



## Vietnam Veterans hold memorial service

**A Vietnam Veterans Day Memorial Service was held on Sunday, August 17, at the Ettalong Waterfront Park.**

The service marked the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan on August 18, 1966.

It was organised by the Vietnam Veterans' Peacekeepers' and Peacemakers' Association Of Australia Central Coast sub-branch.

Pictured are sub-branch vice-president Mr Wayne Jennings, Life Member, Vice President, Vietnam Veterans Association Central Coast Sub-Branch, and Woy Woy-Ettalong-Hardys Bay RSL sub-branch president Ms Dorothy Simpson laying a wreath.

About 250 people attended, including veterans, guests,

dignitaries and the 25 Australian Army Cadet Unit Erina.

Ettalong Diggers Club provided a lunch and entertainment to complement the commemoration.

Sub-branch spokesman Mr Norm Harris said that speakers at the service referred to the pride and valour that still resound with veterans.

"Thankfully weather conditions were conducive for a successful service.

"The waterfront memorial is as good as it gets.

"With Diggers Ettalong close by, attending, ceremonies is not a challenge.

"Australia's heritage is worthy of commemoration."

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 18 August 2025  
Norm Harris, VVPPAAC

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 and one of our volunteers will get back to you.

Mark Snell, 9 Nov 2023

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<https://bit.ly/PNphone>



**Next issue: Monday, September 8**

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**Email: [contributions@peninsula.news](mailto:contributions@peninsula.news)**

## No beach selected for shark net removal

**Central Coast Council staff are recommending the council does not select a beach for shark net removal.**

Umina Beach is one of the beaches under consideration.

The council staff have recommended in a report to tomorrow night's council meeting that "the one beach location to remove shark nets from is selected by Department of Primary Industries".

The recommendation was based on the department being responsible for the management, evaluation, and implementation of the Shark Management Program.

The report said that 11 shark nets were installed across the Central Coast annually at The Lakes, Soldiers, The Entrance, Shelly Beach, Terrigal, North Avoca, Avoca Beach, Copacabana, MacMasters Beach, Killcare and Umina Beach.

It stated that the Shark Meshing Program was introduced in 1937 and currently used nets six metres

deep and 150 metres wide to target White, Tiger and Bull sharks

They were equipped with acoustic warning devices such as dolphin pingers and whale alarms to deter marine mammals and minimise impacts on non-target species.

Inspections were conducted every two or three days by DPI contractors, or as needed in emergency situations.

Council staff said their adopted position remained that: "Council does not support ocean shark mesh nets and instead encourages DPI to consider alternatives and to fully utilise all available technology, including aerial surveillance with drones, community education programs, shark listening stations connected to a Shark Smart App, lifeguard towers, Smart drum lines, and personal deterrents."

The report said that pilot-operated drone surveillance was conducted during spring, summer, and autumn school holiday periods to identify any shark activity near

patrolled areas.

"There are three drone surveillance locations across the region at The Entrance, Avoca Beach, and Ocean Beach."

It also stated: "Whilst there are 32 drumlines installed across the region, there are no drumlines south of MacMasters Beach with Killcare, Ocean Beach and Umina Beach having no coverage of this drumline technology."

Central Coast, Northern Beaches and Waverley local government areas have been selected for a further trial to remove nets at one beach each and the Council's nominating one beach each.

Council staff proposed the invitation to participate in the trial program be accepted.

However, they recommended the department responsible for the program identify the most suitable beach location.

**SOURCE:**  
Central Coast Council agenda item 5.1, 26 Aug 2025

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.

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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.

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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.

Community forum attracts 50 residents

More than 50 residents have attended a forum convened at Umina by local political representatives.

Federal Member for Robertson Dr Gordon Reid alongside State Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch hosted the forum, together with Gosford West ward's Cr Trent McWaide.

Those attending were invited to ask questions about any topic, with questions covering healthcare, aged care, the environment, and local infrastructure needs.

Dr Reid said: "Throughout my first term, I made it a priority to organise forums across every part of the electorate to give our community the opportunity to meet with me and raise matters that are

important to them.

"I will continue to host regular community forums and include representatives from the NSW Government, as well as from Central Coast Council.

"These forums are an excellent platform to raise ideas, seek assistance with matters, or simply to meet your local representatives."

The "Ask Us Anything" Community Forum was held on Monday, August 11, from 11am at the Ocean Beach Surf Life Saving Club.

For more information about the forums, phone Dr Reid's office on 4322 2400 or email Gordon.Reid.MP@aph.gov.au.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 15 Aug 2025  
Gordon Reid, Member for Robertson



Visit from Blue Mountains district governor

The Rotary Club of Woy Woy recently had a visit from the district governor of the Blue Mountains Rotary clubs.

Ms Michele Ellery said she had "a great evening at the Rotary Club of Woy Woy".

She said the club conducted "outstanding community projects . . . that benefit so many".

She is pictured with Woy Woy member Mr Don Tee.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 5 Aug 2025  
Rotary Club of Woy Woy



Another wettest month in 21 years

The Peninsula has already had the wettest August in 20 years.

A total of 353.3mm had fallen by 9am on Friday, August 22, according to figures supplied by Mr Jim Morrison of Umina.

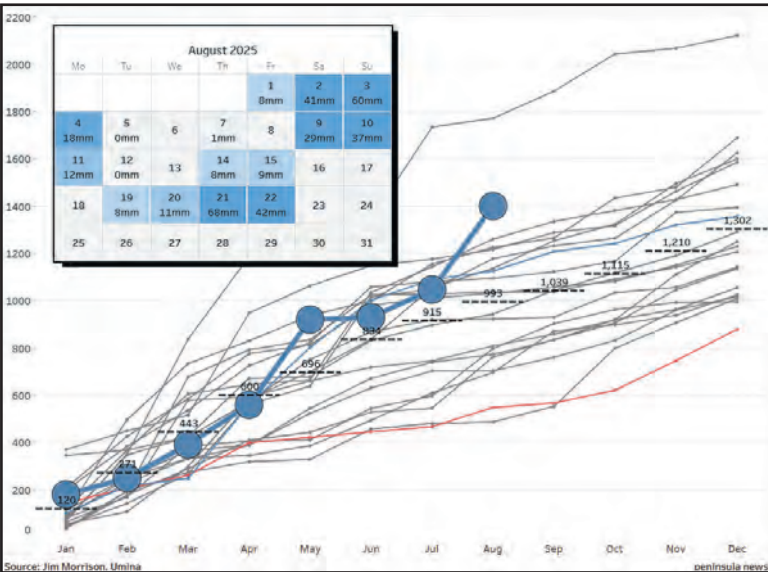
The next highest rainfall for August was 216.6mm recorded in 2014.

This is the second month this year that has recorded the highest rainfall for the month in the 21 years that Peninsula News has published rainfall figures.

A total of 360mm was recorded in May, with the next highest May rainfall being recorded last year with a total of 241.7mm.

This is the third month of extremes this year, with June having recorded the lowest rainfall in 20 years with just 10.1mm recorded.

This month's rain has brought the total for the year to 1397.5mm.



This is the second highest rainfall for the year to the end of August.

Only the year 2022 had recorded a greater amount, with a 1768.9mm cumulative total.

More details, including daily rainfall figures, are available online at <http://penne.ws/Rain>.

**SOURCE:**  
Spreadsheet, 22 Aug 2025  
Jim Morrison, Umina

TIDE TIMES and Heights	Mon, Aug 25	Thu, Aug 28	Sun, Aug 31	Wed, Sep 3	Sat, Sep 6
	0412 0.09	0529 0.12	0125 0.61	0515 0.58	0155 0.12
	1003 0.90	1145 0.91	0717 0.24	1030 0.30	0733 0.80
	1602 0.13	1804 0.23	1404 0.87	1715 0.97	1319 0.15
AT ETTALONG	2201 1.04	2347 0.78	2111 0.30		1940 1.18
	Tue, Aug 26	Fri, Aug 29	Mon, Sep 1	Thu, Sep 4	Sun, Sep 7
	0437 0.09	0559 0.14	0232 0.56	0031 0.20	0232 0.10
	1036 0.91	1225 0.90	0814 0.29	0611 0.64	0812 0.88
	1641 0.16	1854 0.26	1508 0.88	1132 0.26	1408 0.11
	2234 0.96		2233 0.28	1808 1.05	2023 1.21
	Wed, Aug 27	Sat, Aug 30	Tue, Sep 2	Fri, Sep 5	Mon, Sep 8
	0502 0.10	0031 0.69	0355 0.55	0115 0.16	0310 0.08
	1109 0.91	0634 0.19	0921 0.31	0654 0.71	0851 0.96
	1721 0.19	1310 0.88	1614 0.91	1228 0.20	1458 0.09
	2309 0.87	1955 0.29	2340 0.24	1856 1.12	2105 1.20

NEWS email: contributions@peninsula.news

# Council should ready itself for beach grant, says chamber

Central Coast Council should position itself to take advantage of Federal infrastructure grant opportunities that become available in October for beach renourishment at Ettalong, according to the Peninsula Chamber of Commerce.

"The current state of the beach between Picnic Parade and Ferry Rd is a disgrace and should never have been allowed to continually erode to the point where the foreshore reserve is now under severe threat," said Chamber president Mr Matthew Wales.

He said the Federal Government had made an election commitment of \$1.8M towards the renourishment and repair of the Ettalong Beach foreshore.

"The Federal funding will be made available to Central Coast Council through Infrastructure Australia subject to application being made through the funding portal in October," he said.

"It is important that Central Coast Council is encouraged to act quickly in securing the funds and preparing the necessary plans and reports for the work to commence

as soon as possible.

"We acknowledge that the funding process and preparation of the renourishment plans will take time.

"It is imperative that the scope of works is established early and that every advantage is taken to restore the beach and augment the Ettalong Beach reserve.

"Ettalong Beach is arguably one of the best estuarine waterfronts in New South Wales and it is extremely disappointing that action to restore the beach has not been taken sooner.

"We know that the Council has been looking at this project as part of the ongoing dredging of the Ettalong Beach channel.

"The Chamber was disappointed that the State Government did not start the renourishment works during the last dredging cycle", said Mr Wales.

"This is also an opportunity for the State Government to add State funding to the \$1.8M from monies that were going to be expended on the next round of dredging."

SOURCE: Media release, 12 Aug 2025 Matthew Wales, Peninsula Chamber of Commerce



## 'Aerial pump' truck called to Wyoming fire

The "aerial pump" fire truck from Umina Fire and Rescue station was called to Wyoming recently.

It was called to assist in

extinguishing a laundromat fire over the night of Friday and Saturday, August 8 and 9.

The fire was well alight despite the pouring rain before the fire

crew brought it under control.

SOURCE: Social media, 9 Aug 2025 Station 340 Umina, Fire and Rescue NSW

## Apply for 'greening' grant, says Tesch

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch has urged Central Coast Council to "get in on the bottom floor" and apply for its share of \$10 million to plant trees, shrubs, and native vegetation in parks, plazas, and other public spaces.

"With the Peninsula identified as an 'urban heat island', almost five degrees hotter than surrounding leafier suburbs, it is imperative the Council applies for its share of the Greening Our City program," Ms Tesch said.

"The Greening Our City program is designed to increase

tree planting, which helps reduce urban heat islands, supports our biodiversity and improves our public spaces and active transport routes.

"Heat islands and biodiversity loss are a growing challenge and urban environments must be part of the solution.

"Our cities play an important role in supporting a diverse range of flora and fauna, while providing critical habitat for endangered species.

"Eligible councils will receive funding and will be able to access data and strategic planning support to assist in effective urban greening."

Ms Tesch said a new advisory panel, comprising experts from industry, academia, and local government, would be established later this year to guide the program's delivery, provide feedback on policy, and help test new initiatives.

"These projects play a vital role in building climate resilience, improving air quality, and creating cooler, more connected communities."

The grant round is open until 5pm on Friday, September 26.

SOURCE: Media release, 13 Aug 2025 Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford



## CWA makes comfort toys

The Umina Beach branch of the Country Women's Association has made a range of comfort toys for donation to the local ambulance service.

The toys were made by two members for children who need to travel by ambulance.

SOURCE: Social media, 14 Aug 2025 CWA Umina Beach

## Residents hold councillor forum one year on

The Peninsula Residents Association will hold a free public forum with the three local Gosford West Ward councillors at Everglades Golf Club on September 18.

Cr Trent McWaide, Cr Belinda Neal and Cr Jane Smith have been invited to reflect on their first year

representing the Peninsula and to talk about what the future holds in store.

Doors will open at 6:30pm for a 7pm start.

During the 90-minute forum, residents will have the opportunity to hear directly from councillors about their work, learn about

upcoming priorities for the Peninsula, and to ask questions, raise concerns and share ideas.

Seats may be reserved online via <http://penne.ws/mgFupP>.

SOURCE: Social media, 16 Aug 2025 Julian Bowker, Peninsula Residents Association

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

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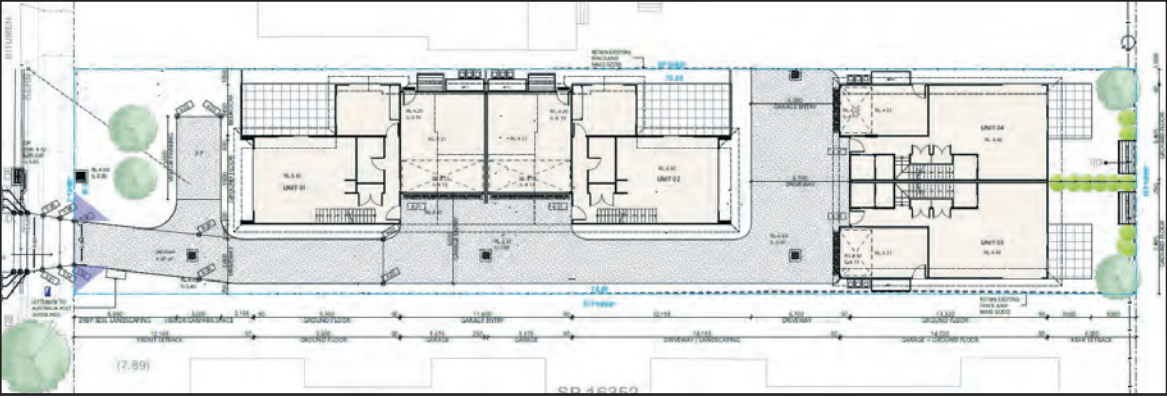
Community Bank Ettalong Beach 263-267 Ocean View Rd Ettalong Beach 4344 4206

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



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.

Planning



## Four-bedroom units would lose 21 trees

**A development application has been lodged with Central Coast Council to replace a single house with four two-storey four-bedroom units at 56 Schnapper Rd, Ettalong.**

The proposal would require the removal of 21 trees from the site, described as “mostly exotics, fruit trees and some palms”.

The application claims: “The proposal seeks to maintain suitable medium-sized canopy trees as outlined in the landscape plan and therefore meets the intent of the landscaping provisions to retain existing trees within the deep soil zones.”

The landscape plan proposes six “large to medium” trees on site, including a water gum, a tuckeroo and a lilly pilly and a quandong.

The application claims a total landscaped area of 297.45 square metres with 146.28 square metres deep soil.

By comparison, a concrete driveway takes around 284 square metres of the 1101 square metre site.

The application claims that five car parking spaces would be provided, including one visitor car

park. However, the plans show seven car parks, with units 1 and 2 having double garages and units 3 and 4 singles, and one visitor park within the front setback.

The application has been prepared by Clarke Dowdle and Associates for Capstone Projects, with ELK Architecture.

It claims compliance with the height limit of 8.5 metres and setbacks at rear, front and sides.

The site is zoned R1 General Residential and which allows a maximum floor space ratio of 0.5:1.

The proposal has a ratio of 0.51:1 and a request has been lodged to permit this.

The required 45 square metres of private open space is provided at ground level for units 3 and 4, while units 1 and 2 rely on a 17 square metre contribution from their first floor balconies which are not accessed from living areas as required by the planning provisions.

Shadow diagrams have been provided and appear to show possible shading to the southern neighbour’s internal living spaces but this has not been addressed in

the application.

Addressing visual privacy, the states that the balconies of units 1 and 2 and of units 3 and 4 will be screened from each other.

The application states: “Each unit would include garages, a bedroom, living-dining areas and adjoining private open space located on the ground floor with three bedrooms located on the first floor with living on the ground floor.”

It concludes: “The proposed multi-dwelling housing development at 56 Schnapper Rd is consistent with the objectives, planning strategies and controls applicable to the site.”

“The proposal provides increased housing density and additional smaller dwellings that are in acute demand, well designed to meet residential needs and is commensurate with the character of the surrounding area.”

The proposal is currently on public exhibition on the Central Coast Council website and is open for submissions until September 19.

**SOURCE:**  
**DA Tracker, 23 Aug 2025**  
**DA/942/2025, Central Coast Council**

## Chamber calls for review of Woy Woy planning

**The Peninsula Chamber of Commerce has called for an “overhaul of the Woy Woy planning controls and town centre revitalisation”.**

“We will pressuring both Central Coast Council and the NSW State Government to place more resources towards this,” said chamber president Mr Matthew Wales.

“Woy Woy remains a challenge despite the State Government’s recent Transport Orientated Development initiatives and Low to Medium Rise Housing legislation, which so far has failed to attract any significant investment around the Woy Woy rail station,” he said.

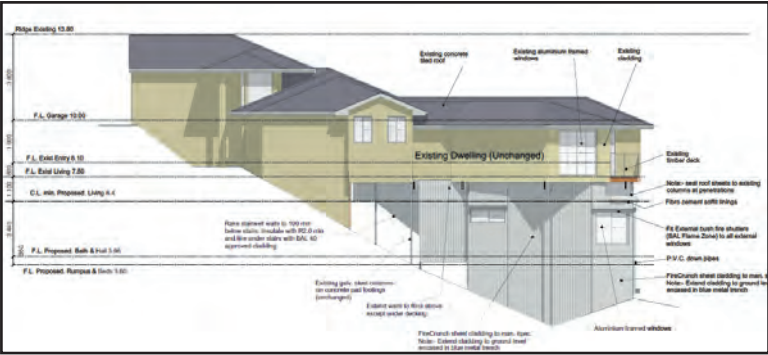
“We are experiencing a marked shift in demographics, a steady property market that has seen strong growth since Covid-19,

strong residential redevelopment and a continuing resurgence of the Ettalong Beach town centre and the Umina Beach retail centre.”

Mr Wales said: “The next 12 months will also see greater networking opportunities for the local business community together with the forging of stronger ties with the Brisbane Water Secondary College and local sporting groups and associations.

“We certainly encourage local businesses to join and support the Peninsula Chamber of Commerce so that we can continue to lobby all levels of government better business conditions and improved opportunities”

**SOURCE:**  
**Media release, 12 Aug 2025**  
**Matthew Wales, Peninsula Chamber of Commerce.**



## Lower floor extension proposed at The Sanctuary

**A new lower ground floor extension, including a rumpus room, two bathrooms, and a two-bedroom suite, is being proposed for an existing dwelling at 35 The Sanctuary, Umina.**

The 1115 square metre site is located on a rocky hillside sloping down from the street.

There are no proposed changes to the existing upper ground floor levels of the dwelling.

The extension will feature a low-pitched roof, situated below the current decked area, effectively separating it from the original structure.

The application prepared by Lever Designs states that “the rear section of the dwelling is a lightweight rendered clad structure set high on galvanised steel poles with approximately three metres of headroom to the existing level ground below”.

The proposal states that it will have a minimal effect on any views or privacy enjoyed by adjoining properties and garden areas.

Furthermore, as the height and rooflines of the existing building are not changing, there are no anticipated overshadowing issues for neighbouring properties.

The development is also not expected to impact the existing traffic situation, generate additional

traffic, or affect local car parking requirements.

Regarding the site’s environmental considerations, the application indicates that existing soil levels at the boundaries will remain unchanged, with no significant cut or fill. There will be only a small area of additional excavation directly under the dwelling.

All stormwater from new and proposed roofs will be directed to the existing water tank and dispersed on site.

While no significant vegetation is generally affected, the report notes that some small to medium trees at the rear may be removed for bushfire protection.

The development is intended to maintain the area’s desired character of “Umina 10: Woodland Hill-sides,” aiming to conserve natural and scenic qualities.

The proposed extension’s bulk and scale are described as being in proportion to other buildings in the area, with minimal impact on the existing streetscape and scenic quality.

The application is currently on public exhibition on the Central Coast Council eplanning portal and open for written submissions until 12th September.

**SOURCE:**  
**DA Tracker, 24 Aug 2025**  
**DA/733/2025, Central Coast Council**

## Childcare application re-exhibited

**Central Coast Council is re-exhibiting a development application for alterations and additions to a childcare centre on the corner of Booker Bay Rd and Davis St, Booker Bay.**

The Local Planning Panel refused development application DA/1317/2023 for the proposed alterations and additions to the centre known as Belong Early Learning Centre, at 97-99 Booker Bay Rd and 2 Davis St, on December 19.

The main reasons for refusal included that it failed to adequately address the cumulative impacts of the expanded childcare centre, which proposed a significant increase in child care places from 67 to 117.

The refusal stated that no mechanism was proposed to combine what would be two consents for a single operation, as the application was not a standalone development and needed to be recast to amend the existing consent.

Other reasons given were that staff numbers were unclear, car

parking fell short of requirements, and that there was no schedule of finishes and materials.

It stated that setbacks were non-compliant setbacks, the waste management plan was inadequate, and a Plan of Management was absent.

Overshadowing was not addressed, a one-way drop-off was not explained and a landscape plan was incomplete.

Ventilation and natural light provisions were unclear and there was inconsistency with guideline design quality principles.

In response, the applicant has provided a number of new and amended documents.

The Amended Acoustic Report addresses noise criteria and mitigation measures, particularly regarding outdoor play areas and traffic.

Amended Notification Plans show various changes and extra details, for instance in illustrations of the extent of shadowing of a neighbour’s solar panels.

The BCA Report provides an assessment of the design against building code requirements, identifying areas needing

further detail, such as allotment consolidation and window protection.

A Child Care Planning Guideline compliance table systematically reviews the updated plans against various planning requirements, indicating where compliance has been achieved or further detail is needed, including acoustic and privacy impacts, traffic, and site suitability.

An operational management plan details the centre’s day-to-day operations, including staffing, operating times, waste management, and emergency procedures, while the waste management plan specifically addresses waste generation and recycling strategies for both construction and operational phases.

The amended and additional documentation is currently on exhibition on the Central Coast Council website and is open for submissions until Friday, September 12.

**SOURCE:**  
**DA Tracker, 24 Aug 2025**  
**DA/1317/2025, Central Coast Council**

# Cr Neal tells businesses of her vision for the Coast

Gosford West ward's Cr Belinda Neal has described her vision for the Central Coast at a meeting of Business NSW members in Gosford last week.

Acting chair of the Council's Economic Committee, Cr Neal spoke to the gathering of business leaders, industry representatives and community stakeholders about "a vision for the Central Coast".

She said it was "one that leverages the region's unique strengths to generate sustainable jobs, attract investment, and retain local talent".

"Our region is no longer just a commuter belt for Sydney and Newcastle," Cr Neal said.

"We are a community with its own economic identity — rich in innovation, industry, and opportunity.

"The challenge now is to convert our potential into long-term prosperity."

Ms Neal said "growth drivers" included industry diversification in sectors such as tourism, advanced manufacturing, health, and

agribusiness.

She said growth would also be driven by infrastructure and connectivity upgrades, from high-speed digital networks to transport links.

This would be helped with skills development "through stronger partnerships between business, schools, TAFE, and universities".

It would be "inclusive growth that creates opportunity across all communities from Woy Woy to Lake Munmorah".

Cr Neal said that major projects shaping the region's future, included the \$230 million Central Coast Studios development at Calga, the Waratah Super Battery at Munmorah, and new education and training facilities.

"This is a moment to be ambitious," Cr Neal said.

"The Central Coast can be a dynamic, self-sustaining economy that keeps our best and brightest here, creates jobs close to home, and builds a stronger future for everyone."

SOURCE:

Media release, 13 Aug 2025  
Belinda Neal, Central Coast Council



## Council to pursue gazettal of Monastir Rd

Central Coast Council will pursue the gazettal of Monastir Rd, Phegans Bay, as a public road, the council's infrastructure and assets committee has been told.

A report to the committee said that the access road to the properties "commonly known as Monastir Rd" was not currently classified as road reserve.

It traversed waterfront Crown Land and Council "operational" land.

Following the creation of a sewer easement in 1996, Council compulsorily acquired "Lot 54" as operational land to serve as an access to "council assets" and to allow residents a right-of-way access to their properties.

Lot 54 was created with a subdivision in Phegans Bay in 1913 on the downhill waterfront side of the residential lots.

At the same time, a road reserve was created on the uphill side "to the north of properties on Monastir Rd . . . on land with very steep, inaccessible terrain".

"The construction of a new road access through the existing road reserve would be cost prohibitive," the report stated.

"Private property owners have also been granted development consent with access from the access road."

The report noted that it was possible for the road reserve to be "extinguished" and the land incorporated into the large parcel of adjacent Coastal Open Space System land.

"The access road is narrow and predominantly unsealed, with the exception of the first 150 metres located on Crown Land which is sealed.

"The access road is inspected with low-cost maintenance undertaken to ensure it is in a trafficable state."

The report stated that a detailed land survey had been undertaken to identify the boundaries of Lot 54, Crown Land and private property.

"Generally, the narrow access road and steep embankment on the southern edge of the access road precludes the road from being realigned or widened.

"Council may need to acquire small sections of land to allow for a suitable road corridor in progressing any gazettal of the access road.

"Council has also engaged a legal consultant to provide legal

advice regarding the existing access arrangement.

"This advice considered legal implications and liabilities for Council and private property owners for a number of options regarding future management of the access road, including maintaining the status quo, property owners managing and maintaining a private access road located on Council road reserve (similar to a long shared private driveway), or a Council managed road asset on Council road reserve.

"This legal advice concluded that the optimal solution for Council, including managing risk, and adjacent private property owners was for Council to progress options for gazettal of the access road as road reserve and formalising this as Monastir Rd."

The report said that once the council was confident that the compulsory acquisition of Crown Land would be successful, consultation and negotiation with affected property owners would start.

This was expected to occur over the next year.

Item 1.6, 12 August 2025  
Infrastructure and Assets  
Committee, Central Coast Council

## Chamber president re-elected for 27th year

The Peninsula Chamber of Commerce has re-elected its president Mr Matthew Wales for the 27th year.

"I am very proud to have been re-elected with a great team of experienced people on the executive," he said.

"That experience makes my job a lot easier knowing that there is a broad range of disciplines that can back me up on the things that I need to do for the business community.

"This is supported by our very strong alliance with NSW Business Central Coast which gives local businesses a strong platform in dealing with Central Coast Council and the NSW State Government", said Mr Wales.

"There is no doubt that we have a challenging year ahead of us with businesses facing increased energy costs, rising insurance and workers compensation premiums,



experienced staff shortages and a tightening retail market due to the rising cost of living.

"However, the Peninsula is seeing some very positive changes as a result of strong advocacy work by the Chamber in recent years," he said.

SOURCE:

Media release, 12 Aug 2025  
Matthew Wales, Peninsula  
Chamber of Commerce

## Church has car boot market

Volunteers from the Central Coast South Uniting Church, which includes Umina Uniting Church, will hold a car boot market from 8:30am to 2pm on the first Saturday of the month at Kincumber Uniting Church.

The church's Connecting with Community group aims to start with 32 stalls in the carpark area,

and will operate alongside an Op Shop, Men's Shed and Model Train Railway.

A cafe will be held inside the church building offering tea, coffee, cake and other refreshments, as well as a sausage sizzle.

Trestle tables are available for hire.

SOURCE:

Media release  
Central Coast South Uniting Church

### One goal, one passion — good food

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Forum

# Tree planting is welcomed, with follow-up measures

It is gratifying to read of Council's urban greening initiatives with an announcement in June this year of a \$150,000 pilot tree planting program on the Peninsula for 2025-2026.

I add my support to the Peninsula's Grow Urban Shade Trees group suggestion that Council also apply for \$50,000 from the state government's "Greening Our City" grant.

Peninsula residents are well

aware of the urban heat effect we are experiencing with a diminishing tree canopy on the Peninsula.

Planting a tall canopy of native trees will help alleviate the impact of a warming climate and improve our liveability.

However, any expenditure on tree planting should automatically include provision for follow-up maintenance to ensure tree planting has a maximum chance of survival.

SOURCE:  
Email, 12 Aug 2025  
Suraya Coorey, Woy Woy

# Housing solution needed that protects environment

Last week, contractors were seen spraying chemicals into the bushland at 18 Macleay Ave, Woy Woy, part of the endangered Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland.

As a Wires rescuer, I was alerted to several deceased native birds and a squirrel glider nearby.

While unconfirmed, I fear these deaths may be linked to the herbicides used.

The contractor confirmed Roundup Biactive and Starane Advanced were applied.

Both are highly toxic to aquatic life and should never be sprayed near waterways, yet this site backs directly onto Tea Tree Creek, which flows into Correa Bay.

While targeting woody plants, of course these chemicals also

harm established trees and any subsequently planted.

The trees on this block are absolutely loaded with native wildlife, birds, possums and gliders.

It is a deep shame, and a blight on both Council and the State Government, that this destruction is still permitted.

I support the need for more social housing, but it should not come at the cost of destroying endangered ecological communities, harming wildlife, and increasing flood risks.

I urge Council, Pacific Link and the community to find a solution that meets housing needs while protecting this precious environment.

SOURCE:  
Email, 18 Aug 2025  
Lisa Bellamy, Kariong

# Grant is a 'no brainer'

I read in the News that Central Coast Council can apply for a Greening Our City grant, surely a no brainer?

On the issue of no brainer, I'd like to raise the issue of the filthy state of Picnic Pde, Ettalong.

Truly disgraceful, filthy gutters, filthy centre strip, and dilapidated signage.

This is the entrance to one of the most spectacular locations on the Coast, but would seem evident that the Council is asleep at the wheel.

It's a shame that what should be a beautiful welcome is a Third World trash heap.

SOURCE:  
Email, 17 Aug 2025  
Steve McCarthy, Ettalong

# Indian restaurant wins another award

The Local Business Award won by a Woy Woy Indian restaurant as the most outstanding restaurant on the Central Coast on Wednesday, August 13, was the second time in a row the restaurant has won the award.

The Spices 29 Goan Indian Restaurant won the award less than two weeks after it received the national Business xCellece Award in the Restaurant, Cafe and Bakery Category on Friday, August 1.

"The awards come at the perfect

time for the business to support its upward momentum and mark its name as a national gem," said proprietor Mr Nelson Fernandes.

Now in its eighth year, the restaurant offers "authentic Indian cuisine with each dish carrying the true Indian heritage and spirit".

Mr Fernandes said: "The first couple of years laid the foundation for the business where my wife Selma and I worked hard to establish the place.

"By the time the pandemic could hit in 2020, the restaurant was already a well-known name in the community.

"Covid years were unexpectedly

productive for the business with sales growing and customer base expanding."

In 2023, the restaurant won the Restaurant and Catering Association awards in regional NSW and claimed the third place for national level.

This was followed by more awards last year.

Mr Fernandes said the state and national accolades were a testament to the team's hard work and dedication, combined with community support.

SOURCE:  
Media release, 14 Aug 2025  
Nelson Fernandes, Spices 29



Noticeboard - Public Notices

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## Car Boot Sale

Woy Woy Peninsula Lions Club

**Sunday Aug 31**  
**7am to 1pm**

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Vendors Welcome - \$25 per car

**Dunban Road Car Park**  
NB stall sites not open until 6.30am  
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Always Last Sunday  
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## The Troubadour

**Folk and Acoustic Music Club**

**Sat Sep 27, 7pm**  
**Cope Street Parade (NSW)**  
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Everglades Club Woy Woy  
Tickets \$20 members and \$25 non-members at  
[www.troubadour.org.au](http://www.troubadour.org.au)  
**4342 6716**

# Awards nominations wanted for community’s quiet achievers

The 2025 Gosford Community Champion Awards have been opened to reward the community’s quiet achievers.

“The Gosford electorate would not be the lively and diverse community it is without its unsung heroes and those not seeking the limelight,” said Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch, announcing the awards.

“So many individuals work tirelessly, dedicate countless hours to volunteering or work single-mindedly to make positive, lasting change.

“In their second year, the Gosford Community Champion Awards aim to shine a spotlight on the work of fantastic individuals in the Gosford electorate who make a positive impact.”

The first Gosford Community Champions were recognised last

year, with examples including Ms Deb Chalker who works in food services at Gosford Hospital and Ms Nikki Willmette for her work with the homeless.

There was Mr “Junior” Johnson, rewarded simply as “a local who gives back to the community” by raising funds for local football clubs.

Nominees must live in the Gosford electorate and be made before 5pm on Wednesday, September 10.

Nominations may be made on a paper form or online.

Nomination forms are available at Ms Tesch’s electorate office in Woy Woy at 71 Blackwall Rd weekdays.

The online form is available via <http://penne.ws/c0j94t>

SOURCE: Media Release, 18 Aug 2025  
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford



## Six car crash sees seven in hospital

A crash involving six cars on Woy Woy Rd, near Staples Lookout, resulted in seven patients being taken to hospital on Sunday, August

10. Four of them were taken to Royal North Shore Hospital. The crash site was spread out and resulted in the road is closed in

both directions while the vehicles involved were salvaged.

SOURCE: Social media, 10 Aug 2025  
NSW Central Coast Incident Alerts

## Application lodged for Oyster Festival

The Central Coast Council has received a development application for this year’s Brisbane Water Oyster Festival

The event is to be held on Sunday, November 9, although a “typo” in the application states it will be held on November 8.

The application covers the temporary use of land at Lions Park Woy Woy and includes activities both within the existing reserve and car park and on the northern end of North Burge Rd.

Organised by the Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, this festival is planned to run from 8am to 3 pm and will include a range of attractions such as an entertainment stage, a fenced licensed area, and an amusement zone including a jumping castle.

An array of general stalls, sponsors, and food vendors will be present, alongside dedicated zones for oysters and other seafood.

Essential facilities such as portable toilets, existing toilets, information and first aid services, and waste areas will be provided.

Organisers state that to ensure the safety and smooth running of the event, local residents should be aware of significant traffic disruptions and road closures in the vicinity.

North Burge Rd will experience “hard road closures” at its northern end, from Brick Wharf Rd to Lions Park, from 6pm on Saturday, November 8, until 7pm on November 9.

Water-filled barriers will be placed across North Burge Rd to manage the closure.

Barrier boards will be installed from 5am to 8am on Sunday, November 9, and from 3pm onwards to facilitate the installation and pack-down of equipment.

To further manage traffic flow, “No Parking” zones, reinforced by traffic cones and signage, will be established from 5am to 3pm extending 20 metres on either side of North Burge Rd from the Brick Wharf Rd intersection, and along Brick Wharf Rd between the intersection and shuttle bus stops.

For those attending the festival, shuttle bus services will be available, with designated drop-off and pick-up points at existing marked bus stops.

Variable message signs will be installed in key locations, including on North Burge Rd 14 days prior to the event, advising of the carpark closure dates and times.

Two more will be installed seven days prior, one at Anderson Memorial Reserve on Brisbane Water Dr, visible to southbound traffic, and the other at 169 Blackwall Rd, for northbound traffic.

The NSW Police Force has been fully consulted and will be providing general duties officers and mounted police on the day of the event.

The application is currently on public exhibition and available for submissions until September 19.

SOURCE: DA Tracker, 24 Aug 2025  
DA/864/2025, Central Coast Council



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

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### INVITATION

## Community Workshop On Local Planning

Come along to a community workshop on the Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS)

What is your 20-year vision for land use?

- What are the **special characteristics** which contribute to local identity?
- What are the **shared community values** to be maintained and enhanced?
- How will **growth and change** be managed into the future?

**These are some of the questions that contribute to Council’s LSPS - the 20 year vision for land use in the local area.**

The workshop will include:

- ⇒ Presentation from Council staff
- ⇒ Presentations from local community organisations
- ⇒ A chance to workshop your priorities for the future of the local area

**This workshop is being organised by Clr Jane Smith. Other Ward Councillors have been invited to attend.**

*\* Please note that this is not an official Council workshop \**



**Sunday, 31 August 2025**  
3-5pm  
Peninsula Community Centre, Woy Woy  
**Free Workshop**  
Registrations essential



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

News

## Robert Payne appointed as arboretum patron

The Crommelin Native Arboretum in Pearl Beach has appointed local ecologist Mr Robert Payne as its patron.

Mr Payne was a member of the Arboretum inaugural committee in 1976 and has continued as a member of the committee until the present.

“He has surveyed and listed the flora and fauna of the Arboretum on several occasions,” said Arboretum president Ms Mary Knaggs.

“Robert and the Arboretum have also benefited from the strong support of his wife Maggie who was herself a committee member.

“A bridge in the Arboretum has been named after Robert.”

Ms Knaggs said Mr Payne was a well-respected ecologist and was one of those responsible for the study and mapping of the Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland, an endangered ecological community located primarily on the Peninsula.

He was a member of Gosford Council’s Significant Tree Committee for 20 years working with Mr Alan Strom.

He was involved in the formation of the Popran National Park, and was also responsible for providing many rare and endangered plants to the National Herbarium of NSW, now at Mt Annan.

In 2018, he received an award from the Central Coast Community Environment Network for his environmental work.



Ms Knaggs said: “Robert’s background as a surveyor was a most useful talent in helping to control what was then a fairly wild and overgrown four hectares of bushland.

“His subsequent post graduate university studies in botany and ecology allowed him to bring to the Arboretum a professional understanding of flora and fauna.

“Robert collected different native plants from across eastern Australia which were propagated and planted in the Arboretum thus helping to create our diverse range of species,” she said.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 13 Aug 2025  
Mary Knaggs, Pearl Beach Arboretum

## Donations wanted for pelican care

Pelican Care and Education is seeking donations to support its work following its recent registration as a charity.

Co-ordinator Ms Wendy Gillespie said that regular surveying at six pelican gathering sites or roosts cost an average of \$100 in fish per week, with total expenditure averaging up to \$300 a week.

She said the organisation received no government support, either from tourism funds or from recreational fishing to rehabilitate injured birds, over the 16 years of its operation.

“Despite repeated appeals to all levels of government, there is a continued refusal to assist.”

She said surveying enabled early detection, rescue and treatment which prevented many injuries becoming debilitated and potentially dying.

“Rescues can often be same day with birds freed from fishing entanglements and released on site, with some requiring veterinary intervention,” she said.

“Lower limb injuries are common as pelicans paddle through fishing gear.

“Less than 10 per cent of pelicans needing rescue are seen or reported by the public as most are in the water, and as wings are often folded up.”

She said many pelicans were



full-time parents, but would abandon their offspring if an injured parent did not return to care for and provision the young.

Ms Gillespie said a recent donation of \$1000 from Centred Ceramics pottery in Umina would help with 10 weeks of surveys and rescues.

Donations of \$30 covered a 10kg slab of mullet of which three are needed per week for adequate

health and injury surveying.

A donation of \$100 contributes towards the cost of a pelican that needs care including medication, captive and infield care costs.

For further information and to offer financial support, phone 0458 975 498.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 24 Aug 2025  
Wendy Gillespie, Pelican Care and Education



## Marine Rescue launches Christmas raffle

Marine Rescue Brisbane Water has launched its annual Christmas Raffle to raise money for the organisation.

Tickets went on sale on Thursday, August 14, with Marine Rescue volunteers selling tickets on the day and the following three

at Ettalong Diggers Club.

They will return to the club from Thursday to Sunday, October 2 to 5

Tickets are priced from \$2, with a first prize of \$5000, second prize \$2500 and third prize \$1000.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 14 Aug 2025  
Ettalong Diggers

## Information volunteers wanted

Volunteers are wanted by the visitor information centre in Ettalong.

The Ettalong Diggers Visitor Information Centre is looking for volunteers to help visitors with local information, provide directions, and support tourism initiatives that promote the beauty of the area.

“It’s a fantastic opportunity to engage with the community, meet new people, and gain experience in tourism and hospitality,” said Ettalong Diggers tourism manager Ms Kim Cole.

The information centre was looking for friendly, outgoing individuals who enjoyed interacting with the public and had a passion for the local area and community.

No prior experience was required, but a willingness to learn and the ability to work a flexible schedule was required.

“It’s a rewarding experience knowing you’re helping make Ettalong Beach a welcoming destination,” said Ms Cole.

For more details, phone Ms Cole on 4343 0140 or email Kim.Cole@ettalongdiggers.com.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 11 Aug 2025  
Ettalong Diggers Visitor Information Centre



## Retirement village has wet open day success

Despite the wet weather, Deepwater Court retirement village had a successful Open Day on Thursday, August 14.

Visitors were taken on guided tours of available villas.

Prospective residents were given the opportunity to see some

newly-furnished villas, and their picturesque location in Woy Woy.

This was followed by a morning tea, where staff and residents shared their insights about the retirement village.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 19 Aug 2025  
Living Choice Deepwater Court



# Tibetan Buddhist master talks on ‘dealing with pain’

The Central Coast Meditation Centre is hosting a talk by Tibetan Buddhist master Lama Choedak Rinpoche at the Sea Scout Hall at 2 North Burge Rd, Woy Woy, from 7pm on August 29 about “Dealing with Pain”.

“Pain is a natural part of life, encompassing physical, emotional, or mental discomfort. It is an unavoidable aspect of existence,” said co-ordinator Ms Donna Nelson.

“Buddhist philosophy offers a unique method for relieving pain by encouraging mindful attention

to experiences and understanding their nature, differing from pharmacological and alternative therapies that rely on external agents or temporary relief.”

Ms Nelson said Tibetan Buddhist master Lama Choedak Rinpoche, a teacher, author and translator, had lived in Australia for over 30 years and had presented traditional Buddhist teachings for modern audiences.

Cost to attend the talk is \$20, with online registrations at [www.centralcoastmeditationcentre.com](http://www.centralcoastmeditationcentre.com).

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 19 Aug 2025  
Donna Nelson, Central Coast Meditation Centre

# Train services disrupted with leg injury

Train services were disrupted at Woy Woy after a man was injured by a train on Saturday, August 9.

He was reportedly trapped under the train with a leg injury.

The rail corridor was initially closed.

Later, train services from Sydney terminated at Hawkesbury River, while services to Newcastle started at Gosford, while NSW Ambulance attended the scene.

A rail replacement bus service was organised.

The patient was released from under the train and taken from Rogers Park by the Careflight helicopter ambulance to Royal North Shore Hospital.

A train was reported stuck at Tascott, requiring urgent repairs, and reversed back to Gosford before southbound trains could resume.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 9 Aug 2025  
NSW Central Coast Incident Alerts



# Doctors attend night on addiction

Doctors and psychologists from northern Sydney and the Central Coast joined Brisbane Waters Private Hospital at Pymble Golf Club recently for a night of education and learning.

Professor John Saunders and the Central Coast Clinic's Dr Chris Wellard presented alongside the hospital's mental health leadership team.

Topics covered substance use, addictions and de-prescribing anti-depressants, all current hot topics in addiction treatment.

The education event was part of the hospital's ongoing program of development and learning, aimed at upskilling local general practitioners and allied health specialists.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 11 Aug 2025  
Brisbane Waters Private Hospital



**LIESL TESCH MP**  
STATE MEMBER FOR GOSFORD

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Authorised by Liesl Tesch MP, 71 Blackwall Rd, Woy Woy NSW 2256. Funded using Parliamentary Entitlements.

News



Wharf upgrades for Woy Woy ferry service

**Wharves used by the Woy Woy to Davistown ferry service are to be upgraded.**

The Lintern St Wharf and boat ramp at Davistown will be upgraded, “after years of advocacy from the local community”, according to Member for Terrigal Mr Adam Crouch.

“We have been able to secure \$1.245 million from the government for Central Coast Council to upgrade the Lintern St Wharf and boat ramp.

“This funding will be used to deliver new approaches, an improved gangway, an upgraded ferry shelter and a floating pontoon.

“Additionally, \$550,000 has been secured to upgrade the Veterans Hall Wharf at Saratoga with a new ferry shelter and floating pontoon.”

Mr Crouch said that petitions with more than 1100 in total had helped secure the funding.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 18 Aug 2025  
Adam Crouch, Member for Terrigal

Grant for Vinnies

**A NSW Government grant to St Vincent de Paul Society Woy Woy will see \$18,528 go towards its “Rosalee’s Garden renovation” project.**

The project aims to transform an existing support centre building into a modern, inclusive community hub, that will prioritise client privacy and dignity by creating secure and comfortable, wheelchair-accessible spaces.

It will include expanding consultation rooms, lift access, collaborative office spaces and safety for staff and visitors.

“We are truly grateful for the funding, which will be critical in allowing us to innovate our support delivery model and create a more collaborative centre for our community,” Vinnies co-ordinator Ms Krystal Lyle said.

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch said: “It’s great to see this grassroots funding supporting local projects that make a real difference.”

The Gosford electorate secured \$448,000 from the Government’s Community Building Partnership program for 22 projects.

**SOURCE:**  
Media Release, 18 Aug 2025  
Jayden Delbridge, Office of the Member for Gosford



Rotary club holds dementia cafe

**The Rotary Club of Brisbane Water held its regular dementia cafe on Monday, August 11.**

The morning, held at the Umina CWA hall, started with “a proper chat over a cuppa”, followed by some engaging games and finishing with gentle chair exercises.

The cafe is free and specially designed for people living with dementia who are still at home with

their carers.

Anyone who might benefit is welcome to attend.

“We’re all about creating a warm, friendly space where people can connect, have a laugh, and enjoy some gentle activities together,” said club president Ms Cherie Simpson.

“Sometimes the best medicine is a good cuppa and great company.”

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 11 Aug 2025  
Rotary Brisbane Water

Arts

Plays, directors and casts selected for Flash Festival

**Woy Woy Little Theatre has selected six plays and directors and 19 actors for the casts of each for its Flash Festival 2025 in late September.**

The plays are all written, directed and performed by local artists.

“We received many script submissions this year and again the standard of submissions was very high,” said box office manager

Mr Graham Vale.

All six plays will all be performed at each of four sessions over the weekend of Friday to Sunday, September 19 to 21.

The first play is Sunshine Robot Boy written by Frank Wiffen, directed by Natahnee Veitch.

The cast is Louise Sullivan, Jake Cain-Roser and Scott Lariomore.

The second play is Writing Wrongs written by Trudi Slaven, directed by Liz Munro.

The cast is Eden McGilchrist,

Tina Findlay, Donna Cromer and Bruce Hyland.

The third play is Home is Where the Wife Is written by Andrew Thomson , directed by Fran Armstrong.

The cast is Frank Wiffen, Trudi Slaven and Samantha Young.

The fourth play is Home Delivery written by Ben Campbell, directed by Jim Winton Porter.

The cast is Jenna Arnold, Samara Dawson and Sebastian Yule.

The fifth play is Downsizing written by Jenna Arnold, directed by Melody Thorburn.

The cast is Ruby Rooke, Douglas Kent and Ruth Clayton-Crawley.

The sixth play is I Aint No Cuckoo written by Sally Bartley, directed by Ben Campbell.

The cast is Nicola Best, Michael Sheather and Jarrod Rizzardo.

Evening performances will be held from 8pm on Friday and Saturday, September 19 and 20.

Matinee performances will be held from 2pm on Saturday and Sunday, September 20 and 21.

An awards presentation will follow the Sunday matinee and will include an award for the People’s Best Play.

Tickets are on sale at \$30 for adults and \$25 concession.

**SOURCE:.**  
Social media, 11 Aug 2025.  
Woy Woy Little Theatre

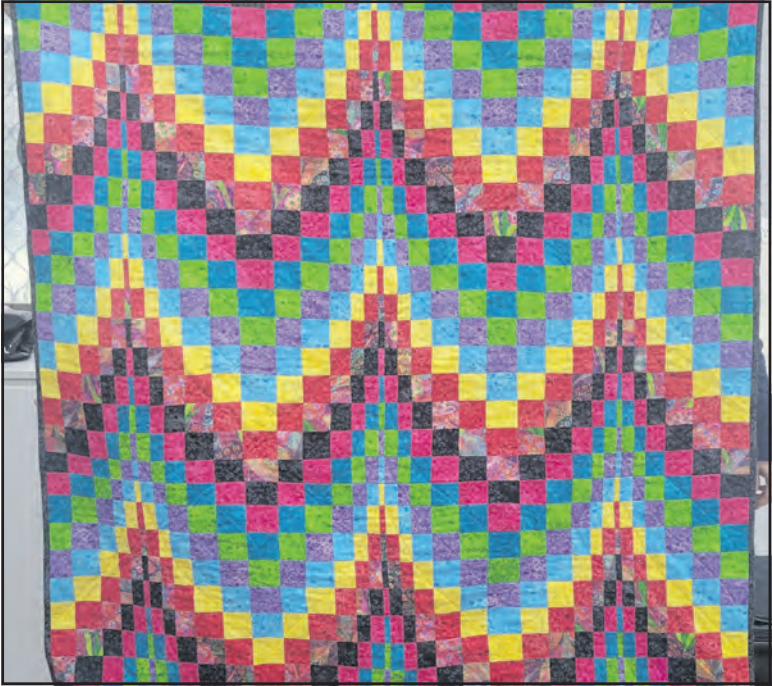


Bargello quilts

**Two bargello quilts have been completed by patchwork students at the Ettalong Beach Arts and Crafts Centre following a workshop earlier in the term.**

“It’s wonderful seeing how the different colours and layouts chosen by the individual students have created very different looking quilts using the same technique,” said tutor Ms Penny Howard.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 12 Aug 2025  
Ettalong Beach Arts and Craft Centre



# Parents told about voluntary school contributions

**Umina Beach Public School** parents have been provided with information about Voluntary School Contributions.

Voluntary school contributions in 2025 are capped at \$51 per student for primary schools, said school principal Ms Karen Wardlaw.

"These contributions are voluntary and, as such, payment is a matter for decision by parents and carers.

"The purpose of voluntary school contributions is to enhance the school's educational programs.

"Voluntary contributions are valued for the assistance they provide in enriching curriculum experiences and extending school resources.

"Whilst valued, we offer

our reassurance to our school community that all students are provided full access to department curriculum and resources, irrespective of voluntary contribution payments.

"The school respectfully recognises the voluntary nature of these contributions and confidentiality and privacy in all matters regarding voluntary contributions is strictly maintained.

"Should families require it, financial assistance is available.

"Please email [umina-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:umina-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au) or speak to our friendly office team to access a student assistance application form."

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 14 Aug 2025  
Umina Beach Public School newsletter



## Performing arts students put on roadshow

**Ettalong Public School** was entertained on Thursday, August 14, by creative and performing arts students

from Umina campus of Brisbane Water Secondary College.

Musicians, dancers, comedians, actors and cheerleaders

showcased their skills during their annual Education Week roadshow.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 14 Aug 2025  
Ettalong Public School



## Public speakers win way to cluster final

**Year 6 students at St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School** have won their way through their public speaking finals.

"Some hugely inspiring and high-quality speeches were prepared

and passionately presented," said school principal Ms Nicole Davies.

The first two placegetters progressed to the "Southern Cluster Final".

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 13 Aug 2025  
SJB Catholic Primary School



## Students take to lectern

**Woy Woy South Public School's Stage 1 class representatives** have taken to the stage to participate in the school's public speaking competition on Friday,

**August 15.**  
"They all spoke beautifully and enthusiastically," said school principal Mr Matt Barr.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 15 Aug 2025  
Woy Woy South Public School

## Father's Day breakfast

**Father's Day** will be celebrated at **Woy Woy Public School** with a special Father's Day breakfast from 7am to 8:50am on Friday, September 5.

Fathers, step-fathers, grandfathers, uncles and carers are invited to attend.

They will able to have some breakfast and listen to live music performed by the school band, The Rippedtiles.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 14 Aug 2025  
Woy Woy Public School



## Interview Day held at Woy Woy campus

**Year 10 students at Woy Woy campus of Brisbane Water Secondary College** took part in Interview Day on Friday, August 15, meeting with head teachers and staff to make informed choices for their

**2026 subjects and beyond.**

"It was so impressive to see our students take this opportunity seriously and show such maturity," said campus principal Ms Rebecca Cooper.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 15 Aug 2025  
BWSC Woy Woy

## Book club for 'tweens'

The book **Rubies and Runaways** by Janine Beacham will be the subject for discussion at the Book Club for Tweens: at Umina Beach Library on Wednesday, September 3.

The club will meet between 3:30pm and 4:15pm and is open to children aged 10 and older.

The book is a historical mystery that investigates a kidnapping thatleads readers through fancy tea-rooms, horrible factories, and secret underground passages.

Those attending are encouraged to borrow a copy from your local library to read before the meeting.

With inquiries, phone 4304 7333.

**SOURCE:**  
Website, 20 Aug 2025  
Library Services, Central Coast Council

## Graf sisters play for NSW

**Twin sisters Phoebe and Ruby Graf** have swum in the All Schools Water Polo Exchange in Brisbane held from Friday to Sunday, August 8 to 10.

The participated in the bronze grand final team finishing with a 10-9 win in the CHS NSW match against CCC NSW.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 18 Aug 2025  
BWSC Woy Woy



Sport

# Netball association pays tribute to founding member

The Woy Woy Peninsula Netball Association has paid tribute to one of its founding members, Ms Margaret Thom, following her death last Tuesday, August 19.

Ms Thom served as the association's treasurer from 1974 through to 2016.

Association president Ms Nichole Barnes described her as "the heart and soul of our association".

"She was always there, cheering on players of every age, every ability and every team.

"Saturdays were spent at the courts supporting our local competition and, on Sundays, she'd back it up again, travelling across the state to follow our rep teams.

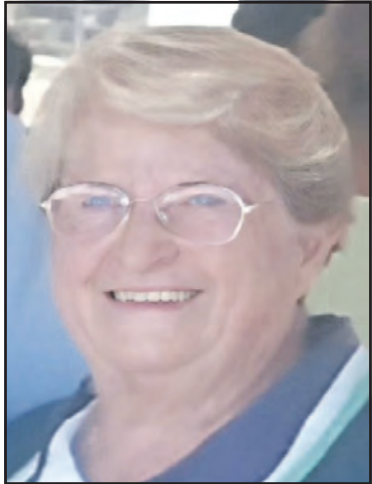
"Her energy, passion, and love for the game never wavered.

"Margaret's contribution went far beyond the sidelines.

"She worked tirelessly behind the scenes and gave so much of herself to strengthen our association and the wider community.

"She represented the Association at Netball NSW, served on the Gosford City Sports Council executive, and was part of the Peninsula Leisure Centre committee before its doors opened in 2005.

"Her incredible service was recognised many times, from the Gosford City Council Australia Day Award in 1987, to the Australian Centenary Medal for Sport in 2003, and the prestigious Netball NSW Anne Clark BEM Service Award in



2015.

"In 2005, the Association proudly created the Margaret Thoms Service to Netball Award in her honour, with Margaret herself as the very first recipient.

"But perhaps the greatest testament to her impact is the way her legacy lives on in our netball community.

"To this day, the majority of our clubs, as well as the Association itself, have annual awards named after Margaret, ensuring her contribution and spirit are remembered by every new generation of players.

"To us, Margaret was more than a volunteer or a leader.

"She was our mentor, our mother figure, and our friend.

"She shaped who we are as an association, and her influence will always be part of the fabric of the Association."

SOURCE: Social media, 20 Aug 2025 Nichole Barnes, WWPNA



## Meena wins first Major Singles semi-final

The first of Umina Beach Women's Bowling Club's Major Singles semi-finals was played Friday, August 15, between Carol Boyd and Meena Kelso.

"We were lucky the rain stopped and it turned out to be a sunny day," said website editor Ms Lesley Swales.

Both semi-finalists played well but "Meena had the edge on the day", she said.

"Meena will have to wait until two more catchup matches are played to see who she will play in the final."

SOURCE: Social media, 15 Aug 2025 Lesley Swales, UBWBC

## Bunnies open mural and hold workshop

Umina Beach Junior Rugby League Football Club will launch its new mural and hold a workshop for boys and girls from under-15s to under-17s at Col Gooley oval on Wednesday, August 27.

The workshop will be run for the Find Ya Feet organisation by its ambassador Nicho Hynes.

The mural launch will be held at

4pm, with the workshop held at the clubhouse from 4:30pm.

According to the organisation: "In two hours, we add a truckload of tools to a persons belt for when they need that helping hand, to start the conversation that ultimately saves lives.

"We do that by championing vulnerability, role modelling speaking up and showing a solid human puts up their hand when

they need help.

"This workshop transforms the person who thinks it's weak to speak into the champion who knows we go from zero to hero simply by telling and owning our story."

Bunnies players are invited to attend in their Bunnies gear.

SOURCE: Social media, 20 Aug 2025 Umina Bunnies JRLFC



## Mother and daughter win back-to-back finals

Ettalong Women's Bowling Club finally played its major-minor pairs final on Sunday, August 17, taking advantage of a break in the weather.

Mother and daughter Tracy and

Sienna Wiblen won the major-minor pairs title for the second year in a row.

SOURCE: Social media, 17 Aug 2025 Ettalong Womens BC

## Under-15 soccer team to go to Japan

Umina United's Under-15 soccer team will be travelling to Japan to attend "JapanCamp", representing the club in a series of friendly matches.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for these young players," said organiser Ms Karen Stammers.

"It is not only to develop their football skills but also to immerse themselves in another culture and build friendships through sport.

"The team has been working hard both on and off the field to prepare, and will be fundraising throughout the season to help cover costs."

SOURCE: Media release, 21 Aug 2025 Karen Stammers, Umina United

## Ambrose plays 100th game

Woy Woy Rugby Club under-14s player Ambrose Plunkett has played his 100th game for the club in his Major Semi Final played on Sunday, August 17.

"This is an outstanding milestone that reflects Ambrose's unwavering commitment to both his team and the club over the years, on and off the field," said club secretary Ms Bianca Plunkett Gooley.

She said he had made family, teammates, and friends "incredibly proud of the exceptional person and rugby player" he had become.



SOURCE: Social media, 17 Aug 2025 Bianca Plunkett Gooley

## Softball club closes

The Peninsula Ducks Softball Club has announced it has closed.

"It is with great sadness I announce the folding of Peninsula Ducks Softball Club," said president Ms Di Barrymore.

"Unfortunately we do not have

the member numbers or volunteers to keep the club running."

She thanked "past and current members for being a part of the Duck family".

SOURCE: Social media, 11 Aug 2025 Di Barrymore, Peninsula Ducks Softball Club