



## Art awards announced

The winners of the Pearl Beach Environmental Art Trail were announced at its official opening on Sunday, March 23.

The winner was Ms Joanne Mott, with Mr Andrew Alter and Ms Vanessa Drinkwater highly commended.

The school prize was won by Terrigal High School visual arts students, with highly commended prizes (under-16) going to Freya Gillet of Umina Beach Public School and Skye Neate of Norwest Christian College.

Judge Ms Anne Flanagan described Ms Mott's winning entry, Drop Inns, as a "site-responsive art installation inspired by the Pearl Beach Arboretum ecosystem".

"Three droplet-shaped sculptures, woven from yucca leaves and clay, are suspended from a tree branch and serve the

dual purpose of aesthetic artworks and experimental habitats for the threatened species.

"These sculptures highlight the urgency of addressing habitat loss for native wildlife, bridging contemporary art with environmental problem-solving.

"The sculptures are designed to support pygmy possum nesting in size and shape." Mr Alter's work, A Stretch of the Imagination, was designed to draw attention to, and symbolize, the magnificence of nature.

"Its paperbark mache and palm fronds allow us to imagine a giraffe in Pearl Beach."

The Art Trail has the theme Harmony through Nature and remains open until Sunday, April 27.

SOURCE:  
Website, 27 Mar 2025  
Pearl Beach Arboretum

Produced on the Peninsula

Peninsula news & advertising  
for the Peninsula community

## Councillors prioritise \$4M more roadwork for Peninsula

The three councillors for Gosford West ward, which covers the Peninsula, have proposed how an extra \$4 million should be allocated for Council's road renewal program on the Peninsula.

Cr Belinda Neal, Cr Jane Smith and Cr Trent McWade prioritised work on Woy Woy Rd, Hillview St, Patonga Dr and Brisk St.

Work on The Esplanade, Connex Rd, Albion St and Ocean View Rd was already scheduled in the current three-year plan.

"Road renewal work will include resurfacing and rehabilitation, providing long-term solutions as part of the full life cycle of road maintenance and management," said Cr Belinda Neal.

"This road enhancement proposal will be put on exhibition for community comment.

"The additional \$20million for the entire Coast to fast-track priority road renewals and will be included in the draft Delivery Program and 2025-26 Operational Plan that will be placed on public exhibition in May," she said.

"The proposed program for roads across the Coast has been based on Council's pavement management system in partnership with councillors and with insight from the community.



"Council will also continue to strongly advocate for more grant funding from the Australian and NSW governments to further improve our roads."

"We understand that the community want to be kept up-to-date on progress being made on road renewal works.

"In response to that, the Council is developing a new interactive online map which the community can access to see detail of scheduled road renewal works for each year over the coming 10

years.

"This initiative, available from July 1, will provide increased transparency to the community about what is being done during the Road Renewal Program."

Cr Neal said the general maintenance of roads would also continue, and residents should contact the councillors if particular roads needed attention.

SOURCE:  
Media release, 3 Apr 2025  
Belinda Neal, Central Coast Councillor

## 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 and one of our volunteers will get back to you.

Mark Snell, 9 Nov 2023

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Peninsula News?

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Next issue: Monday, April 21

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



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

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**CONTACT DETAILS**  
NEWS: contributions@peninsula.news  
ADVERTISING: advertising@peninsula.news  
PHONE: 4342 5333 - Please leave a message  
POSTAL ADDRESS: PO Box 585, Woy Woy NSW 2256

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.



Prize winners at CWA group competition

Members of the Umina Beach branch of the Country Women's Association have won a number of prizes at the association's recent Northumberland Group competition

Branch member Ms Rikki McIntosh, the Northumberland handicraft coordinator, was pictured in her high-scoring knitted top.

Ms Tracy Wilson won first place with her tomato jam and first place with her lemon sundress.

Ms Coral Pawelko's beaded tea cosy was selected in the group's best eight to be presented at State titles.

Mr Ken Jansen won first prize for his apricot roll.

Ms Lynda Howell's french doll won second prize.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 2 Apr 2025  
CWA Umina Beach



Half March rainfall falls in last three days

More than half the March rainfall for the Peninsula fell in the last three days of the month.

A total of 142.8mm was recorded for the month, with 76.9mm falling in the last three days, according to Mr Jim Morrison of Umina.

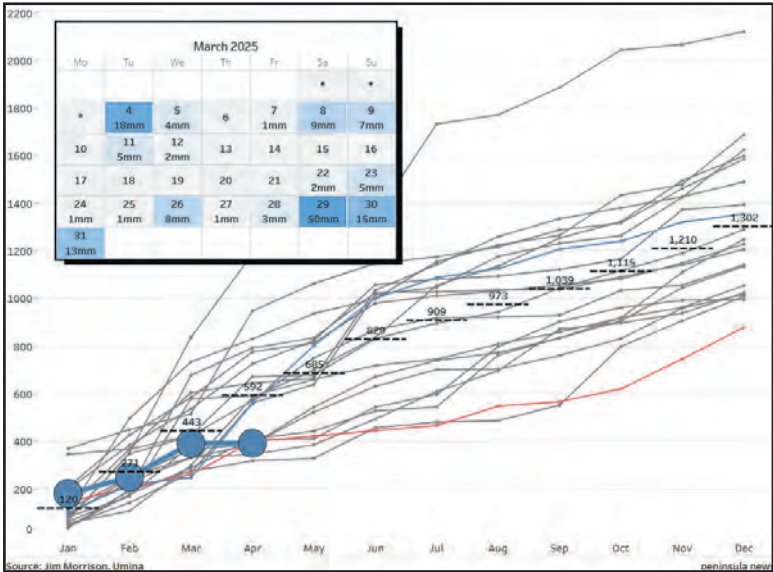
More than one third of the total, 49.7mm, was recorded on Saturday, March 29.

Rain was recorded on 17 days of the month, with 15 recording more than one millimetre and eight days having more than five millimetres of rain.

The second heaviest fall in one day was 18.0mm recorded on March 4.

The month's total was about five-sixths of the month's average of 174mm.

Total rainfall for the first quarter of the year was 389.5mm, 13.3



per cent less than the first quarter average of 449mm.

No rain had fallen in April as of last Friday.

More details, including daily

rainfall figures, are available on line via <http://penne.ws/Rain>.

**SOURCE:**  
Spreadsheet, 4 Apr 2025  
Jim Morrison, Umina

TIDE TIMES and Heights	Mon, Apr 7	Thu, Apr 10	Sun, Apr 13	Wed, Apr 16	Sat, Apr 19
	0430 1.03 1140 0.18 1741 0.78 2315 0.32	0100 0.24 0700 1.01 1331 0.17 1938 0.96	0257 0.20 0843 0.95 1451 0.17 2106 1.10	0453 0.22 1032 0.80 1619 0.23 2242 1.09	0006 1.03 0723 0.28 1300 0.65 1816 0.34
	Tue, Apr 8	Fri, Apr 11	Mon, Apr 14	Thu, Apr 17	Sun, Apr 20
	0530 1.02 1225 0.18 1826 0.84	0142 0.22 0735 1.00 1359 0.17 2008 1.02	0334 0.20 0917 0.91 1519 0.18 2136 1.11	0537 0.24 1115 0.73 1651 0.27 2320 1.07	0102 1.01 0830 0.28 1406 0.65 1918 0.37
AT ETTALONG	Wed, Apr 9	Sat, Apr 12	Tue, Apr 15	Fri, Apr 18	Mon, Apr 21
	0013 0.28 0618 1.01 1300 0.17 1904 0.91	0219 0.20 0809 0.98 1424 0.17 2037 1.06	0413 0.21 0954 0.86 1548 0.20 2207 1.11	0626 0.26 1203 0.68 1729 0.31	0209 1.00 0935 0.26 1516 0.68 2034 0.37

NEWS email: contributions@peninsula.news



# Three gardens listed for ‘edible garden trail’

The Woy Woy Peninsula Community Garden and two gardens in Ettalong are listed in this year’s Central Coast Edible Garden Trail to be held between 9:30am and 4pm on Saturday and Sunday, May 3 and 4.

One of the Ettalong gardens of less than 50 square metres houses chickens which are dual purpose, eggs and meat, and shows a style of vegie gardening which suits the climate and the owner’s needs.

“My vision for this garden has always been to support habitat for wildlife amidst the urban sprawl.

“Despite the sandy soils, saline winds and the harsh heat of the Peninsula, we have managed to support hundreds of indigenous plants species, including rainforest bush foods.”

The other garden is eight metres by three metres in Booker Bay and supplies a catering business, a garden-to-plate food business dedicated to fresh, seasonal ingredients.

“Every inch is carefully utilised, blending permaculture principles with a passion for sustainable growing.

“Originally a simple grassy lawn when purchased in 2019, the garden has since been transformed and climbing passionfruit vines sprawl along the fence, while papaya trees add a tropical touch.

“A rich diversity of herbs, edible flowers, and specialty greens flourish, providing an abundance of fresh, organic, colourful produce for the kitchen.”

The Woy Woy Peninsula Community Garden is now 13 years old with extensive food forests, many raised beds for annuals, a meditative space enclosed by a herb spiral, infrastructure including a secure seed bank, outdoor gathering space under shady trees, which attracts “friendly faces and community spirit aplenty”.

The non-profit event raises funds for community gardens and learning opportunities for disadvantaged youth.

Tickets cost \$25 for adults, \$10 concession and Permaculture members, with children free.

For more information is available online at ccegt.au.

SOURCE:  
Social media, 3 Apr 2025  
Woy Woy Peninsula  
Community Garden



# Shade trees group plants 1000th tree

The Grow Urban Shade Trees group has planted 1000 trees on the Peninsula.

The team of Ms Jan Deighton, Ms Jennifer Wilder, Ms Miriam McInnes, Ms Lesley Harvey and Ms Debbie Sunartha see the achievement as a significant milestone, proud of having a

survival rate of over 90 per cent.

They have put the success down to all those people who have adopted and cared for a tree and to volunteers who have helped with watering.

“You are part of our success story,” said member Ms Jen Wilder.

“We still have a long way to go

in increasing canopy to mitigate the urban heat that is a serious concern for our health and liveability.

“We will continue to advocate for tree retention of mature trees, street tree planting and protection of wildlife habitat.”

SOURCE:  
Social media, 28 Mar 2025  
Grow Urban Shade Trees

# Holiday program at PCYC

The Umina Beach Police Citizens Youth Club has announced its Easter school holiday program, with activities running from Monday, April 14, to Tuesday, April 29.

The activities are designed for children aged five to 12 years in morning and afternoon sessions.

Activities vary and include Nerf wars, origami, gymnastics, Free G, science, bead jewellery, ball sports and Easter crafts.

Also available are tumbling and trampoline, mini Olympics and fitness, archery, clay making, escape room, circus skills, disco, athletics, frisbee, painting, floorball and boot camp.

The “workshops” cost \$30 per morning and afternoon session.

Participants are asked to bring water bottle, enclosed shoes,

lunch, morning tea and afternoon tea.

The workshops run from 9am to 12pm and from 1pm to 4pm, with drop off available from 8:30am, lunch at 12pm to 1pm and pick up until 4:30pm.

Bookings are required and children must be PCYC members to attend.

Children with health and medical conditions will need to provide details and medication before they attend.

“Our programs are designed to be affordable for the local communities that surround our clubs ensuring a cost-effective school holiday option for all families.”

For further information, phone 4344 7851.

SOURCE:  
Social media, 1 Apr 2025  
PCYC Umina

# Reid announces \$1.8 million for Ettalong foreshore project

Labor Government would put \$1.8 million towards “an upgrade of the Barrenjoey and Umina pathway on the Ettalong foreshore”, Member for Robertson Dr Gordon Reid announced last week.

He said the election commitment would also go towards beach and sand rejuvenation to address erosion as well as community seating.

“The project will support the extension of the pathway to Ocean Beach Surf Club, connecting Ettalong and Umina via shared pathways and improving access to the foreshore for parents with prams and those with mobility restraints,” he said.

Dr Reid said the announcement followed more than a year of his advocacy, with more than 850

people signing the petition calling for upgrades on the Ettalong foreshore.

“Consistent with past practice, election commitments will be delivered in line with Commonwealth grants rules and principles.”

Dr Reid said: “The Ettalong Foreshore is a beautiful part of the world, and I’m so pleased that this election commitment will make it easier for people to access.

“This is a fantastic result for our community, who have heavily advocated for this project.

“I’d like to thank the more than 850 locals who have signed the petition, as well as the Ettalong Diggers for their advocacy along the way.”

SOURCE:  
Media release, 3 Apr 2025  
Gordon Reid, Member for Robertson



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The Ettalong bank is a major sponsor of 2024 Variety Bash car 26 “Ettalong Eagle”. Driver Barry Henson is pictured with bank manager Pat Italiano and staff member Jay Vandenberg.



# Two-storey dual occupancy proposed for Barrenjoey Rd

**An application for a two-storey dual-occupancy has been lodged for 161 Barrenjoey Rd, Ettalong.**

The application describes the site as a rectangular corner block of approximately 557.4 square metres, occupied by a single-storey dwelling, shed, and garage.

The proposed development includes two attached dwellings of two storeys.

Dwelling 161A would have three bedrooms, a double garage, and an outdoor swimming pool with driveway access proposed from Kourung St.

The ground floor of dwelling 161A would include a dining and family room, kitchenette, bathroom, laundry, and office, while three bedrooms including a master with a balcony would be on the second floor.

The application does not provide a detailed description of the layout of the second dwelling but it seems probable that it would be the same.

It states that the proposed development complies with planning provisions for minimum lot size of 550 square metres, a maximum building height of 8.5 metres and a maximum floor space ratio of 0.5:1, with 0.42:1



proposed).

The application claims that the proposed construction will not have any environmental impact, and that the development is designed to enable a sharing of views with surrounding private properties, particularly from habitable rooms with the roof form assisting view sharing.

The lot is oriented west-east with the Kourung St boundary facing south meaning that shadows

would be projected towards the street rather than neighbouring properties.

However, the "north point" used in all of the drawings is not true north, but a magnetic meridian used as an arbitrary "bench mark" by the original surveyor who drew the land registry plans on which these plans have obviously been based.

It is about 7.2 degrees clockwise from true north.

The application does not comment on whether it satisfies the requirement of a "north point" when it doesn't actually point north.

The application mentions that windows are designed to avoid directly overlooking adjoining dwellings and their private open spaces, and that landscaping and screening devices can be used to further enhance visual privacy.

A landscape plan shows several proposed trees including cordyline

red fountain, syzygium smithii lilly pilly and "Council recommended tree species".

The application does not explicitly state whether any trees will be removed or retained and no arborist report is provided.

However, Google street view shows a street tree on the Kourung St frontage, possibly a melaleuca paperbark that will need to be removed if a proposed double width driveway crossover is approved.

The notification plan labelled "Notification Plans 1" confirms this by depicting "half a tree" where the crossover is drawn.

This plan also shows two existing trees near the western boundary of the site but no indication of whether they are to be removed or retained, and they are not shown on the landscape plan.

There is no mention of any specific variations from planning provisions beyond the general claims of compliance.

The proposal is currently on public exhibition and open for written submissions.

A closing date for submissions is not listed on the Council website.

**SOURCE:**  
**DA Tracker, 22 Mar 2025**  
**DA/203/2025, Central Coast Council**



## Council refuses Ettalong townhouse application

**Central Coast Council has refused an application for a multi-dwelling development with three townhouses at 121 Memorial Ave, Ettalong.**

The refusal was primarily based on inconsistencies with planning objectives and controls.

The Council found that the proposed development was inconsistent with the objectives of the R1 General Residential zone, as it did not enhance the residential amenity and character of the low-density residential area due to numerous non-compliances.

The application also failed to demonstrate suitable arrangements for essential services such as roadworks, access, flood management, water cycle management, and waste disposal, as required by planning provisions. A significant number

of non-compliances were also identified, including inadequate building and garage setbacks, a failure to suitably demonstrate a suitably articulated facade, and the provision of unsatisfactory private open space areas for each unit.

The development also did not adequately demonstrate compliance with minimum solar access to private open space, adequate parking provision, or provide an adequate landscaping design and tree replacement.

The assessment report highlighted specific issues such as a shortfall in resident and visitor parking spaces, garages not being suitably setback, and inadequate dimensions for parking spaces.

Concerns were also raised about the development's inconsistency with the desired character of the Ettalong Beach

"Sandplain Bungalows" area, noting issues with siting, form, scale and landscaping.

Internal referrals from Council's engineering, tree officer, and water and sewer divisions raised concerns or did not support the application due to insufficient information or non-compliance.

Consequently, and due to the development not being compatible with the constraints of the site, Council considered the proposed development not to be in the public interest.

The applicant, Ms I Heintz, has been advised of the Council's decision and the right to apply for a review or to appeal the determination to the Land and Environmental Court within six months.

**SOURCE:**  
**DA Tracker, 22 Mar 2025**  
**DA/376/2024, Central Coast Council**

## Dual occupancy application to be determined by Panel

**The Local Planning Panel will hear an application this Thursday, April 10, for a dual occupancy and two lot strata subdivision at 42 Hobart Ave, Umina.**

The site is zoned R2 Low Density Residential and has an area of 651.2 square metres.

The estimated value of the development is \$1.13 million.

The development application DA/1627/2023 has been referred to the Panel for determination as a result of 22 submissions having been received during the notification period.

Council planners have recommended for approval of the application, subject to conditions.

The development proposes a four per cent variation to the Floor Space Ratio from the required 0.5:1 for a dual occupancy to 0.54:1.

It requires a variation for a side setback of 1.736m to Mount Ettalong Rd, which is a variation of 0.264m or 13.2 per cent to the required 2.0m setback.

Residents have expressed objections to removal of a street tree located on the council verge and are not convinced the removal is necessary.

The council's assessment acknowledges the community's concern regarding the angophora floribunda (rough barked "apple"

tree).

The arborist report, included in the assessment, indicates that the development has been designed to consider the location of trees on the site.

However, the report also states that the tree will require removal.

The arborist notes that this tree has a medium retention value and can be removed if adversely affecting the build.

The council's assessment highlights that there is no vegetation to be removed from the development site itself, with the tree in question being on the council verge.

To align with the Central Coast Council's Greener Places Strategy, the removal of T1 will be subject to a condition of consent requiring replacement at a 2:1 ratio, meaning two new trees will be planted.

The council assessment also notes that the existing verge area already has remnant vegetation, and additional trees are proposed for planting in the private open space of each new dwelling.

The assessment concludes that the proposed development is satisfactory, consistent with planning objectives, and that the site is suitable for the development subject to conditions.

**SOURCE:**  
**Local Planning Panel**  
**agenda 3.1, 10 Apr 2025**



# Contracts announced for new Umina preschool

**Design and construction contracts have been awarded for the new public preschool, to be “co-located” at Umina Beach Public School, NSW Minister for Education Ms Prue Car announced last week.**

She said the preschool would provide free placements for up to 120 students.

“The new Central Coast public preschools are part of the Minns Labor Government’s record \$769 million investment to deliver 100 new public preschools across NSW by early 2027,” she said.

“This initiative is the largest investment in public preschools in the state’s history and will double the number of public preschools in NSW, increasing the overall number of public preschool placements by up to 9000 to more than 13,000.”

She said the preschool would

“ensure children are well prepared for kindergarten, helping busy working families avoid the double drop off, and making the transition to school as seamless as possible”.

The announcement was made in a visit to the school on Wednesday, April 2, by Ms Car, State Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch, Federal Member for Robertson Dr Gordon Reid and the Education Department’s director of educational leadership Ms Joanne Wilcher.

Ms Tesch said: “I am delighted to see planning work progressing for the new public preschool at Umina Beach Public School.

“This new public preschool will provide dozens of new free preschool places for young children and their families in our community, and provide more quality early education places for our local community.

“I have heard from too many families who are unable to access

early childhood education spaces on the southern end of the Central Coast.”

Dr Reid said: “It is vital our youngest learners are given the best opportunity to thrive, and I am so pleased to see the NSW Government making this investment.”

Umina Beach Public School principal Ms Karen Wardlaw said: “I am thrilled to be moving forward with design and construction of our preschool at Umina Beach Public School.

“We know that our preschool will significantly enrich educational offerings for the youngest learners in our community, strengthening community ties and providing our families with greater access to quality early childhood education.”

**SOURCE:**

**Media release, 2 Apr 2025  
Prue Car, NSW Minister  
for Education**



## Committee to hear about capital works process

**Central Coast Council’s Infrastructure and Assets Committee will hear a report tomorrow, Tuesday, April 8, about the council’s Capital Works Process.**

According to the agenda, the report is presented to provide an overview of the scope of the committee “as determined by the Terms of Reference which includes: Infrastructure planning and forward program, Strategic asset management, and Significant

capital works including Water and Sewer infrastructure.

The presentation at the meeting is expected to outline and introduce capital works matters such as capital works process; governance structure; top projects; financial year progress; interactive map; and the 10 year road renewal interactive map for the Committee’s information and discussion.

**SOURCE:**

**Committee agenda, 8 Apr 2025  
Infrastructure and Assets  
1.3, Central Coast Council**



## Wicks stall in Lions Park

**Liberal candidate for Robertson Ms Lucy Wicks held a stall from 9am to 11am on Saturday, April 5, in Lions Park, Woy Woy.**

She offered “a snag, face

painting and music”, inviting residents to “come by for a chat” in the lead-up to the Federal election.

**SOURCE:**

**Social media, 5 Apr 2025  
Lucy Wicks, Liberal  
candidate for Robertson**



**Cllr Jane Smith**  
Independent - Central Coast Council

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## Our COSS lands under threat

**For many people in the community - and also Council staff and Councillors - it was difficult to understand.**

A parcel of land that was identified to be included in COSS was up for sale, Council had funds that could only be used to purchase COSS lands and the owner was willing to sell.

Even though everything was in place, 8 out of 15 Councillors voted against the COSS acquisition at the Council meeting held on 25 March 2025.

The Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Strategy was first talked about and established in the late 1970s by Gosford Council. It is believed that COSS was formalised in 1984 - which means that it is now over 40 years old.

COSS is unique in NSW. It involves the identification of suitable parcels of environmental land to be added to the COSS Reserves and a process of voluntary acquisition if and when those properties became available. As at 2024, about 65% of land identified for COSS (by area) had been acquired—so there is still more work to be done.

Funds are held in a reserve for this purpose. Those funds have been accumulated through a “bonus lot provision” process and a “COSS levy”. Both of these mechanisms are no longer in place.

COSS matters. For many people, one of attractions of living on the Central Coast is the natural beauty, including the vegetated hillsides - a lot of that land is COSS, or identified for COSS.

Sadly, we now see COSS under threat. A

number of Councillors, including former Gosford Mayor Lawrie McKinna, have indicated that they do not support the protection and expansion of COSS, as has been well documented in previous strategies and plans.

**How they voted on the proposal to purchase COSS lands:**

**For:** Labor (MacGregor, Castles, Crowley, Walsh, Neal) Independents (Lamont, Smith)

**Against:** Liberal (McNamara, McWaide, Wright, Stanton, Eaton), Team Central Coast (McKinna, Daniels, Moulant)



**Central Coast New Independents**

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*Disclaimer - Views expressed in these articles are my own and do not represent the views of Council*



News

Anzac Day dawn service at Pearl Beach

An Anzac Day dawn service of remembrance will be held on the Pearl Beach beachfront from 6am to 6.45am on Friday, April 25.

It will be followed by refreshments in the Pearl Beach Memorial Hall, where a donation to Legacy will be requested.

The service will include wreath-laying and presentations and readings by locals including gentle guitar music presenting a solemn and beautiful start to the day.

Those attending are asked to bring a candle and a chair.

In wet weather, the service will be held at the Memorial Hall.

Pictured is Mr Phil Rich playing guitar at a previous beachfront dawn service.



SOURCE:  
Media release, 25 Mar 2025  
Lynne Lillico, Pearl Beach  
Progress Association

Minister compiles resources ‘to help feed your spirit’

The minister for the Central Coast South Uniting Churches at Umina and Kincumber has circulated a list of apps, websites and other resources to help with “daily devotionals ... to help you feed your spirit every day”.

The Reverend Frank Van Der Korput compiled the list after receiving suggestions from his congregation.

The compilation included four apps and eight other resources.

The apps were Lectio 365, Our Daily Bread, The Word for Today and Bible Gateway.

Mr Van Der Korput said Lectio 365 was a smartphone app with devotions three times a day.

“It uses the acronym PRAY, with P Pausing to be still, R Rejoicing with a psalm and Reflecting on a

scripture, A Asking God to help us and others and Y Yielding to his will in our lives, come what may.”

He said Our Daily Bread was available as an app, a daily email or as a booklet in the post.

The Word for Today was in the Vision Media app, he said.

“You can also receive this by email or by post.”

Bible Gateway had a “Verse of the Day” every day, and the website and app had lots of Bible reading plans.

“This is the Bible I carry instead of carrying a paper one,” he said.

Other resources included With Love to the World.

“This is a lectionary-based devotional from the Uniting Church.

“Ms Pam Carter from Umina has ordered, received and distributed this to subscribers for many years.

“New subscribers are always welcome.”

Mr Van Der Korput said The Passion Translation was a new translation, with devotionals twice a week.

He said Faith Gateway had excerpts from hundreds of Christian books.

“I can highly recommend their Devotionals Daily.

“I quoted from two different devotionals last Sunday.

“They have even led me to purchase a book or two.”

Websites suggested by Mr Van Der Korput included the Facebook group Year with Jesus with short videos from Ian Freestone each week, Leading the Way with Dr Michael Youssef at <https://au.ltw.org>, Harvest with Pastor Greg Laurie at <https://harvest.org> and Jesuit and Ignation Spirituality Australia at <https://jisa.org.au>.

Mr Van Der Korput said: “Another parishioner found a book at the Kincumber Op Shop.

“It is called God of Peace - Biblical Reflections on Peace from Ireland – with lyrics from Maire Brennan’s Perfect Time Album.

“It is beautifully presented with muted photos, bible readings, prayers and personal remarks.

“It’s a real gem.”

SOURCE:  
Newsletter, 30 Mar 2025  
Frank Van Der Korput,  
CCS Uniting Churches

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## Reid says commitments were delivered

**Member for Robertson Dr Gordon Reid has claimed the Federal Labor Government has “delivered” on its local commitments to the people of the Central Coast over the last three years.**

He said the commitments included the Medicare Urgent Care Clinic for Umina Beach.

It also include a \$40 million Central Coast Roads Package, and thousands of dollars of grant funding to local not-for-profit community organisations.

He said he had facilitated cost of living forums, scams forums, seniors’ forums, women’s and men’s health forums, and community forums across the electorate of Robertson.

He had also secured over a million dollars for general practices on the Central Coast, and changed the Distribution Priority Area on the Central Coast to allow general practices to draw upon a greater

pool of available doctors.

A community battery had been installed in Narara, to help store solar electricity and bring down energy bills.

He said he secured millions for local sports facility upgrades in Kincumber and Kariong, as well as \$100 million to upgrade Avoca Dr through Kincumber.

Dr Reid said Labor would deliver a new Medicare Urgent Care Clinic in the Terrigal district if re-elected.

He said \$1.8 million would be spent to upgrade Ettalong Beach foreshore.

Other spending would include a \$93 million Central Coast Roads Package, \$10 million to improve maternity services at Gosford and Wyong hospitals, \$15 million to fix intersections in Empire Bay and \$115 million to upgrade Terrigal Dr in Erina and Terrigal.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 4 Apr 2025  
Gordon Reid, Member for Robertson



## Marine Rescue volunteers undertake rigorous training exercise

**Marine Rescue Central Coast volunteers were put through some rigorous training exercises on Sunday, March 23, with a certified firefighting and sea survival course.**

All volunteer Marine Rescue members were required to successfully complete the course as part of becoming part of a boat crew.

The firefighting side of the course involved several different firefighting methods, including the use of fire extinguishers utilising foam, water and CO2.

The correct handling and ignition of rescue flares was also part of the training program.

The sea survival portion of the exercise was to familiarise boat crew members with survive at sea and coping with extreme weather

conditions.

The volunteers were faced with difficult tasks including putting life jackets on themselves and each other while in the water, having to swim a specified distance towing another person, all while building confidence and trust in each other.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 24 Mar 2025  
Marine Rescue Central Coast

## Expired flare collection

**Marine Rescue Central Coast has announced that an expired flare collection will be held in Woy Woy on Friday, April 25.**

It will be held at the boat ramp in Lions Park in North Burge Rd, Woy Woy, between 3pm and 4:30pm.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 4 Apr 2025  
Marine Rescue Central Coast

# Dr Gordon Reid MP

Member for Robertson



## Caring for the Coast

Authorised by Dr G Reid, ALP, Level 3, 69 Central Coast Highway, West Gosford, NSW 2250

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## Saga illustrates planning system flaws

**The drawn-out almost four-year saga of development application DA/61592/2021 for 16 Warrah St, Ettalong, serves as a starkly ludicrous illustration of the deep flaws within the NSW planning system.**

It began its tortuous journey on April 21, 2021, for a simple three-unit multi dwelling and attracted considerable local objection.

With 27 submissions and a 43-signature petition, it was refused by the Local Planning Panel on November 24, 2022, due to a clear breach of minimum lot size regulations in the Gosford Local Environmental Plan 2014, and the applicant's unsuccessful attempt to justify this non-compliance.

However, the matter was far from over.

Following a fruitless Section 8.2 review requested by the applicant and yet more amended plans, the applicant perhaps unsurprisingly appealed to the

Land and Environment Court with "conciliation" proceedings commencing on May 17 last year.

It's a disturbing outcome of this system that these conciliation conferences, supposedly aimed at speed and economy, so often result in forcing councils into approving developments they have initially rejected for good reason.

The statistics from last financial year speak volumes: 17 out of 20 Central Coast Council refusal appeals were upheld through this process,.

Obscured from public scrutiny, these conciliations, with their inevitable "appeal upheld" outcomes, feel more akin to a rigged trial where the council is always found wanting.

In the case of 16 Warrah St, the previously "unsatisfactory" justification suddenly became acceptable and the appeal was duly upheld on June 14.

The applicant and the legal fraternity were left content, while

the ratepayers were left to foot the bill, exemplified by the paltry \$10,000 awarded to the Council for the cost of its wasted defence.

The farcical conclusion to this ordeal taking over three years is that the applicant, having navigated this labyrinthine process, has simply opted for an entirely different design – a dual occupancy.

He has submitted as a Complying Development Certificate application which, due to its non-discretionary nature, was approved on the very same day it was lodged, March 31.

One must surely question the sanity of a planning system so easily circumvented and seemingly designed to exhaust and penalise everyone except the determined applicant, leaving us ratepayers to ponder when, if ever, these fundamental absurdities will be addressed.

**SOURCE:**  
Email, 6 Apr 2025  
Frank Wiffen, Woy Woy

## Drastic measures needed on housing, not tinkering around the edges

**The NSW government has just announced that it is releasing three redundant sites on the Central Coast for new housing development.**

Of course, it is desirable that the government repurpose any underutilized properties for higher and better uses, but this is just a stop-gap measure - a cosmetic gesture to make it appear that the government is taking action on the problem.

Once these sites are redeveloped, the government has exhausted that avenue for action, and we are back where we started from, no closer to a solution to the housing crisis than we were before.

Hand-wringing over the housing shortage has now become the standard mantra for every political party, but none wants to make a realistic assessment of the situation and recognize what needs to be done, to remedy the failures of the present system.

Every month, the supply of new housing falls further behind the need, but it seems that the government is incapable of original thinking on the issue, parroting the same old proposals that haven't worked in the past and pretending that the current difficulty is some kind of temporary blip that will correct itself, if we are just patient enough.

In the meantime, we are failing miserably to meet our shelter needs, not only in terms of absolute numbers but in terms of the types of shelter that we need for all the diverse households in our population.

For better or worse, we have made a policy decision to rely on the private market to supply every kind of housing that we need in every possible situation,

and nobody wants to admit that the private market is simply not fit for purpose in meeting a large proportion of housing demand that doesn't fall into profitable, standard housing-production patterns.

This systemic failure will continue to plague us, if the government isn't willing to step in and manipulate the financial levers that control the market, to make production more responsive to demand and to provide the infrastructure that will make a more encompassing housing output possible.

It's not as though there is no expert analysis or advice available to guide a new direction in the sector.

The problem has been studied for decades in multiple countries, and we know perfectly well what has and hasn't worked (mostly not worked).

What we lack is the political courage to face the issue and introduce the drastic measures

that will be needed, rather than tinkering around the edges with "policies" that are designed to sound palatable and not frighten voters but that will, in fact, have no practical effect in the overall picture.

Where is the political candidate in the upcoming election willing to tell it like it is?

Of course, it doesn't help that all political parties seem to be agreed that there is a dire shortage of skilled construction workers while, at the same time, being hell-bent on reducing the number of skilled construction workers that we'll allow into the country.

Politics works in mysterious ways.

**SOURCE:**  
Email, 1 Apr 2025  
Bruce Hyland, Woy Woy

## Aged care call for more beds

**The chief executive of a Woy Woy aged care home hopes the Federal election will focus attention on the future of aged care.**

Changes were needed to meet the growing demand for aged care beds, said Blue Wave Living chief executive Mr Matt Downie.

From 2026 onwards, the Baby Boomer generation group would turn 80 years of age, he said.

"This is a period of our lives when we are most likely to require aged care services, and this significant population group begins to move into that age demographic from next year onwards.

"Yet currently there is little growth in our industry to accommodate this known population increase in this age demographic.

"Of note is the complete lack of development of additional residential aged care beds, yet we must grow this significantly over

the next decade to accommodate this population cohort who will be aging and requiring access to these services," said Mr Downie.

"The lack of development is a simple result of the shortfall in income/funding over a number of years now and low or negative returns across the industry.

"Residential aged care remains a marginal business, and without enough surplus to provide surety to invest in significant capital development, the industry will continue to fail to deliver the additional capacity required.

"Already we are seeing elders stuck in hospital for extended periods of time, due to lack of available residential care beds.

"This issue will continue to worsen over the next decade without further investment in our sector," Mr Downie said.

"Building additional beds requires a number of years to complete, from initial planning,

approval, construction, certification, staffing and becoming operational.

"Typically, it is around a four to five year timeframe from beginning of the planning process through to full operational capacity.

"So there needs to be more certainty around the funding and income for the sector to begin this planning process to ensure the additional beds are there for our future known requirements.

"More needs to be done to support our industry moving forward, to ensure a long term sustainable future.

"The new Aged Care Act will assist.

"However, in my view, the funding remains a pinch point with insufficient returns to support and encourage growth in the sector," he said.

**SOURCE:**  
Newsletter, 1 Apr 2025  
Matt Downie, Blue Wave Living

## Climate change latest provided by objective scientists

**I have attended two climate change forums organised and hosted by Mr Richard Weller acknowledged climate change expert.**

Attending the forums has been a cost-friendly option to be educated by associate professors and academics.

What is the Peninsula's future, as a very low coastal sandplain with extreme vulnerability?

Which areas of the Peninsula are at high risk from the increased greenhouse effect?

I may be able to answer this question after I have attended following climate forums.

The good news is the forums include advice on the latest climate science provided by objective and competent scientists.

The Peninsula forum will be held at the Peninsula Community Cente on April 30. offering first hand knowledge on the latest climate change advice relevant to the Peninsula.

**SOURCE:**  
Letter, 3 Apr 2025  
Norm Harris, Umina

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Authorised by Chris Stone, Liberal, Level 2, 131 Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000.





## Health

# Disabled surfers association celebrates 20 years

**Central Coast Disabled Surfers Association has held its 20th anniversary celebrations at Ettalong Diggers on Saturday, March 29.**

Surfers, their families and carers and volunteers were joined by dignitaries and sponsors.

They included State Minister for Disability Inclusion Ms Kate

Washington, Federal Member for Robertson Dr Gordon Reid, Central Coast mayor Cr Lawrie McKinna, and founders Mr and Ms Gary and Lynne Blaschke, along with other supporters including Mr John Sharpe from Umina Surf Life Saving Club and Ms Di Bartok from the Rotary Club of Brisbane Water.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 29 Mar 2025  
Central Coast Disabled  
Surfers Association



## Balancing volunteering with busy lives

**The Bays Rural Fire Brigade is inviting local residents to balance of a busy life with volunteering.**

"Life is busy but, at The Bays Rural Fire Brigade, we make it work," said brigade captain Mr Stephen O'Donohue.

"Many of our volunteers have full-time jobs.

"They train in their spare time and respond when they can."

“You give what you can when you can.

"Volunteering is a family-friendly commitment."

"Kids love seeing their parents help the community, and partners are proud supporters."

"Whether it's weekends, evenings, or helping behind the scenes, every bit makes a difference.

“At the end of the day, it’s all about teamwork, support, and

community.

"We understand that life can be busy, and we'll help you find the right balance."

"Whether you're keen to be on the frontline as a firefighter or assist with brigade support, there's a role for you.

"Visit the station on Saturday mornings to find out more."

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 3 Apr 2025  
The Bays Rural Fire Brigade

# Aged care staff squat for breast cancer

**Staff at a Umina aged care facility have raised \$1420 in the month of March for the National Breast Cancer Foundation.**

"Throughout March, our Peninsula Villages staff took on the 58 Squat Challenge," said chief executive Mr Colin Osborne.

They completed 58 squats

a day which equated to the 58  
Australians diagnosed with breast  
cancer each day.

"We raised \$1420, smashing our \$1000 goal."






Donations may be made online  
at <https://fundraise.nbcf.org.au>.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 2 Apr 2025  
Colin Osborne, Peninsula Villages

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## Anthony Albanese and your local Labor MP Gordon Reid have failed the Coast:

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-  **Broken promises including \$275 off power bills**
-  **Housing crisis, with 12 interest rate rises and 16% increase in rents**
-  **\$450m referendum that divided Australians**
-  **Weak leadership**



## AUSTRALIA'S PER CAPITA RECESSION EXTENDS TO SEVENTH QUARTER

As higher for longer interest rates and inflation continue to bite, Aussies have been hit with more bad news

News.com.au, 4/12/2024

**The Courier Mail**  
**MORTGAGE BOMB**  
Mortgage Payments have tripled  
under Albo  
The Courier Mail 02/01/2025



## Record number of households taking up energy hardship plans

Sky News, 3/12/2024



# Comfort bears are ready

The Umina Beach branch of the Country Women's Association is ready to make a donation of comfort toys to Woy Woy ambulance station. "All our bears are stuffed full of hugs and support ready to be delivered to the ambulance

station," said publicity officer Ms Margy Logan. "We hope that they are a comfort to anyone needing a ride in an ambulance." SOURCE: Social media, 25 Mar 2025 CWA Umina Beach



# Brigades hold joint training exercise

Pearl Beach Fire Brigade conducted a joint training exercise with the Patonga Volunteer Rural Bush Fire Brigade on the Warrah Trig track on Saturday, March 22. "It's wonderful to have the opportunity to be able to share training and build familiarity with our neighbours from the brigade over the hill," said Pearl Beach captain Mr Lindsay Boyd. "We are always happy to have a chance to build our technical skills

and knowledge with equipment drills and local area awareness, as well as get our hands on hoses and boots on the ground." Among those participating were three trainees from the Patonga brigade. The exercise included "live reels", providing back up water by supplying water truck-to-truck and going through a scenario in the bush followed by a debrief. SOURCE: Social media, 22 Mar 2025 Pearl Beach Brigade, NSW RFS





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Authorised by Chris Stone, Liberal, Level 2, 131 Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000.



Arts



Book fair and art fair at Pearl Beach at Easter

A book fair will be held at the Pearl Beach Memorial Hall from 9am to 5pm on Easter Saturday, April 19.

An art fair will be held at the Pearl Beach Arboretum on the same day.

The book fair, in its 48th year, will have novels, biographies, children's book, art books, house and garden books, as well as puzzles, vinyl records and DVDs.

Book Fair co-ordinator Ms Alison Phillips said she was delighted with the standard and quality of books donated this year.

The fair will have a Back Deck Cafe, Easter raffle and a Homemade by Locals stall, situated at the front of the Memorial Hall selling quality and unusual handmade items.

Entry is free, with cash and credit cards accepted to make a purchase or buy raffle tickets.

Proceeds from the Book Fair and raffle go toward Pearl Beach Progress Association initiatives and Memorial Hall upkeep.

Pearl Beach Artists will run an Art Fair in the Arboretum from 10am to 4pm on the same day, with art, jewellery and craft produced in Pearl Beach.

Lunch will be available from Two Turkeys Catering at the Arboretum Cottage Café.

Art installations for the PBEAT2025 exhibition will be available for viewing.

SOURCE: Media release, 25 Mar 2025 Lynne Lillico, Pearl Beach Progress Association

Little Theatre to stage Agatha Christie

Agatha Christie's Witness for the Prosecution will be staged by the Woy Woy Little Theatre from Friday, May 9, with 10 performances over three weekends.

The production will feature a cast of 12 actors, directed by Christine Vale.

The story follows the trial of Leonard Vole, played by Chad Davis, who is arrested for the murder of Miss Emily French, a wealthy older woman.

Unaware that he was a married man, Miss French made him her principal heir, casting suspicion on him.

When his wife, Romaine, played by Kassie Brown, agrees to testify.

She does so not in Leonard's defence but as a witness for the prosecution.

Other cast members are Troy Hester who plays Mr Mayhew, the solicitor of the accused, and Duncan Piney who plays Sir Wilfrid Roberts QC, senior counsel of the accused.

Graham Vale plays Crown prosecutor Mr Myers QC and Robert Stephen plays Inspector Hearne, the arresting officer.

Mark Austin plays judge Mr Justice Wainwright and Greg Buist plays Carter, Sir Wilfrid's chief clerk, while Samara Dawson plays



Greta, Sir Wilfrid's typist.

Dale Trueman plays clerk of the court.

Gordon Crawford plays police surgeon Dr Wyatt.

Jenna Arnold plays Janet Mackenzie, Emily French's housekeeper.

Tickets are on sale with more

than 60 per cent already booked.

Subscriptions are still open for the 2025 season for the three plays remaining at a saving of 20 per cent.

SOURCE: Media release, 2 Apr 2025 Graham Vale, Woy Woy Little Theatre

Create leaves for public art installation

A school holiday activity for children and adults at Umina Library will "create ceramic leaves for the Alba Tree", a public art installation at the Pearl Beach Arboretum.

The activity will be held in two sessions on Monday, April 14, from 9:30am to 11am and from 11:30am to 1pm.

The sessions will be facilitated by professional artist Ms Shellie Christian.

"The Alba Tree symbolises new beginnings and hope, inspired by the word Alba, meaning dawn," said Ms Christian.

"Like the first light of day, it represents growth, change, and

transformation.

"More than a symbol, it is a community-driven public art project that will come to life during a two week period where The Alba Tree will be on display at The Arboretum in Pearl Beach.

"The tree's steel structure, enhanced with driftwood, will be built on-site, with the handcrafted clay leaves added to the tree to reflect its rebirth.

"To foster community involvement, free clay leaf-making workshops will be held, inviting people of all ages to create unique leaves that will become part of the tree.

"The transformation will be celebrated at an opening event on

National Tree Day, Sunday, July 27.

"After The Alba Tree showing, all participants will receive their leaves, along with a thank-you card and a link to a time-lapse video capturing the tree's journey."

The activity is suitable for all ages from eight years to adult.

All children need to be accompanied by an adult and families are welcome.

Tickets must be booked for each participant attending.

Bookings may be made at the library or by phone on 4304 7333.

SOURCE: Website, 31 Mar 2025 Library Services, Central Coast Council

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Author talk to be held at Woy Woy library

An author talk will be held by Ms Lauren K McKellar at 10:30am on Thursday, April 10, at Woy Woy Library, where she will be in conversation with fellow author Ms Karina May.

Ms McKellar will discuss her latest book The Calendar Mums, written as a warm, funny and

heart-breaking book about what it means to be a mother.

She will chat with fellow writer Karina May, author of the novel That Island Feeling.

Bookings are essential and may be made at the library or phone on 4304 7555.

SOURCE: Website, 3 Apr 2025 Library Services, Central Coast Council

Detective

Former detective Mr Luke Taylor will hold a crime scene investigation workshop for young people of high school age at Woy Woy library on Thursday, April 17.

The school holiday activity promises "a deep dive into authentic crime scenes".

It will cover the right questions to ask, how detectives think and "how the professionals really do it".

Bookings are essential.

SOURCE: Website, 31 Mar 2025 Library Services, Central Coast Council



# Tropical beach party without thongs or bikinis

A “tropical beach party” student disco will be held at Umina Beach Public School tomorrow, Tuesday, March 8, without thongs, bare torsos or bikinis.

However, students are being encouraged to dress up in Hawaiian shirts, leis, “beach vibes”, bright colours and scuba gear.

A session for Years K-2 will be held from 5pm-6.15pm.

A session for Years 3-6 will be

held from 6:30pm to 8pm.

The school’s Easter raffle will be drawn at the disco, with the winner “bringing home an epic boxes of chocolate eggs”.

Tickets for the “drop-and-go event” cost \$8, which includes snack, drink and gift.

Entry on the evening will be via the main office gates, while exit will be via the school hall gates.

SOURCE:  
Social media, 1 Apr 2025  
Umina Beach Public School P/C



## Djembe drumming team larger than ever

Ettalong Public School’s Stage 3 djembe drumming team is larger than ever

this year with close to 30 of its size. drummers.

The team has been preparing a new routine that takes advantage

SOURCE:  
Social media, 3 Apr 2025  
Ettalong Public School



## Collaborative artworks for Harmony Week

Ettalong Public School students celebrated Harmony Week by creating collaborative artworks.

“They learnt about different cultures, harmony and respect,

wore a dash of orange and enjoyed some orange treats,” said principal Ms Jodie Campbell.

SOURCE:  
Social media, 4 Apr 2025  
Jodie Campbell, Ettalong Public School

## Teachers learn connecting to country

Four members of staff at the Umina campus of Brisbane Water Secondary College have participated in “Connecting to Country professional learning”.

The teachers Ms Tullia Cilia, Ms Rebecca Parker, Mr Paul Richardson and Mr Craig White attended the course led by Regional Aboriginal Education Consultative Group, including the school’s aboriginal education officer Mr Mauri Goolagong.

The teacher said it was an incredible experience and they looked forward to applying their new knowledge back at school.

SOURCE:  
Social media, 4 Apr 2025  
BWSC Umina



## Anzac service at Ettalong school on Thursday

Ettalong Public School will hold its Anzac Day service at 9:30am this Thursday, April 10.

“Students will be making class wreaths and individual poppies which will be combined for a special photograph,” said principal Ms Jodie Campbell.

Rehearsals have been held with the catafalque party and the choir which will be singing in the service.

The school will hold its Easter

hat parade students in Years K-2 at 2pm on the same day.

Ms Campbell said: “Throughout the last few years, it had been extended beyond Years K-2 to support our students who had missed out on many opportunities due to the Covid shutdowns.

“During the event, Year 6 students will be running a secondhand uniform stall.”

SOURCE:  
Newsletter, 2 Apr 2025  
Ettalong Public School

Woy Woy South Public School held its Cross Country Carnival on Wednesday, March 26.

Ribbons for the first three place getters were awarded on the day.

Age champion banners were to be presented last week.

Zone cross country is scheduled for Friday, May 23, at Rogers Park.

The Cross Country Crew training will continue until Week 4 of Term 2.

Everyone in Grades 2-6 are welcome to come and run, not just the zone team.

SOURCE:  
Social media, 29 Mar 2025  
Woy Woy South Public School





Education



## Assembly for swimmers

Brisbane Water Secondary College Umina campus held a whole school assembly in Week 9 to recognise the achievements of students competing at Sydney North Swimming championships. “Our students shone in the pool with many records made and their excellence recognised,” said principal Ms Kerrie Thomas. “We are so very proud.”

SOURCE:  
Social media, 30 Mar 2025  
BWSC Umina



## Student leaders attend conference

Umina Beach Public School’s student leaders spent a day at the National Young Leaders Day at the International Sydney Convention Centre in Sydney on Tuesday, March 25. Speakers included Bondi Rescue lifeguard Anthony “Harries” Carroll representing community service, screenwriter Thomas Duncan-Watt representing the arts, Olympic swimmer Emma McKeon representing sport and actor Catherine Laga’aia representing the arts.

SOURCE:  
Social media, 25 Mar 2025  
Umina Beach Public School



## Open girls netball team plays in round two

The Brisbane Water Secondary College Woy Woy campus Open Girls netball team took part in the Combined High Schools netball competition. The team was defeated by Northern Beaches Secondary College, Freshwater Campus, in a “hard-fought battle” in the second round of the competition. “Despite facing an incredibly strong opposition, our girls never backed down, showing

determination, pride, and true College sportsmanship,” said campus principal Ms Rebecca Cooper. “The whole team worked tirelessly in training and came together as a strong, cohesive unit. “While the scoreboard didn’t go our way, their resilience and teamwork were nothing short of inspiring.”

SOURCE:  
Social media, 1 Apr 2025  
BWSC Woy Woy

## Demonstration of the power of pulleys

Brisbane Water Secondary College deputy principal Mr Simon Warren gave a graphic demonstration of the power of the mechanical advantage offered with the use of pulleys last week. He struggled against the force of a block and tackle operated by a student. Mr Warren said he enjoyed teaching Team Nine about “simple machines” identified by Renaissance scientists.

SOURCE:  
Social media, 4 Apr 2025  
BWSC Umina



## Night under the Stars to showcase musical talents

Brisbane Water Secondary College will hold its free Night under the Stars, an “evening of live music, great food, and good vibes”, at Woy Woy campus from 6pm on Wednesday, April 9. Music students will take to the stage to showcase their talents until about 8:30pm. Food and drink for sale will include hot dogs, pulled pork, drinks and lollies.

The evening will be held in the PAC Courtyard, with entry via Green St only. In the event of rain, the concert will be held in the school hall. The winning poster for the evening was prepared by Eva Nensi. For more information about the event, call the campus on 4341 1600.

SOURCE:  
Social media, 4 Apr 2025  
BWSC Woy Woy

## Students see Shakespeare

English Advanced students from Woy Woy campus of Brisbane Water Secondary College experienced a high-energy production of King Henry IV Part 1 at the Seymour Centre at the University of Sydney recently. “They got to see the play come to life in an engaging and dynamic performance.”

SOURCE:  
Social media, 3 Apr 2025  
BWSC Woy Woy







## Bridge Upsidedown Pairs

**Graham Woof and Robin Vaughan were winners of the Upsidedown Pairs event played on Monday, March 24, at the Brisbane Water Bridge Club.**

The event gave inexperienced players the opportunity to play with higher level members. This year 15 novices took part, to improve their skills and to gain feedback on their progress.

Results were:

- 1 Robin Vaughan, Graham Woof 205.7 (61.22 per cent), 0.48 green points.
- 2 Sylvia Foster, Marilyn Reid 199.2 (59.29), 0.34.
- 3 Mal Matt Raj, Qi Hasemore 187.4 (55.77), 0.24.
- 4 Chris Hasemore, Carolyn Harper 185.2 (55.13), 0.16.
- 5 Barry Foster, Beryl Lowry

- 179.8 (53.53), 0.12.
- 6 Suzanne Farrelly, Helen Tod 173.4 (51.60), 0.10.
- 7 Christine Hadaway, John Aldersley 170.2 (50.64), 0.08.
- 8 Jacqueline Wilson, Mark Mannion 168.0 (50.00).
- 9 Lorraine Lindsay, Suzanne Rochester 160.5 (47.76).
- 10 Dasha Brandt, Daryll Knowles 157.2 (46.79).
- 11 Peter Hume, Caroline Nichols 154.0 (45.83).
- 12 David Bowerman, John Sandra 152.9 (45.51).
- 13 Donelle Foate, Debra Coulson 146.5 (43.59).
- 13 Felicity Fane, Wendy Byrne 146.5 (43.59).
- 15 Karen Ody, Michael Hall 134.6 (40.06).

**SOURCE:**  
Website, 25 Mar 2025  
Brisbane Water Bridge Club

## Searls Park petition signed by 1000

**A petition to name the Umina skate park the Dane “Chinga” Searls Memorial Park has raised more than 1000 signatures in a month.**

“Dane cut his teeth and honed his skills at the skate park before moving onto international success at the age of 18, soon after becoming regarded as one of the best dirt jump riders in the world,” said petition sponsor Mr Robbie Smith.

“In 2010, Dane went on to create Giants of Dirt showcasing the World’s Biggest Dirt Jump.

“He pushed the boundaries of BMX Dirt Jumping professionally and eventually landing a 60-foot (18-metre) gap on November 18, 2011.”

He died a week later on November 25, aged 23, at Gold



Coast Hospital after reportedly suffering head and back injuries in an unsuccessful attempt to jump into a swimming pool from a balcony in Queensland at a party celebrating the achievement.

Mr Smith said: “With the upgrade to the Umina Beach Recreation Area and the great work of the Umina Beach Community Group, we have a world class park to ride, for both skate and BMX disciplines.

“We propose that the park be named in his memory.

“He achieved his success through hard work and true grit and never forgetting who he was or where he came from: Umina skate park.

“Chinga’s name will inspire a new generation knowing where his road to success began at the Umina to becoming one of the best in the world and having such a positive impact along the way as an amazingly kind person and a true professional.”

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 24 Feb 2025  
Robbie Smith, Umina Skate Park

## Old surfboard fins wanted for trophies

**The Central Coast Disabled Surfers Association is seeking donations of 25 surfboard fins that can be made into trophies.**

“Our trophies are a hit with our surfers,” said association president Ms Rae Fiechter.

She said the fins were taken to the Terrigal Mens Shed which crafted them into trophies. during

the off-season.

“If you have old fins you wish to dispose of, please consider donating them to the association.”

For further information, phone 0415 866 485 or email president-central-coast@disabledsurfers.org.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 1 Apr 2025  
Central Coast Disabled Surfers Association



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Sport

Woy Woy scores convincing win over Gosford-Kariong

Woy Woy scored a convincing win over the newly-established Gosford-Kariong team in Round 1 of the Central Coast Rugby Union competition at Gosford Showground on Saturday, April 5.

Winning by 71 points to six. Woy Woy controlled proceedings for much of the match despite a great effort by the home team.

Woy Woy was able to score consistently throughout the contest.

The opening stages of the match were quite close however and Woy Woy only led by 14-3 at the midway point of the first half.

However, by halftime, they had jumped to a 31-6 lead and things were looking good for them.

Gosford tried everything to get back into the contest but Woy Woy was too strong on the day.

Woy Woy got stronger as the match went on and were able to post a further 40 points in the second half.

Best players for Woy Woy were No.8 Sete Falekaono, five-eight Harri Williams, the Fleming brothers, Corey and Damien, and centre Jean Besombes, who crossed for three tries.

"It was a great turnaround for Woy Woy who had a tough year in 2024," said rugby union publicity officer Mr Larry Thomson.

"Gosford-Kariong will get stronger and stronger as the season progresses."

SOURCE: Media release, 6 Apr 2025 Larry Thomson, CCRU



Peninsula Loop bike ride starts at Ettalong

A "Peninsula loop" ride, starting from the Ettalong shops, will be held from 8am on Saturday, April 19, by the Central Coast Bicycle Users Group.

The ride is described as a relaxed paced ride around the Peninsula of about 25kms, using some shared paths and some quiet roads.

A few detours will be available to avoid the short hills, if necessary.

It is expected to take up to 2.5 hours, with a coffee stop at Ettalong after the ride.

It will start from the carpark behind the Ride Ettalong bike shop at 285 Ocean View Rd, Ettalong.

Riders are asked to arrive at least five mins before start time to say hello and to sign on.

Ride organiser Mr Alan Corven said the ride was open only to legal and roadworthy bicycles and e-bikes.

He said: "Before the ride day check that your bike brakes and gears work, tyres are pumped up

and holding the recommended pressure.

"With any problems, ask your friendly bike shop to help the week before the ride.

"Wear an Australian approved bicycle helmet - on your head with adjusted straps

"Bring a spare bike tube to suite your tyres, tyre levers and pump or CO2, and some water and some money for coffee or tea after the ride.

"If under 18, you must be accompanied on the ride by a responsible adult.

"We also recommend that you have insurance, such as that provided through membership of Bicycle NSW."

He said the legality of bikes could be checked at <https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/operations/active-transport/e-bikes>.

For further information, phone 0414 538 977.

SOURCE: Social media, 4 Apr 2025 Alan Corven, CCBUG

Everglades holds bowling carnival

Everglades Bowling Club held its bowling carnival on Wednesday, March 26.

The format was two games of three bowls triples with 11 ends each game.

"The weather was fantastic but the sportsmanship and friendship were even better, with 28 teams competed in the carnival," said

secretary Ms Vicki Redrup.

"It was wonderful to see the two greens full of bowlers from all over the Coast and beyond."

The carnival was organised by Col Nicholls and Grant Ireland, with many members lending a hand on the day.

Warrick Forrest was umpire.

First place went to Mark Stimpson, Kay Mitchell and Lila

McDonald.

Second place went to Don McFarlane, Beverly McFarlane and Gary Clarke.

In third place were R Burdon, B Emms and M Eastham.

In fourth place were R Clague, R Harman and S Starkey.

SOURCE: Social media, 31 Mar 2025 Everglades Country Club



Little Aths canteen team

Woy Woy Peninsula Little Athletics is looking for more volunteers to join its canteen team at McEvoy Oval next season.

"No experience is necessary to be part of Little Athletics club," said president Mr Kevin Wills.

"We provide all athletes and volunteers with a supportive and inclusive environment with resources for our committee positions and volunteer roles.

"Expressions of interest are being taken now and we hope to appoint a new Canteen team by

mid-May ready for the upcoming season.

"We always welcome new members and volunteers and have many other positions to help with also throughout the club."

Email [president@wwplac.com.au](mailto:president@wwplac.com.au) with your name and contact details for more information or to express your interest.

The club's annual general meeting will be held on May 18.

SOURCE: Media release, 6 Apr 2025 Jess Foster, Woy Woy Peninsula Little Athletics

Outrigger crews perform in strong winds

Central Coast Outrigger Canoe Club has performed well in strong winds and rain at the Port Hacking regatta on Saturday, March 29.

"Gusts were up to 28 knots which is nearly gale force and made conditions challenging," said head coach Michelle Costa.

The club entered three teams in the 16km course.

The club came second in master women, third in senior master women (lightweight canoe category), and the master men team (lightweight) were fifth, after all the age categories were combined.

"The master men finished in one hour 15 minutes, which is a fantastic work rate since four of the crew were novices and

Andy Debus was steering his first long course," said coach Yvonne Walters.

The club is now training for the State Titles in May.

The club trains regularly from Woy Woy and Patonga.

Anyone interested should email [centralcoastocc@gmail.com](mailto:centralcoastocc@gmail.com).

SOURCE: Media release, 4 Apr 2025 Linda Donnoni, CCOCC