volunteers whose generosity and sense of community contributed to a higher standard of living for many residents on the Peninsula.

Despite these positives, he said that there was much to improve.

The Peninsula had a number of problems which were not necessarily unique to the area, but were still tearing the community apart.

Vandalism was a huge problem.

On street corners, the street J1Ck4-\$20 signs were bent, broken

or not even there.

Mr Edgell said that our parks were victims of wanton vandalism, with the destruction of public facilities. It was the result of unemployment, boredom, the influence of alcohol and other drugs as well as a lack of sense of community among a younger element of society.

He said that problems were caused by people who had gone out of control.

Along with the advent of gambling, the abuse of alcohol and drugs had contributed to many problems on the Peninsula, he said.

One example was the high incidence of robberies in our community, aimed particularly at elderly people.

He said it highlighted an element of the community, or perhaps an outside force, which had a lack of respect and regard for other people's property and rights.

He said that people were frightened and often needed counselling after a robbery has occurred in their home.

Mr Edgell said that road design and use had an impact on our community which was not widely recognised.

He believed that dangerous incidents seemed to occur more often with an increased population and the lack of facilities for bike riders.

He said that this, coupled with a disregard of road rules by children

An interesting mix of people from different backgrounds

- Rev Bruce Edgell

who wore no helmets and weaved all over the road, made for difficult and dangerous driving.

Mr Edgell believed that, like most communities, the Peninsula had changed over the years.

With increased development and a larger population, locals did not know everyone any more.

He said that he believed there was no longer the personal feel, or the village atmosphere, that there once was.

He thought that there was an unhealthy level of selfishness from all ages of society.

However all was not lost.

"It is better to light a single candle than to sit and curse the darkness." If everyone contributed slightly to our community, imagine what could happen.

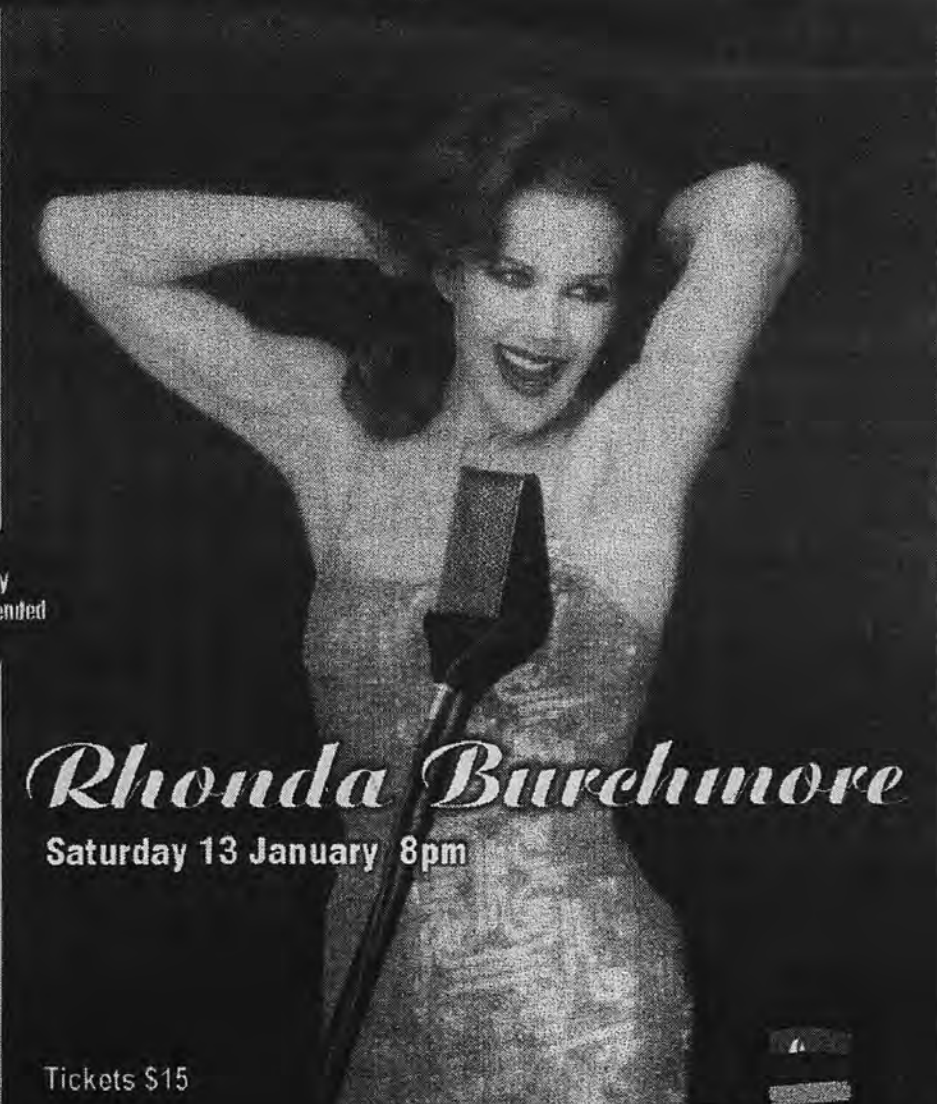
Sally Lambert, December 13

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Ettalong Beach War Memorial Club 4341 1166 Memorial Avenue Ettalong.

Ettalong BEACH CLUB



The owner of the Ettalong Markets and Cinema Paradiso, Mr Jerry Alta vii/a, has protested against council's new policy regarding "minor businesses"

New council policy upsets 'minor business' owners

A Gosford Council plan to have "minor business areas" in the city rezoned from general business to "neighbourhood" business has brought protests from the Peninsula Chamber of Commerce and local

businessman Mr Jerry Altavilla. The plan is currently on exhibition and seeks to cut the allowable floor ratio from 1:1 to 0.5:1 effectively halving developable area, setting a two-storey height limit and limiting the amount of any development that can be residential.

President of the Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, Mr Matthew Wales, said the council was seeking to impose over-regulation on small business precincts that fell outside the main CBD areas.

He said the new zonings would effectively devalue properties and cause problems for property owners who may have borrowed against the previous higher land value.

He said many of the properties affected were on the Peninsula including properties such as the Ettalong markets.

Mr Jerry Altavilla, the owner

of the Sea Sand resort, Ettalong Markets and Cinema Paradiso complex said he disagreed with the rezoning.

"The change in ratio from 1:1 to 0.5:1 means you would only be able to develop half your site," he said.

"Down the track, I wanted to refurbish and expand my property to compete with the commercial areas, but council is going to try and stop it.

"It will devalue my properties.

The cinema, markets and hotel were possible because of the existing flexibility.

"Now we will have to compete with one arm and one leg cut off.

"It's not just me," he said

Other areas such as Umina Mall, Patonga and Somersby Farm for example were also affected, "The markets are the main part of Ettalong, a focal point of the Peninsula.

"Council is anti-development.

"And what we've done is not to the detriment of the local community.

"The State Government is trying to increase density in the area.

"Is council prepared to pay compensation?"

Mayor Cr Chris Holstein said council had had problems in the

past with abuse of the zonings.

He said some developers had tried to turn neighbourhood areas into residential high-rises.

Mr Wales said the Chamber was trying to revitalise business precincts, but council was working to restrict redevelopment options for land owners.

Putty Beach fees outrage residents

Despite protest from local residents, the National Parks and Wildlife Service has begun charging 'admission fees to Putty Beach.

Residents from the area have sent a petition to State Parliament asking for a review of the fees.

A spokesperson for Killcare residents opposing the fees, Mr Fred Elsom, said he had a petition with 635 signatures which indicated strong support for abolishing fees for local residents.

"The local people are disadvantaged because in paying the fees, we are subsidising facilities that we do not use," Mr Elsom said.

"It is the visitors to the area who use the two toilets, 19 camping areas and three gas barbecues, not the locals who just want to have a swim or a walk." The admission fee for a day at Putty Beach has been set at \$6 a vehicle, and an annual pass \$20.

"What is to stop these fees from going up?" asked a spokesperson for Wagstaffe Progress Association.

"Nothing is stationary.

"Our community does so much for the National Park.

"We maintain and staff the fire truck.

"We fundraise within the community and we have bush regeneration groups.

"We pay the same rates as eve-

"Our community does so much for the National Park."

ryone else, but we are slapped with a fee to enter our beach.

"Because the service is charging people to park their cars at the Putty Beach carpark, people are now just parking their cars on the road outside the Park," Mr Elsom said.

Mayor Cr Chris Holstein has expressed concern over the possible threat to safety if cars block the road at the entrance to the beach.

Spokesperson for National Parks and Wildlife Service, Ms Lee Webster, said the fees were put into place to maintain high-quality facilities.

She said the park maintenance would make the area more attractive for tourists and this would benefit the local community.

According to local residents, the meter at Putty Beach which collected the fees had been vandalised and broken, indicating the anger felt by some people towards the introduction of fees.

Local residents disassociated themselves from the vandalism saying they preferred to "play by the rules".

Sally Lambert December 13

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Heather recommends travel aid

Concerned about travel or venous thrombosis? Suffer from diabetes or arthritis? Have you just had remedial bone, knee or hip surgery?

Respected local identity, Ms Heather McKenzie, said she recommended an inflatable exercise cushion used to stimulate circulation when seated.

Heather said she talked about the cushion at a recent Woy Woy Older Women's Network meeting, generating quite a bit of interest. The cushion is divided into two compartments by a weld through which a passage allows only

restricted air transfer between the two sections.

By half-filling with air, the cushion could be pedalled, as if it were a bicycle.

As the air is moved from one side, the other is filled with air.

It may also be used with a "treadle action", that is, pressing down with both heels and then with both toes across the centre division.

Ms McKenzie said she agreed with a testimonial that there was "great potential for this product amongst senior members of our community".

December 13

Today I want to talk to you about planning better communities.

About how we can ensure that all those things which are vital to creating real and enduring communities are brought together. About how we can get houses, jobs, shops, parks, and all those other things we need without destroying our precious natural environment.

In particular, how this might all work in the unique Central Coast region.

SEA CHANGE

Before I start, I would like to briefly review some of the things which make what's happening on the Central Coast a particular challenge.

First among these is population growth.

The Central Coast is the fastest growing region in the Greater Metropolitan Region, with a population of nearly 300,000 and an annual growth rate of over 2%.

All indications are that the region will continue to experience strong population growth into the future.

Like it or not, it seems many of us are undergoing our own personal "sea change" - leaving 'the big smoke' and 'heading for a quieter, and more fulfilling, life by the sea.

Of course, this migration to the coast does not come without a cost.

We need to be ever vigilant that we don't destroy the unique natural assets which attract people to the coast.

And we have to prevent burying the coast in a landscape of bricks, tiles and bitumen.

In the case of the Central Coast, our 'sea changes' have also resulted in a huge jobs deficit.

The people have come but not the jobs.

Each day almost 30,000 people commute to work in Sydney and Newcastle, with major social, environmental and economic consequences.

This has also led to the Central Coast having one of the lowest job participation rates in the State.

But enough of the doom and gloom! The Central Coast has much to celebrate and be proud of.

The high rate of population growth is, of course, because the area has much to recommend it.

These include:

- a spectacularly beautiful natural environment,
- good links to Sydney and Newcastle,
- its 'gateway' location in relation to the vast Sydney market, a local labour market which is enthusiastic for new job opportunities, and
- affordable housing.

And, of course, the earlier forum last month documented many impressive examples of what local business is doing

- local business success stories.

MOVING FORWARD

So, what are we doing to move the Central Coast forward?

One of the major initiatives we are working on in planning is the Shaping the Central Coast Regional Strategy.

The strategy has been

Planning better communities

The following is the prepared speech of Dr Andrew Refshauge, Deputy Premier and Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, to the 'Central Coast Moving Forward' Forum, held on December 7.

In the speech he outlines the importance that the State Government is putting on the Central Coast for planning better communities than that in the past, including a special strategy for the Peninsula.

prepared in partnership between the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning and Gosford and Wyong Councils.

It is a strategic overview, and what we need now is an Action Plan to implement the Strategy.

This will show how the broad directions and policies in the Strategy will be practically put into effect.

The Action Plan will provide clear direction on:

- employment and economic development,
- urban development
- both for new greenfields sites and urban renewal sites,
- transport and access,
- the natural environment
- human services, and
- regional management.

It will give us a good opportunity to ensure that all those things necessary for planning better communities are brought together.

As proof of our commitment to the Central Coast, I am today announcing the establishment of a new DUAP office on the Central Coast.

This will be the first time in almost 15 years that there will be a direct State planning presence on -the Central Coast.

The new office, which will be collected with the Premier's Regional Coordinator, will have a number of specific priority issues to work on.

These will not be bureaucratic paper-shufflers.

- The priority tasks of the new Central Coast Office will be:
- finalising and implementing the Central Coast Action Plan.
- Preparing an Urban Area Strategy and District Centre Masterplan for the Warnervale Release Area.
- Developing , in consultation with Gosford Council, a plan for the Woy Woy Peninsula and a strategy for ongoing development of the Gosford Town Centre.
- Facilitating economic development and job growth in the region.

I expect the office, which will have a staff of up to four, to be up and running by the end of January.

JOBS

One of the primary objectives in planning for the Central Coast is, of course, to get more jobs in.

We need to correct the imbalance that sees more than 30,000 people waking bleary-eyed each day to commute to Sydney or Newcastle.

And we need to create good jobs - jobs with a career path, not dead-end jobs.

And jobs that retain and enhance the natural environment.

So what can planning do?

Well, the Government is leading by example through development of the Festival Development

Corporation site at Mt Penang.

The site at Mt Penang is to be redeveloped for a diverse range of land-uses including mixed-use retail and commercial, sports, festivals and festival gardens.

It is estimated that the project will result in 1100 jobs during construction and over 5000 jobs on final development of the project.

The FDC site has the potential to attract some of the clean, high tech industries that we all want.

For example, IT industries requiring a broadband connection will be able to be accommodated in the proposed business areas, where fibre optic cable is available on site.

This will be a major generator of the right kind of jobs in the right place.

BETTER PLANNING

Of course, it's not just more jobs that the Central Coast needs.

It's better planned and designed suburbs, with all the human and social infrastructure that this entails.

We need to get this right in existing areas of the Central Coast which are undergoing redevelopment, as well as in new greenfields areas.

One of the main reasons we are setting up a DUAP regional office on the Central Coast is to make sure that we get the planning of new areas right.

No longer is it appropriate to build lifeless dormitory suburbs where people sleep.

And live only on the weekends.

One of the main tasks the new Central Coast office will be involved in is the master planning of a new community of 40,000 people at Warnervale.

This is the last 'major greenfield development area on the Central Coast and consists of three interrelated elements:

- design of the new Warnervale Rail Transport Interchange
- a commitment in our Action for Transport 2010 policy,
- design of a new district centre integrated with the rail interchange to bring much needed community and commercial services, as well as jobs, to new residents,
- development of an Urban Area Strategy to manage urban development.

The Department is the lead State Agency for this project and will contribute substantial financial and in-kind professional resources.

We are currently working to appoint an urban design consultant to assist in preparing the District Centre Masterplan and Urban Area Strategy.

It is vital that we get the planning for this new area right - so that we can create a real community, not just another jumble of houses where people meet on doorsteps

as they head to jobs in far-off places.

As well as getting the planning of new areas right, we also need to get the planning right in the redevelopment of existing areas.

One of the things I hear a lot is that people aren't opposed to development, they are opposed to bad development.

And I think it's also true that some of the speculative building that has gone on the Central Coast is bad development.

So we need to do better in building design.

One of the priority tasks that the new DUAP Central Coast office will be working on is a plan for the Woy Woy Peninsula.

The community in this area have indicated that they have a number of concerns, including population growth in the area, medium density housing and urban design.

We will be looking to address those concerns in partnership with Gosford Council through such things as: -re-examining the relevance of existing residential controls, -assessing the state of existing physical and human services infrastructure and determining priorities for improvement, -investigating urban renewal opportunities to revitalise town centres, -investigating transport needs, and -preparing an Urban Design Framework to improve the built outcomes and create a stronger sense of place.

To reinforce these intentions, Gosford Council and the Department are currently developing a proposal to revitalise the Ettalong area on the Woy Woy Peninsula under our Urban Improvement Program.

BETTER DESIGN

A key component of better planning is better design.

A strong message we are getting is that people are not opposed to development per se, they are opposed to poorly planned and poorly-designed development.

A couple of recent initiatives we have taken are about lifting the urban design game.

They are about making things look better, and making them work better.

The first of these are our recent reforms in relation to residential flat development.

The Premier recently announced a \$1.5 million package which will, we hope, significantly improve the design quality of flats and units.

These include:

- a requirement that all flat buildings over three storeys be designed by an architect,
- a new State Environment Planning Policy to improve the quality of flat design

- over \$1 million in assistance to local councils to prepare improved development control plans and to pilot the establishment of two Design Review Panels to provide expert knowledge on residential flat design,

- a pattern book setting out good design principles, and

- an- annual Premier's Award for Residential Flat Buildings to promote best practice.

These initiatives will help the Central Coast, and indeed the whole State, to improve the image and appearance of medium density development.

Our other recent reform is the amendments to SEPP 5 - Holding for Older People or People with a Disability

The Central Coast has a significant proportion of older people and retirees and SEPP 5 developments are very popular.

Our recent reforms are designed to ensure that SEPP 5 developments are used by the target group - the aged and the disabled - and that they are not a backdoor for medium-density development.

They are also very strongly about improving the design standards for such developments.

These include things such as:

- a height limit of two storeys on boundary edges,
- a minimum 15m street frontage to prevent gun-barrel developments,
- increasing the open space needed for each home,
- requiring at least 15% of each lot to be able to support mature trees.

These are changes which will result in real improvements on the ground - things you will be able to see and appreciate.

We have also made it clear that the scenic-conservation areas of Gosford LGA are off-limits to SEPP 5 developments.

These areas were identified very early in the planning of the Central Coast as areas which should be preserved from urban development.

They are part of the special appeal of the area and part of the very reason people are attracted to the area.

It's that age-old dilemma of ensuring that we don't kill the very assets which attract people to an area.

As humans we have a surprising capacity to do this! But in this case, good early strategic planning has enabled us to protect these important areas.

CONCLUSION

So, these are some of the things we are doing which are making a difference on the Central Coast.

Some of the things which will move the Central Coast forward.

And which will ensure that we have better planned communities.

In partnership with you, we can do the planning and provide the infrastructure.

It's up to you to provide the community spirit.

But this is here and is growing.

The key ingredients are a shared vision for the Central Coast, greater regional self containment, and a belief in the ability and capacity of each other.

I know you are well on the way to this!

Dr Andrew Refshauge, Dec 7

Support wanted for public funding lobby

Woy Woy High principal, Ms Carolyn Carter, has asked the school community to support the recently-formed local lobby groups for public school funding.

In the school's newsletter, the Woy Woy Weekly, she said extra federal funds would be given to some of the most wealthy and prestigious schools.

"In our own area, there are not yet a lot of non-government schools," she said.

"However, many of them will get a boost in Federal Government funding because there are no distinct wealthy areas on the Central Coast.

"We find mansions built alongside modest old fibro cottages in every area.

"There is widespread unemployment and poverty spread throughout every postcode on the Central Coast.

"The extra funds for the non-government schools rightly belong in the government primary and high schools attended by the poorer families so that their education can be given a boost."

The public education lobby was launched in mid-November this year. It is made up of the district P&Cs, the Central Coast Primary Principal's Association, the Central Coast Secondary Principals' Council and the local teachers'

associations.

Director General of Education and Training NSW, Dr Ken Boston, said in an open letter: "Under the Enrolment Benchmark Adjustment (EBA), the Commonwealth reduces funding for public schools as the proportion of enrolments in non-government schools increases.

"But enrolments in public schools continue to rise."

"NSW will lose \$50 million per year by 2003.

"A non-government school which would receive less under the proposed new funding arrangement will maintain its present level of funding.

"Astonishingly, one-third of non-government schools are so exempted."

Dr Boston said the Commonwealth Government intends that the new funding will place private education within the reach of all parents.

"History suggests this is unlikely to occur," he said.

"The money will not go into reduced fees but into additional facilities, widening the gap between the rich and poor."

Peninsula principals have asked the community to get involved by contacting Federal Member for Robertson, Mr Jim Lloyd.

Mr Lloyd told Peninsula News the new funding scheme will assist all schools in the area, both private

and public.

"We must remember that not all private schools are rich," he said.

"Both Federal and State Governments are spending more on education than ever before in our history.

"Since 1996, Commonwealth spending has increased by 26 per cent, or \$402 million on public schools.

"The Commonwealth's contribution to NSW has increased by 4.6 per cent this year, while the State Government's contribution has grown 1.2 per cent.

"The standard of education in the local area is very high," he said.

Addressing parliament, Mr Lloyd said: "The opposition has embarked on a campaign of misinformation, untruths and hypocrisy in their arguments.

"All their comments do is to undermine the confidence in government schools.

"They also undermine the confidence the teachers have in government schools.

Mr Lloyd said the opposition's arguments were dishonest when they compared dollar figures about extra funding.

"You must remember that state governments are the main funders of government schools; it's their responsibility.

Carl Spears, December 8



Ms Willingham is leaving Woy Woy High after 18 years service

Teacher leaves after 18 years

A Woy Woy High teacher, Ms Willingham, will leave the school after 18 years service to transfer to Muswellbrook High School at the start of next year.

Principal Ms Carolyn Carter said Ms Willingham remembered practically every student who attended the school in her time.

"Her contribution to the

school has been enormous: Year advisor, fundraising, Student Representative Council coordinator, supporter of the school at various functions, selling tickets, supervising, just being there," Ms Carter said.

"Thank you Ms Willingham for all of those things that you have done for us."

Carl Spears, December 11

Money raised

Woy Woy Public School's P&C has raised \$2060.50 through a raffle.

School principal Mr Warwick Hannon thanked Campbells Hardware for donating the prizes.

"Also, thank you to the ladies of the P&C who collected the tickets every morning," he said.

December 13

Positive risks

Year 9 and 10 students at Woy Woy High School saw a play focussing on positive risk-taking last month as part of their welfare day.

Brainstorm Productions put on a performance entitled Cheap Thrills.

According to organiser, Woy Woy High teacher, Ms Kirrily Ogle, the play was about "that split second when we reach a crossroad, make a choice, take a risk and possibly change our lives forever".

"The play explored drinking, smoking, taking pills and reckless behaviour, confusion by hormones and accidents," she said.

"The characters in the play discovered that the biggest risk of all is to stand up and take responsibilities for your actions.

"The day was enjoyable and thought-provoking."

December 11

Bindii chance is missed

Woy Woy Public School students will have to endure bindii season after Gosford Council failed to spray.

Principal, Mr Warrick Hannon, said despite communicating with council about the matter, the time had past in which to be able to halt the growth of bindii.

"Unfortunately, even with frequent communication on a twice-weekly basis since the

beginning of this term, council have informed me that they did not spray our field and will not be able to do so," he said.

"This is extremely disappointing as now the bindii have matured and spraying would not be effective.

"Our staff is fully aware of the problem and will take measures for students to avoid contact with the grass where possible."

December 8

Schools to form closer links

Woy Woy High School principal, Ms Carolyn Carter, and teacher Ms McAlister visited Ettalong Public School late last month to meet with some parents of the incoming year 7.

"This meeting gave us the opportunity to talk about some of the outstanding features of Woy Woy High School and some of our programs staffed by volunteers," Ms Carter said.

"We urged them all to become involved in the school.

"This means that we get to know them and their children better so that we can more effectively assist them in their learning and development."

Woy Woy High has also set up a committee to establish stronger links with their feeder primary

schools.

Committee members comprise both high school and primary teachers.

"The idea for this committee came out of our meeting with Year 6 teachers and some principals from the feeder primary schools at the end of October," Ms Carter said.

"Some activities have been planned that will link us more closely to the primary schools.

"These activities will be in the area of mathematics, the performing arts and our anti-bullying program.

"We anticipate that these closer links will make the transition from primary to high school much smoother."

Carl Spears, December 11

Former student mourned

The Woy Woy High School community is mourning the death of one of their class of '98.

Harley Moxom died on November 13 from injuries she received in a car accident the day before.

"We were greatly shocked and saddened to hear of her death," said principal Ms Carolyn Carter.

"Harley was always a conscientious student, happy, friendly and kind and who had everything to live for.

"Our thoughts are with Harley's family as they try to contend with this terrible tragedy at this time."

December 7

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Expressions of interest are sought from anyone interested in taking a stall in a "Rain, Hail or Shine" Super Sunday Market.

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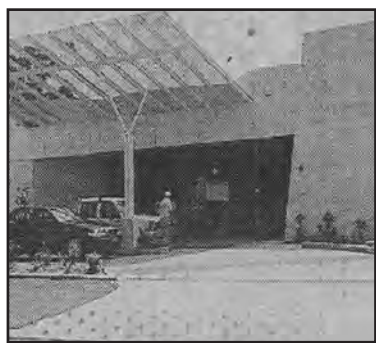
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Business wins four regional awards



Peninsula winners of the Central Coast Business Awards: (Pictured clockwise from top left) Umina Beach Bowling Club, Ocean Beach Outdoor Sports Hire, Bremen's Patisserie staff and the team at Century 21, Umina at the awards night.

Peninsula businesses did well at last months Central Coast Business Awards, winning four categories.

All the winners were from Umina Beach.

Winners were Bremen Patisserie in the Bakery-Cake Shop category, Umina Beach Bowling Club in the Clubs with fewer than 8000 members, Century 21 in the Real Estate category and Ocean Beach Outdoor Sports in the Service and Trade category.

About 750 business people attended the awards held at the Central Coast Leagues Club.

Century 21 Realty Associates principal Mr Frank Serra said: "It was great to win, especially after being finalists in 1996, 1997 and 1999.

"This is a fitting tribute to our highly-qualified staff who are totally dedicated to providing outstanding service.

"We wish to thank all clients who nominated our agency and will continue to maintain the high

standards."

The agency was a regular winner in the Century 21 award system, said Mr Serra.

The most recent winner was Kevin Harper (also known as Big Kev) for outstanding sales success.

The prestigious Emerald Award went to the agency's property management department, staffed by Cheryl Bennett, Kerry Asciak, Lyndal Chamberlain and Tina Addison.

December 7

And the winner is ... Jim Lloyd

In the United States of America, the 2000 presidential elections took ages and ages to sort out a winner due to the legal challenges, voting irregularities, counting problems, and personality clashes.

That was Al Gore versus George W Bush.

Now we have a local version.

Trish Moran versus Belinda Neal.

Mrs John Della Bosca failed miserably last election.

And the winner is Jim Lloyd.
P Eyland, Wyoming

Middle Creek funding clarified

I refer to your article "Flood Works For Middle Creek", (Peninsula News, October 2000) about the funding of flood mitigation works for Middle Creek, Pearl Beach.

I wish to clarify the funding allocations because some of the information in the article could be misleading to the public.

When Council nominates flood mitigation 'works' under its three-year Capital Works Program, it anticipates some funding from the State and/or the Commonwealth Governments based on 'previous years' receipt of grants.

This does not mean that the necessary funding approvals have been received from the government departments and that Council will receive the anticipated grants.

However your article indicates that a sum of \$354,000 will come from the Department of Land and Water Conservation.

This statement is not correct.

Normally the State and Commonwealth governments approve flood mitigation grant funding year by year.

If grant funds are approved for a particular flood mitigation project, Council needs to allocate funds to match the approved grant funds.

This is the reason why, when Council is programming its three-year Capital Works, it allows funds to match the potential grant allocations.

I trust the above information clarifies the flood grant funding.

Vic Tysoe, Manager - Flooding and Drainage Unit, Gosford City Council

Urban Design ignores natural environment

I write in response to Gosford City Council's Urban Design Framework Community Workshops recently held throughout the Peninsula by council's Landuse Planning Unit and consultant Brett Newbold Urban Planning (November 22 and 29):

Relating to the topic of urban design, the workshops totally disregarded design issues that could possibly reduce economic consumption and limit impact on natural resources while reducing wastes that pollute our environment.

Bio-regionalism or a localising of social amenity may limit sprawling car-based suburbanisation.

The entire Ettalong workshop

addressed by Mr Newbold continued to divert focus from the community's willingness to participate in the management of their environment, and the many related negative impacts that may possibly affect the ecologically sensitive coastal environment and long-term health of our community: These issues are water and air quality, degradation

and displacement of our natural areas including the isolation and decline of fauna populations, a disregard or detachment of society from sustaining natural ecological systems resulting from urban design and development that lacks control of planning powers, internal costing and long-term aim and effect.

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

Bermagui man asks for help with ABC

I live in Bermagui, regional NSW, which in common with your area is a marginally held government seat.

I have written to your local federal member expressing my deep concern at diminishing funding for the ABC.

Like most country people I rely on and love my ABC radio and TV.

ABC head Jonathon Shier is pleading for \$40 million yearly additional funding from Canberra.

He says without extra funds all areas will be cut, including news and current affairs, and that

"product promotions" in children's programmes is likely.

Australia's budget surplus this year is over \$4 billion.

The Australian dollar has fallen to 52c US partly because we have an old economy.

We haven't invested enough in research and development.

Fundamental to research and development is sound public education.

In regional Australia that means a strong and effective ABC.

We need an uncommercialised ABC with adequate long-term

funding and freedom from political interference.

If you feel that government should adequately fund the ABC and allow it to do the job, let the polities know.

Write direct to the Prime Minister.

Write to this paper. Contact your local federal member's office. Remind them to loudly and publically support a well-funded independent ABC.

They should respond. Their seat may well depend on it.

Colin Sagar, Bermagui

News



Ettalong Beach Club's homepage "colourful and slick graphics"

Club has 'flashy' website

Need to visit what is probably the tallest building on the Peninsula? Then perhaps a virtual visit may be all that you require.

The Ettalong Beach Memorial Club has a flashy website that contains info which is not only for the information of members and their guests.

The site provides plenty of internal links to information about the club and an external link to Central Coast Tourism.

The internal links download a lot faster than the home page yet all the pages contain the same colourful theme and slick graphics.

There is plenty of info about the club's current and future activities, investment opportunities, enlarged maps of the local area, some information about the fast ferry service and an application for membership.

Unfortunately, the online

membership application does not seem to be a reality yet as it failed to open when I visited.

The site appears to have been updated recently, as the information about the coming attractions includes stars lined up for the Christmas and New Years activities are prominently displayed in the coming attractions pages.

The site scores well at seven out of 10 and can be accessed at <http://www.ettalongbeachclub.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, December 12 Stephen is a web consultant for All In One Business Service and has no affiliation with the reviewed website.

The Bays popular early last century

When Woy Woy was being advertised in the Sydney newspapers early in the 20th century as the pleasure resort of choice, two of the most popular picks for a holiday cottage site were Phegan's Bay or Woy Woy Bay.

A steam train north, and then a ferry trip from the railway station across Woy Woy Creek (now Woy Woy Inlet), and the family could enjoy the delights of a waterside cottage holiday.

Most of the cottages had their own wharf and many had an enclosed swimming baths.

When supplies were short, or if there was a good film showing at the Woy Woy Picture Show, the ferry would not only stop at the regular pick-up points to take the shoppers or picture-goers over to Woy Woy town, but the ferry master would keep an eye out for a wave from any of the myriad private jetties.

People just wanting to rent a cottage for a week or two might arrange their holiday with the Government Tourist Bureau, with the package including return

train tickets, a family ticket for the ferry, and the choice of one of the purpose-built holiday homes, each with its own unique name, at Phegan's Pleasure Resort, Phegan's Bay.

History & Heritage 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).

This photo shows a group sitting on the edge of a private baths at Woy Woy Bay.

The photo was probably taken in the 1920s.

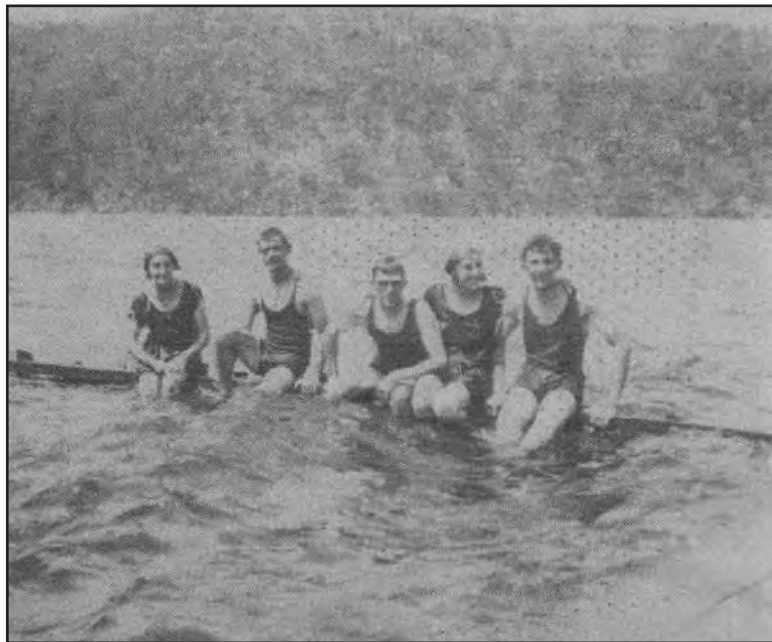
The Bays Historical Research Group would love to know who these happy hoUday-makers are.

If anyone can shed any light on the identities of these "people, please phone Brian on 4341 4295, or Dick on 4342 4090, or drop the group a note at PO Box 720, Woy Woy, 2256.

If anyone has any similar photos showing any aspect of early times at any of the Bays at Woy Woy, The.

Bays Historical Research Group would love to hear from you.

December 12



Parking permits considered

Peninsula Chamber of Commerce is considering a business parking permit scheme for Woy Woy.

Under the scheme, businesses would pay for permits allowing staff to park in designated areas within

the CBD.

Money raised through the scheme would be spent on town improvements.

"Residents who work in Sydney are well served with commuter carparks," said Chamber secretary Mr Mark Snell.

"However, there is no equivalent facility for residents who work locally." Mr Snell said local business people and their staff usually parked in two- and four-hour zones, because the all-day parking was taken by commuters before 7.30am.

Checking car tyres and moving vehicles had a significant impact on business efficiency and staff productivity, he said.

Money paid in fines was also lost to the community, with the money going to State Government.

Mr Snell said he believed "in principle" that people who were enterprising enough to create local jobs and those who chose to work locally should not have to pay more than commuters for their parking.

"The reality is that without a paid scheme we are unlikely to get all-day parking for those who work locally." The Chamber was canvassing support from Woy Woy businesses before it discussed the proposal with Gosford Council.

The council recently surveyed users of the Woy Woy commuter carpark about their potential use of its own Baker St carpark in Gosford.

Woy Woy commuters were asked whether they would use the Baker St carpark with its improved security, lighting and access, if it offered extended opening hours.

The Baker St carpark is currently open from 6.30am to 7pm and costs from \$1.80 a day for regular use.

December 13

Peninsula land to stay as open space

Council-owned residential blocks of land across the Peninsula will remain as open space, following a council meeting earlier this year.

The blocks in nine streets were to be sold to help fund the council's "financial strategy" projects, which included the community centre, the pool site and the Woy Woy library extension.

The land ranged from single blocks to four joined blocks in Angler, Moanna, Memorial, Albion., McEvoy, Brisbane, Pozieres, Edgecliff and Jopson Sts.

"This is good news for local residents who protested very strongly when the matter was made public a couple of years ago," said Cr Lynne Bockholt.

"This view has been reinforced at the recently-held Urban Design Framework workshops where parcels of open space in local streets were nominated as one of the most important issues in medium density areas.

"Residents want to keep their local, small open space and they want trees and grass on them and do not want to be surrounded by concrete.

"I certainly support the provision of community facilities and have been heavily involved in planning for the PCYC, the new community centre, the redevelopment of the



Cr Lynne Bockholt

pool site and the Woy Woy library extension.

"However, I do not believe we should have to sell land to pay for these items.

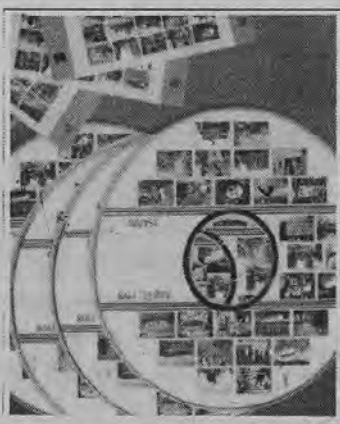
"They should be provided to us because of our burgeoning population.

and because we are already deficient in such infrastructure.

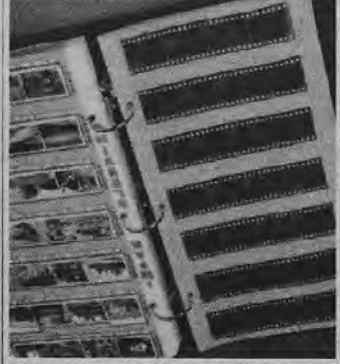
"We should not be expected to sell open space to get what other communities have as a matter of course.

"We have already made our contribution by taking most of the intensive development in the Gosford LGA," said Cr. Bockholt.

December 12



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Work continues at season's end

While rugby is undergoing its summer hiatus, many behind-the-scenes events are still taking place at the Woy Woy Club.

At the recent annual general meeting, a new committee was elected.

Also a number of coaching positions were settled upon.

Mr John Kenny was elected president, while Mr John Stokie was elected as first grade coach.

Both these men have vast rugby experience and have the respect of all associated with Woy Woy Rugby.

Several working bees have been undertaken to spruce up the clubhouse and the effort put in by the volunteers is starting to show.

The clubhouse will be the scene

for a number of social functions next season.

A recent meeting was held with Cr Lynne Bockholt to discuss possible finance to refurbish the interior of the clubhouse.

The results of the meeting were promising with Cr Bockholt being impressed with the current rate of improvement.

While next season is still a long way off, the club is on the lookout for players to strengthen the club.

Players for both the junior and senior grades are welcome.

As usual the senior teams will range from under-19s to first graders and juniors from the under-11s to under-17s.

Senior players should telephone John Stokie on 4341 5181 for more information.

Last year the club fielded two junior teams, the under-11 and under-17s with mixed results.

The under-11s won the grand final, while the under-17s, despite an abundance of talent, failed to produce the goods on the field.

With the wealth of coaching skills available this year, the junior teams will not be lacking in the basic fundamentals of the game.

They should be a major force.

To any young people looking to play Rugby or want to get physically fit while having heaps of fun, there is always the opportunity of playing with the Woy Woy Lions.

For junior player and coaching enquiries please contact Ray Gorrei on 4342 5358.

Ray Gorrei, December 12
President Woy Woy Juniors



Umina High School teacher, Mr Bob Katen, receives his sports award

Medals presented

The Peninsula has won three out of seven Australian Sports Award Medals in the Robertson electorate, presented by local member, Mr Jim Lloyd.

The medals were awarded to commemorate Australian sporting achievement and were established as a commemorative award within the Australian honours system.

Mr Lloyd said the medals had been created to recognise the contributions of both current and former sports participants and for those who had provided support services to sport.

"The medal is a unique way for Australia to recognise the wideranging efforts of those who have made Australia a great sporting nation," he said.

Mrs Pat Craig won her medal for her involvement in netball, having

held executive and coaching roles for over 40 years.

Mr Robert Hook was awarded his medal for his contribution to cricket.

He is a life member of the Gosford - Wyong Cricket Association and Woy Woy Cricket Club.

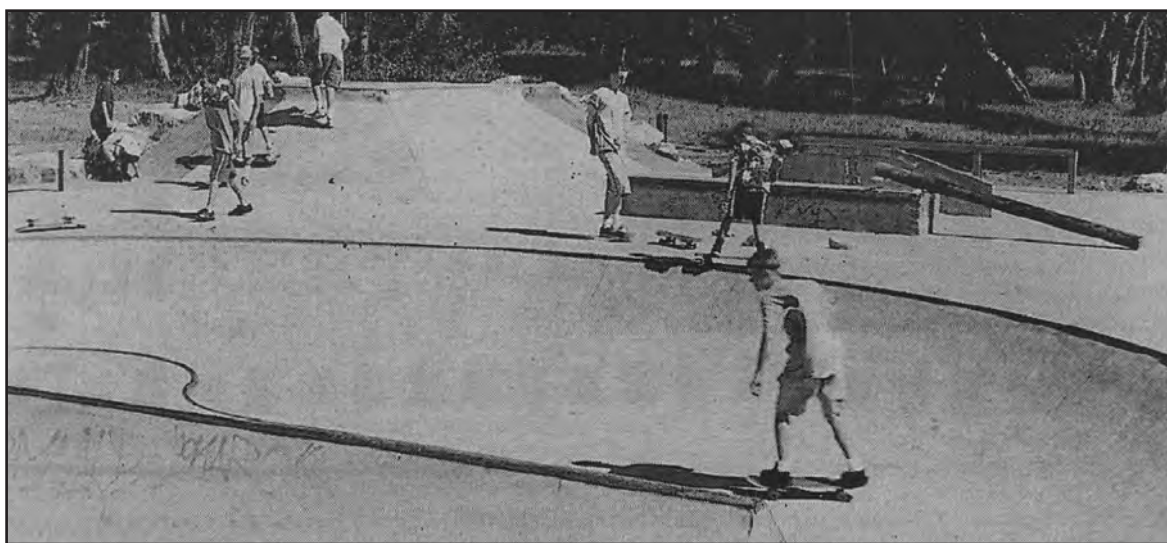
Mr Hook still plays and organises the over-60s.

"He is a life-long promoter of junior cricket and a great team man," Mr Lloyd said.

Umina High School teacher, Mr Robert Katen, received his award for his contribution to the sport of snorkelling.

Mr Katen has supported the coaching of students and teachers in the sport and awareness for the need for safety in the ocean while maintaining high environmental standards.

December 13



Some of the action at Umina skatepark

Skateboard clinics on again

Gosford City Council will conduct skateboard clinics for intermediates at Umina over the Christmas school holidays.

The clinics aim to take intermediate skaters to a higher standard.

The classes represent an ideal opportunity for young people to visit the skate park and become comfortable mixing with other users.

The skate park is designed to be used by all standards of skaters.

Each participant must wear a safety helmet and have their own skateboard to participate in the clinics.

Experienced skate instructors conduct the one-hour classes with a maximum of five people per class.

Intermediate classes are held at Umina on Wednesday 10 and 17 January starting at 10am.

Beginners classes will be held at Narara.

Classes cost \$6.60 per session or \$22 for four sessions.

On Thursday, January 18, after the final lesson at midday, there will be a competition for all people who have attended the clinics and prizes will be awarded.

Registrations are taken by the cashier at Gosford Council offices in Gosford and Woy Woy.

Classes fill quickly and are usually fully booked prior to the day.

For more information contact Council's Recreation Officer, John Ferguson on 4325 8430.

Vicki Brown, December 13

Everglades mixed pairs decided

The Everglades Bowling Club's mixed pairs was played on a heavy green in overcast conditions recently with the winners Dot Porter and Ray Mason successful over Gwen Hewson and Ted Hewson.

This match has concluded the championship program for the year and the results prove the standard of bowls in the club.

Officials from both the men's and ladies' clubs organised a drive for new members at Deepwater Plaza recently and the results were pleasing.

Many fresh enquiries were received and handled in a professional manner by the enthusiastic officials.

The drive was consistent with the recent advertising program

introduced by the Royal NSWBA in conjunction with the Central Coast DBA.

A spokesperson said the results would reward both the men's and ladies' clubs and bowls generally.

Everglades will purchase a bowls aid which the club coaches will use to assist bowlers who have trouble bending.

Club coaching chairman, Sid Smith, said the cost to the club was negligible when weighed against the benefit to retain the membership of some who might otherwise have decided the game was getting too difficult.

Club junior bowls coaching coordinator, Mr Ron Edwards, has announced the selection of Sharon and Kirsty Harper to State junior level with three others joining them to represent the Central Coast

zone.

Ron said this was truly a great result for Everglades and rewarding to the junior bowls program and for those involved.

The annual presentation day held on December 9 started with a morning game of bowls followed by lunch and the presentation of trophies.

Members of the ladies' club and some volunteers joined country club president, Mr Brian Crawley, as visitors for the occasion.

All were warmly welcomed by president, Mr Kevin Phelps.

All trophy winners received appropriate acknowledgement, none more enthusiastic than that given to Imo Honyi who won his first championship prize, the Snaggers Cup for 2000.

Bruce McDonald, December 13

Peninsula places highly

Peninsula-based riders were placed in the top two positions in the four highest classes of competition held over the past 12 months by the Central Coast Cycle Club.

Points are accumulated throughout the year with the highest point-scorer at the end of the year being crowned champion of that category.

Downhill Expert Men's Class was won by Dan Cleary, the proprietor of Peninsula Cycle Centre.

Dan won the Sports Men's Class last year and stepped up to the top level this year to win that as well.

Second place in the Downhill Expert Women's Class was taken by Nicole Creamer of Booker Bay.

Downhill Sports Men's class was won by Wayne Froggatt, also of Peninsula Cycle Centre.

It is expected that Wayne will be graded as an expert rider next year and required to compete at that higher level.

Men's under-19 Class was won by Mick Johnstone of Bensville.

The Central Coast Cycle Club is in the process of changing its name to the Central Coast Mountain Bike Club so as to avoid confusion over its name and similarly named cycle clubs.

All events are held at the Ourimbah State Forest with points awarded for the first six places in each event.

Members also compete in state level competitions.

The 2001 competition starts on January 7 and anyone interested in competing or obtaining more information should contact Peninsula Cycle Centre at Umina on 4341 5673.

Cec Bucello, December 11

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A report on the environmental health of Correa Bay has been submitted to council's Coastal Planning Committee for review before going to council proper

Correa Bay report submitted

The Correa Bay Water Quality Management Committee has presented its final report to Gosford Council.

The study, entitled "A Qualitative Study of the Environmental Status of Correa Bay and its Catchment - July 2000", made recommendations on a number of issues.

These included: -The approach by the Department of .

Land and Water Conservation (DLWC), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and council to control erosion from a nearby quarry known as Rudd's Pit.

-Adequacy of the current controls for leachate and suspended clay particles associated with the Woy Woy tip -Evidence of pollution on the upper reaches of the

creek and its possible association with the Woy Woy Abattoir -Stability of the area to the rear of the quarry; and, -The legal status of the quarry known as Robson's Quarry.

The Correa Bay committee said that if the report's recommendations were implemented, it would resolve the identified environmental problems in The Bays area .

Four committee members made the presentation, Mr Derek Britton, Ms Heather McKenzie, Mr John Oakley and Mr Gordon Saxby.

Mr Britton said the committee was formed because of long-term community concerns and the proposed extension of the tip.

He outlined problems the committee had experienced with council and DLWC and acknowledged the expert assistance provided by Mr John Laxton, an environmental consultant.

The council has referred the report to a sub-committee of its Coastline Management, Lagoon Management and Coastal Planning Committee.

The sub-committee will comprise Cr Brooks, a representative of the Department of Lands and Water Conservation, Mr David Holland from the Central Coast Community Environmental Network, Mr Bert Hunter and council's environment officer Mr Gary Chestnut.

Cr Geoff Preece dissented.

Carl Spears, December 8

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