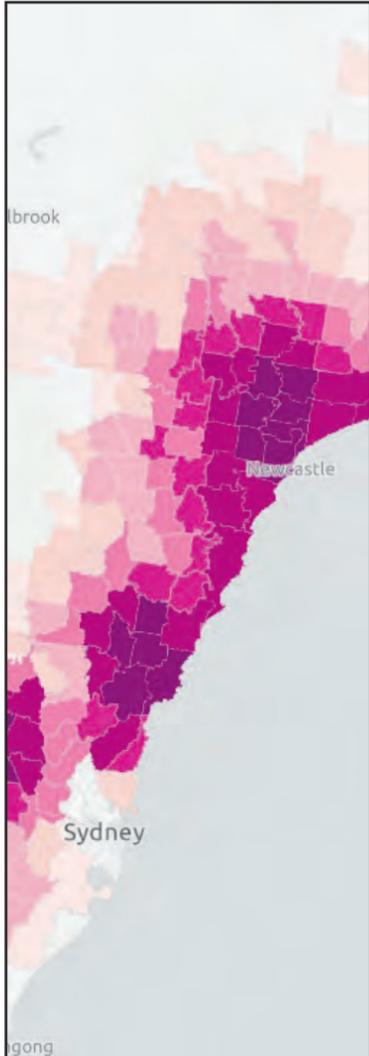


## No honey bees for the foreseeable future



**The Peninsula is not likely to have European honey bees for the foreseeable future.**

The Peninsula currently has one of the highest varroa mite detection rates in the State, according to the Department of Primary Industry.

The varroa mite has been detected 62 times in the "Patonga Parish", which covers the Peninsula, since June 2022.

"Positive infestations" have been reported in the last three weeks "in nearby Empire Bay and Terrigal".

The Department said there were no projections or expectations for the return of honey bees to the area "at this stage".

"The absence of wild European honey bees in the area is likely a combination of factors," the Department said in a statement to Peninsula News.

These included "the removal of managed hives in the area and the impact that varroa mite is having on the wild European honey bee colonies now that it has established itself across the region."

"There is potential for wild European honey bee populations to decline across NSW as varroa continues to spread nationally."

The area of high detections centred around Gosford now has a similar extent to the Newcastle

high detection area, initially the centre of varroa mite infection.

The Department's website states that the focus of the varroa mite response has shifted from eradication to "management".

The aim of the management program is "to work to increase resilience and capacity to manage varroa mite within the Australian honey bee industry".

It would "minimise ongoing impacts of varroa mite naturalisation on the bee industry and pollination-reliant industries".

"This will occur through slowing the spread, building industry resilience, provide management options and supporting pollination security."

Under the management program, the Department no longer requires the mandatory euthanasia of hives.

Where previously prohibited, the management program allows movement of bees, hives and permitted bee feeders out of the Hunter-Central Coast "Management" zone under a Biosecurity Emergency Movement Permit.

More information is available on the Department's website at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/varroa](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/varroa).

**SOURCE:**

Media statement, 19 Jan 2024  
Sim Madigan, DPI



Produced on the Peninsula

Peninsula news & advertising  
for the Peninsula community

## Peninsula News: A voluntary activity

Peninsula News is as much a community activity as it is a community service.

Our fortnightly voluntary non-profit community newspaper is produced by members of our community as a service to our community.

It relies on voluntary participation, ranging from submitting material through to being an active part of the production team. No-one is paid.

Volunteering can range from spending an hour or two through to taking responsibility for a role within the production team. Training is provided.

Volunteers are currently needed to help with fundraising and sponsorship, news gathering, and sub-editing collected material into news style.

Other available roles include

that of photographer and picture editor, online production manager and bookkeeper.

For further information, call 4342 5333 or email [editor@peninsula.news](mailto:editor@peninsula.news) and one of our volunteers will get back to you.

Mark Snell, 9 Nov 2023

Can't find a copy of Peninsula News?

Read it on your phone  
<https://bit.ly/PNphone>



Next issue: Monday, February 5

Call us on 4342 5333  
Email: [contributions@peninsula.news](mailto:contributions@peninsula.news)

## Aged care home makes start on 'hotels' for pollinators

With the decline in the numbers of honey bees on the Peninsula, and uncertainty about their return, local gardeners are expected to have to rely on other insects for pollination.

Residents of the Blue Wave Living aged care home in Woy Woy have already made a start on building "insect hotels" to encourage native bees and other pollinators.

"In Men's Club, we have completed stage one in building our very own Insect Hotels," said chief executive Mr Matt Downie.

"While offering sanctuary to beneficial insects, especially pollinators, insect hotels are considered to be the urban solution to the declining population of beneficial insects in human environments due to habitat loss, pollution and abuse of pesticides."

The finished product is expected to be installed over the next few weeks.

**SOURCE:**

Social media, 11 Jan 2024  
Matt Downie, BlueWave Living



# Peninsula News

Community Access

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

**Editor:** Mark Snell  
 editor@peninsula.news  
**Distribution:** Frank Wiffen

**NEXT EDITION:** Peninsula News 587  
 Deadline: Thursday, February 1  
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 PHONE: 4342 5333 - Please leave a message  
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Please note: Peninsula News has no paid employees, and it may take a little time for us to get back to you. Our volunteers usually have other jobs and commitments, which compete for their time.

**EMAIL ISSUES?**

When emailing us, you will note that the domain name is PENINSULA.NEWS only. There is no .com or .com.au. If your email bounces or does not appear to have reached us, please check the address and try again. If this still does not work, try our old fallback address or call us by phone and leave a message.

Fallback email address: editor@peninsulanews.asn.au

**Editorial policy and guidelines**

**At its heart, Peninsula News is a community effort.**

It welcomes and relies on the contributions provided voluntarily and at no cost by local organisations, groups and residents.

The newspaper aims to be accessible to the community - both through making its columns accessible to community groups and by having copies available in accessible locations, including through its website.

The following policies and guidelines are designed to support the aims and standards of the newspaper.

**Locality**

The newspaper's editorial policy reflects a desire to reinforce the Peninsula's sense of community.

To qualify for publication, articles must have specific relevance to the Peninsula. For example, they must be about activities or events happening on the Peninsula or be organised by or involving Peninsula people.

The newspaper is not regional or national in nature, so regional or national issues will not be canvassed except as they affect the Peninsula.

Regional sports will only be covered from the perspective of Peninsula clubs. Regional plans will only be aired in the context of their ramifications for the Peninsula.

Peninsula News aims to be inclusive of as much of the Peninsula community as possible.

**Readability**

To ensure that the newspaper serves its purpose, it must be readable and represent the interests and activities of the community in its content.

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

All items will be dated. They must contain the name of the author to whom the contribution may be attributed, with their first name spelt out, along with their suburb or organisation. Anonymous contributions will not be accepted.

**Forum letters**

The Forum section provides the opportunity for readers to express their views on any aspect of Peninsula community life, with the aim of reflecting the community's diversity of opinion.

Nevertheless, letters may be edited for readability, including for length, spelling and grammar, and to avoid legal liability on the part of the newspaper, or they may be declined altogether.

Contributors are asked to keep their contributions to the matter at hand, and to

focus on the issues and not abuse or insult others.

Other than in the case of holding public figures to account, criticism of others (as opposed to criticism of particular opinions) is unlikely to be published in the interests of facilitating the expression of a diversity of views.

All letter writers need to supply name, address and contact details. Only name and suburb will be published.

Contributors who do not wish the wording of their letter to be changed at all should make a note to this effect when submitting their letter. In some cases, this may result in the letter not being published.

**Corrections**

We try to be as accurate as possible. However, mistakes can still slip through.

If you believe we have got something wrong, whether an error of fact or interpretation, we ask that you write to us by email with details for publication. These corrections may appear as Forum letters or as news items and should conform to our requirements for news and Forum contributions.

**Source lines**

Peninsula News includes "source lines" at the end of each article which aim to provide readers with information about where and how we came across the information, so that they might judge for themselves the veracity of what they are reading.

It should not be assumed that the article is a verbatim reproduction of the source. Similarly, it should not be assumed that any reporter listed is necessarily responsible for writing the whole news item. Source lines are not by-lines.

Often articles come from a number of sources. They are edited for readability and reader interest and given different headings, and consequently can be expressed quite differently from the source material.

Peninsula News usually receives its information in three ways: It is sent to us by someone wanting to promote their activities; it is sent to us in response to our inquiries; or it comes from a newsletter or other document to which we have access.

Sometimes we may interview a person or report what they said at a meeting.

The following descriptions are used:

**Media Release** - unsolicited contributions.  
**Media Statement** - sent in response to our questions. **Website** or **Social Media** - information published online. **Newsletter** or **Report** - published in print or online. **Interview** or **Meeting** - statements recorded by a reporter.

Forum contributions may be: **Email** if sent electronically and **Letter** if written on paper.

## Council grants proposed for four groups

Four Peninsula groups will receive a total of \$12,390 from an allocation of \$36,947.50 in the latest round of Community Support Grants, if approved at the Council meeting tomorrow night, Tuesday, January 23.

The Umina Community Group is recommended to receive \$1950 to part-fund its Community Smart Energy Talks.

Umina Surf Life Saving Club is recommended to receive \$5000 for an upgrade to its training area.

Playgroup NSW is recommended to receive \$440 as a room hire subsidy for the Woy Woy Peninsula Playgroup.

Ettalong Public School's Parents and Citizens Association is recommended to receive \$5000 for a canteen freezer upgrade for "health, community, and sustainability".

Two applications from Mingaletta Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Corporation were recommended to be declined.

One application was for "Dulili-Together" and the other was for

"Elders and Seniors connecting to culture".

They were "not recommended for funding due to insufficient information provided to make an accurate assessment" and because the applicant was ineligible under clause 7.25 of the grant program guidelines.

It deems ineligible "applicants with an overdue acquittal or who have failed to appropriately acquit a previous Council grant".

**SOURCE:**  
 Central Coast Council agenda 2.6, 23 Jan 2024

## Alex Wardle stays with Lions

Southern and Ettalong United has announced that Alex Wardle will again be a part of the Lions squad for season 2024.

"Alex has been one of our most consistent performers over recent years between the sticks and is now looked upon as a senior statesman of the squad," said club president Mr Sam Appleby.

"I'm really looking forward to this season," said Alex.

"The past few seasons has seen our defensive record improve each year.

"We are aiming to continue this trend this season.

"We have a great blend of young guns and senior players and, with



a recent trip down to Melbourne together, we are primed and ready to go."

**SOURCE:**  
 Social media, 14 Jan 2024.  
 Sam Appleby, SEUFC

## Group plants 900th tree

The Grow Urban Shade Trees group has planted its 900th tree on the Peninsula.

In a social media post, the group thanked "every resident who has supported GUST over the years on our mission to green, shade and cool our local area".

Group member Ms Jan Deighton said: "Onward to more trees.

"Let your family, friends and neighbour know how easy it is to create a greener, cooler community by planting trees.

"Let GUST help you, if you don't know how."

**SOURCE:**  
 Social media, 11 Jan 2024  
 Grow Urban Shade Trees

## Around average rainfall for January

The Peninsula is on track for an average January rainfall total.

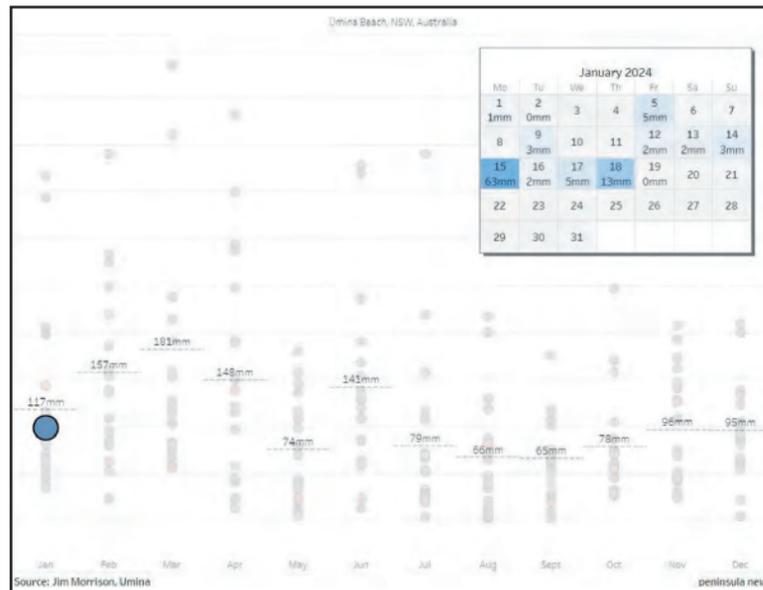
A total of 98mm had been recorded for the month as at 9am on Friday, January 19, according to figures supplied by Mr Jim Morrison of Umina.

Average for the month is 118mm.

Most of this month's rainfall was recorded on one day, with 62.6mm recorded in the 24 hours to 9am on January 15.

A fall of 13.0mm was recorded on January 18, and falls of more than one millimetre were recorded on nine other days.

**SOURCE:**  
 Spreadsheet, 19 Jan 2024  
 Jim Morrison, Umina



TIDE TIMES and Heights	Mon, Jan 22	Thu, Jan 25	Sun, Jan 28	Wed, Jan 31	Sat, Feb 3
	0021 0.23	0250 0.20	0448 0.16	0059 0.76	0321 0.84
	0704 1.14	0920 1.16	1105 1.07	0651 0.22	0948 0.33
	1420 0.20	1631 0.14	1800 0.11	1252 0.89	1524 0.67
	1956 0.69	2210 0.73	2347 0.74	1931 0.12	2134 0.23
TIDE TIMES and Heights	Tue, Jan 23	Fri, Jan 26	Mon, Jan 29	Thu, Feb 1	Sun, Feb 4
	0114 0.23	0332 0.18	0527 0.17	0141 0.78	0419 0.89
	0755 1.16	0958 1.14	1139 1.03	0741 0.27	1108 0.32
	1511 0.17	1703 0.13	1829 0.10	1335 0.82	1633 0.63
	2048 0.71	2244 0.74		2008 0.15	2230 0.26
AT ETTALONG	Wed, Jan 24	Sat, Jan 27	Tue, Jan 30	Fri, Feb 2	Mon, Feb 5
	0203 0.22	0411 0.17	0021 0.75	0228 0.80	0519 0.96
	0840 1.17	1031 1.11	0607 0.19	0839 0.30	1227 0.29
	1554 0.15	1732 0.12	1214 0.97	1425 0.73	1748 0.62
	2131 0.72	2315 0.74	1859 0.10	2048 0.19	2329 0.26

# Peninsula leads Coast's night-time economy

**The value of the Peninsula's night-time economy is greater than any other area of the Central Coast, according to figures in a Central Coast Council discussion paper currently on exhibition.**

It shows the Peninsula to have a night-time economy of \$68 million a year, representing 29.6 per cent of the Coast's "visitor spend" of \$229.5 million from April 2022 to March last year.

The Peninsula has only slightly more than 10 per cent of the Coast's population.

Terrigal had the next highest turnover with \$67 million (29.3 per cent), \$1 million less than the Peninsula.

The 35 "night-time product and experience" venues in Woy Woy and Ettalong alone represent more than one quarter of the Central Coast's 138 venues

The table in the report showing the venue count did not include venues in Umina, nor any of the Peninsula's registered clubs.

Terrigal's venue count was the next closest with 30 venues.

The table showed Ettalong, with a total of 20 venues, having 15 restaurants and Woy Woy, with a total of 15 venues, having 10 restaurants.

The two towns were listed with two takeaway outlets and one bar each.

Ettalong was listed with one pub

and one "arts/culture/live music" venue, while Woy Woy had two pubs.

A map showed Ettalong having a turnover of \$28 million, Woy Woy a turnover of \$25 million and Umina a turnover of \$15 million.

Despite the figures, the "Peninsula" is not mentioned once in the report, and Woy Woy, Ettalong and Umina only appear in the map and the table.

The text of the report makes no reference to them.

The report itself acknowledges that its purpose was to ignore the Peninsula: "to reinforce the primacy of Gosford, Terrigal and Wyong as key night-time economy locations".

The Gosford turnover was shown as \$41 million, while Wyong's was shown as \$28 million, the same as Ettalong but with a percentage of the total slightly less than Ettalong.

Submissions responding to the discussion paper may be made until Monday, February 12.

**SOURCE:**  
Website, 19 Jan 2024  
Your Voice Our Coast,  
Central Coast Council



## A day spent learning gold embroidery

**The Umina Beach branch of the Country Women's Association has spent a day learning gold embroidery.**

Ms Janet Luce from the Mittagong Evening branch was instructor for the day, said Umina

branch president Ms Lin Griffiths. "It was thoroughly enjoyable and a great experience," she said. "Let's keep practising."

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 14 Jan 2024  
CWA Umina Beach

## Teens rescued from stranded runabout

**Two Niagara Park teenagers were taken on board a Marine Rescue vessel after their 3.4 metre aluminium open runabout suffered engine problems on Brisbane Water, east of the Rip Bridge, late on Saturday afternoon, January 13**

Marine Rescue Central Coast was alerted and sent its main vessel, Central Coast 21, crewed by deputy unit commander Mr Andrew McKellar, Mr Paul Broad and Mr Michael Kerr.

The boys were uninjured but, as the boat was to be towed to Lions Park at Woy Woy and the tide was on the way out, it was decided to transfer the two teens onto CC21 for safety.

The two mates and their boat were safely transported to Woy Woy.

Engine troubles also seemed to plague other local boaters over the weekend.

The Marine Rescue unit received a call from the skipper of a seven-metre boat with engine troubles mid-Saturday afternoon.

The craft with six people from Wamberal aboard was stranded in the Woy Woy channel near Lions Park.



Rescue boat Central Coast 21 towed the stricken vessel to the Koolewong marina and, after making sure everyone on board was safe, returned to the base at Point Clare.

Later in the day, engine failure caused a five-metre open runabout to run aground on a sandbar near Half Tide Rocks adjacent to Ettalong.

The skipper, from Copacabana, agreed his vessel should be towed to Davistown due to the low tide.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 14 Jan 2024  
David Wicks, Marine  
Rescue Central Coast

## Surf club to hold Bronze Medallion course

**The Ocean Beach Surf Life Saving Club will hold a Bronze Medallion course from 6:30pm next Monday, January 29.**

The course will be held in the club's upstairs function room.

It will cover surf awareness, aquatic rescue operations, radio operations, resuscitation, emergency care, spinal management, communication, teamwork and surf life saving patrol operations.

Expressions of interest are being taken from members as well as anyone 15 years or older wanting to start lifesaving.

For further information, email education@oceanbeachslsc.com.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 15 Jan 2024  
Ocean Beach Surf Life Saving Club

## Telstra closes its Woy Woy store

**Telstra closed its Woy Woy store on November 22 due to lack of business or "low customer visitation" as Telstra has put it.**

"The closure was communicated in-store by the retail consultants and with posters on the shopfront for four weeks prior," Telstra told Peninsula News.

Telstra said it could service its customers from the Erina Fair store, which it said was 8.5km and 25 minutes from the Woy Woy store.

Customers who used the Woy Woy store could contact Telstra 24/7 online, where they could make appointments for the Erina store, or by phone on 13 22 00 during the day.

Self-service was available on a mobile phone app.



**SOURCE:**  
Media statement, 18 Jan 2024  
Daniella Andriopoulos, Telstra

Everyday our customers help change and save lives, simply by banking with us

Be part of the Bendigo Bank community

Community Bank Ettalong Beach  
263-267 Ocean View Rd Ettalong Beach 4344 4206

Community banking is based on a 'profit-with-purpose' model, which means our profits are returned directly to the community that has generated them



Social housing provider Pacific Link Housing is one of many local organisations to benefit from the support of the Ettalong bank, with the donation of this maintenance van



## Dwelling and granny flat proposed for Trafalgar Ave

**A single-storey dwelling with a detached granny flat has been proposed for 272 Trafalgar Ave, Umina.**

According to the application submitted to Central Coast Council by Mojo Homes, the site is zoned R1 and has an area of 474.2 square metres.

"An existing fibro dwelling and building are to be demolished under the approval of a separate development application to facilitate a clear site for the proposed new dwelling."

The application claims compliance with the planning requirements, apart from the rear setback.

According to the drawings the front setback is six metres.

For half the length of the rear boundary, the proposal does not comply with the rear setback requirement of three metres,

having only a 920mm setback.

The application claims compliance with the site coverage maximum of 50 per cent, with the proposal being 48 per cent.

With a single garage and one car parking space, the application claims compliance with parking requirements.

The garage setback is greater than the one metre behind building line required by planning provisions.

According to the drawings, there is one tree on site, to be removed by the owner.

There is no mention of any proposed street tree planting and no landscape plan is provided.

The application is currently on exhibition but the Council website states no closing date.

**SOURCE:**  
DA Tracker, 19 Jan 2024  
DA/2434/2023, Central Coast Council

## Dual four-bedroom occupancy units leave half site for landscaping

**An application for a dual occupancy, with each unit having four bedrooms and three bathrooms, claims it will leave 47 per cent of the site as landscaped area, the majority "deep soil".**

The site at 60 Winifred Ave, Umina, has an area of 695.6 square metres and a frontage of 15.24 metres, and would be subdivided into two Torrens title lots.

The application states: "The dwellings will have a total gross floor area of 344.17 square metres, equating to floor space ratio of 0.49:1 and will have a maximum height of 7.2 metres."

"Each dwelling will contain a single garage with stacked parking for a second vehicle, courtyards and alfresco areas to ensure maximum penetration of natural light and ventilation, and generous

rear private open space and setbacks.

"Concurrent subdivision of the attached dual occupancy will result in two lots with an area of 347.8 square metres and frontages to Winifred Ave of 7.62 metres each."

According to the application, the proposal is fully compliant with planning provisions.

It states there is no existing "native vegetation" on the site.

The landscaping plan includes several smallish trees. Species suggested are grey myrtle, plum pine and lilly pilli.

The application states that a street tree in Winifred Ave (on the western side of the proposed driveway) "can be conditioned on any consent granted".

A large jacarandah tree exists close to the eastern side.

The application proposes one central driveway for both units,

taking less of the verge than having separate driveways for each unit.

The survey plan for this application shows approximate true north in relation to magnetic north and explains the situation succinctly.

Some applications reported in the Peninsula News have shown magnetic north as being true north.

In several cases, shadow diagrams have been based on this incorrect north point.

The drawings for this application exceed the minimum interval requirement and provide shadow diagrams at hourly intervals from 9am to 3pm on June 21.

The application is currently on exhibition and is available for written submissions until February 9.

**SOURCE:**  
DA Tracker, 20 Jan 2024  
DA/2457/2023, Central Coast Council



## Application made for 'front-to-back' dual occupancy

**An application has been made to Central Coast Council for a dual occupancy at 163 West St, Umina.**

The application describes it as a "front-to-back", rather a "side-by-side", dual occupancy, with "a single-storey dwelling at the front and a two storey-dwelling to the rear".

The site is 730.5 square metres in area and is zoned R1 General Residential.

The application is also for a Torrens Title subdivision into two lots of 360.6 square metres and of 369.9 square metres.

The application states: "The single-storey front dwelling includes a traditional front entry porch addressing the street, and landscaping with a single garage, three bedrooms, bathrooms and an open kitchen-dining-living with adjoining alfresco private open space with pool area to the rear.

"The rear two-storey dwelling includes a double garage, four bedrooms, living areas, kitchen,

parking accommodation, open spaces and landscaping to provide a suitable detached dual occupancy development.

"The garage would be accessed from a right-of-way allowing access to West St.

"The lower floor includes a large open kitchen-dining and living area that adjoins an alfresco and private open space area that includes a small swimming pool.

"Both dwellings would be slab footing construction with traditional timber framing and a combination of external cladding, powder-coated aluminium windows and Colorbond roofing."

The application claims the subdivided lot size "would be commensurate, if not larger than, the lot sizes that have been established in the immediate vicinity".

It also claims compliance with the planning provisions, apart from a "slight encroachment on the upper floor on unit two".

The application asks for a variation to be granted, stating:

"The proposal is within the 8.5 metre height limit.

"However, a minor section of the eave protrudes outside the side setback envelope.

"The area outside the envelope does not create a privacy or views impacts nor entails the sunlight access to be non-complaint with shadowing during the winter months.

"The departure is negligible and would not involve additional amenity impacts when compared to a complaint scheme."

The application claims the "front-to-back" style of dual occupancy was superior to a side-by-side layout.

The application states it is proposed the front dwelling would have a garage fronting the street with cars reversing out, while the rear dwelling "includes a turning area to allow forward egress".

Referring to planning provisions requiring access to the road in a forward direction, the application argues: "The existing dwelling house and future dwelling houses

that can have a double garage entail a greater number of vehicles to reverse out from the site when compared to the proposal.

"The front and back battle-axe design provides suitable delineation of parking and access and negates conflict of simultaneous access at the cross-over."

"A side-by-side dual occupancy development would entail the removal of the mature box gum tree fronting the site, similar to the approval of the side-by-side dual occupancy at 83 Booker Bay Rd, Booker Bay.

"The front and back battle-axe design negates stacked parking and conflict with visitors parking in the common crossing from the road reserve.

"The detached front-to-back dual occupancy type provides a greater amenity in terms of facade presentation than a typical side-by-side dual occupancy development that is typically dominated by monolithic garage presentation, which can be approved on this site

with a complying development.

"The frontage of the site is located on a straight and has compliant sight lines.

"The alternative to include a parking bay behind the front dwelling house would increase impermeable surface, reduce soft cover landscaping opportunities and destroy the private open space area for dwelling one."

The application claims: "This dual occupancy proposal meets the relevant planning controls and allows more affordable housing stock that is required to fulfill the dire need for additional housing stock in the Central Coast.

"Such a proposal squarely meets the overarching objectives 'to encourage housing diversity without adversely impacting on residential amenity'."

The application is currently on public exhibition, closing for written submissions on February 9.

**SOURCE:**  
DA Tracker, 20 Jan 2024  
DA/11/2024, Central Coast Council



## Green Watch on duty

**Green Watch was on duty at the Central Coast headquarters of Marine Rescue on Saturday, January 13.**

Pictured are the two radio

operators Ms Lisa Pollard and Mr Andy Pope who took the calls for the day.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 13 Jan 2024  
Marine Rescue Central Coast

## Volunteers wanted as marine rescue missions increase by half

**The number of search and rescue missions conducted by Marine Rescue Central Coast has increased by half in the past year, according to figures released by Marine Rescue NSW last week.**

The Central Coast unit set a record of 191 search and rescue missions in 2022.

The number jumped to 283 in 2023.

Unit commander Mr Ian Morrow attributed the increase to more people using the waterways for recreational purposes.

"Brisbane Water is a beautiful portion of the Coast with many

opportunities for family fun," said Mr Morrow.

He said that across the Hunter and Central Coast, 1511 search and rescue missions including 341 emergency responses were conducted during the year, with 3079 people returned to shore.

Statewide, there were 4786 search and rescue missions with 10,645 people rescued.

Mr Morrow said that more than half the incidents could potentially have been avoided with better boat maintenance, with 57 per cent of calls for mechanical, battery or fuel issues.

The unit is currently looking for additional volunteers, aged 16

and over, to meet the additional demand.

"If you've ever thought about joining the team at Brisbane Water based Marine Rescue either as a radio operator, boat crew or associate, this is your opportunity to get involved," he said.

An information evening will be held at the Point Clare base at 7pm on Thursday, February 8.

The meeting is expected to last for two hours.

A second information meeting will be held from 2pm the following Saturday, February 10.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 17 Jan 2024  
David Wicks, MRCC

## Phone app to recruit staff

**A Umina aged care facility has had a 25 per cent increase in job applications after adopting a phone app to recruit staff.**

The phone app is used by Peninsula Village as part of a new employee referral and reward program, where existing employees can earn up to \$400 and micro rewards by referring others to job vacancies.

The facility now hires 35 per cent of its staff through the app and the average time to fill vacancies has reduced to 35 days.

Since May, 24 new staff have been hired and none of these have since left.

Executive manager Ms Nicola Burton said the Care Friends app had helped to address some of the key challenges in recruiting staff, including finding candidates with the right qualifications and who lived locally.

"When we use online job boards or even our website, we get a lot

of people applying who we can't consider because they don't have the correct qualifications or they live internationally," Ms Burton said.

"Care Friends has helped us to reduce this problem significantly.

"Our recruitment is now more targeted, and we love the fact that we can work in partnership with our staff and reward them for being part of our recruitment process," she said.

While over a third of its starters have care or clinical qualifications and experience, Ms Burton said Peninsula Villages had seen the most volume to recruit for positions that did not require a qualification, such as traineeships and housekeeping roles.

"Employees can invite their friends and family members without prior experience to apply for these roles," she said.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 11 Jan 2024  
Nicola Bolte, Brilliant Logic

## Assange petition receives support

**A petition to free Wikileaks' Australian publisher Mr Julian Assange has received strong support when signatures were collected in Ettalong on Sunday, January 14, according to local organisers.**

Woy Woy resident Ms Karin Solondz and Adriana Navarro collected the signatures on behalf of the Central Coast Assange Campaign.

"It was quite heartening to see such enthusiastic support for Julian in the local community," said Ms Solondz.

She said she hoped local Members of Parliament would join other Australian MPs who had called for his release.

"Julian Assange has been detained for close to five years in 22 hours daily solitary confinement in a 2x3 metre cell in London's Belmarsh Prison without a conviction.



"He faces charges under the USA Espionage Act for publishing leaked material exposing US war crimes, human rights abuses, anti-democratic conspiracies and diplomatic intrigues.

"He is living under conditions that the former UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Professor Nils Melzer, has described as psychological torture.

"His life, and psychological and

physical health, are at severe risk due to such extended inhumane treatment.

"It is now time for more urgent, concerted and intensified action."

She said an overwhelming majority of the Australian population favoured the publisher's release.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 17 Jan 2024  
Karin Solondz, Central Coast  
Assange Campaign



Central Coast Friends of Democracy

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## Council Administrator avoids scrutiny over CEO's contract and pay rise

**At the last 2023 Council meeting before Christmas, the Council Administrator tabled an item about the Council CEO's annual Performance Review. There was not advance notice that this matter would be considered at that meeting.**

The Administrator then proceeded to talk about the CEO's "better than satisfactory" rating, announcing that he would give the CEO a 5 year contract and a pay increase of 4%. There are significant concerns about the way that this issue has been dealt with:

- In Council meeting procedures, a Mayor (or Administrator) can table an item without notice—but it "must not be used for matters that are routine and not urgent, or for matters for which proper notice should be given because of their complexity".

The CEO's performance review was conducted on 22 August 2023. The matter was discussed at a Council meeting over 3 months later. The CEO's performance review is a routine matter—and there was sufficient time for it to be included in the normal Council proceedings.

- Council meeting procedures, which are required by legislation (Local Government Act 1993) also dictate that the "CEO must ensure that the

*agenda ...states..any matter or topic that the chairperson proposes at the time when the agenda is prepared..."*

Both the CEO and Administrator would have known that this item was coming to Council at the time the agenda was prepared. The CEO had the responsibility of listing it on the Agenda—and did not do that.

- Council meeting procedures also state that copies of agendas "must be published on Council's website and made available to the public at a time that is as close as possible to the time that they are available to Councillors". The details of this matter should have been available to the public before the Council meeting or even at the Council meeting—however, this was not done.

The details of this matter were not available until the day after the meeting. The Administrator, at the Council meeting, indicated that he knew that the information should have been available—but failed in his responsibility to ensure that this happened.

**The manner by which this issue was dealt with shows a complete disregard for proper process and the requirements of the Code of Meeting Practice. Our community should be concerned about the lack of transparency and proper process in decision making under this Administrator.**

**Forum**

# Council must take action to protect Pearl Beach lagoon

**Almost two years ago, I contacted Council complaining about ongoing vandalism of Pearl Beach Lagoon.**

For many years, the lagoon performed a vital function maintaining the creek level, protecting vegetation from the influx of salt water and supporting a gazetted fish hatchery that thrived in the creek behind the beach.

Destruction started when Council workers and, in some cases, independent contractors hired by beachside residents, cut channels direct from the creek to the ocean by-passing the lagoon.

The creek level dropped by 12 feet and the effects were disastrous.

The lagoon was destroyed, the hatchery was killed off, vegetation along the creek died and the upper reaches, including the arboretum, dried out.

In July 2022, Council wrote referring to a 2017 Lagoon and Creek Entrance Management Review.

It declared a policy of opposition to further mechanical openings of the Green Point Creek unless for exceptional circumstances.

Without further man-made interference, the creek level rose, vegetation recovered and the lagoon had started to re-form.

Inexplicably two months ago, Council bulldozers operating on the beach pushed sand over the

lagoon obliterating it once again.

I advised acting environmental manager Mr James Lawson when this occurred.

Over the Christmas period the creek, once again reverted back its natural path and the lagoon started to reform only to be destroyed once more.

A deep channel has been cut from the creek to the beach.

The situation is now that, despite Council's claimed concern, the lagoon and attendant eco-system is in its worst ever condition.

Locals report that the creek is at lowest level on record.

The upper reaches are totally dried up and encroaching salt-water is again killing off vegetation.

I urge someone from Council to make the time to inspect the area.

Fortunately Council can take still take action to halt further destruction of the lagoon and supporting eco-system.

Council will need to fill in the man-made channel from the creek to the ocean and dig a small channel to partially re-form the lagoon.

The system will then heal itself.

Of course its future necessitates Council workers being instructed to not disturb the lagoon and, also, restraining those few beachfront residents who object to the historic lagoon impinging on their direct ocean access.

**SOURCE:**  
Email, 10 Jan 2024  
Chris Gibson, Pearl Beach

# Congratulations on a fine newspaper

**We were visiting friends at Umina for a few days recently and dined out at the Club Umina.**

While there, I picked up a copy of your December 11 local paper.

I read it from cover to cover and would like to congratulate you on producing a fine local newspaper full of interesting local news, stories and opinion pieces.

I get around a bit and always make it my business to pick up a copy of whatever local paper is on

offer to find out what is newsworthy in the local community.

Despite only being 12 pages, your Peninsula News was chock-a-block with a wide range of content.

Many local news papers now are little more than advertising pamphlets but yours is definitely not in that category.

Unfortunately, many excellent local papers have disappeared (like our once glorious Kiama Independent) since the onset of the digital world leaving local

people with little or no information about events happening in their own back yard.

Thankfully, after a gap, we now have a very good new publication called The Bugle.

Your efforts are all the more meritorious given that your staff is so small.

Well done and may you keep publishing and informing for many editions to come.

**SOURCE:**  
Email, 8 Jan 2024  
Mal Lambert, Toolijooa

# Telstra store closes without warning or explanation

**Are readers of Peninsula News aware that Telstra's Woy Woy store closed late last year?**

When I arrived at their Woy Woy store on Thursday, November 23, I found the doors closed with a sign on the outside saying the store was permanently closed, and the nearest store was now Erina.

This was the first I had heard about the store closing. I switched to Telstra on July 24 last year, mainly because they had a store on the Woy Woy Peninsula.

The last I heard from my contact person at the Woy Woy store was on August 25, when he sent me a text message as a promised follow-up to check on whether my Telstra service was working satisfactorily.

He did not mention anything

about the store possibly closing, so I presume he knew nothing about it either.

Since then I have made a number of attempts at contacting Telstra to find out when and why the Woy Woy store was closed, and why there was no prior notification to customers about it.

I even visited the Erina Fair store that the closure notice said was now our nearest store.

But nobody I have written or spoken to has known anything about it or been able to find out anything.

As far as I am aware, it leaves Optus as the only telco with a store on the Peninsula.

**SOURCE:**  
Email, 11 Jan 2024  
Tim Slocum, Umina

# Unexpected service after phone fell in drain

**My day was going well until I opened the car door and my phone slipped off my lap down a drain.**

I rang customer service at the Central Coast Council (thinking this would not go well).

But the person who answered was unfazed.

My phone was delivered to my home by someone on his way home after work that afternoon.

Thank you so much to Barry and everyone else involved.

It reminds me why I chose to live on the Coast.

**SOURCE:**  
Email, 21 Jan 2024  
Lesley Buckley, Woy Woy

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## Behavioural standards 'needed' for Council debt recovery

**The Peninsula Residents' Association has called on Central Coast Council to include behavioural standards in its Hardship and Debt Recovery Policy.**

"The Association submits that a standard of behaviour needs to be specified within this policy that puts first the mental health of the community members from whom it is intending to recover debts," it has told the council.

"The draft policy makes no reference to the conduct of staff or its contracted debt recovery agents in implementing the policy.

"There is no obligation to be helpful nor are any ethical standards mentioned.

"Nothing in the policy would prevent council staff or contractors from engaging in intimidation, psychological abuse and other emotional violence towards debtors and their family members."

The association said that financial health and mental health were closely linked.

"Financial stress can often have a negative impact on our mental health.

"This can just make it worse, as poor mental health can result in poor financial management and more stress.

"Members of the Peninsula Residents' Association have been personally affected by examples

of council and institutional debt recovery where uncaring provocative actions have led to suicide and hospitalisation of the targets of their action.

"The Association does not support a council Hardship and Debt Recovery Policy where the council does not accept its responsibility to actively avoid contributing to these outcomes."

The Association said Central Coast Council was entrusted to act on behalf of the community in its dealings with all community members.

It said it expected the council to treat community members as the community would wish to see each other treated.

"This includes showing empathy and understanding, and care and concern for their health and welfare.

"The council's current draft Hardship and Debt Recovery Policy does not reflect this community expectation."

The Association suggested the council consider employing mental health specialists to oversee or conduct the debt recovery process.

"The council should also consider establishing relationships with organisations, such as the National Debt Helpline and Beyond Blue, to support the policy."

**SOURCE:**  
Submission, 18 Jan 2024  
Peninsula Residents Association



## Bushfire survival presentation attracts 150 people

**A Bushfire Survival Presentation held at Pearl Beach Community Memorial Hall on Saturday, January 13, has attracted more than 150 people, according to the Pearl Beach Progress Association**

The talk was presented by the Pearl Beach Rural Fire Service brigade, the progress association and Central Coast Council community education officer Ms Jen East.

Brigade captain Mr Lindsay Boyd said those attending actively engaged in the discussion about the bushfire risks of the area, and what could be done to prepare and respond when fire affected the village and surrounds.

"Our presentation wouldn't have been possible without the tireless support of the Pearl Beach Progress Association and its Safety Advisory Group.

"We greatly appreciate the support from Hunter Joint Organisation and Central Coast Council who arranged for us to have use of the SimTable which allowed us to model how fires may spread and move during typical

summer weather conditions.

"We hope that the presentation helped highlight the bushfire risks inherent to the Pearl Beach area, including the potential for the village to quickly be isolated if Pearl Beach Dr or the electrical cables for the village become affected by fire."

Mr Boyd said one of the subjects discussed was spot fires.

"On days with hot, dry air, and driven by wind, burning embers can be blown large distances ahead of the main fire.

"If those embers land in the right spot, they can ignite a new fire ahead of that main fire.

"Spot fires can result in bushfires jumping over containment lines.

"They can produce situations where you can rapidly be surrounded by fire with the main fire on one side, and spot fires having jumped behind you.

"Under conditions not uncommon in our area during summer, they could jump up to two kilometres.

"That means that a fire near the Warrah Trig Track could see embers falling into Pearl Beach Village starting spotfires, affecting

properties and critically affecting Pearl Beach Drive - the only roadway in and out of the village.

"This is why the advice that evacuating by leaving early is the safest option, especially on days of Extreme or Catastrophic fire danger when the conditions could see those spot fires travelling well ahead of any fire.

"It is impossible to prevent bushfires.

"All we can do is prepare for them, so that when the time comes we can respond in an appropriate, calm and planned way to avoid making bad decisions in that high stress environment.

"Part of that preparation is creating, discussing, and reviewing your Bushfire Survival Plan.

"Deciding what to do if bushfires are in your local area is not something you want to do at the last minute.

"Investing half an hour now in deciding what you will do, and when, and communicating that with your family increases your capacity to respond to, and survive, a bushfire event."

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 16 Jan 2024  
Lindsay Boyd, Pearl Beach Brigade

## Umina Smart Energy talk

**A Community Smart Energy talk is planned to be held at Umina Surf Life Saving Club at 7pm on Wednesday, February 21.**

It will be hosted by Umina Community Group in partnership with Peninsula Environment Group, Patonga Progress Association and Van Holland energy assessors.

Presented by three panellists, the talk aimed to give insights and practical tips to "help the local community become energy efficient, save money and reduce carbon emissions for a more sustainable future".

It will run from 7pm to 8pm followed by questions and will close by 8:30pm.

Attendance is free, but bookings are required.

The presenters will be Ms Louisa Klopsteins from Van Holland energy assessors, Mr Jo Muller from the Peninsula Environment Group, and Mr Stephen King from the Patonga Progress Association.

Ms Klopsteins will talk about energy efficiency.

She will describe how assessing a home can improve energy usage and be helpful to those renting, as well as owners and people thinking of building and renovating.

"Small changes can improve

your home to save money, improve comfort and reduce emissions," she said.

Working in her own company Van Holland Pty Ltd, she is a Nathers accredited assessor and Residential Scorecard accredited assessor and has qualifications in home energy efficiency and sustainability, sociology and commerce.

Mr Muller would speak about Going Solar.

He will look at how to get the best out of a solar system and how to assess if a battery system is worthwhile.

Mr Muller assists individuals in understanding technology and finances in solar systems and in asking the right questions when considering their investment in solar technology

Mr King will talk about community energy trading, and how to tap into the benefits of solar with or without solar panels.

"It can be helpful to owners, renters, businesses and people in strata situations," he said.

Mr King is involved in community trading in Patonga and Pearl Beach using the Energy Local/Powertracer system.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 8 Jan 2024  
Umina Community Group

## Local Vietnam Veteran dies aged 84

**Vietnam Veteran Mr John Edward Chalker passed away on December 28, aged 84.**

Jack, as he was known, was a member of the Vietnam Veterans' Peacekeepers' and Peacemakers' Association, Central Coast Sub-Branch Inc for over 25 years.

"He volunteered as a committee member, welfare officer and as an essential cog in the NamBus' successful education campaign for the NSW Year 10 modern history curriculum," said branch president Mr Alan Ball.

"Members of the Ladies Auxiliary benefited from Jack's generosity over eight or more



years by treating them to a day out at the Gosford Races.

"Jack would arrange transport, meals and drinks at his own

expense, in appreciation for the support role the Ladies Auxiliary played in the running of the sub-branch.

"During Jack's 20 years of service in the RAAF, he had 20 postings all over Australia with time also spent in Malaya in 1962, and Vietnam in 1967 as sergeant."

"A large contingent of Veterans' and members of the Central Coast Sub-Branch, attended Jack's funeral at St John the Baptist Church, Woy Woy, on Tuesday, January 16, to honour his service and support of veterans."

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 17 Jan 2024  
Norman Harris, VVPPAAC

# Planning

## Plans for five-storey mixed-use proposal exhibited for fourth time

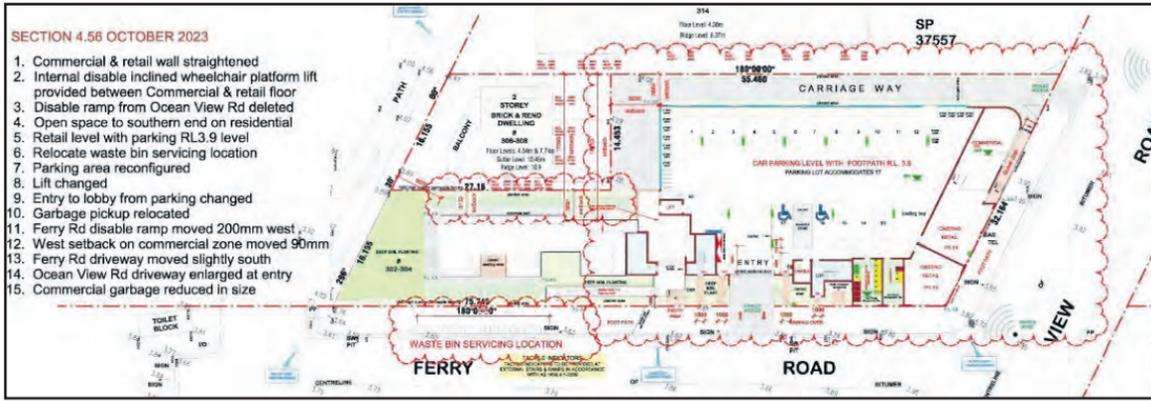
Plans for a proposal to build a five-storey mixed-use shop-top residential development in Ettalong have been placed on exhibition for public comment for the fourth time.

The amended plans are for a proposed development at 302-308 Ocean View Rd, Ettalong.

They pertain to a requested review in the Lands and Environment Court of the Central Coast Council's refusal of the original application.

The case is identified as KHMS Corporation Pty Ltd v Central Coast Council, Land and Environment Court 2022/00044809.

When the proposal was first exhibited, it attracted a large number of adverse submissions from residents and was recommended for refusal by the



Central Coast Council for 10 reasons.

Among them were that it did not comply with the maximum height or maximum floor space ratio requirements of the planning provisions.

The Local Planning Panel refused the application on October

28, 2021, for the reasons listed by the Council plus another four reasons mainly involving inconsistency and lack of clarity in the supplied drawings.

In this request for a review of the determination, the application attempts to show that the plans are now consistent and adequate,

that non-compliance has been minimised and that justification has been presented for variations to standards and to challenge subjective conclusions of the original decision.

It states that suitable arguments have been presented in line with at least one of the five so-called

“Wehbe ways”.

The exhibited documents include a set of re-modified drawings with annotated amendments and Naters certificates.

A letter from the applicant's representative Wales and Associates stated that the Statement of Environmental Effects did not need to be amended because all of the necessary amendments were included in the attached documents.

The amendments on the drawings are numerous and mostly minor but include changes to the floor space ratio and a realignment of parking and retail levels.

Written submissions will be accepted until February 12.

**SOURCE:**  
DA Traker, 21 Jan 2024  
DA59732/2020/B, Central Coast Council

# Forum

## Developers are not interested in demand for smaller homes

Recent news items have finally exploded the fantasy that the housing-supply crisis can be solved by political rhetoric and pious hopes.

Only a few months after announcements were made, with great fanfare, of housing targets in 2024 that would solve the shelter crisis, we are now being told that the real output will come nowhere near the much-vaunted projections, as anybody could have predicted who has the slightest understanding of the housing market.

In fact, the 2024 output will not only fall short of the targets but will actually underperform the already miserable 2023 supply figures that were hopelessly inadequate to meet need and that the new initiatives, we were told, were guaranteed to remedy.

All the spin that can be mustered cannot hide the fact that Albanese and the state Premiers have made themselves look like fools and untrustworthy fools at that.

The reason for the failure isn't hard to identify.

There were no policies to support the ambition.

There was no programme to give coherence to the objectives.

And there was no plan on which to base actions: other than that, the idea was perfect, by which I mean that the whole thing was nothing but a piece of PR tomfoolery that wasted everybody's time but gained a lot of exposure on TV, which, I suppose was the purpose of the exercise.

If the housing problem was as easy to solve as issuing a press release, it wouldn't have plagued us for the past two decades, and diverting attention from the hard work that's needed for a realistic

approach to all its ramifications doesn't help.

Footling exercises like the Central Coast Housing Policy don't do much harm, because nobody takes them seriously, but we're entitled to expect better from National Cabinet.

Of course, developers would have us believe that all obstacles would disappear, if we simply abandoned all controls on housing and allowed free rein for the private sector to decide everything that needs to be done.

However, recent experience in Sydney suggests that even a slight loosening of the existing controls is more likely to lead to highly undesirable results than good ones.

Developers are interested in profit and will do whatever maximizes their returns, regardless of the public interest, and I don't detect much trust of developers' good intentions amongst the Central Coast public.

On the contrary, most people seem to feel that property speculators already have too much say in decision-making about the region's future and would prefer a Council that gives more emphasis to community values than money.

We shall, presumably, have the opportunity to test that perception in September.

In the real world, what is needed is more government intervention, not less, but intervention of the right kind.

We know, for example, that there will be a growing demand for smaller dwelling units but that the number of small units is actually declining, because developers are only interested in building large, family houses that give the highest return.

Unless the public sector is willing to influence the market directly, the disconnect between supply and demand will worsen.

Similarly, there are constant complaints about the poor quality of developer projects, because we rely on a piecemeal, haphazard approach to change in our neighbourhoods and have no overall goals against which projects can be measured.

In many instances, we shall see nothing but sub-standard outcomes, unless the Council is willing to intervene directly in the land-assembly process and to establish guidelines on housing mixes and so on to which developers have to adhere.

There are many such avenues to explore, if we are serious about our intention to create an urban environment that we are comfortable in.

Unfortunately, this assumes both imagination and technical competence which seem to be qualities not much on display in our current administration.

What we have, rather, is an excess of picayune, bureaucratic concerns and little judgement about priorities and long-term thinking.

There is a tendency to lay much blame on the Administrator, but the conditions were the same long before his arrival.

What is saddening is that he had the opportunity to set a new course for the region and has failed signally to respond to the challenge.

We shall be lucky if we can just hold the line and don't suffer worse in the future.

**SOURCE:**  
Email, 20 Jan 2024  
Bruce Hyland, Woy Woy

## Significant failure of the planning system

This month I attended the Department of Planning office in Gosford to lodge a submission about a planning proposal.

I was advised by staff that the office was not available for face-to-face discussions for the community in this region.

All correspondence is now at arm's length and faceless, compliant with electronic technology.

This protection of public servants and the proponent, while dismissing the public, is a significant failure in the planning and development process.

Vital questions will be deferred

to the Development Application stage.

If past experience is anything to go by, at that stage, it will be stated that the questions were determined with the planning proposal approval.

With the increasing impact of climate change, where is it possible to comment on the wider issues: extreme flooding and fire and unpredictable catastrophies.

These will have increasingly wider relevance to infrastructure and catchment management, to traffic, and water quality and pollution.

**SOURCE:**  
Letter, 12 Jan 2024  
Norm Harris, Umina

## Reid writes to Ministers about petrol prices

Member for Robertson Dr Gordon Reid has referred the issue of petrol prices on the Central Coast to the Minister for Financial Services Mr Stephen Jones and to the Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury Dr Andrew Leigh.

He has written to his colleagues after receiving a disappointing explanation of the disparity in petrol prices across the Central Coast from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

He said the Commission had provided a “bureaucratic response”, listing reasons why petrol prices were higher in the region – “lower levels of

competition, geographical reasons, and prices for international refined petrol”.

“The response fails to mention why the big oil corporations are charging Central Coast motorists higher petrol prices, with significant disparities between service stations.

“I will also be writing to the big oil corporations that operate services stations across the Central Coast and asking them to explain why we continue to have higher petrol prices.

“I will continue to represent my community on this issue and will not give up where others have”, Dr Reid said.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 16 Jan 2024  
Gordon Reid, Member for Robertson

## Patchwork group makes early start

Classes resume at the Ettalong Beach Arts and Craft Centre next week, starting Monday, January 29.

However, last year's Monday patchwork group members decided to get in early.

They made a jump start on the year, meeting for a social session to share ideas and to enjoy the companionship of stitching together, said tutor Ms Penny Howard.

"Sarah Vaughan showed us her beautiful, recently-finished quilt," she said.

"I'm loving the colours, and the pieced block on the quilt back as



an added creative touch."

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 19 Jan 2024  
Penny Howard, EBACC

## House concerts to start 2024 folk club program

The Troubadour Folk Club has announced it will hold three week-day house concerts with international performers over the next three months in addition to its monthly "grand concerts".

The first house concert will be this Wednesday, January 24, featuring Irish-American shanty singer Tom Lewis.

"In what may be his final tour of Australia, the amazing 80-year-old singer will be performing solo," said Troubadour president Mr Michael Fine.

He said the evening program "also features one of Australia's best shanty singers, a local resident and singer-song writer, in a guest spot".

"You'll have to be there to find out who this guest.

"There's also sure to be a bit of audience participation, as most shanties need a good strong chorus."

He said the concert had almost sold out.

The second house concert will feature UK banjo exponent Dan Walsh on Wednesday, February 7.

"He's one of the most in-demand banjo players for recording sessions in the world," said Mr Fine.

The duo Winter-Wilson will be appearing at the March house

concert, fresh from a tour of the UK with British folk rock band Fairport Convention.

Mr Fine said the Troubadour's program of grand concerts would start on Saturday, February 24, "with the Central Coast launch of a new CD by Fred Smith, who many consider to be Australia's greatest contemporary singer-songwriter".

"Fred is perhaps best known for his recent work The Sparrows of Kabul, based on his experiences of the fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban."

On Saturday, March 23, Irish writer and singer Eleanor McEvoy will perform along with Scottish harpist Chloe Matharu.

"American-Canadian folk-singer and composer Scott Cook will be appearing in April.

"In May, we have a grand concert with the wonderful, wacky and extremely accomplished Amy Williamson, the daughter of John Williamson, along with Nerida Cuddy from western NSW.

"In June the amazing Mic Conway will be appearing along with Robbie Long, bringing his mad magic and wonderful music to brighten our lives."

Details and tickets are available on the Troubadour website [www.troubadour.org.au](http://www.troubadour.org.au).

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 17 Jan 2024  
Michael Fine, Troubadour Folk Club



## New Year's resolution

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch has made a New Year's resolution to use fabric she recently bought on her trip to Ghana.

Her resolution was: "Don't buy any more fabric until some of these are used up."

She mused: "What fabric should I use first?"

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 13 Jan 2024  
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford

## Leading tenor to perform

Opera Australia tenor Diego Torre will perform at Pearl Beach Opera in the Arboretum on Saturday, March 23.

Opera in the Arboretum is the major annual fundraising event for the Rotary Club of Woy Woy.

A leading tenor at Opera Australia for many years, Diego Torre's roles have included Radames, Turiddu, Canio, Calaf, Cavaradossi, Pinkerton, Edgardo (Lucia di Lammermoor), Rodolfo

(La boheme), Gustavus (Un ballo in maschera), and The Duke (Rigoletto).

Born in Mexico City, Diego Torre was a Domingo-Thornton Young Artist at Los Angeles Opera, where he made his company debut as Don Jose in performances of Carmen.

Tickets are available at [www.trybooking.com/CNBTX](http://www.trybooking.com/CNBTX)

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 14 Jan 2024  
Opera in the Arboretum



# Liesl Tesch MP

## Member for Gosford

Parliamentary Secretary for Families and Communities  
Parliamentary Secretary for Disability Inclusion

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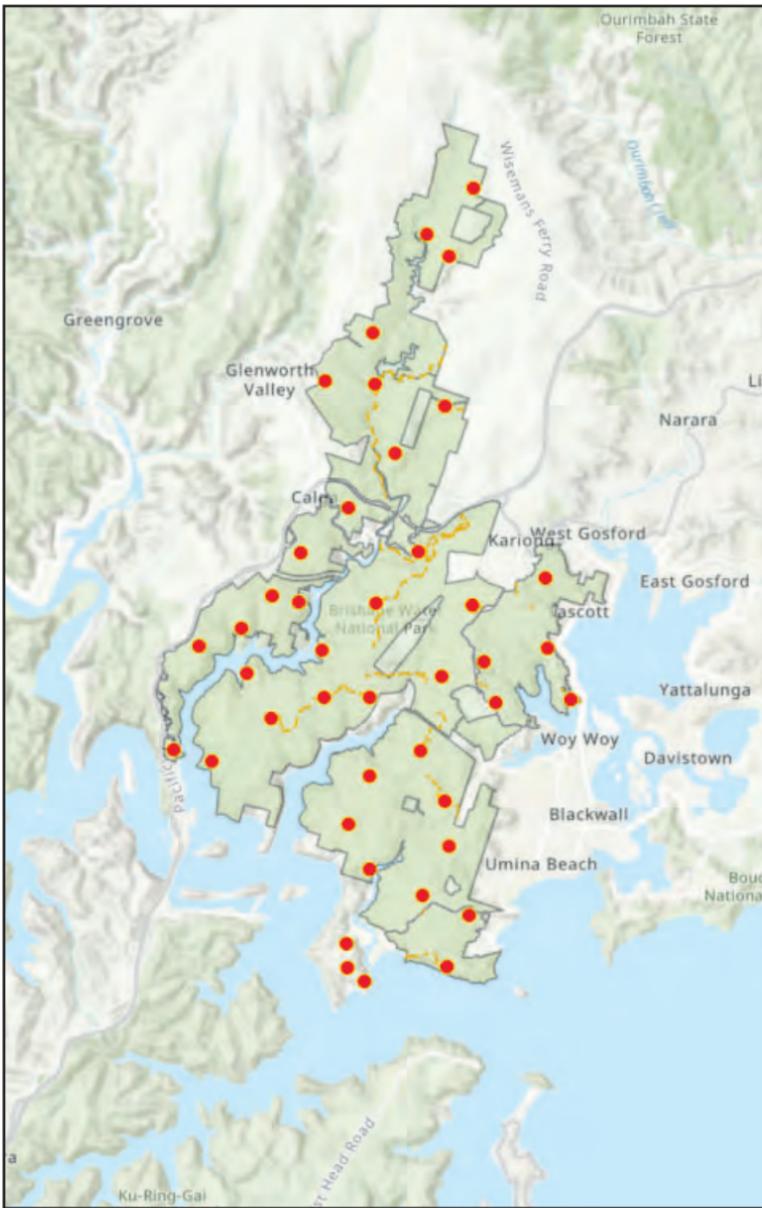




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## Year 7 starts school on February 1

**First day of school this year for Year 7 students at Umina campus of Brisbane Water Secondary College will be Thursday, February 1.**

They have been asked to arrive between 8am and 8:25am, entering via Gate 3.

They have been told they are required to wear their formal

uniform - white shirt, with navy shorts/skirt and black leather shoes – and should bring their pencil case.

They have also been asked to bring packed food for recess and lunch, as well as a water bottle.

“We can’t wait to welcome Year Seven students on Thursday, February 1, for their first day of

high school,” said Year 7 deputy principal Ms Susannah Murray.

“Year 8 and Year 9 students return on Friday, February 2.”

For further information, contact Ms Murray by phone on 4341 9066 or email [umina-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:umina-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 17 Jan 2024  
Susannah Murray, BWSC Umina

## Department uses video footage

**Video footage of Woy Woy Public School’s transition to school program has appeared on the Department of Education website.**

“Last term the Department of Education visited our preschool and took some video footage of our transition to school practices,” said principal Mr Dan Betts.

He said a short video that was

made on the day appears on the Department’s Early Learning web page.

“You may recognise some familiar faces,” he said.

“Starting school is a big change for your child and family.

“You play an important role in helping your child get ready for school, as well as helping their school get ready for them.”

He said each Kindergarten student and with their parent or carer would have the chance to meet with their class teacher.

“Our office will resume operations on Tuesday, January 30, and our staff will be available to assist you with any questions you may have.”

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 14 Jan 2024  
Dan Betts, Woy Woy Public School

## Author launches third children’s book

**Ocean Beach surf lifesaver and water safety author Ms Louise Lambeth has launched her third children’s book at the weekend.**

Tight Lines, a children’s fishing safety book, was launched at the Ocean Beach Surf Life Saving Club on Saturday, January 20.

The book’s story is about Roy, who is sick of being bullied at school and vows to beat the bully at his own game.

He is going to win the fishing competition and take the trophy from him.

But first he has to ask his big brother Jack to teach him how to fish.

The book is the third in a series of books, which Ms Lambeth said she wrote to help children and their families learn how to be safe around water.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 11 Jan 2024  
Louise Lambeth, Umina



## Koala ‘song data’ could take months to analyse

**Data from koala “song meters” placed in Brisbane Water National Park last spring could take many months to process, a local koala group has been told.**

“Each of the 42 Song Meters deployed within the park were collected in November,” said Pearl Beach Patonga Koala Group convener Ms Ann Parsons.

“The data from these song meters has been downloaded, backed-up and sent to the Forest Science team within the Department of Primary Industries for analysis.

“This team is the best equipped

to run the audio data through koala call recogniser software and validate the koala calls the software extracts.

“Given the large volume of data the Forest Science team received from numerous koala projects occurring across the state, they expect it will be a few months before they get the results back.

“They will let me know the results once they receive them and of the next steps they will take in assessing this area for the suitability of koala translocations.”

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 10 Jan 2024  
Ann Parsons, Pearl Beach Patonga Koala Group

## Mingaletta’s holiday program continues

**Mingaletta’s free School Holiday Program continues this week with junior tennis for children aged five to 13 olds.**

The program will run tomorrow, Wednesday and Thursday, January 23, 24 and 25, and includes professional coaching, all equipment and a sausage sizzle.

Those attending have been asked to bring a hat, sneakers and sunblock.

Mingaletta will hold Tapping Training courses by an Emotional Freedom Techniques practitioner at the end of the month

A level 1 course will be held on January 30 and 31, and a level 2 course on February 1 and 2.

Weekly Go4Fun healthy lifestyle

program for children aged five to 13 years will be held during terms one and two, starting in February.

The Mingaletta program timetable is available online at [mingaletta.org.au](http://mingaletta.org.au).

For further information, email [admin@mingaletta.org.au](mailto:admin@mingaletta.org.au).

**SOURCE:**  
Media release,  
Kylie Hogan, Mingaletta ATSC

## Council writes Peninsula out of history

**Central Coast Council has written the Peninsula out of history, in its Central Coast Thematic History which is currently open for public comment.**

While Woy Woy is mentioned 77 times in the history’s 190 pages, the Woy Woy Peninsula is not.

The word “Peninsula” is used only once: in “Kincumber Peninsula”, referring to an area of pre-European settlement.

Wyong is mentioned 273 times and Gosford 408 times.

Blackwall and Umina, Pearl Beach and Patonga are mentioned seven times each, and Ettalong six.

Booker Bay is mentioned twice, but Phegans Bay, Horsfield Bay and Woy Woy Bay are not.

The comment period closes on Sunday, February 11.

**SOURCE:**  
Website, 19 Jan 2024  
Your Voice Our Coast, Central Coast Council

## Uniform shop to open

**Woy Woy South Public School’s parents and citizens association is opening its uniform shop on two days next week before school resumes for the year.**

The shop will be open at the school on Tuesday, January 30, from 12pm to 2pm.

On Wednesday, January 31, it will open from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Before this, orders may be

placed online at <https://www.quickcliq.com.au/>

These orders will be packed and ready for collection at the shop on Tuesday or Wednesday.

The shop will continue to operate during the first two weeks of term, from 8:30am to 9am each day.

With inquiries, email [uniformshop@wvspandc.org](mailto:uniformshop@wvspandc.org).

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 15 Jan 2024  
Woy Woy South Public School P/C

## One-on-one

**Before starting big school, every student going into Kindergarten at Ettalong Public School this year will have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with their classroom teacher.**

“All families have been sent the details of their upcoming Best Start appointment,” said principal Ms Jodie Campbell.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 10 Jan 2024  
Ettalong Public School

## Netball club seeks sponsors for 50th anniversary

**The Brisbane Water Netball Club is wanting sponsors to support the club's 50th anniversary.**

"The 2024 season is a very special year for club as we reach our 50th year operating and supporting netball on the Peninsula," said president Ms Erica Smits.

"Brisbane Water Netball Club is the oldest operating netball club on the Peninsula and the

last remaining local club of the inaugural clubs.

"We urgently need support, to enable our members to participate in this years competition and so we can celebrate our momentous 50th milestone with the local Peninsula community.

"The committee members are all volunteers, parents and workers.

"Without the generous assistance from our local community, the club would not have been running for past 50

years.

"We must not let this occasion pass us by.

"We have an opportunity to bring our previous players, coaches and members together along with the local community to share past stories and for our kids to see our community come together to celebrate their achievements."

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 13 Jan 2024.  
Erica Smits, Brisbane Water Netball Club



## Two members become bridge grand masters

**Two members of the Brisbane Water Bridge Club have been promoted to the rank of grand master.**

They are Hope Tomlinson (home member) and Anne Grayden (alternate member).

"It's taken perseverance, dedication and a lot of hard work," said club president Mr Jim Routledge.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 17 Jan 2024  
Brisbane Water Bridge Club

## Named as volunteer of the week

**Central Coast Cricket Association has named Bec Tomlinson from Southern Spirit Cricket Club as its Volunteer of the Week.**

Southern Spirit president Mr Anthony Clarke said: "Bec Tomlinson is a long-time valued member of Southern Spirit Cricket Club.

"During her time, Bec has coached, played and held various committee positions.

"This season Bec has been instrumental in coordinating the growth and development of women's cricket in our club.

"Bec is also an integral member of our executive committee as club registrar and PlayHq wizz.

"On top of all that, she is also our Co-Coordinator of Junior Cricket.

"Her knowledge of the game and our players is a great asset and support to our junior coaching team and grade captains.

"Always willing to assist wherever needed without any fuss or accolades, we are very grateful to have Bec as a volunteer and friend at our club."

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 18 Jan 2024  
Central Coast Cricket Association



**Two members of the Brisbane Water Bridge Club have been promoted to the rank of grand master.**

They are Hope Tomlinson (home member) and Anne Grayden (alternate member).

"It's taken perseverance, dedication and a lot of hard work," said club president Mr Jim Routledge.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 17 Jan 2024  
Brisbane Water Bridge Club

## Bridge lessons for beginners

**The Brisbane Water Bridge Club will hold lessons for beginners starting Monday, February 12.**

The eight weekly lessons start at 10am and are followed by supervised bridge games.

"You will be helped with all aspects of bridge until you are ready to play in our regular daily games," said teacher Ms Christine Hadaway.

"If you have enjoyed playing board games, or card games such as euchre and 500, then bridge is the game for you."

The club, which claims to be the Coast's "leading teaching club", aims to provide a venue for people to develop a new interest, meet new friends and keep their brain active.

It meets at the Peninsula Community Centre at the corner of Ocean Beach and McMasters Rds, Woy Woy.

The cost for the eight-week course is \$50.

For further information, phone Christine on 0488 194 737.

**SOURCE:**  
Website, 19 Jan 2024  
Brisbane Water Bridge Club

## Boardriders elect committee for 2024

**Umina Boardriders have elected their committee for 2024 at their annual general meeting held at Ettalong Bowling Club on Monday, January 15.**

Co-presidents for the year will be Huw Toner and Jarryd Hayne.

Secretary-treasurer is Sal Oman.

Live Heats co-ordinator is Julie Papps, contest director Jake Monsalve and junior development officer Kevin Field.

Online registrations are open for the 2024 season.

Discounts are available for families registering two or more people.

The one fee covers registration

and surfing in any number of divisions.

Non-surfing membership is half price.

The first competition date is Sunday, February 11, with the back-up date of Sunday, February 18.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 15 Jan 2024  
Umina Boardriders

## Cycle group to hold AGM

**The Central Coast Bicycle Users Group will be holding its annual general meeting at 10:30am on Sunday, February 4, at The Entrance Skate Park.**

The group, which organises rides from Woy Woy, is seeking nominations from financial members for committee positions.

Nomination forms must be completed by the nominator and two other financial

members, and sent to the secretary at ccbug100@gmail.com no later than 10:30am on Sunday, January 28.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 18 Jan 2024  
Central Coast Bicycle User Group

## Malibu competition next Sunday

**Ocean Beach Malibu Club will hold its first competition for the year next Sunday, January 28.**

The even will run from 7am to 12pm.

The club's annual general meeting will be held from 2pm to 5pm on Sunday, February 11, at the Ettalong Bowling Club.

Everyone is welcome.

Nominations for committee positions should be emailed to surfing@oceanbeachmalibuclub.au.

**SOURCE:**  
Website, 19 Jan 2024  
Ocean Beach Malibu Club

## Taken to Westmead after near-drowning

**A child was taken to Westmead Children's Hospital on Saturday, January 13, after a near-drowning in Woy Woy.**

A Careflight helicopter was tasked to Woy Woy to assist NSW Ambulance with the incident.

However, after being treated by the medical team, the patient was transported by road to Westmead Children's Hospital.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 13 Jan 2024  
Central Coast Incident Alerts

## Disabled surfers seek volunteers

**The Central Coast Disabled Surfers Association is seeking volunteers for its February 3 event at Umina Beach in an attempt to reduce its waiting list.**

An initial 50 surfer places were filled within a day of registration opening, with 10 people placed on the waiting list.

"As we gain more volunteers, we will be able to invite those on the list to register," said association president Ms Rae Fletcher.

"If you are on the waitlist and receive a place offer, you need to accept and complete your registration.

"If you can no longer attend, please notify us, so we can offer the place to another surfer."

Ms Fletcher asked carers not to register on a separate ticket to surfers or as volunteers.

Both volunteers and surfers may register at <https://bit.ly/3FebEvent>.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 14 Jan 2024  
Rae Fletcher, CCDSA

## Australia Day event

**The Pearl Beach Progress Association will hold an Australia Day event on Friday, January 26, with a theme of "reflect, respect, celebrate".**

A barbecue will be held with proceeds to go to the Mingaletta community.

Races will be held on the beach for young and old, with registration

from 9am.

Age races, a sack race, a three-legged race and a rock-to-rock marathon are planned, as well as sand modelling and thong-throwing.

The event is expected to run from 8am to 11am.

**SOURCE:**  
Website, 19 Jan 2024  
Pearl Beach Progress Association

## Netball club keeps fees at last year's rates

**TKT Ocean Beach Netball Club members will pay the same fees this year as last year, despite a fee increase by Netball NSW.**

The shortfall has been covered by money from a regional bank's community funding program, according to club president Ms Michelle Giaquinto

She said the club had also been "lucky enough" to receive funding to offer free training for its coaches and umpires.

"Offering free Foundation and Development training to all who require these skills, including junior up and coming umpires, is a great support for creating pathways in the netball world and furthering the development of our coaches and umpires.

"Having coaches trained with the correct technique, skills and resources enhances training for our teams and develops confident players."

Ms Giaquinto said: "The executive committee has been busy in the off season developing ways to improve and grow, buying new training equipment and preparing new sponsorship packages to offer the local business community.

"TKT are proud to have built a strong, fun, family-friendly environment for all to come and play or watch netball at Lemon Grove park, Ettalong.

"Netball remains the biggest female sport in Australia, but boys are also invited to play.

"Registration is open now on PlayHQ until February 18."

A face-to-face registration day will be held between 9am and 1pm on February 3 at 53 Breeze St, Umina.

For further information, call Ms Giaquinto on 0449 528 072.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release,  
Michelle Giaquinto, TKT Ocean Beach Netball Club



## Umina takes Rookie point score win

**Umina Surf Life Saving Club took the overall point score win in the Surf Life Saving Central Coast's Rookie Challenge hosted by the Ocean Beach club on Friday,**

**January 12.**

Challenge involved teams of six Rookies, aged under-13 and under-14, competing in six events between 2:30pm and 4:45pm.

The events included a lifesaving

trivia quiz, signals, beach relay, rescue relay, lifesaver relay and a bodyboard relay.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 12 Jan 2024  
Umina Surf Life Saving Club

## Southern Spirit men's cricket results

**Results from men's games played by Southern Spirit Cricket Club over the weekend of January 13 and 14 were:**

First grade: Southern Spirit 9/183 dec (Liam O'Farrell 90) defeated Lisarow-Ourimbah 105 and 5/158 (R Watson 2/45 off 13 overs).

Second grade: Southern Spirit 214 and 29 was defeated by Lisarow-Ourimbah 112 (H Tomlinson 5/30 off 11.5 overs, S Higgins 2/49 off 19 overs, J Higgins 2/14 off six overs) and 147 (H Tomlinson 3/22 off nine overs, S Higgins 3/50 off 15 overs, and B Willoughby 2/29 off nine overs).

Fourth Grade: Southern Spirit 8/196 (K Handley 41, A Dickson 39, A Cattley 29) were defeated by Brisbane Water Bluetongues 7/196 (N Porter 3/37 off 6.1 overs, H Jaenke 2/37 off seven overs, and W Johnston 2/58 off seven overs).

Fifth Grade: Southern Spirit

7/218 (D Campbell 72, C Handley 35, T Barnett 32, P Wright 27no) defeated Terrigal Matcham 201 (P Wright 4/37 off eight overs, C Handley 2/41 off six overs).

Sixth Grade: Southern Spirit 150 (J Clarke 37, R Slater 36, C Tomlinson 34) was defeated by 8/155 (J Clarke 4/30 off seven overs, and M Weathers 2/11 off seven overs).

Seventh Grade: Southern Spirit 5/107 (I Tomlinson 36, M Donnelly 34, S Markham 19no) defeated Brisbane Water Bluetongues 6/98 (T Sibley 3/19 off seven overs, A Heward 2/7 off five overs, and D Palmer 1/19 off seven overs).

Eighth Grade: Southern Spirit 8/155 (A Zdravac 50 ret, L Turner 41, S Bourke 38) defeated Brisbane Water Bluetongues 104 (A Shaw 2/7 off four overs, C Church 2/19 off six overs, and C Allister 2/33 off seven overs).

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 15 Jan 2024  
Southern Spirit Cricket Club

## Woy Woy appoints women's soccer coach

**Woy Woy Football Club has appointed Stephen Troilo as its women's head coach, taking charge of its WDiv1 soccer team.**

Stephen coached the club's WAA1 team in 2023, guiding them to the finals, while also coaching the WAA3 side.

"With a proven track record in player development, Stephen brings a wealth of experience to

the role," said club president Ms Donna Foster.

"Having also coached junior football for numerous years, he will soon acquire the new FA C-diploma qualification and has played at various levels, including representative, across both football and futsal."

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 11 Jan 2024  
Woy Woy Football Club



## Coach accreditation workshop for netball

**The Woy Woy Peninsula Netball Association will hold a five-hour Development Coach Accreditation Workshop from 9am on Saturday, February 10, at Lemon Grove Netball.**

The "blended learning" (online and face-to-face) course is

targeted at club, association and regional coaches and teachers aiming to further their netball knowledge.

"The course is the second step in the national coaching accreditation framework and provides a good introduction to skill progression and fault detection and correction," said association president Ms

Sharon Bailey.

Accreditation requires a 70 per cent pass in the online course Rules of Netball exam, as well as completion of a 4.5 hour face-to-face workshop, before proceeding to the next step.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 19 Jan 2024  
Sharon Bailey, WWPNA

## Women's cricket results

**Results of women's games played by Southern Spirit Cricket Club on Saturday, January 13 were:**

W2nd Grade White: Southern Spirit 3/185 (F Penny 55 rtno, L Collins 46no, S Hutchinson 35, K Byrnes 35rtno) defeated Northern Power 3/77 (L Collins 1/7 off two overs, S Hutchinson 1/11 off two overs).

W2nd Grade Purple: Southern Spirit 6/122 (T Steven 71no, D

Morrissey 15no) were defeated by Kincumber Avoca 2/125 (T Stevens 1/20 off three overs, A Warren 1/33 off two overs).

W3rd Grade: Southern Spirit 0/115 (R Pickering 27rtno, F cregan 27 rtno) were defeated by Kincumber Avoca 4/114 (R Pickering 2/22 off four overs, H Watson 1/35 off four overs).

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 14 Jan 2024  
Southern Spirit Cricket Club

**The Pearl Beach Tennis and Bowls club has scheduled times for social groups to use its facilities.**

Tennis groups meet Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, as well as Friday afternoons.

Tuesday morning is for mixed intermediate to advanced players.

Phone Judy on 0418 436 225 for further information or show up from 8am to 10am

Wednesday morning is for

mixed tennis with a relaxed standard, suited to beginners or players who are "a bit rusty".

Friday Morning for mixed intermediate players.

Call Jackie on 0459 056 632 for further information about either of these mornings.

Friday afternoon is a "men's social" where all are welcome.

Phone Paul 0428 426 110 for more information or show up from 1pm to 3pm.

Bowling is held on Tuesday

mornings for women from 9.15am to 11.15am.

It is held on Friday mornings for men from 8.30am to 10.30am.

All are welcome.

Call Robert on 0477 486 065 for further information about either morning.

To book a tennis court or bowls green for private use, phone Judy on 0418 436 225.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 11 Jan 2024  
Pearl Beach Tennis and Bowls