

Sewage effluent plans for drinking water

Peninsula residents could be drinking sewage effluent if "sewer mining" plans proposed by Gosford Council proceed.

The council has been investigating plans to inject secondary effluent into groundwater at "Woy Woy borefield".

Residents may have no legal entitlement to be informed of the plans or to comment on them.

The otherwise secret plans were revealed in a submission made by Council to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) in March.

Peninsula News discovered the submission while researching groundwater studies on the internet.

The Council's submission, as part of IPART's Review for Recycled Water and Sewer Mining for the Metropolitan Areas, stated that it was investigating two "potential projects" for "aquifer storage recovery options" on the Peninsula.

One project involved "additional infiltration devices in Woy Woy to enhance infiltration" and the other involved a "Woy Woy sewer mining scheme from secondary effluent for groundwater injection at Woy Woy bore field".

It is also investigating two other "sewer" mining options - at Woy Woy and the Everglades for industrial and open space use.

Council told IPART it had hired consultants Kellogg Brown and Root to investigate these "specific recycling projects".

Council's manager of assets management Ms Pam McCann confirmed last week that the groundwater injection plans existed but would not be implemented during the first stage of its "water recycling initiative".

She said the first stage would be a communications campaign, with a demonstration "water mining" plant built in Gosford.

"The water will be for non-drinking purposes such as golf

club greens.

"There will be local reuse of effluent around Kincumber Treatment Works, once again for non drinking purposes," Ms McCann said.

She denied that the aquifer replenishment plans substantiated environmental concerns that rainfall would not be adequate to maintain water table levels and to avoid significant environmental consequences.

Ms McCann said that although groundwater replenishment would assist with minimising the effect of the extractions and provide increased buffers for the sustainability of the aquifer, council had resolved to progress with other options in the study.

She also confirmed that matters concerning the groundwater extraction borefield would be excluded from "extensive community consultation", because the borefield was the responsibility of the Department of Natural Resources.

Ms McCann said the main part of stage one would be to take identified options to the community and get feed back.

Stage two would be developed from outcomes of stage one.

"They are among many options we will be asking for feedback on. I think 31 options," Ms McCann said.

Ms McCann said that council would undertake a detailed community information campaign in the coming months aimed at keeping residents, fully informed at all times.

"As part of this campaign, council will be sharing available information on the aquifer and environmental impacts," Ms McCann said.

"Information will be shared through a variety of mediums including direct mail, media relations, a dedicated web page and briefings to interested parties such as environmental and community groups as well as local residents."

Lyle Stone, August 16



Member for Peats Ms Marie Andrews with award recipient Ms Gwen Moran and (insert) with Allan Maidment and his family

Community awards were presented

Two Peninsula residents were presented with NSW Community Awards recently, recognising long-standing service to the community.

The awards were presented to Gwen Morgan and Allan Maidment.

Gwen Morgan of Umina was presented with her award at a special morning tea attended by friends and family at Cooina Village, operated by Peninsula Village, on August 10.

Peninsula Village general manager Ms Terri Parker opened the proceedings and paid tribute to Gwen's long involvement in the Peninsula community, particularly in the area of aged care.

Member for Peats Ms Marie Andrews thanked Ms Morgan for her contribution towards Woy Woy Hospital, through her membership of the United Hospital Auxiliary, and her perseverance in advocating for more nursing home beds and dementia care facilities on the Peninsula.

Further tributes to Ms Morgan were made by Darnie Thompson, who recited his poem Thanks to Gwen, written for the occasion.

Heather McKenzie, Joan Fenton, Rev Bruce Edgell of the Umina

Uniting Church, Glenva Dixon and Melva Nixon all praised and thanked Ms Morgan for her tireless efforts on behalf of others in a wide range of areas.

These included Meals on Wheels in both Auburn and Woy Woy; Girl Guides; the Uniting Church; Woy Woy Hospital; Woy Woy Community Aged Care; Hammond Care South Woy Woy; and the Palliative Care Centre, Woy Woy.

Ms Morgan was a Commissioner of the Girl Guides in the Auburn district prior to moving to the Peninsula.

An "emotional and modest" Ms Morgan thanked everyone for their attendance and the speakers for their kind remarks, Ms Andrews said.

Ms Morgan's son Ron thanked everyone for contributing to a memorable occasion for his mother.

He said that he was grateful too that his late father Eric had been acknowledged for his partnership with Ms Morgan in many of the community services, particularly Meals on Wheels.

Ms Andrews also recognised the hard work of local Umina resident Mr Allan Maidment.

Mr Maidment was presented with

a NSW Community Service Award by Ms Andrews at a separate morning tea held in his honour.

"Allan is a fine example of a community-minded citizen who has dedicated an enormous amount of time and effort to others," Ms Andrews said.

Mr Maidment has long been recognised as an integral part of the Peninsula community.

"As a resident of Umina for 20 years, Alan has given of his time to sporting and community groups personally and through his work at Simplicity Funerals in Woy Woy," Ms Andrews said.

"Over the years his involvement has been with the NSW Justice Association Central Coast Branch, Neighbourhood Watch, the Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, the Australia Day committee, Umina United Soccer Club, Umina Beach Bowling Club, Woy Woy Cricket Club and the Safety House Program.

"State Members have the opportunity to nominate persons who demonstrate outstanding commitment and dedication to the community and both Allan Maidment and Gwen Morgan certainly fill that criteria."

Press release, August 15
Marie Andrews, Member for Peats

THIS ISSUE contains 42 articles. Read more at www.PeninsulaNews.asn.au



Information for members and their guests

Everglades Country Club

Dunbar Road, Woy Woy - Ph: 4341 1866

Gala Day



Peter Paki
August 24

Over 30's Cabaret



Steve Gillespie
September 2

Gala Day



Simon Bartlett
September 7

Gala Day



Maureen Elkner
September 21

Sunday Market Day Raffles
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Bingo
Wednesday 7.30pm
Friday 10.30am
Vouchers
Meat Raffles
Friday and Saturday
from 5.00pm

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Draw 6.00pm
Courtesy Bus
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dress rules apply
Function Rooms
All occasions catered for
Dance floor available

Daycare centre to open in January

A new daycare centre is set to open in Nowack Ave, Umina Beach.

Owned by Glenn Hale, the Umina Kids Club Daycare Centre is expected to open in late January. Mr Hale said that the day care centre is built on the site of his grandmother's property, and the adjoining properties either side.

"The reason we decided to do a child care centre was that we wanted to do something we could build and keep, and we wanted to make it a memorial to my mother, Alma, as she was forever looking after kids," Mr Hale said.

Mr Hale said that when he was young and the property itself was owned by his grandmother, his mother looked after his grandmother and her sister, both

elderly, as well as three children.

"We all lived in this two-bedroom house," Mr Hale said.

"I saw it as fitting that we were able to put together a development that looked after kids.

"I didn't know at the time but there is a massive need for that service on the Peninsula."

There were over 1000 children in Umina alone under five.

Mr Hale said the centre is currently conducting interviews for appropriate directors and staff, and taking enrolments of children.

The daycare centre will cater for 72 children aged up to five, and will be open Monday to Friday, from 7am to 6pm.

Mr Hale's father, Ronald Hale, started Umina Junior Rugby League Club.

Lyle Stone, August 17

New playground

A new playground is under development at Patonga Caravan Park, with stage one already completed.

A climbing web has been installed at Patonga, with more equipment to come, including a pirate ship structure incorporating swings, slides and interactive play.

Gosford Council had allocated \$50,000 in the capital works budget for the Patonga Caravan and Camping area, focusing on improvements to the caravan park as well as the surrounding reserve and picnic area.

New park furniture and a picnic bench have been purchased and further plans include foreshore stabilisation works at Patonga Creek and improvements to the boat ramp and car parking area.

A plan of management is under development for the whole reserve and will include a business plan for the caravan site.

The local community has yet to be consulted on the developments.

Council's parks and waterways co-ordinator Ms Kylie Yeend advised that council proposed to consult with local community groups in due course.

She said the play structure was purchased in a hurry so council could buy it at half price.

Ms Yeend advised that money allocated to Patonga was directly relating to the Patonga Caravan

Park, and would not impact on developments at Umina, Ettalong and Woy Woy play parks.

She said it was part of an overall plan to prevent the caravan park being a drain on council resources.

"We want to attract locals as well as tourists to Patonga," she said.

"The idea is to enable people to develop a sense of appreciation for the areas around their region.

"If we don't set it up properly, the park will cost Council money as opposed to making money.

"There will be no impact from money spent on the Patonga development on any future development at Umina."

The climbing web is a structure never used by council before.

Ms Yeend said that by installing it at Patonga, there would be someone there at the caravan park throughout the week to monitor maintenance and provide security, as well as providing feedback on its viability as play equipment for other areas within the Gosford region.

The coordinator of Peninsula Families Action Group, Ms Sarah Tolmie, expressed the hope that this development meant the start of an overall focus on Peninsula needs, with a concentrated look at the more densely populated suburbs of Umina, Ettalong and Woy Woy.

Jenni Darwin, August 17

Fire stations hold open day

Four Peninsula Rural Fire Service stations will be holding an open day on September 16.

The fire stations at Empire Bay, Killcare, Patonga and Pearl Beach will be open to allow visitors to see how a fire stations works.

Visitors will be able to learn how to use a fire radio, hold a fire hose and wear a fire uniform, check out fire tankers, learn how to be safe from fire and meet local firefighters.

Pearl Beach Fire Station is located at Emerald Ave, Pearl Beach.

Patonga Fire Station is located on the corner of Patonga St and Brisk St, Patonga.

Killcare Fire Station is located at Killcare waterfront, Araluen Dr, Killcare.

Empire Bay Fire Station is located on Shelly Beach Rd, Empire Bay.

Press release, August 1
Rolf Poole, Rural Fire Service

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.

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Winners chosen

The four winners of the Coda competition published in edition 147 of Peninsula News have been chosen.

The winners were Debora and James Elliott and Mr S Mitchell of Umina, Mrs Bron Riddolls of

Booker Bay and Patricia Taylor of Woy Woy.

The winners each won a double pass to the Coda concert to be held at Laycock Street Theatre, North Gosford, on Saturday, September 2.

Lyle Stone, August 19

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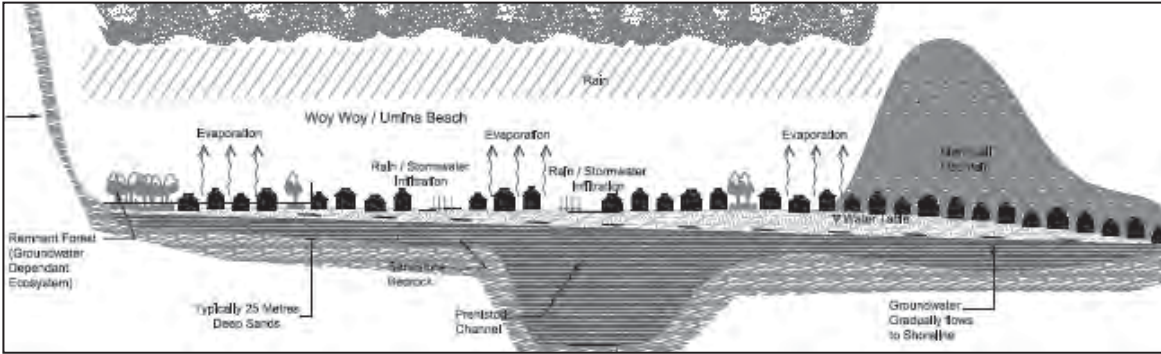
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Water table will drop 1m after all



Gosford Council has admitted that water table levels will drop by up to one metre due to its groundwater extraction plans.

The statement in a "fact sheet" comes less than a month after the council claimed that the water table on the Peninsula would not drop with ground water extraction.

Council's manager of asset management Ms Pam McCann told Peninsula News on July 21: "There will not be an overall dropping of the water table."

The statement was made before the development application for the associated water treatment plant went before Council on July 29.

She was responding at the time to claims by the Central Coast branch of the Australian Conservation Foundation that groundwater extraction was "likely to have a substantial effect on water table levels, with consequent effects on bush reserves on the Peninsula".

The fact sheet issued last week stated: "The Woy Woy borefield will extract a maximum of one metre off the top of the groundwater mound, which represents about four per cent of the aquifer's estimated total capacity."

"By limiting the amount of water that's extracted, the longevity and overall sustainability of the aquifer will be protected."

"It will also prevent the ingress of saltwater into the aquifer."

"The Woy Woy borefield is expected to provide an average 3.8 mega litres of drinking water per day or 1387 mega litres per annum after treatment which is enough to supply around 7000 households based on 2006 usage levels."

There are about 16,000 households on the Peninsula.

"One of the main advantages

of the Woy Woy borefield is its close proximity to end-users which means distribution of the resulting drinking water will not only be much easier but also more cost-effective compared to other options.

"The quality of the extracted groundwater from the Woy Woy borefield, during extensive monitoring over the past 20 months across five test bores, has proved to be reasonable both in terms of raw water quality and expected yield over time."

"The amount of water that can be extracted from the Woy Woy-Umina aquifer each year will be decided by the NSW Department of Natural Resources (DNR) which controls all groundwater resources in the State."

"Once the necessary water treatment plant at Woy Woy and underground pipe distribution network in Woy Woy and Umina have been installed and commissioned, it's expected the DNR will grant Gosford Council a 12-month Test Pumping Licence."

"This license will require Gosford Council to provide extensive daily, weekly and monthly monitoring data about ongoing water levels, impact on flora and fauna as well as geological factors and rainfall."

"The DNR will use this data to decide how much water can be extracted from the aquifer each year in the medium to long-term."

"Through this extensive monitoring, Gosford Council and the DNR can make sure that if the aquifer comes under stress or the water levels drop, the amount of water being extracted can either be reduced or, if necessary, stopped altogether until the aquifer has been naturally recharged through rainfall."

"A total of 6.5 kilometres of pipeline also needs to be installed

to pump the raw groundwater from the bore holes to the water treatment plant."

"This pipeline network will run from the 14 production bores to the Woy Woy Works Depot on Ocean Beach Rd."

"These pipes will be installed underground, in road reserves and other lands owned by Gosford Council."

"In addition, 13 street kiosks will cover the above ground pipe work that's needed for each bore hole."

"The majority of these kiosks will be located in existing parks and reserves to minimise the impact on local residents."

"These kiosks look very much like the street cabinets used to enclose electrical transformers."

"Adjacent to each bore head kiosk will be a switch cabinet assembly similar to those used at most sewage pump stations."

"This pipeline installation program will take approximately six months, commencing in October."

"The Woy Woy Groundwater Project is expected to begin delivering drinking water to Peninsular residents by April."

"On certain days some residents will get mostly treated groundwater and at other times they will receive a combination of water from the Somersby and Woy Woy water treatment plants."

"Some residents may never receive treated groundwater, especially if they live in the south of the Peninsula where they'll always receive water from the Somersby water treatment plant."

The fact sheet and other information about the Woy Woy groundwater project are available from Council's website and council offices.

**Fact sheet, August 17
Pam McCann, Gosford Council**

Advertise extraction licence conditions, says department

Gosford Council should have advertised intended groundwater extraction licence conditions as part of the development application for its proposed treatment works at Woy Woy depot, according to advice from the Department of Natural Resources.

The application should have been treated as an "integrated development", the department said.

This would have given the department the status of an "approval body" which could comment and provide "general terms of approval" reflecting conditions for the borefield water licence.

This, in turn, would have provided the public with an opportunity to comment on the environmental effects of the groundwater extraction.

The advice from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was supplied to Peninsula News by Member for Peats Ms Marie Andrews.

It stated: "If Council decides to go through a development application (DA) process because of all the associated infrastructure works, the development will come under the Integrated Development Assessment Scheme (IDAS) under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, as IDAS captures licences under the *Water Act 1912*."

"If IDAS is applied to the borefield, DNR will then become an 'approval body' for this DA."

"DNR will provide 'general terms of approval' to Council for the DA, which will include a copy of conditions intended to be applied to the water licence for the borefield."

"Council must approve the DA and then make formal application to DNR for the final licence."

"The public will have an opportunity to comment on the DA during the public exhibition period."

The department explained that, without a development application, the water licence application did not have to be advertised, unless it was refused.

Gosford Council was "undertaking testing of borefield works under the auspice of a test bore licence under Part 5 of the *Water Act 1912*."

"This information is necessary to determine the capacity of the aquifer to deliver water and to assist DNR in determining an entitlement."

"Under Part 5 (groundwater) of the *Water Act 1912*, there is no statutory requirement for advertisement of a licence application, unlike surface water licences (under Part 2 of the *Water Act 1912*) where advertisement is a statutory obligation on DNR."

"However, if DNR refuses a Part 5 licence application it must advertise the application in a relevant newspaper and publish the application in the *Gazette*."

**Media statement, August 18
Marie Andrews, Member for Peats**

Drive to register bores

Gosford Council has started a drive to get all Peninsula residents to register their bore or spear point pumps with the Department of Natural Resources.

"All Peninsular residents are required to register their bore or spear point to comply with current NSW State Government legislation," said Gosford Council's

manager of asset management Ms Pam McCann.

Registration would "help prevent inappropriate installation and use of bores as well as provide protection for all groundwater users and the actual groundwater resource itself", she said.

Registration was free of charge.

**Press release, August 16
Pam McCann, Gosford Council**

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Forum

More suffering to come

Rosemary Ruthven (Peninsula News, August 7), the cruelty suffered by the dog you witnessed can be compared to an interview with a nurse from the Northern Territory on Lateline on August 3 or 4, where the victim was a child and the perpetrator the child's father. Our middle class society turns

Forum

a blind eye to these practices and could subsequently suffer, because of a loophole in the justice system. The perpetrators might have important social standing in the community and therefore scandals like this are suppressed. There is evidence these days that supports the theory that these perpetrators were not

taught respect for life during their childhood. I have no idea what can be done to eliminate this cruelty, but I observe barbaric acts, and death, as an option for our World leaders to indulge whenever a crisis (loss of power) arises. I believe there will be a deal more suffering before the situation improves.

Pat Garnet, Terrigal

Proud of Ettalong school

I am writing this letter to you as I'm so proud of one of our local schools. Ettalong Public School performed at the Junior Rock Eisteddfod on Monday, August 7, at the Sydney Sports Centre where 120 talented children strutted their stuff on stage. What an amazing production! Bright colourful costumes and amazing props were used in their four-minute dance. It was magnificent and was enjoyed by all.

The hard working teachers and parents from Ettalong school have done a wonderful job. I also would like to congratulate them on being selected to perform at the Sydney Entertainment Centre on September 8 as the opening act for the Premier High School Grand Final Eisteddfod. What an honour as they are only the second school to have been asked to perform in the state. Well done, Ettalong.

Traci Makepeace Booker Bay

Forum

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Plan does not maintain dune integrity

Forum

The Ettalong Beach Dune Management Plan states: "An important feature of the study is the presence of the 50-year hazard zone which extends to the landward side of The Esplanade ... vegetation is one of the best means of slowing the effects of erosion and the movement of wind-blown sand".

On the basis of this, I expected to see the plan provide real support for the dune area to provide ongoing protection of the foreshore.

The problems of severe erosion and the need for good management can be clearly seen at the Lance Webb Reserve which abuts this dune area.

I was surprised therefore to read:

- the dune vegetation width would be reduced from 25-30 metres in many sections, to an average width of seven metres (Sections 6.2 and 6.51)
 - the sand dune would be reshaped to lower the build-up of sand and fill the hollow created in the dune ... using earth-moving equipment (Section 6.7)
 - a plan with three viewing platforms covering more than 20 per cent of the dune area (see map)
 - a recommendation "to selectively remove of pockets of middle storey plants ... to provide better visual surveillance of the beach from The Esplanade (Section 6.4)
 - plans for a masonry wall abutting the dune for seating purposes (Section 6.9)
- How, I pondered, would these changes improve the functioning of the dune? Would they help prevent erosion of The Esplanade, such as has occurred on Lance Webb Reserve? Would they protect against higher sea levels and adverse weather patterns? Would they prevent wind-blown sand on The Esplanade? I think not. Why then, would Council exhibit such a mismanagement plan? I offer a few possible

- suggestions:
- the existence of a legal document between the Ettalong Beach War Memorial and Council (EBWMC) requiring Council to carry out works in this area (on exhibition in some centres - dated 8 December, 1998)
 - the consultants, it is understood, initially briefed and paid not by Council but by commercial interests
 - inadequate community consultation: Only two stakeholder meetings held, both with a majority of commercial interests and only one community representative invited
- It is possible to find compromise solutions for this area to provide better visual connection to the beach and some improved beach area. It is not realistic to expect the beach can be re-instated to what it may have been in the 1970s and 80s - you only need to walk down the beach from Ettalong to Umina to see the impacts of last week's high seas.

These weather changes are a permanent feature which we must take into account.

Residents keen to protect the foreshore and maintain the integrity of the dune system to prevent future erosion of The Esplanade should make their concerns known to The Department of Lands at Maitland.

The foreshore is Crown Land. It is only administered by Council.

Michael Gillian Peninsula Dunecare. Ettalong Beach

Insult has overtones of mediocrity

An increase in business activity has resulted from the Ettalong Outrigger Resort, states a report released by

Forum

Central Coast Tourism. That's to be expected, and is good for the Peninsula, if new jobs are created and improved services are provided to the community. Unfortunately, a headline said it all: "Ettalong the new Terrigal." I'm sure that Central Coast Tourism and the Outrigger Resort are aware that many Peninsula residents find the comparison an insult. The architecture of the Outrigger complex is a tragic "wannabe Gold Coast" look alike, with overtones of mass tourism and mediocrity. Improved business and social amenity is not linked to ugly design that tries to compete with the environment.

If CC Tourism and the Outrigger involved interested Peninsula residents, including local architects, in their planning and design there would be more support and encouragement. The study recommends an "independent body" be established with businesses as the major stakeholders to improve the aesthetics of the area. I have contacted Central Coast Tourism twice this week to suggest inclusion of ratepayers on this body. I have received no response from my phone calls and emails. Does it mean that this organisation does not consider ratepayers are entitled to have a say in their environment? Sheelagh Noonan, Umina Beach

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Residents vote against road closure

A meeting attended by about 150 residents has voted unanimously against the closure of Dorothy Ave, Woy Woy.

The South Woy Woy Public School hall was filled by the public meeting to discuss the closure of the street, as part of Gosford Council's Ocean Beach Rd Traffic Management Plan.

"Full marks to local resident Kevin Firth who had alerted his neighbours to council's proposal to close off their street to make way for a bus layby," said community activist Ms Debra Wales.

"His encouragement of local residents to attend the meeting highlighted to council that there was inadequate public consultation in this matter".

Mr Firth said that he had delivered a 350 signature petition to council last year "which was totally ignored" and demonstrated how important it was to have a public meeting to show council that residents won't be ignored.

"I was very pleased to have so much support from local residents and to confirm my belief that council makes these decisions that affect our daily lives with little consultation with the local community," said Mr Firth.

"Gosford Council's Director for Works Mr Stephen Glen facilitated the presentation and was clearly told from the outset that there had been little or no consultation with local residents in relation to the

road closure, the decision to install traffic lights instead of roundabouts at McMasters Rd and Ocean Beach Rd clearways."

"These are decisions that are made by people who don't even live of the Peninsula."

Former Gosford councillor and Peninsula resident Ms Debra Wales said at the meeting that she was alarmed at the lack of consultation for such major changes to the road network.

"It is ridiculous that residents were so comprehensively excluded from the consultation process," Ms Wales said.

"A public workshop should have been conducted with local residents as part of the planning process so as to avoid these stressful situations for residents.

"The disturbing fact is that the people who make these decisions do not live on the Peninsula and have had little consultation with the community.

"There are a number of practitioners who work and live on the Peninsula and know our road system like the back of their hand and yet council does not consult with them.

"We presented a submission to council last year proposing roundabouts which is recommended in the Traffic Management Study for better traffic management but it was totally ignored.

"Traffic lights were installed in obscene haste on a sweeping bend where no one with any sense

would put traffic lights but council was determined to win this battle at any cost.

"We wanted pedestrian lights at the local school where people actually cross the road and more pedestrian refuges on Ocean Beach Rd as part of our submission."

Council confirmed that as a result of the Dorothy Ave road closure, more traffic would be directed into adjacent streets that currently had no kerb and gutter or footpaths.

"Most of our roads, including main thoroughfares such as Lone Pine Ave, are like something out of the Third World," said Ms Wales.

"The majority of our residential streets have no kerb and gutter and we are tired of hearing that council has no money for roads and drainage.

"But they seem to have millions to spend on regional libraries and concert halls while our roads are in such poor condition."

Ms Wales said that residents who attended the meeting were angry when it was noted that not one Gosford councillor bothered to attend the well-publicised meeting.

Traffic committee chairman Cr Chris Holstein was the only councillor to notify Mr Firth prior to the meeting that he could not attend due to other work commitments.

"That's why we are angry and that's why the residents on the Peninsula demand to be involved in the planning our community," Mr Firth.

**Press release, August 14
Debra Wales**

Fire fighters in training exercise

Fire fighters from The Bays, Patonga, Pearl Beach and Killcare Rural Fire Brigade will feature in a multi-agency training exercise to be held at Mangrove Mountain on Saturday, August 26.

Coordinated by NSW Rural Fire Service, the Mangrove Mountain Operational Exercise is an event that involves rural fire brigades and other emergency services attending to a range of emergency scenarios.

The purpose is to test the operational readiness and preparation of local brigades in an environment that is as realistic as possible.

The scenarios include bush fires, house fires, motor vehicle accidents, search and rescue, long distance relay pumping and helicopter safety.

Inspector Mr Rolf Poole said: "Various emergency services will be grouped together and will be required to assess the emergency incidents they are presented with.

"They will need to coordinate their personnel, react and respond accordingly.

"Many of the scenarios will be set up with an added touch of realism to really put crews through their paces".

The exercise is an opportunity for emergency services to work together in a team environment and tests their skill levels.

Attendees include Rural Fire Brigades from Gosford, Warringah, Wyong, Lake Macquarie, Cessnock and Baulkham Hills Districts.

The Volunteer Rescue Association, the Westpac Rescue Helicopter and a NSW Rural Fire Service helicopter will also take part in the exercise.

Mr Poole said: "Specialist units from communications, breathing apparatus support and aviation support have been called in to assist with logistical requirements on the day."

Smoke will be generated from small training fires, smoke machines and flares.

For safety reasons sightseers and members of the general public should keep away from fire training areas.

**Press release, August 16
Rolf Poole, NSW Rural Fire
Service Gosford District**

Water Mains Cleaning Program Peninsula



Gosford City Council will be commencing work on the next stage of the Water Main Cleaning Program in the Peninsula area as of **Thursday 17th August 2006**. The program is designed to reduce the frequency and severity of discoloured water, using air scouring and mains flushing techniques.

The initial stage involved air scouring trials and preparatory work on the water supply system. The next stage will commence with air scouring in the Woy Woy area before working its way through the entire Peninsula over the next few months. As the water mains in each street needs to be interrupted in order to be cleaned, Council's contractor will deliver a notice of 'Interruption to Supply' to all affected properties at least 48 hours prior.

Air scouring and mains flushing require the use of large amounts of water. However Gosford City Council will be capturing the majority of water used during the program and treating before re-distributing through the water supply system. More than 95% of water used during the initial stage was captured and re-used.

During the program local residents may experience some discoloured water as a result of air scouring works so Council crews will be available to flush localised mains when required.

For further information on what to do if you experience discoloured water, as well as regularly updated scheduling information on the Water Main Cleaning Program, please visit Gosford City Council's website at www.gosford.nsw.gov.au or call the Council's Customer Service Centre on 4325 8222.

Gosford City Council appreciates the continued support of the local community during the program and is making every effort to minimise any impacts on residents while improving the water quality in the long term.

Pictures from top to bottom: a glass of discoloured water, street signage and a water tanker used during the program, a local water treatment plant, a council worker using water captured during the program to irrigate a local sporting field.

A new direction for NSW.

A Plan for the State.

What sort of State do we want our kids to grow up in?

The NSW Government is creating a State Plan to set out the challenges facing NSW and the key priorities for dealing with them.

The Plan will drive Government action over the next decade. It represents a new direction for NSW and we need you to have your say.

The draft State Plan sets out a number of themes:

Plan Ahead – We need to be guided by clear plans for the future. For example, the Government recently announced a \$110 billion, 10 year State-wide Infrastructure Plan.

Respect and Responsibility – Keeping people safe, tackling anti-social behavior and helping build harmonious communities is a priority for Government. Much of the responsibility resides in the home, but the Government is playing its part by teaching respect and responsibility in schools and recruiting 750 extra police.

Improving Services – State Government has a clear obligation to deliver reliable services and a stronger “customer friendly” culture of service. Some recent new directions include a record investment in rail, Trade Schools so students can start an apprenticeship at school, and new GP centres to free up hospital emergency departments.

Growing Prosperity Across NSW – The NSW Government is committed to sound financial management and adopting a more active approach to being “Open for Business” in urban, regional and rural NSW. That’s what has driven the recent 15 per cent cut to workers’ compensation premiums and the new Payroll Tax Incentive Scheme.

Environment for Living – The State Government is committed to environmental protection while delivering practical solutions that maintain reliable supplies of water and energy. Massive water recycling schemes, policies to save wetlands and cut greenhouse gases are examples of this commitment.

Have your say

If you’ve got ideas, we want to hear them. You can make a submission online at www.nsw.gov.au/stateplan

Alternatively, you can call 1800 063 333 to receive a copy of the NSW State Plan and feedback form.



New South Wales Government

HAVE YOUR SAY NOW: visit www.nsw.gov.au/stateplan or call 1800 063 333



Treatment plant approved with reduced noise

Gosford Council has approved its own groundwater treatment plant application for the council depot site on the corner of Gallipoli Ave and Ocean Beach Rd, Woy Woy, while reducing its noise levels to accommodate the concerns of local residents.

The maximum noise levels will now be 38Dba during the daytime, 38 Dba during the evening and 35Dba at night time.

Australian Conservation Foundation representative Mr Mark Ellis, who had chosen to speak in favour of the treatment plant, had his speech cut short due to concerns from councillors and the mayor that the ACF were speaking against the proposal.

"We support sustainable groundwater usage," Mr Ellis said. "But we question the placement of the treatment plant."

"We think it should be placed at the abattoir or nearer the current

water plant."

Mr Ellis said the ACF supported the development, provided information on its effects on the water table were made public.

"Why will they not publicly release the modeling?" Mr Ellis said.

Local resident Mr Sandy Brownley spoke at the meeting, on behalf of residents local to the proposed development, stating they he believed the application was lacking on detail for residents to seriously evaluate what was being proposed.

"The major issue for residents is the size of the development and the noise that may emanate from it," Mr Brownley said.

"The locality of adjoining residential usage should be a major factor in the approval."

"We have an area which is residential, no tin sheds, but now we have a tin shed."

Mr Brownley suggested that the 35Dba acoustics might cause some people issues with sleep.

"I would suggest strong surveys should be done, to pick realistic (sound levels)," Mr Brownley said.

Mr Brownley also stated a concern for the proposals effects on the local environment.

"This is an application for water harvesting, council should be considering the impact of the water harvesting," Mr Brownley said.

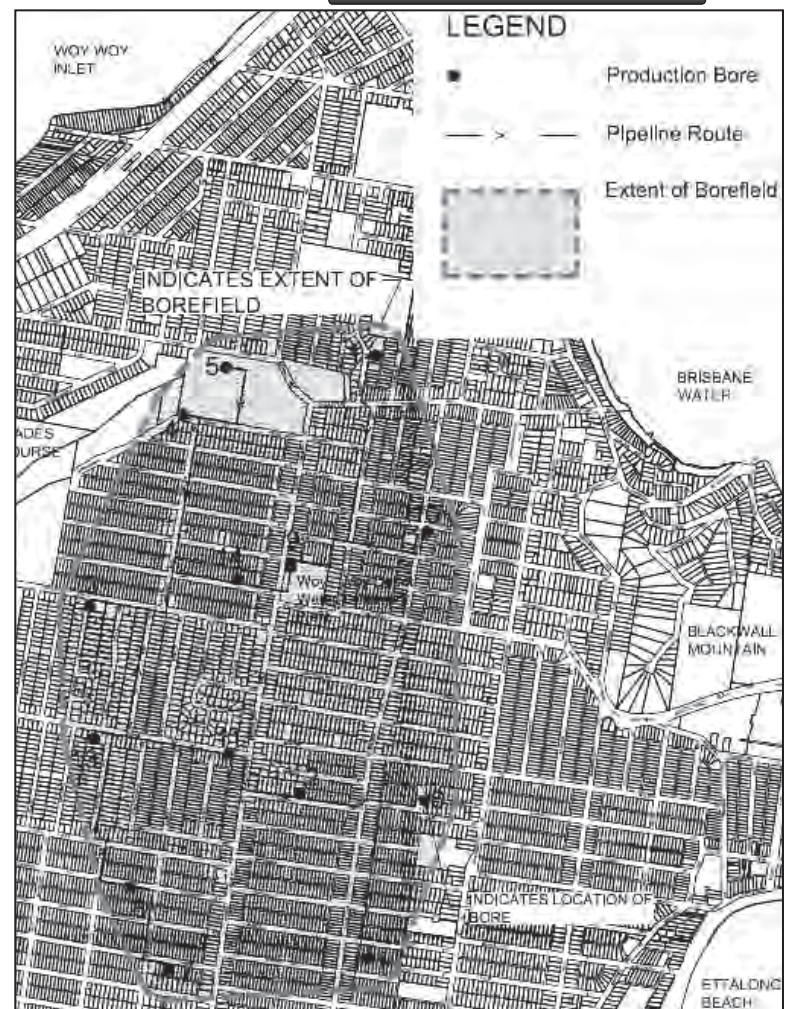
"Subsidence, dilapidation, should all be put together and put on the table."

"There is a lot at stake here."

Mr Brownley also suggested that brickwork be considered for the external finish of the main building, to make it more environmentally friendly.

Council's development assessment unit manager Mr Gary Loft said that noise levels at the current depot were 43Dba during the daytime, 39Dba in the evening and 33Dba at night.

Lyle Stone, August 8



Council reapplies

Gosford Council will resubmit a request for \$280,000 for "Ettalong Foreshore Development" to the Federal Department of Transport and Regional Services, according to a council report.

The request will be made "when the Department of Lands gives their approval for work on their land",

according to a council report.

The funds are from the Regional Partnerships grant.

Both the Umina Beach and Ocean Beach Surf Clubs are also awaiting funding of \$350,000 each from NSW Surf Lifesaving.

The funds for the clubs would come from the NSW Surf Club Development Fund.

The report was prepared in response to a request to regularly update council on the number of grant applications submitted and the current status of those applications.

It also outlined the achievements of the council's grants officer during the first half of the year.

Council agenda COR.103, August 22

Church display

The annual display at the Ettalong Uniting Church will be held on Saturday, August 26, at the church in Picnic Parade, Ettalong.

The display will be entitled "Things International" and will feature items of interest representing many overseas countries.

Items will include souvenirs, tapestries, cross-stitch and tea towels.

Display coordinator Ms Wilma Towner said there would also be

the usual display of "beautiful flowers and floral arrangements" and both displays would be held in conjunction with the annual fete with the usual stalls of cakes, plants, pre-loved goods, books, jams, handiwork and "delicious Devonshire morning teas".

The fete will operate from 8am to noon and the displays will be viewable from 9am to 3pm.

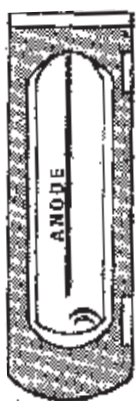
Press release, August 15
Wilma Towner,
Ettalong Uniting Church

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FROM 2 SEPTEMBER 2006 NSW CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO BE CONVERTED.

After this date, you will need to apply for a new National Certificate of Competency, which may mean you have to undergo a full or partial assessment of competency.

NSW Certificates of Competency issued in NSW before 1997 will continue to be recognised until 31 August 2007. However, after this date it will not be legal to work under a NSW Certificate of Competency.

What do I do?

To convert your NSW issued Certificate of Competency into a National Certificate of Competency, you must present to any WorkCover office a completed WorkCover Conversion form (#FNCOCCA) and proof of identity form as well as your original NSW certificate and appropriate identity documents. Conversion will cost \$30. Alternatively you may apply via mail to the address on the application form and include JP certified copies of your proof of identity documents and current certificate. Copies of the conversion forms are available from www.workcover.nsw.gov.au or by calling **1800 335 976**.





Liberal candidate for Gosford Cr Chris Holstein and NSW Liberal Leader Mr Peter Debnam during a recent visit to the Peninsula

Liberal promise sewerage projects

Sewerage projects would be undertaken at Patonga Creek and Bensville by a Liberal State Government, according to the Liberal Candidate for Gosford, Cr Chris Holstein.

On a visit to the Peninsula last week, NSW Liberal leader Mr Peter Debnam announced the NSW Liberal-Nationals policy to clear the backlog of Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage (CTWSS) projects.

Mr Debnam said: "A NSW Liberal-Nationals Government will clear the backlog of projects within our first two terms of government and fund new projects."

Cr Holstein said the fact local residents were still relying on septic tank systems in Mooney Mooney, Cheero Point, Bensville, Patonga Creek, Bar Point and Little Wobby was Third World.

"It's unacceptable to expect people in this day and age to put up with a Third World system in a First World country," Cr Holstein said.

"Today's announcement will help these local communities get the new sewerage schemes they deserve."

Shadow Minister for the Central Coast Mr Chris Hartcher, who also

visited the Peninsula, said nearly 150 families in Bensville alone relied on Third World septic tanks because of the Labor Government's failure to properly fund the CTWSS Program.

Mr Debnam said: "Morris Iemma has shown a complete lack of leadership on the water debate despite it being one of the greatest challenges this state has ever faced."

"The CTWSS program provides a much-needed subsidy to local government groups to ease the burden on ratepayers and provide vital water supply and sewerage programs."

"Labor has cut the CTWSS program, failing to meet its 10-year commitment by more than \$200 million."

"Local councils have been told time and time again they won't be receiving the promised funding from the Labor Government, leaving the question, where has all the money gone?"

"If Labor won't fund water infrastructure on the Central Coast, then the NSW Liberal-Nationals will after the State election next March", Mr Hartcher said.

Press release, August 17
Peter Debnam,
NSW Liberal Leader

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Cullens Rd, Kincumber

WOY WOY LANDFILL

OPEN 7AM – 5PM

MONDAY to FRIDAY

OPEN 8AM – 4PM

SATURDAY/SUNDAY

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Transparency and consultation is required

In Peninsula News (27 June 2005, page 8) it is revealed that the Ettalong Beach Reserve Plan of Management has "funds totalling \$280,000 available for work on the beach and foreshore adjacent to the CBD area and an amount of \$300,000 is due from the Ettalong War Memorial Club through a deed of agreement originating from the approval for redevelopment of the club site".

A further \$60,000 was allocated by the NSW State Government.

Neither in the Ettalong Beach Reserve Plan of Management nor the Ettalong Beach Dune Plan of Management is there any mention made of lowering the height of the Reserve.

Please see the photographs herewith which indicate that a metre to a metre and a half has been taken from the top of the Lance Webb Reserve.

The master plan for the Lance Webb Reserve which is contained within the Ettalong Beach Reserve Plan of Management also makes no mention of lowering the height of the reserve.

The Ettalong Beach Dune Plan of Management is currently on display and therefore one could assume that no action has occurred with regard this plan, as of yet.

The integrated development of this site, by the removal of part of the reserve wasn't mentioned in

Forum

either Plan of Management.

Gosford Council is the trustee of this Crown reserve.

It raises the question, how much was allocated to lowering the height of the Lance Webb Reserve?

What was the purpose of lowering the reserve?

Who authorised it?

The role of a councillor under Section 232 of the Local Government Act is:

- to participate in the optimum allocation of the council's resources for the benefit of the area and

- to review the performance of the council and its delivery of services, and the management plans and revenue policies of the council.

The recent Peninsula Urban Direction Strategy cost approximately \$95,000.00 plus.

A Plan of Management is created and used when there is complexity or perceived conflict that requires community input.

Planning for the future of the total reserve is statutory.

So is public consultation and transparency.

How long is a Plan of Management considered to be a legal document?

The Ettalong Beach Reserve Plan of Management is dated July 2002.

Mike Hudson
Umina Beach

Council has still not made a decision about the proposal to destroy a significant section of Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland on the Catholic site in Hillview St, Woy Woy.

Because the remnants of this Endangered Ecological Community are so few, scattered and fragmented, it is likely to become extinct unless it is protected and regenerated.

The DA proposes to clear and develop one third of the site, the core of the block.

This would leave a thin boundary of bushland, 21 metres width along Hillview St, and 24 metres along the northern boundary behind houses.

Flanked by a road to one side and housing to the other, the bush remnant is exposed to "the edge effect" whereby light intensities are elevated.

This changes the soil and bushland moisture regimes, and favours weeds.

It also exposes the site to increased access by people causing soil compaction and damage to plants which reduces the likelihood of wildlife using the area to forage and establish nests.

Compounding this damage is the inevitable Fire Hazard Reduction plan that is recommended: "Ground litter ... shall be removed by raking and hand removal."

"Elevated combustible fuels such as dead branches and shrubs shall be cut and removed by hand."

This advice contradicts standard bushland management practices which aim to maintain animal

Forum

habitat.

Leaf litter shelters insects and reptiles, and dead branches provide habitat including nesting and roosting sites for birds, possums and flying foxes.

According to The National Trust: "The aim of bush regeneration is to restore and maintain an ecosystem in which natural regeneration can occur."

It is illogical to suggest that this recovery could be achieved by removing vegetation and building on the site!

The Bushland Management Plan designed for this site chooses to overlook this rather obvious point.

The Developer argues that this site has a weed burden, and is being allowed to deteriorate.

Being privately owned by the Catholic Church, there has been no opportunity for a Community Bushcare group or Gosford Council to access this site to carry out bush regeneration.

However, there are community bushcare groups operating on the Peninsula.

On a regular basis, these groups remove weeds and rubbish, protect native regrowth and foster habitat for fauna.

Promoting a sense of community and ownership is an indirect social benefit of these local volunteer groups, many of whom have the support of Council.

Education of the local residents is also a strong priority.

The Umina High Bushcare Group works with students, encouraging

their participation to look after the bushland remnants and grow native plants as bush tucker.

To suggest the only way to protect a community asset is to destroy part of it and get developers to look after what's left is a very blinkered approach with a finite lifespan.

The proposed Bushland Management Plan also puts forward an unsound approach to managing this site in that it advocates a rapid, intensive clearing of weeds.

Current industry practice advocates a slow and long-term approach that enables native vegetation to gradually replace the removed weed.

It literally takes years.

This ensures habitat for fauna is not wiped out.

For example, quick removal of lantana removes shelter for small birds such as scrub wrens and fairy wrens.

It exposes them to predation by larger birds such as currawongs.

The site could be rezoned so that this remnant of an endangered plant community can be protected.

Coming into public ownership may also help to address the shortage of open space on the Peninsula.

When a similar development on this piece of land went to the Land and Environment Court, Justice Bignold invoked the "precautionary principle", and said the proposed destruction of half a hectare of UCSW was "significant", whether there were two or 25 hectares of UCSW.

Please urge your local councillors to vote against this proposal.

Kate Consterdine, Pretty Beach

Leave advertising to newspapers

Gosford Council, or its external processing bureau, was so busy stuffing advertisers junk mail into the envelopes it posted to ratepayers in July, it failed to include vital rates information and had to mail out an amended rate notice at great expense.

Anyone can make a mistake but Council's biggest mistake was to enter ratepayers, without their consent, into a competition to benefit the advertisers with a

Forum

captive audience.

First prize in the competition is a P&O cruise for two adults.

Let us hope the lucky winner have a safe passage and more plain sailing than the ill-fated Dianne Brimble had on her cruise.

Council should concentrate on the business of local government and leave the advertising business to the local newspapers.

John Collins,
Woy Woy

I too (see letters in previous editions) was surprised to see the footbridge concept for Brisbane Water Dr on the front page of the Peninsula News.

As a new resident in the area with many years as a safety-engineering consultant, I immediately questioned what risk was being addressed by this bridge.

Generally, there is a risk reduction-cost benefit analysis done before a project like this, ie how many bikers-walkers use the route per day versus cost to protect

Forum

them.

On visiting the RTA office, no one could show me such a study.

I pointed out there is already a disused footpath on the west side of the road which could be eliminated and the traffic lanes jogged slightly to make room for a footpath on the eastern side of the road, complete with sturdy traffic barrier, negating the need for a separate \$1 million bridge.

However, I was told the concept is to provide two paths one each side of the road!

Consider solar water stills

It is proposed that council pay a bounty of \$2500 for each watertank supplied and plumbed in, together with a large loan to pay for it.

This does not solve the problems of drought, the opportunity for mass poisoning through terrorism or the fluoride brigade, nor provide an ecologically sustainable solution.

I believe that most tanks are now made from petrochemical materials requiring high carbon emissions during manufacture.

Forum

Daily, each human only requires about four litres of drinking water.

None of the rest needs to be of potable quality.

Why has no one considered solar-powered water stills?

Each person with access to about 16 hours of sunlight can, with a device that should cost less than \$100, produce their own daily water: A concept of responsibility no different to personal hygiene.

Given that each household supposedly comprises 4.5 persons, a saving of about \$2000 per house is made and some of the other problems are obviated.

Those who currently want to rot the system or be subsidised can pay for their private swimming pools, car washes, excessive showers, bottled beer and water, electricity, pretty flowers, football and golf grass, manufactured food and hydroponics on an equal footing.

Richard Newby,
Woy Woy

Most countries recycle water

Many years ago at university, I learned the waters of the Rhine passed through six human bodies; before ending in the North Sea.

As the water arrived at each city; the engineers treated it to make it drinkable then passed it on with new domestic wastes.

Today most countries recycle.

When I first came to Sydney, I joined the NSW Nature Conservation Council.

Forum

I found they had paid an engineer to produce a scheme to treat all the waters of the Central Coast.

It would have cost a million dollars, so the government of the time found it cheaper to throw all that water into the sea just north of Gosford.

We should think hard again.

Dr Vincent Serventy,
Pearl Beach

Play presented for Mental Health Week

Ad hoc Community Theatre Inc and ARAFMI will present the Peter Weiss play "Marat/Sade" at the Peninsula Theatre, Woy Woy, from September 29 to October 7 to celebrate Mental Health Week.

Production manager Ms Brenda Logan said: "This exciting community initiative aims to build on the considerable strengths of the Central Coast's mental health community through collaboration with an experienced group of local theatre artists."

Director Ms Terry Collins said: "The experience of creating a memorable theatre performance by a new and vibrant community of theatre performers is providing many opportunities for fun and creativity by all."

"This production has begun a working relationship that will continue into the future" she adds. The play "The Persecution

and Assassination of Marat as Performed by the Inmates of the Asylum of Charenton under the Direction of the Marquise de Sade", abbreviated as "Marat/Sade", was written in the early 1960s.

It tells the story of how revolutionary Jean-Paul Marat was stabbed in his bathtub by Charlotte Corday at the height of the "The Terror" during the French Revolution.

Set in a mental hospital in France in 1808, this play within a play combines historical events with modern theatrics, and explores the problems of revolution.

Performances will be held from September 29 to October 7.

Tickets cost \$17 for an adult, \$10 for concession or student, and \$15 per person with group bookings of 10 or more people.

Tickets can be booked by contacting 4323 3233.

Press release, August 16
Brenda Logan, Peninsula Theatre



Danny Elliott with instruments

Showtime at theatre

Danny Elliott and Sharna Le-Grand will appear in "Showtime" during September at the Peninsula Theatre.

"These two have received standing ovations on the QEII and have also opened for Shirley Bassey and Marina Prior," said the theatre's marketing director Ms Lisa Kelly.

Danny Elliott plays over 13

instruments including the banjo, piano, guitar, panpipes, saxophone and harmonica, and including the bagpipes and didgeridoo.

Together with Sharna, he performs duets and solos, sings and dances.

Some of the tunes from Danny's recent CD include Me and Bobby McGee, Only Make Believe, Tom Dooley, Rock Around the Lock, Battle of

New Orleans and medleys from Broadway shows such as Phantom of the Opera.

"This will be a great show for fans of Danny Elliott," Ms Kelly said.

For bookings, contact Judy Hopkinson on 4323 3233.

The concerts will take place on September 14 and 15 at 10.30am.

Press release, August 16
Lisa Kelly, Laycock Street Theatre

Fundraising for dance group

The children's dance group Trangakal Milbari will hold a fundraising night on August 25.

It is hoping to raise \$3000 to attend Crocfest Dance Festival in Kempsey from September 19 to 21.

Trangakal Mulari is a dance group made up of 30 aboriginal primary and high school students from Brisbane Water Campus and Peninsula schools.

The students need to hire a coach with toilets to attend the festival.

In addition, they need to provide

accommodation and meals for the driver for three days.

The students will be provided with accommodation in tents during the festival.

The fund raising night will be held on August 25 at Ettalong Bowling Club, Springwood Ave, from 6.30pm.

The entry cost is \$15 and includes snacks.

For more information contact Margaret Cassidy on 0409 124 416, Connie Duncan on 0403 197 848 or Craig Foresheaw on 0418 412 561.

Press release, August 9
Elaine Simmonds

Set storage proposed for Little Theatre

Gosford Council officers have recommended approval for the lodgement of a development application for a set construction and storage shed for the Peninsula Theatre, Woy Woy.

The management of the theatre had asked for approval to build the facility to be used by Woy Woy Little Theatre.

Council had already made, \$40,000 available for the project with Woy Woy Little Theatre committed to funding the balance of the budget.

A preliminary estimate indicated the construction costs would be in the order of \$75,000.

A competitive tendering process would be undertaken for the construction of the facility and

a licence agreement between council and Woy Woy Little Theatre prepared to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of both parties in relation to the facility.

If the recommendation was approved by council, the fees of the development applications would be waived.

Council agenda COM.28,
August 22

Competition will close

Entries to the Books Alive competition will be accepted until close of business on Friday, August 25.

The review writing competition organised by bookseller Book Bazaar for students of the Peninsula is part of a Federal Government initiative to get people reading.

All local schools have been approached to take part in the competition and there are categories for all year groups.

The review competition asks students to choose a book from the guide to review.

They can pick from children's picture books, teen fiction, thrillers or any of the other books listed in the guide.

Reviews need be no longer than one A4 page in length for older children or even a drawing for the Kindergarten to Year 2 age groups.

Many of the books in The Guide are also available at school or local libraries.

Entry forms for the competition are available from Book Bazaar in West St, Umina, the Peninsula

News office or from school libraries across the Peninsula.

Winners in each category will receive vouchers to buy books and also have sections of their reviews printed in the Peninsula News.

Phone 4342 2482 for more details.

Press release, August 16
Book Bazaar



PATONGA BAKEHOUSE

GALLERY

19 BAY ST PATONGA

ART WORK BY JOCELYN MAUGHAN & ROBIN NORLING

OPEN SUNDAY 11AM - 3PM
OR BY APPOINTMENT

4379 1102

Save the Children Woy Woy Branch

Fashion Parade by

Jodi of Umina

Held at St. Andrews Church Hall
Ocean Beach Road, Umina Beach
Saturday 9th September Time: 1.30pm

Entrance \$7 inc Afternoon Tea and lucky door prizes

Contact Nola 4324 4389
or May 4341 1104

Laycock Street

THEATRE

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Forum

Not exempt from nature

Many people, besides the business fraternity, are disappointed with the Ettalong Beach Plan of Management, which would seem to be the acquisition of public land by stealth: a little bit at a time.

The estuary navigated by Captain Phillip in 1788 and again in 1789 is a part of our heritage but it is to be replaced by glaring, over-sized concrete blocks behind an

Forum

artificial beach.

Being a business person surely does not automatically make one an authority on climatology, geography, beach morphodynamics or global warming.

I would prefer to listen to these authorities, when safety for my home, or even my life are concerned.

Disregard to the warnings from

academics in America for many years led to the devastation and huge loss of life and homes in Louisiana.

Why do the "345" people who signed a petition requesting immediate commencement of the Plan, think that the Peninsula is exempt from the natural working of nature?

Margaret Lund,
Woy Woy Bay



1999 model of "Grand Mecure" resort used in early promotional material

Foreshore plan a shock

With considerable interest I perused the proposed plan for the Ettalong Foreshore redevelopment on display at the Umina Library.

To say that I was shocked and angry would be an understatement.

Firstly, the following is a brief list of what is proposed.

Picnic Parade will terminate, that is blocked off at where it now converges with The Esplanade.

The Esplanade will terminate with a left turn only into Beach St.

Traffic from Beach St will only be able to make a right turn into The Esplanade.

A left turn can be made but only in a one-lane one-way flow, shared with pedestrians, to Memorial Ave.

The other lane of Memorial Ave will terminate at The Esplanade intersection.

The Esplanade between Beach St and Picnic Parade will be closed to road traffic and will be for pedestrians only.

The waterfront reserve opposite Beach St will now be occupied by a kiosk, surf club and a hire outlet.

Forum

The car park, as we know it, on the waterfront side of The Esplanade will disappear in favour of open space and a cycleway.

The existing toilet-shower unit at the end of Picnic Parade will be removed and be relocated to the Ferry Rd end of the reserve.

The toilet block opposite Bangalow St will be removed and included in the new, would-be, ferry terminal.

These road closures will require all traffic to and from Booker Bay from Umina to pass through the main shopping street at Ettalong.

It is now obvious that the plan is to develop the property between Memorial Ave and Picnic Parade, the old waterslide site, with an unrestricted waterfront reserve frontage to the beach.

Where will all those people, mainly elderly, who daily frequent The Esplanade carpark now go as parking already is scarce?

No doubt the pine trees will go: "Can't block the view from the blob of concrete opposite".

How will the Vietnam Vets view the relocation of their memorial to be replaced with a couple of shops on our land?

It can be seen now that this plan or ploy is nothing more than a land grab by business for nothing more than their and their mates' personal gain.

One wonders what is going on in our council to even consider these road closures and surrender of reserve waterfront land for business purposes.

At no time in all the articles published in recent newspapers were road closures mentioned.

Were you like me thinking that these plans were only for the redevelopment of the dunes area?

Are we being misled? If so, by whom?

This plan must not be allowed to proceed because if it does the precedent will be set for wholesale resumption of our land and access routes throughout our community.

We don't want another Terrigal or The Entrance here, or another Taj Mahal.

Arthur Cochran,
Umina

Attempting to 'resolve' the irreconcilable

In 1998 a group of people decided that removing the sand dunes at Town beach was a good idea.

The Ettalong Beach Reserve Plan of Management currently on exhibition is based on that decision.

Other decisions were to "clean up the beach and foreshore, and clean up the scrub at the beachfront. (p9)"

Unfortunately Council has taken on these and other unsustainable decisions, and attempted to justify them.

The main report states that the Council brief for this Plan "required resolution of issues associated with preservation of the beach, conservation of the foreshore reserve's open space, appreciation of the reserve's character, and arrival of the new fast ferry. (p5)"

However the 1998 group's desires cannot be "resolved" with Council responsibilities to manage Crown land.

Council is required to manage Crown land so that "environment protection principles are preserved, natural resources are conserved, and the land and its resources are sustained in perpetuity. (p6)"

The dune report states very clearly that the dune in front of the Club is in excellent condition because the dense vegetation makes it stable.

This statement cannot be resolved with a group's decision in 1998 to have the dunes removed.

A powerful lobby group should not be able to sway Council from its statutory responsibilities.

Further, environmental factors have been highlighted in the eight years since these decisions were made and the process of implementation begun.

Tsunamis provide graphic evidence that preserving and rehabilitating the Peninsula's dune

Forum

system is our best protection from the increased severity of storms, high seas and windblown sand that are inevitable.

Given this environmental significance, it is interesting to note that the environment report was not placed on exhibition.

As you would expect in a Plan that has irreconcilable aims, the report contains a host of matters that are problematic.

One of these is the vested interest of the Club which is located behind where these works are proposed.

First, the \$300,000 Deed of Agreement between the Club and Council indicates why, against all common sense, Council is prioritising this area that is in least need of work, and is neglecting areas in the Reserve that need urgent remediation.

Second, I refer to the illustration used to sell Resort apartments off-the-plan several years ago.

It shows a completely flat, turfed and cemented area in front of the Club-Resort.

There is no dune or dune vegetation.

This picture suggests why vested business interests now complain that this Plan does not go far enough in destruction of the dune and its vegetation.

The EBRPOM is fundamentally flawed.

It attempts to resolve and reconcile matters that are not able to be reconciled.

It advocates destruction of a healthy dune and its vegetation.

I urge Peninsula residents to view the exhibited documents either at Woy Woy Library or on Gosford Council's website, and to submit their views to the Lands Department by August 30.

Shirley Hotchkiss, Umina

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Premier visits Woy Woy school

NSW Premier Mr Morris Iemma visited Woy Woy Public School on August 9, in recognition of the school's achievement in the Premier's Reading Challenge.

Principal Ms Ona Buckley said: "He was well greeted by our school leaders and the entire school loved saying hello to the premier as he shook hands, 'high-fived' and spoke to many of our students, as he walked along the guard of honour they had made on the way to the school library."

Ms Buckley said Mr Iemma presented the school with a

box of books and congratulated the students on being the State champions in the Premier's Reading Challenge last year.

"He read to some of our Year 1 students," Ms Buckley said.

"They listened to the books on the Premier's Reading Challenge list.

"He met with some of our parents who had come ready to pick up their children at home time and when the students were released at home time he had many requests for autographs."

Newsletter, August 11
Ona Buckley,
Woy Woy Public School



Cameras donated

Two digital cameras have been donated to Woy Woy Public School.

"Mrs Deborah Morgan has been able to secure some very worthwhile donations," principal Ms Ona Buckley said.

"Kodak have donated a digital camera and Harvey Norman have donated a digital camera with

photographic dock, two memory sticks and some photo paper."

Ms Buckley said the donations would be "super additions" to the school and would assist the children with their educational needs.

Newsletter, August 2
Ona Buckley,
Woy Woy Public School

Indigenous culture to be celebrated

Naidoc Week will be celebrated at Ettalong Public School later this month.

"The celebration and recognition of indigenous culture will be celebrated at Ettalong Public

School during the week beginning Monday, August 28, to Friday, September 1," school principal Ms Sharon McEvoy said.

"The Gurringai Committee has been working tirelessly to plan many exciting and varied activities for us all to be involved in during this week of celebration."

Press release, August 9
Sharon McEvoy,
Ettalong Public School

Premier presents books at Woy Woy

NSW Premier Morris Iemma made a special delivery to students at Woy Woy Public School on 9 August presenting students with 16 new books from the Premier's Challenge reading list.

The books have been arranged through the "Books for Schools Fund", which was set up last year by major sponsor, the Sun Herald, in association with the NSW Department of Education and Training and the Dymocks Literacy Foundation.

"The Premier's Reading Challenge continues to go from

strength to strength, with record numbers of students reading record numbers of books," Mr Iemma said.

Mr Iemma was joined at a special book presentation ceremony at the school by local Member for Peats Ms Marie Andrews.

"It was a great thrill for the students to meet the Premier who presented the books in the school library," Ms Andrews said.

"Mr Iemma joined students to read from one of the students' favourite books, Bear and Chook.

"The Premier also took time after the presentation to talk to students and parents at the school."

Mr Iemma said the Books for Schools fund had raised over \$180,000 to be used to purchase books from the Premier's Reading Challenge list.

"This year's Reading Challenge is shaping up as the best yet, and I hope that students will take as much pleasure reading these books as I get from delivering them," Mr Iemma said.

All schools that registered as part of the 2005 Premier's Reading Challenge will receive books courtesy of the Books for Schools Fund.

Press release, August 18
Marie Andrews,
Member for Peats

Public speaking

Pretty Beach Public School has held a public speaking night at the school.

"This night would have made any parent proud," said principal

Ms Vicki Redrup.

"The standard of the speakers was outstanding.

"It was incredible to see what children are capable of producing when given the opportunity to

excel.

"It was terrific to see great support from parents and friends who attended the night."

Newsletter, August 9
Pretty Beach Public School

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Fireworks date is set

A new date has been set for the Pretty Beach Public School fireworks night.

The fire works night will now be held on Saturday, October 21.

"This is the first weekend after the September holidays," school principal Ms Vicki Redrup said.

"The weather should certainly be better for us by then."

Newsletter, August 9
Pretty Beach Public School

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Public Notices

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Cheques for palliative care

Everglades Women's Golf Club and Everglades Country Club have presented cheques of \$2400 and \$900 respectively to the Central Coast Palliative Care Hospice on August 17.

Foundation hospice chairman Mr Les Graham and medical director Dr Kenneth Marr received the cheques.

"This donation will help us provide maintenance on our centres," Mr Graham said.

"Our annual budget is \$45,000, most of which is spent on petrol."

Mr Graham said the palliative

care unit had 50 volunteers to assist the clinical team and 13 bereavement counsellors.

"We have two centres: one at Woy Woy and one at Wyongah," Mr Graham said.

"The main office is at Long Jetty Hospital.

"We opened the centre in Kinglsey St only four or five years ago.

"Clinically we operate 24 hours a day, eight days a week."

Dr Marr thanked the Everglades Country Club, the women golfers and Mr Graham for the work he had put into the hospice.

Lyle Stone, August 17



Opening ceremony at the PCYC

Torch relay and cauldron lighting

A torch relay and cauldron lighting ceremony celebrated the opening of the Special Olympics State Long Course Aquatics Carnival at the Peninsula Leisure Centre on August 12.

Over 130 athletes with intellectual disabilities from all parts of NSW competed at the event.

The torch relay started at 9am at the entrance of the centre, followed by a cauldron lighting ceremony where a Central Coast athlete said the athlete's oath.

Gosford Mayor Cr Laurie Maher officially opened the carnival at 9am with races beginning at 9.30am.

Duncan Bond, David Brown, Therese Jackson, Sandy Caruana, Stefan Gilligan, Mark O'Brien,

Martin Reidy, Ashley Emerson, Carley Chapman, Mathew Schofield, Brad Perrin and Vicki Hodges represented the Central Coast.

Each swimmer was entitled to swim in five events, made up of four individual events and a relay.

Press release, August 10
Marion Newall, Gosford Council

A place in rugby league finals

The Brisbane Water Secondary College has followed its Under 14 Rugby League success in the Buckley Shield with an open age place in the last eight of the statewide University Shield competition.

The Open Boys team, coached by the college's sport academy co-ordinators Mr Mark Cribb and Mr Matt Marker, has won its way through to the finals with some "outstanding performances" against the leading senior colleges in the state, according to relieving college principal Mr Gus Vrolyk.

Mr Cribb said the team had "impressive wins" over Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College and Callaghan Senior College and a gutsy win against Freshwater Senior College from Sydney North.

"They are playing great rugby league and growing in confidence

with each successive game," Mr Cribb said.

"We now take on the western region champions, Dubbo Senior College, for a crack at a semi final berth."

Mr Vrolyk said: "The Open Boys team is a product of the College's Sport Academy program in rugby league and this year's team is demonstrating the benefit of first rate opportunities afforded by the academy program.

"The team is also fortunate in having the coaches of the calibre of Mr Cribb and Mr Marker and the support of Country Rugby League."

Mr Vrolyk said the likely squad for the Dubbo trip would be Josh Foley (captain), Michael Smith (vice-captain), Aku Uate, Martin Jeffrey, Jim Fawcett, Cheyne Hall, Jason Overton, Daniel Nicholls, Joel Weeks, Jeremy Williams, Brett Sonter, Dylan Smith, Junior Qata, Robert Woodger, Steve Little, Tom Crocker, Beau Bovis, Michael Quirk, Alex Brown, Max Perkins, Brett Jackson, Michael Paterson, Tom Reid and Nick Cama.

Press release, August 14
Gus Vrolyk, Brisbane Water Secondary College



Womens golf president Jan Montgomery (Right) and Womens golf captain Donna Mitchell (Left) present a cheque to Central Coast Palliative Care Hospice Chairman Les Graham

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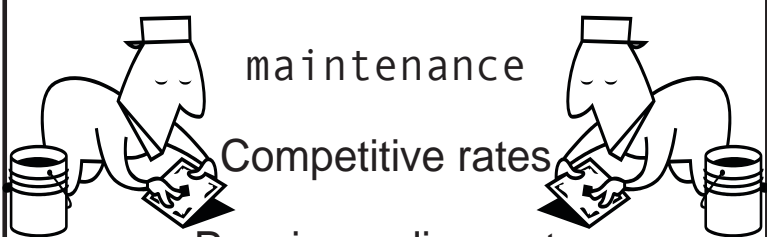
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Peninsula News

Edition 148

21 August 2006



Ettalong to open rock eisteddfod

Ettalong Public School has been asked to open the High School Rock Eisteddfod Premier Division Grand Final at The Sydney Entertainment Centre on Friday, September 8.

Only two primary schools in the state are invited to perform at the event.

The decision was made as a result of the Ettalong Public School's "exceptional standard of performance" at J-Rock at the States Sports Centre recently, according to principal Ms Sharon McEvoy.

Newsletter, August 9
Sharon McEvoy, Ettalong Public School

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