



## Cultural continuum excursion

Year 2 students from Umina Beach Public School and Year 8 students from Umina campus of Brisbane Water Secondary College have come together for a Cultural Continuum excursion.

The theme for the beautiful first day of spring was sand art, with students starting with sand art stickers with coloured sand.

They then broke into teams and made sand art sculptures.

The students had to tell the story behind their sculptures and drawings in the sand to the judges.

SOURCE:  
Social media, 1 Sep 2025  
BWSC Umina

# Council backs away from 60 per cent growth figure

Central Coast Council appears to be backing away from its plan to see 60 per cent more dwellings built on the Peninsula over the next 10 years, a figure it adopted less than three months ago.

The Council's 10-year Community Strategic Plan, adopted on June 23, uses figures for "Woy Woy's additional dwelling capacity at approximately 11,500 dwellings".

This represents a 60 per cent increase on current Peninsula dwelling numbers of 19,500.

The figure is used in the same section of the Plan that refers to plans for an extra 10,000 dwellings at Warnervale.

However, council growth plans were called into question at a workshop convened in the Peninsula Community Centre by Gosford West ward's Cr Jane Smith on Sunday, August 31, to discuss the forthcoming Local Strategic Planning Statement.

Neither Cr Smith nor Council strategic planner Ms Shannon Turkington, who addressed the meeting, appeared to be aware of the statement in the Plan.

In response to questions from Peninsula News, the Council's media unit issued a statement that the figure was "the maximum theoretical dwelling capacity" and not an actual capacity.

The figure was also one that applied to the whole Peninsula, and not just to Woy Woy.

"The Central Coast Housing Strategy looked at the maximum theoretical dwelling capacity of the Peninsula area and determined the net capacity for the Peninsula is 11,577 additional dwellings," the statement said.

"Although the net capacity was determined to be 11,577 dwellings, it is very unlikely the theoretical dwelling capacity can be achieved in the Peninsula."

The statement said that the dwelling capacity analysis did not consider market demand for different types of dwellings, take up rates, individual lot constraints such as flooding, biodiversity or topography.

"It shouldn't be relied on solely to understand future dwelling growth across the Peninsula."

Both the figure of 11,577 dwellings and a statement about the limitations of a "dwelling capacity analysis" appeared in an "Existing conditions report" prepared in 2021 by council consultants Hill PDA, circulated publicly during the Housing Strategy exhibition period.

In that report, the statement about the nature of the capacity analysis was the introduction to a section that did canvass "take-up rates".

It projected take-up rates as being between 1663 dwellings and 2352 dwellings, an increase of between 8.5 and 12 per cent.

Since those 2021 figures, the Council has introduced new planning controls that allow higher

dwelling densities and the State Government has introduced its own provisions for higher dwelling densities including Transport-Oriented Development, Low- and Mid-Rise Housing, and dual occupancy policies all of which also allow increased densities.

"The draft Local Strategic Planning Statement is currently being prepared," according to last week's council statement.

"The aim is to have the community consultation, following Council endorsement, early next calendar year.

"Council is not calling for submissions yet as we don't have a draft document.

"Council welcomes the feedback provided through Cr Smith's workshop

"It is working on a placed-based approach to the development of a new Local Strategic Planning Statement, including identification of key centres such as the Peninsula, where Council will look to undertake more detailed planning and infrastructure delivery to ensure Centres can accommodate future growth."

The council statement did not give the council's current expectation for future dwelling growth on the Peninsula.

SOURCE:  
Media statement, 4 Sep 2025  
Central Coast Council

MORE:  
Neal: Planning should reflect future vision - Page 4

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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Next issue: Monday, September 22

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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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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.



Cooking demonstration held at Umina CWA

**The Umina branch of the Country Women's Association held a cooking demonstration at its Umina**

**hall on Friday, August 30.** Branch cookery officer Ms Celia O'Meara made a spinach and ricotta dish and explained her

sourdough recipe. This was followed by a tasting. **SOURCE:** Social media, 30 Aug 2025 CWA Umina Beach

Residents invited to CWA morning tea

**The Umina Beach branch of the Country Women's Association is inviting Peninsula residents to a complimentary morning tea at 10am this Wednesday, September 10.**

The morning tea will be held from 10am to midday to celebrate CWA of NSW Awareness Week.

"We are in the final stages of renovating the hall, with a new kitchen set to be installed in early 2026," said member Ms Margaret Key.

Visitors will be able to see the improvements made over the past few years and what's in store for the future, she said.

"And yes, there will be scones and plenty of delicious treats."

"Our branch is a friendly and welcoming group, so please swing by and say hello."

"Men are most welcome to join us for morning tea."

The morning tea will be held in the Umina CWA hall at the corner of Ocean Beach Rd and Sydney Ave.

**SOURCE:** Media release, 29 Aug 2025 Margaret Key, CWA Umina Beach

No rain in two weeks after wet August

**No rain has fallen on the Peninsula in the last two weeks, with the most recent fall being recorded on August 23.**

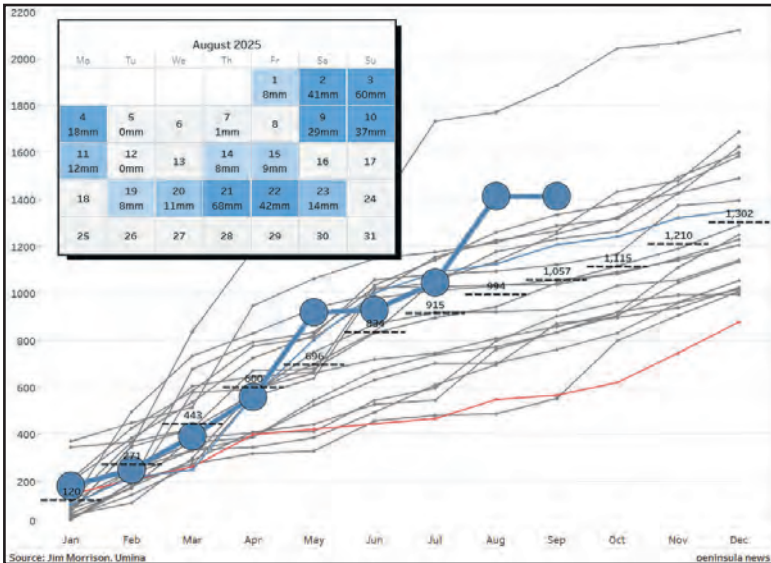
Nevertheless, August has finished with a total rainfall of 366.9mm, more than four and a half times the August average of 65mm.

It was the highest August rainfall in 21 years, with the next highest August rainfall being 216.6mm recorded in 2016.

Only five months in the last 20 years have recorded a higher monthly rainfall, according to Mr Jim Morrison of Umina.

They were June in 2016 (369.9mm), June 2007 (377.6mm), April 2015 (431.9mm) and March in 2017 (485.2mm), 2021 (410.7mm) and 2022 (486.0mm).

The total rainfall recorded this year is 1411mm, already more



than 100mm more than the annual average of 1302mm.

The average rainfall for September is 66mm.

More details, including daily

rainfall figures, are available at <http://penne.ws/Rain>.

**SOURCE:** Spreadsheet, 5 Sep 2025 Jim Morrison, Umina

TIDE TIMES and Heights	Mon, Sep 8	Thu, Sep 11	Sun, Sep 14	Wed, Sep 17	Sat, Sep 20
	0310 0.08 0851 0.96 1458 0.09 2105 1.20	0457 0.12 1058 1.14 1734 0.14 2321 0.94	0122 0.72 0709 0.26 1346 1.11 2109 0.22	0530 0.72 1055 0.29 1723 1.10	0155 0.13 0749 0.91 1345 0.17 1948 1.09
AT ETTALONG	Tue, Sep 9	Fri, Sep 12	Mon, Sep 15	Thu, Sep 18	Sun, Sep 21
	0345 0.08 0931 1.04 1547 0.09 2148 1.14	0534 0.16 1147 1.15 1836 0.18	0245 0.67 0815 0.30 1500 1.09 2230 0.20	0031 0.15 0624 0.79 1201 0.24 1820 1.11	0228 0.13 0824 0.96 1427 0.16 2025 1.07
	Wed, Sep 10	Sat, Sep 13	Tue, Sep 16	Fri, Sep 19	Mon, Sep 22
	0421 0.09 1014 1.10 1639 0.11 2233 1.05	0015 0.82 0616 0.21 1243 1.14 1947 0.21	0417 0.67 0935 0.31 1616 1.09 2336 0.17	0116 0.13 0710 0.85 1258 0.20 1908 1.11	0255 0.13 0856 1.00 1505 0.16 2059 1.02



# ACF group calls for Umina Beach shark net removal

**The Australian Conservation Foundation Central Coast community group has called for shark nets to be removed from Umina Beach ahead of other beaches.**

It said the council should have chosen Umina Beach, rather than refer the choice to the Department of Primary Industries.

"The members of ACF Central Coast wish councillors were brave enough to accept the government's trial and pick Umina Beach, as well as continuing to push for the removal of nets from all beaches," said secretary Mr Norm Harris.

He said a marine biologist who spoke at the council's community forum on the night of the decision was asked which beach he would remove the net from and the answer was Umina Beach.

Mr Harris said the Department's data showed the Umina Beach shark net had resulted in substantial by-catch.

"Almost all of these are non-target species, with mortality rates similar to or exceeding those at some neighbouring Central Coast beaches.

"Councils and councillors have access to the same, if not more, data from the Shark Meshing Program on the Department's website."

He said the Department had

been recording its findings from the shark nets program since September 2009.

"The 2022 report states that 400 were non-target species, with 330 listed as endangered," he said.

"By not removing the nets, the NSW government and councils are failing to implement the Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017 and the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.

"This is identified by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2024 report.

"The report also states: 'There is no evidence that such actions do decrease fatalities.'

"Contractors observed that over 40 per cent of sharks were caught on the beach side of these nets, highlighting their lack of effectiveness.

"These nets are outdated and do not work well.

"They also cause considerable harm to marine wildlife, including species that are threatened and protected species.

"The ACF calls for clear action: adopt non-lethal, science-backed alternatives to protect marine life and beachgoers, and urges the Government and council to prioritise effective solutions over politics."

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 6 Sep 2025  
Norm Harris, ACF Central Coast

# Council calls for removal of all shark nets

**Central Coast Council has called for the removal of all shark nets from the Central Coast.**

The council resolution at its August 26 meeting was in response to an invitation for the trial removal of nets at one beach in the Shark Management Program 2025-26.

It stated: "If the trial only allows nets to be removed from one beach, the selection of the beach be referred to Department of Primary Industries who are

responsible for the management, evaluation, and implementation of the Program."

It asked for resources to be allocated to increase technology including additional drones, drumlines and listening stations to enhance public safety, while protecting marine life and that "new technologies are made available and are fully operational before any shark nets are removed".

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



# Electrical safety testing at craft centre

**Electrical safety testing has been held at the Ettalong Beach Arts and Craft Centre on Monday, August 25.**

Classes including patchwork,

pottery, jewellery, art, watercolour and the Boobs and Bags group share resources and centre volunteers ensure that they are maintained and are in working

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 25 Aug 2025  
Ettalong Beach Arts and Craft Centre

# Traffic changes for Blackwall intersection

**Changed overnight traffic conditions are being introduced this week at the intersection of Memorial Ave, Maitland Bay Dr and Barrenjoey Rd, as Transport for NSW carries out further roadwork at the intersection.**

The work will take place from 7pm to 5am Sundays to Thursdays and is expected to take two weeks to complete, weather permitting.

Single lane and shoulder closures and a 40km/h speed limit will be imposed during the work hours.

Portable traffic signals will be used during the night shifts and may cause delays, according to Transport for NSW.

Barriers will be set up to protect the work zone and lane width restrictions for all approaches to the roundabout will be introduced.

Day work will be carried out from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday and from 8am to 1pm on Saturdays, if required.

A pedestrian and cyclist detour may be in place during this work.

Pedestrians and cyclists will be redirected via Banksia St to avoid the shared footpath on Barrenjoey Rd.

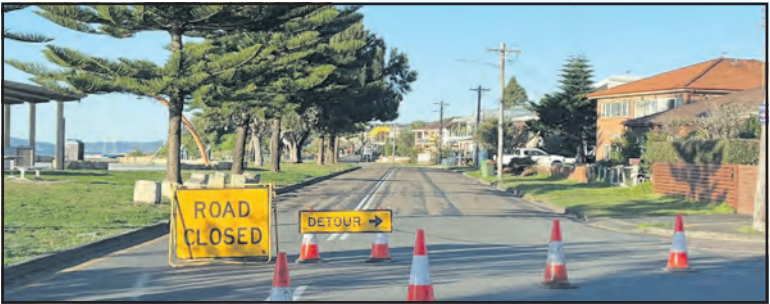
**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 4 Sep 2025  
Rowan Barker, Transport for NSW

# The Esplanade at Ettalong is resurfaced

**Resurfacing work has taken place on The Esplanade at Ettalong.**

It repairs road criticised by residents as being dangerous and embarrassing over the past several years.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 28 Aug 2025  
Residents for Responsible Ettalong Development



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Planning

## New dwelling on sloping land would remove 15 trees

An application has been made to build a new dwelling which exceeds height limits on sloping land at 33 The Rampart, Umina, to subdivide the site in two and to remove 15 trees.

The site has an area of 2465 square metres and is zoned R2 Low Density Residential.

It slopes from The Rampart to The Bartizan, with an existing two-level dwelling on the high side, which will remain on one of the newly created lots.

The proposed new dwelling will feature three levels, four bedrooms, two living spaces, and off-street parking, alongside a swimming pool.

Access to the proposed site is via a right of way from The Bartizan.

The property is located within Bushfire Prone Land, with parts of the proposed dwelling on land classified as BAL 12.5 land and the southern corner classified as BAL 19.

A Bush Fire Assessment Report for the application concludes that the development is satisfactory, subject to specific conditions which include maintaining the entire lot as an Inner Protection Area to manage vegetation, ensuring construction to a Bushfire Attack Level of 29 or lower, adhering to specific private access road standards, placing electricity services underground where possible, and complying with gas service regulations.

The proposal includes the removal of 15 trees to facilitate the new dwelling and subdivision.

Three trees are designated



for retention and protection, also compensatory replacement planting within the property boundary will be required.

The area is identified within the Areas of Regional Koala Significance.

The application claims general compliance with the council planning provisions.

A non-compliance regarding the maximum building height of 8.5 metres is noted, with the proposed dwelling reaching 9.069 metres, primarily due to the site's sloping topography.

A variation request has been made by the applicant.

The application states: "The majority of the non-compliance is associated with the provision of a shading and waterproofing awning located over a northeast facing

upper-level balcony.

"It is also considered that this element provides architectural merit to the overall building design."

The application claims that the proposal will contribute to increased housing density in the area, aligning with regional planning strategies, and is expected to provide short-term employment and long-term economic benefits locally.

The application was exhibited on the Central Coast Council website but is no longer open for submissions.

The timing of the exhibition of documents on the website did not allow for it to be covered in the last edition of Peninsula News.

**SOURCE:**  
DA Tracker, 6 Sep 2025  
DA/995/2025, Central Coast Council

## Council staff in Woy Woy to discuss waterfront plan

Staff from Central Coast Council will be available in Anderson Park, Woy Woy, from 11am to 1pm tomorrow, Tuesday, September 9, to discuss the proposed Woy Woy Foreshore Masterplan.

Council director Ms Melanie Smith said the Council was inviting feedback on the draft concept designs.

"The masterplan is a long-term plan to enhance open spaces, upgrade facilities and protect the foreshore's environmental and cultural values," she said.

"The community can view designs for Anderson Park, Lions Park, Pelican Park, the swimming enclosure and the wetlands precinct until September 22.

"While general feedback is welcome, Council is particularly seeking input on the design options for Anderson Park and the Lions Park car park.

"Submissions can be made via a survey at [yourvoiceourcoast.com](http://yourvoiceourcoast.com) or at a pop-up event."

Ms Smith said community input would play a key role in finalising the masterplan to reflect local priorities.

"The draft concept designs build on feedback from community consultations held in 2019 and 2022, which shaped proposed upgrades such as the swimming enclosure, seawall, renewed public amenities and improved access to parklands and the foreshore corridor," Ms Smith said.

"To ensure the community

remains at the heart of this project, we're inviting feedback on the design options for Anderson Park and Lions Park so the final masterplan delivers spaces and facilities that truly meet local needs now and into the future."

Ms Smith said two design options were proposed Anderson Park.

"One features circular seating connected by accessible paths, while the other includes a sculptural deck positioned for deep shade beneath existing trees.

"Indigenous representatives contributed to the design concepts to embed Connection to Country principles."

For Lions Park, "a reconfigured layout is proposed for the Lions Park car park".

This included "upgrading the western boat ramp with a second pontoon, increasing spaces to the western carpark and closing vehicle access to the eastern boat ramp".

She said this would "improve safety on the multi-use path, while retaining access for light watercraft such as kayaks and dragon boats".

"Two layouts are proposed for the eastern carpark, with each design also incorporating a formal coastal boardwalk and improved park accessibility."

The draft concept designs may be viewed and feedback given at the council's [yourvoiceourcoast.com](http://yourvoiceourcoast.com) website, as well as in person at Anderson Park tomorrow.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 18 August 2025  
Central Coast Council

## Signage plan for new childcare centre

An application has been made for signage at the "Cove Early Learning" childcare centre, under construction at 3-5 Springwood St, Blackwall.

The development application for the centre, lodged in 2022, was approved and received a construction certificate in June 2024.

The current development application is for signage to be placed on the building.

It is currently on public exhibition and open for submissions until September 19.

According to the original application, the centre will cater to various age groups, with 16 places for children aged 0-2 years, 25 places for 2-3 years, and 40 places for 3-5 years.

It will operate Monday to Friday, from 7am to 6pm, excluding public holidays, and will employ a maximum of 13 staff members.

The ground floor includes playrooms for 0-2 and 2-3 year-olds, along with a front patio, reception, office, kitchen, staff



room, and laundry, all with access to an outdoor play area of 324 square metres.

The first floor features playrooms for 3-5 year-olds, also with access to an outdoor play area of 285 square metres.

The application said the facility was designed to meet national regulations for play areas, providing over 3.25 square metres of unencumbered indoor

play space and more than seven square metres of unencumbered outdoor play space per child.

The development includes 22 car parking spaces, with 13 for staff and nine for parents, including one accessible space.

**SOURCE:**  
DA Tracker, 6 Sep 2025  
DA/1104/2025, Central Coast Council

## Conservationist appointed to coastal, estuary and flood sub-committee

Central Coast Council has confirmed the appointment of Peninsula conservationist Mr Mark Ellis as a community representatives to the Coastal, Estuary and Floodplain Risk Management Sub-Committee.

His appointment was confirmed along with that of Ms Carla Sbrocchi and Mr Mark Elsley at the council's meeting on Tuesday, August 26.

Mr Ellis said: "As a community representative, I will present the views of the broader community on issues relating to the management of coastal areas, estuaries, and floodplains across the Central Coast local government area that covers the five coastal management plans.

"I will apply my land use

planning expertise in coastal erosion, estuaries, and flood risk management to support the committee in overseeing urban development near coastal estuaries and floodplains, areas that will be increasingly affected by climate change," he said.

"The Woy Woy Peninsula faces complex flood risks from tidal inundation, ocean storm surges, and catchment rainfall events," he said.

"I look forward to discussing the current draft flood policy and the adopted Woy Woy Peninsula Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan, which outlines broader estuarine processes and promotes a multi-hazard, adaptive approach to floodplain management."

**SOURCE:**  
Central Coast Council  
agenda 4.4, 26 Aug 2025





# Collaboration ‘needed’ for rare bushland

**The Peninsula Residents’ Association welcomes the recent announcement\* by Central Coast Council of its work at Umina oval “to strengthen the endangered Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland (UCSW)”.**

The work involves “translocating” 200 square metres of top soil from an affordable housing development site in Macleay Ave, Woy Woy.

“Any action to protect and expand UCSW bushland on the Peninsula is to be encouraged,” said association vice-president Mr Julian Bowker.

“However, a concerted effort is needed by all stakeholders, which includes residents, if Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland is to be effectively protected and restored.

“This rare bushland really is endangered, with increasing pressures affecting its survival.”

The Environment Protection Authority is understood to be investigating two alleged breaches of planning conditions relating to activities in UCSW bushland.

Two current development applications have, or are likely to have, an impact on UCSW bushland, he said.

“A publicly-available, transparent and co-ordinated plan is needed with specific actions, targets and priorities for the whole of UCSW on the Peninsula to ensure restoration efforts are as effective as possible and receive community support,” said Mr Bowker.

“Council or the State’s Threatened Species Unit could take a lead in this.

“We would like the council to work collaboratively with the community on this.

“The highest priority should be preserving and building on existing UCSW bushland, not relocating it.”

Mr Bowker said the association was also concerned about reports of the common use of “woody herbicides” on the Peninsula which inhibit the growth of canopy trees and most species found in Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland, as well as being toxic to aquatic life in creeks, especially ones in this area, “which keeps our waterways healthy”.

“The association calls for the cessation of Council’s use and approval of long-lasting woody herbicides in vegetation plans on the Peninsula,” he said.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 30 Aug 2025  
Julian Bowker, PRA

# Planning statement ‘will affect Peninsula for 20 years’ - Neal

**Gosford West ward’s Cr Belinda Neal has encouraged Peninsula residents to read the Council’s draft Local Strategic Planning Statement when it is released.**

“Help us make sure that the future of the Peninsula reflects the vision and values of the whole community,” she said, addressing a community forum organised by Cr Jane Smith at the Peninsula Community Centre on Sunday, August 31.

“The document will set out our 20-year vision for land use and development in Woy Woy, Umina, Ettalong, Blackwall, and the surrounding communities.”

Cr Neal said: “Over the coming months, the draft statement will be prepared and then placed on public exhibition.

“This is your chance to shape the future — to tell us what matters most to you, whether it’s protecting neighbourhood character, improving transport, creating more local jobs, or strengthening our environment.

“The decisions we make through this process will guide development and investment for the next two decades.

“They will determine whether our children inherit a Peninsula that is still vibrant, connected, and resilient.

“This document cannot be written by council alone.

“Community involvement is essential.

“The values, stories, and aspirations of local residents are what give the Planning Statement its meaning and its legitimacy.

“Only by listening to the people who live, work, and raise families here can we strike the right balance between growth, character, and sustainability.”

Cr Neal said: “The Peninsula is a very special place.

“It’s one of the most densely settled parts of the Central Coast, with unique coastal villages, a strong sense of community, and beautiful natural surroundings.

“But it is also an area under pressure — from housing demand, transport challenges, climate risks like flooding and fires, and the need to support local jobs close to home.

“The Planning Statement is our opportunity to plan for these challenges with foresight.

“I believe it should set out clear priorities; protecting our waterways and foreshores, supporting local jobs and small businesses, improving public and active transport, providing diverse and affordable housing and preparing for the impacts of climate change.

“It should also commits us to preserving and enhancing our urban tree canopy to protect against the heat island effect and to keep our community cool, green, and liveable,” she said.

**SOURCE:**  
Media statement, 1 Sep 2025  
Belinda Neal, Central Coast Council

# Coastal Twist festival to have Fair Day

**Organisers of the Coastal Twist Festival have announced that “the legendary Coastie Carnie Fair Day” will be held as part of the festival over the October long weekend.**

The Fair Day was in doubt in July when organisers and council planners appeared to face a planning stalemate.

The festival is being promoted as “six days of queer joy, art and resistance” with a theme of Strength in Unity. as Coastal Twist Festival celebrates its 5th year.

“From drag brunches and rainbow youth events to the Love Club Cabaret, dance parties, poetry, workshops, and the legendary Coastie Carnie Fair Day, it’s going to be one glittering, defiant celebration,” said organiser Ms Glitta Supernova.

“This year we’re fighting harder than ever.

“With 25 per cent council funding cuts, endless red tape, and thousands in unexpected costs, the barriers aren’t just about throwing a party.”



She said they were about the right of gender and sexually-diverse people to gather safely, visibly and joyfully in public spaces.

“Our theme Strength in Unity isn’t just a slogan.

“It’s a rally cry.

“Showing up for each other has never been more important.

“Our presence is resistance.

Our joy is protest, and our unity is power.”

The festival will be held from Tuesday, September 30, to Sunday, October 5, at venues in Woy Woy, Ettalong and Umina, as well as Gosford.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 1 Sep 2025  
Glitta Supernova, Coastal Twist Festival

**COUNCILLOR FORUM - ONE YEAR ON**  
A FORUM TO HEAR FROM GOSFORD WEST COUNCILLORS  
**THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>** doors open 6:30 for a 7pm start

It's been one year since the Central Coast Council election. Join us for a community forum with your West Ward councillors as they reflect on their first year representing our area - and share what's ahead.

This is a chance to:

- Hear directly from councillors about their work so far
- Learn more about upcoming priorities for the Peninsula
- Ask questions, raise concerns and share ideas.

Please register online via the QR code, website <https://peninsularesidents.org.au/> or facebook page.

All are welcome to attend this free public meeting.

Food and drink available for purchase at the club.

Organised by the Peninsula Residents Association with generous support from the Everglades Country Club.

**REGISTER NOW**

Gosford West Ward  
  
Councillor Trent McWaide  
  
Councillor Belinda Neal  
  
Councillor Jane Smith



Arts

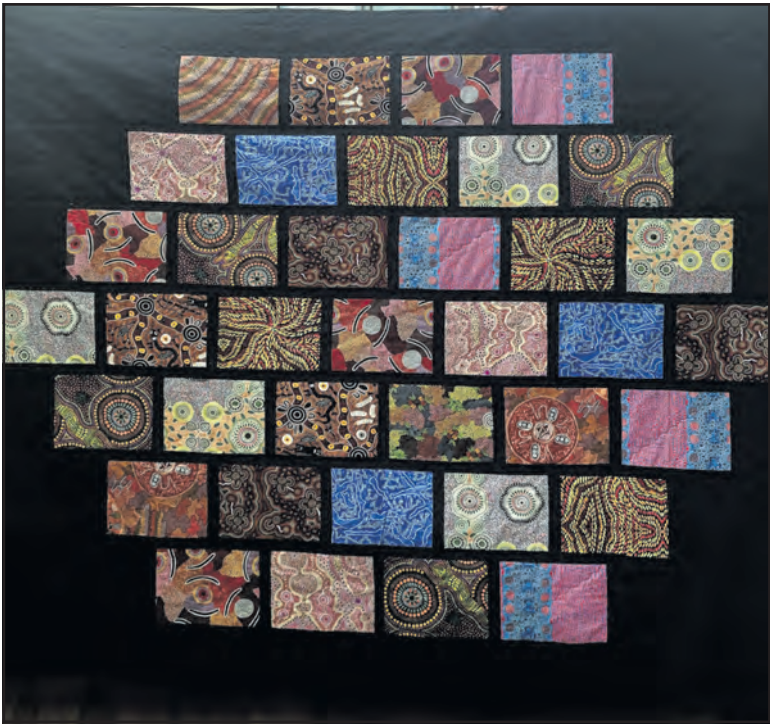
Quilt made with indigenous print fabrics

The patchwork group at the Ettalong Beach Art and Craft Centre has a regular Monday “show and tell”.

On Monday, August 27, Ms Dianne Merryfull brought in the quilt she made with indigenous print fabrics.

The black background fabric was used to showcase the prints.

SOURCE:  
Social media, 27 Aug 2025  
Ettalong Beach Arts and Craft Centre



Botanical art show held at Gosford gallery

Three Peninsula residents will be part of a show at Gosford Regional Gallery presented by the Central Coast Botanical Art Group to celebrate the gallery’s 25th anniversary.

The show, Alphabetanical - A Different Botanical Art Show, which continues until September 17, is free and will feature artworks created to illustrate a booklet about some of the plants used in the Japanese gardens behind the gallery.

Cards, booklets and other items will be available for sale.

“The group sprang into existence shortly after the Gosford gallery was opened,” said member Ms Liz Hoese.

“This small group’s original

focus was botanical illustration but recently the group has become more experimental and independent of tutors.

“Some of the group started as raw beginners but over time developed into serious and well known artists.

“Its members include three from the Peninsula but come from a wide range of the Central Coast.

“We try to experience different techniques and media as well as diversifying our subjects to include insects, birds and other animals.

“We welcome new members.”

More information about the group can be obtained from the list of term classes at the Gosford Regional Gallery.

SOURCE:  
Media release, 29 Aug 2025  
Liz Hoese, Central Coast Botanical Art Group

Sculpture garden holds exhibition

A sculpture garden in Pearl Beach will hold an exhibition from 10am to 4pm next weekend, September 13 and 14.

The exhibition “Arcadia at the Pink Onion” will feature works by Gaby Porter, Jan Hohne, Jeanne Albrecht, Maggs, Di Swalwall and Mary Vander.

“Arcadia was an area of ancient Greece renowned for it’s harmony and contentment living close to nature, a good inspiration for life today,” said Ms Porter.

The garden is at 61 Crystal Ave, Pearl Beach.

SOURCE:  
Media release, 3 Sep 2025  
Gaby Porter, The Pink Onion



Read-aloud book club meets in Woy Woy library

The Read-aloud Book Club will continue its meetings tomorrow, Tuesday, September 9, at Woy Woy Library from 1:30pm to 4pm.

Members bring a favourite short piece of fiction, non-fiction, poetry or even a great article - and read it aloud in a relaxed welcoming space.

They listen and then chat about what makes the piece special.

The club aims to be fun, thought

provoking and to improve memory and comprehension.

The club meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month.

After tomorrow, the next scheduled meetings are on September 23, and October 14 and 28.

With inquiries, phone 4304 7555.

SOURCE:  
Website, 4 Sep 2025  
Library Services, Central Coast Council

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## Our first 50 issues recreated

### Peninsula News has digitally recreated its first 50 issues to commemorate its 25th anniversary.

The original early copies of Peninsula News were produced using a physical "paste-up" of the newspaper delivered to the printer.

Only later did the process change to the current method of creating PDF files which are emailed to the printer.

The PDF reconstructions of these early issues were made possible by a \$59,600 grant from the NSW Government's Regional Media Fund.

Together with news articles and pictures contained in them, these PDF files have now been uploaded to the Peninsula News website.

Peninsula News was launched during a period of rapid and significant change on the Peninsula.

The first issue of the paper

announced "Big changes are coming".

These included substantial business investment and council projects such as the leisure centre, the PCYC and the community centre and theatre at McMasters Rd.

The Peninsula News aimed to inform the community of these developments, to provide a forum for discussion and to engender pride and involvement in our community.

"As population pressures increase, the capacity of infrastructure provided by the council - roads, drains and waste disposal - will be tested to its limits.

"Of increasing importance will be planning controls to ensure we are creating an environment which is in tune with the aspirations of the community," the first issue stated.

The first 50 issues of Peninsula News did document the changes,

and these can now be read online.

Readers may be interested to compare the changes 25 years ago with the changes occurring today.

How has the Peninsula evolved? What are the perennial issues that continue to arise and do not seem to have been resolved satisfactorily?

The grant also covered enhancements to the Peninsula News website.

These include the introduction of a search facility, Peninsula diary and a community directory.

The website has been redesigned so that it now can be viewed satisfactorily on devices of different sizes - phones, tablets, laptops and desktop computers.

The editing process has also been enhanced to facilitate creation of social media posts and emailed updates to readers.

Mark Snell, 31 Aug 2025

### Grants for new kitchen

The Umina Beach branch of the Country Women's Association has received grants totalling \$35,000 for its new "community kitchen" at its hall in Umina.

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch presented \$30,000 to the group on Wednesday, August 20.

This was followed by a \$5000 grant from Ettalong Diggers presented by its community manager Ms Kim Cole last Wednesday, September 3.

"This will enable us to do so much for the local groups and schools," said group member Ms Margaret Key.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 4 Sep 2025  
CWA Umina Beach

Central Coast Council staff have "acknowledged the community's desire for more meaningful engagement and for improved livability outcomes".

The acknowledgement was included in a report to last week's Council environment and planning committee about the draft Community Participation Plan.

The draft plan was "placed on public exhibition for a second time from May 5 to June 4". "During this exhibition a dedicated project page was established.

"There were 232 page views from 180 unique visitors.

"Four formal submissions were

received."

One submission was summarised as a "request for regular community forums to support genuine engagement, improved urban design, and climate resilience, with a focus on livability and responsiveness to local issues".

The staff response stated: "Council acknowledges the community's desire for more meaningful engagement and improved livability outcomes.

"We have adopted a new Community Engagement Strategy, which prioritises place-based engagement to ensure local voices are reflected in decision-making.

"With the return of elected councillors, Council is committed to increasing opportunities for public input, including regular forums ahead of key decision making.

"We also continue to address concerns around climate resilience and urban design through sustainable planning and improved

development standards."

In a separate report to the Council's community and culture committee, council staff reported responses to its "Connecting with Community Groups and Organisations engagement activity".

The report reported community group "frustration with previous engagement efforts".

A progress association stated: "Unfortunately, there is a strong perception within the community that existing public consultation has been largely a 'box ticking exercise' and that council is not serious in taking on board the feedback and submissions made by rate payers and our own association."

Other groups asked for involvement earlier in project planning.

"Maintaining open lines of communication and involving us early in the process will help ensure our group remains

engaged, informed, and able to contribute meaningfully to projects that impact tennis and community sport in the region," said a sports club

A residents' association asked for "early involvement and consultation on plans for infrastructure or planning changes that will impact the Peninsula.

"We are happy to be canvassed for our views on priorities of different projects, and keen to have visibility on budget allocated to Peninsula projects and services."

The report recommended that nine actions be endorsed, covering themes of "consistent communication", "engaging early and collaborating" and "building relationships".

**SOURCE:**  
Agenda S.1, 2 Sep 2025  
Environment and Planning Committee, Central Coast Council  
Agenda 1.10, 2 Sep 2025  
Community and Culture Committee, Central Coast Council

## Writers' festival receives two-year grant

Words on the Waves Writers Festival has received a grant in a two-year funding round of the inaugural Arts and Cultural Funding Program.

"This very welcome investment will enable Words on the Waves to support and showcase the work of more Australian and particularly NSW authors, from emerging to established," said festival director Ms Angela Bennetts.

"The festival will be able to deliver more events and programming to enrich the cultural landscape of the Central Coast year-round, and renew its commitment to inspiring the next generation through our children's and youth program, Ripples.

"This funding will reduce the organisation's reliance on

volunteer staffing, increasing its sustainability and longevity.

"Words on the Waves looks forward to also creating more meaningful impact from community partnerships, with a special focus on First Nations partners.

"To say we are elated and deeply honoured by this news is an understatement.

"We hope that our community also feel that this is an acknowledgement of their part in building up a thriving literary culture here on the Central Coast," she said.

The festival will run from Wednesday to Sunday, May 27 to 31 next year.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 4 Sep 2025  
Angela Bennetts, Words on the Waves

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## RSL offers Saturday ‘catch-up’ coffee

The Woy Woy, Ettalong and Hardys Bay sub-branch of the Returned Services League is holding Veterans Connect “coffee catch-ups” on Saturday mornings during spring.

The next catch-up will be at the Ettalong Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Saturday, September 20.

Sub-branch well-being support officer Mr Shane Herbert said he was keen to connect with other contemporary and younger veterans in our community.

“We know that there are almost 2000 locals who have served in the Australian Defence Forces,” he said.

“Veterans range in age from the Vietnam War era and earlier service, right up to operational and training service in recent years and modern conflicts.

“We want to remind Veterans and families that your RSL is here for you and your mates.

“During the next few months the RSL sub-branch will be out on the waterfront for Veteran Connect coffee catch-ups on Saturday mornings and we invite all Veterans and friends to stop by and say hello,” he said.

Long-time RSL member Mr Bobby Knowles said he knew from personal experience the value that



a support network could provide.

Bobby served in what is now called the Reserves.

His brother was a Vietnam War veteran.

He said he initially joined the RSL for fellowship and now enjoyed the opportunity for veterans to serve other veterans.

Sub-branch president Ms Dode Simpson is another long-time member.

She is often seen at memorial services remembering the legacy of past veterans and maintaining traditions for future generations.

“Dode volunteers her time and is rewarded through getting together and sharing stories, working with schools and younger people to

remember and respect traditions,” said Mr Herbert.

She lit up the lives of older Veterans with weekly coffee club and nursing home visits, he said.

“The RSL is still here and working for Veterans and their families.

“We want to connect to Veterans now so we continue to build service and community.”

Pictured are RSL sub-branch president Dode Simpson with members Shane Herbert, Dave and Bobby Knowles.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 29 Aug 2025  
Shane Herbert, Woy Woy, Ettalong, Hardys Bay RSL

## GUST asks: Do you live on the north side of a hot street?

The Grow Urban Shade Trees group is wanting to hear from people living on the north side of hot streets.

The group is hoping to support these people in planting shade trees.

“Planting a shade tree on your verge will cool the radiant heat producing road surface, while

keeping your house and garden in the sunshine,” said group member Ms Deb Sunartha.

Last week, the group successfully planted three tall canopy species on the north side of a sunny and busy thoroughfare.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 4 Sep 2025  
Deb Sunartha, GUST



## Team-building workshop helps children in hospital

A team-building workshop has been held in Ettalong with a benefit of providing superhero-themed clothing for children in hospital.

The workshop was held at Ettalong Diggers on Friday, August 22, and involved staff from the club, members of the Ettalong Beach RSL sub-branch, local surf lifesaving clubs, and nearby businesses.

They came together to pack Supertee medical garments, following a recent \$10,000

ClubGrant from Ettalong Diggers.

“We’re not just funding this incredible project. We’re physically helping to deliver it,” said Ettalong Diggers community manager Ms Kim Cole.

“It’s an honour to take part in something so impactful, and even more exciting to share it with our extended community.”

The workshop also saw the launch of two new designs.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 22 Aug 2025  
Kim Cole, Ettalong Diggers

## Umina Beach life savers to get new jet ski

A new jetski will be supplied to Umina Beach through Surf Life Saving NSW, according to Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch.

“Our surf life savers are the ever-present heroes of the summer season, keeping our community safe as they enjoy the beautiful beaches our Central Coast has to offer,” she said.

“This investment for Umina Beach ensures that our lifesavers have access to the best technologies and equipment to keep our beaches safe.

“Fast, agile and highly effective in surf conditions, they allow lifesavers to get people out of trouble quickly.

“Ahead of the summer

patrol season, I encourage our community to get involved in surf lifesaving.

“It is a fantastic opportunity to give back to our community while enjoying the best our coastline has to offer.”

Ms Tesch said the state now had 56 surf life saving jetskis, 206 rescues performed by volunteer life savers last year.

She said that, supporting the jet skis, new emergency beacons backed by drones were installed at Pearl Beach.

“The beacons are installed on beaches and allow for emergency services to be called during emergencies.”

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 1 Sep 2025  
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford

## Vandalism

Central Coast Council is asking residents to report vandalism to public toilets as it happens, following a spate of six incidents in a week.

These included toilets at Umina Beach which have been closed for repairs and additional works to help prevent further damage.

The Council has advised residents: “For crimes in progress, call 000 (triple zero) immediately.

Otherwise, “any witnessed anti-social behaviour or vandalism” should be reported to NSW Crime Stoppers by calling 1800 333 000 or online <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au>.

Damage to public toilets, sports facilities and community spaces can be reported to the council’s customer service on 4309 7900, or lodge online via our online customer service centre

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 2 Sep 2025  
Sue Davies, Central Coast Council

## Grants funding rounds open

A local registered club has announced that ClubGrants funding rounds for 2025-26 are now open.

The scheme allows eligible NSW clubs to claim a tax rebate on poker machine profits by spending a portion on community development and support.

“The community funding

program, that provides financial, and in-kind assistance, to community groups, sporting organisations, and charities,” said Ettalong Diggers community manager Ms Kim Cole.

“It supports projects in welfare, health, youth, cultural development, and social services, helping local initiatives that make a real difference.

“Ettalong Diggers are proud to support our local community through the ClubGrants Program.”

Applications will be accepted until June 30 next year or until funds are allocated.

Further information is available on the Ettalong Diggers’ website.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 2 Sep 2025  
Ettalong Diggers



# Bowling club donates to Health District

**Umina Beach Men’s Bowling Club has presented the proceeds of a recent charity day to Central Coast Health.**

The club held its annual Ron Pursehouse Prostate Cancer Charity Day event on June 25 to raise money for Central Coast Health to purchase modern urological equipment for Gosford and Wyong Hospitals.

This year, the event raised

\$6500, which was presented to Central Coast Health on Thursday, September 4.

When presenting the cheque, club member Mr Ian Jarratt announced that this made a total of \$78,500 that the club had raised for the prostate cancer treatment, since the event started in 2009.

He said that the event raised an additional \$650 for the Central Coast Kids in Need charity as well.

Central Coast Health

fundraising director Ms Kate Holloway and senior fundraising officer Ms Colleen Tukavkin thanked the Umina Beach bowlers for their fundraising efforts over a long period of time.

Clinical nurse Ms Lisa Shailer spoke about the equipment that will be purchased with the donated funds.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 5 Sep 2025  
Peter Springett, UBMBC



# Building stage close to completion

**A Woy Woy aged care home is expecting to complete the renovation of one of its courtyards as a prelude to the “practical completion” of the current stage of its building works in October.**

“While there is still some finishing off to complete the Palm Sails courtyard, it is now largely done and can be utilised by residents and others,” said chief executive Mr Matt Downie.

“The end closest to the current building works will remain closed off, but the rest of the courtyard will be opened up.

“Still to be completed in this space will be some permanent seating installed on the two curved

rendered walls.

Custom seats are still being made up for this.”

He said there would also be some new outdoor tables and chairs to populate the space under cover.

“These elements should also be added by mid-September.”

Mr Downie said: “The rest of the building progress is all still running to schedule.

“We expect it to be at practical completion by early October.

“We then need to go through the certification process, which can be time-consuming.

“Furniture is scheduled to be delivered and installed mid-October.

“We are hoping then to be able

to open the space up for all to use from late October, once final sign off for occupancy is achieved.

“This will also be when we will relocate residents in the few remaining old-style Shores’ bedrooms into some of the new rooms created in Driftwood.

“This remaining older section of The Shores building will then also be rebuilt from late this year into next year.

“New spaces include a new larger hair salon, a private library-sitting room space with another fireplace, more outdoor spaces and decks, and the balance of the Driftwood Household.

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

# Aged care workers recognised for 20 years’ service

**Two aged care workers have been recognised for 20 years of service with a Umina aged care facility.**

Peninsula Village employees, team leader Ms Nicole Hamstra and care partner Ms Susan Byrd, have been recognised for their service to the Village and its residents.

Ms Hamstra was described as a pillar of strength, compassion, and commitment.

“Her dedication and leadership have made a lasting impact on

everyone around her.”

Ms Byrd was described as compassionate, reliable, and valued member of the team, “bringing warmth, empathy, and unwavering commitment to the lives of our residents”.

“Her role as a care partner goes far beyond her duties.

“She creates meaningful connections, provides comfort, and embodies the heart of what we do.”

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 31 Aug 2025  
Peninsula Villages



**LIESL TESCH MP**  
STATE MEMBER FOR GOSFORD

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Education



## Mindfulness sessions held for students in all classes

**Mindfulness sessions have been held for students in all classes at St John the Baptist Primary School in Woy Woy.**

They were facilitated by Ms Vicki O’Leary from Clear Minded for Life with sessions provide children with moments of Pause, Presence and Calm.

Year 2 students explored some mindful movements, five slow breaths to steady nerves, some gentle brain hugs, sound awareness, rainbow breathing, and

“embodying growth” by imagining starting as seed and branching up high.

“Many of our teachers have started incorporating mindful practices into their daily class routines with students,” said principal Ms Nicole Davies.

The school is encouraging parents to continue these practices with their children at home.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 4 Sep 2025  
SJB Catholic Primary School Woy Woy



## Students attend cyber-bullying and AI workshop

**More than 250 students from Brisbane Water Secondary College have participated in a workshop about cyber-bullying and AI.**

The Digital Thumbprint Program workshop was one of five run by Optus on the Coast.

Optus local general manager Mr Glenn Hamilton said that the collaboration between parents, educators and the community was essential to help support young people’s digital wellbeing.

“Our Digital Thumbprint Program supports young people to achieve, thrive and belong in today’s digital world by encouraging positive online behaviour around privacy, security and responsible

technology use.

“We’ve seen incredible outcomes from the program with the majority of students feeling more empowered after the sessions.”

He said investing in the future of Central Coast students’ digital safety and wellbeing was at the forefront of Digital Thumbprint program.

Pictured are Mr Hamilton with Brisbane Water Secondary College teacher Mr Roman Myszkowski, Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch and program facilitator Ms Ella Batey-McManus.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 28 Aug 2025  
Bayley Mitchell, Society Marcom

## Umina pre-school to use school building

**An existing building at Umina Beach Public School will be “repurposed and expanded” as the location of Umina Beach Public Preschool.**

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch “applauded” the announcement that, after considering all feedback, the future Umina Beach Public Preschool would be relocated to Building A at the school.

“The plan will have significantly less impact on play space in the school,” she said.

“This new location will see existing buildings repurposed and expanded to create modern preschool learning spaces.

“The refurbishment of this building will also ensure that no addition parking is required, protecting playspace.”

Ms Tesch said: “This outcome

really is a win for the voice of our local school community.

“I was concerned about the loss of valuable playspace and, as such, I have met with decision makers continually to share the everyone’s concerns, working to find a solution for all.

“I am thrilled to see that the Department of Education has heard the community and has resolved to move the future public preschool into an existing building.”

The preschool is anticipated to be open to students from the start of 2027.

Parents looking to enrol are encouraged to visit the Department of Education’s information for families webpage.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 29 Aug 2025  
Joely Langmaid, Office of the Member for Gosford



## Athletes given experience in the kitchen

**The Futures Academy high performance athletes at Umina campus of Brisbane Water Secondary College were given hands-on experience in the kitchen last week.**

They made healthy snacks and tasted their creations.

There was time for sport chat and the students were thrilled to view the medals from the College’s Umina soccer team’s recent Bill Turner Cup success as regional champions.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 5 Sep 2025  
BWSC Umina



## Phonics screening shows 79 per cent ‘on track’

**The Year 1 Phonics Screening Check at Umina Beach Public School has shown 79 per cent of students “on track” with their phonics development, according to principal Ms Karen Wardlaw.**

“This result is slightly higher than last year’s results, reflecting the cumulative support and hard

work of our students, teachers, and families.

“While most of our students are already on track, some are in the ‘monitor’ or ‘at risk’ range.

“Our students who are being monitored benefit from some additional practice, and are receiving extra opportunities for practice within classroom literacy blocks.

“The 10 per cent of our students who require more intensive support are already being supported through additional daily opportunities to practise core skills, and their progress is reviewed regularly so strategies can be adjusted quickly if needed.”

**SOURCE:**  
Newsletter, 27 Aug 2025  
Karen Wardlaw, Umina Beach Public School

## Grant to refurbish mixed-sport court

**Ettalong Public School’s Parents and Citizens’ Association has been granted \$30,000 to refurbish the school’s mixed sport court.**

“Refurbishing the deteriorating court, with its basketball-netball court, six-lane running track and handball courts, will benefit 500-plus students and local community groups,” said Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch.

“Updated surface coatings will reduce surface temperatures by

25 per cent, allowing for a safer playing environment.”

School principal Ms Jodie Campbell said: “The opportunity will be tremendous for our kids and our community.

“We use this space not just for our children but also for community groups that utilise our playground.

“Reducing the temperature is phenomenal because in summer it’s been a tricky space for them to be able to play.”

Ms Tesch said it was vital to promote sport participation, which

has been shown to reduce stress and foster inclusivity, increased self-esteem, confidence and academic success in students.

“This State Government Community Building Partnership program grant will deliver a much-needed improvement to a local asset and it’s great to see this grassroots funding supporting local projects that make a real difference.”

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 4 Sep 2025  
Joely Langmaid, Office of the Member for Gosford



## Umina defeat SEU in WPL round

**Umina has defeated Southern and Ettalong 6-0 in round 20 of Women's Premier League soccer.**

The Peninsula derby went in favour of Umina for the third time this season.

With all the recent rain, Southern and Ettalong were forced to give up their home field advantage for this contest.

James Browne Oval was unplayable and the fixture was moved to Mangrove Mountain where the pitch was wet but still in a playable condition.

The middle part of the pitch was the worst, making the legs and the ball heavy.

Umina's upgraded midfield combo made easy work of the wet terrain though, moving the ball well to workspaces wide and far.

Umina's Alexia Karas was a prominent figure in spearheading their attack, mixing through balls with shots at goal from range.

In fact, the first goal for Umina came from Alexia through a long-range shot on the edge of the 18-yard box, after a short corner.

The Lionesses were now on the back foot less than three minutes into the game.

Umina's second goal came just after the 20th minute.

A shot that was going wide of the goal took an unlucky deflection off the SEU defender and into the back of the net to double Umina's advantage.

Kate Styles received a beautiful through ball from Alexia 10 minutes later.

That was saved by SEUs' goalkeeper Emily Trengrove who once again jumped in goals to help

out the team.

But not a minute later, Kate had another opportunity and made no mistake this time, slotting home Umina's third.

Umina were the dominant team for most of the first half now, pushing the attack and holding possession in their attacking half.

This was evident in their fourth goal around the 34th minute.

Another quick run from Kate behind the defensive line saw her fire home her second for the match as Umina carried their 4-0 lead into the break.

The second half started with one of SEU's youngest call-ups Marlie Hill working overtime on the right-hand side of the pitch.

It was Marlie's first time back since the last outing against Umina where she was picked up and thrown off the ball.

Her relentless work was inspiring to the rest of the team and SEU was picking up a gear.

Yet despite the improvement in play, it was another fortunate bounce of the ball for Umina that saw the ball ricochet off the goalpost and fall at the feet of Hayley Fullwood, who had had a great game thus far.

She easily and promptly scored Umina's fifth goal of the game.

Even after this latest goal, the Lionesses never stopped, pushing to win every ball through fatigue and injuries.

But it was Umina again after several more shots on goal that saw them seal Southern's fate with a final goal to end the game at 6-0.

Match official was Con Pantos.

**SOURCE:**  
Website, 1 Sep 2025  
Central Coast Football



## Major Pairs semi-final

**Marie Woodbine and Sheena Black competed against Kate Noble and Tamara Jackson in the semi-final of the Ettalong Women's Bowling Club's Major Pairs competition.**

Kate and Tamara got away to a good start but Sheena and Marie

weren't having any of it.

They fought back to be 16-all on the last end requiring an extra end to be played.

Sheena and Marie were the victors 17-16.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 27 Aug 2025  
Ettalong Womens Bowling Club

## Umina has second Major Singles semi-final

**Umina Beach Women's Bowling Club's Major Singles second semi-final was played on Saturday, September 6, between Lauren Ford and Kerry Yates.**

"Lauren went to an early lead but Kerry found her green and climbed her way back into the match making Lauren fight hard to keep the lead," said club member Ms Lesley Swales.

"However, after 23 ends Lauren got the shots needed to win the game.

"The final between Lauren Ford and Meena Kelso will be played by mutual agreement on Sunday, September 21, starting at 9.30am."

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 6 Sep 2025  
Lesley Swales, UBWC



## Tennis group wants 'blokes to show up'

**The Pearl Beach Men's Friday Afternoon Social Tennis Group is inviting "more blokes to show up" for its events.**

The group was established in 1981 and is still going strong 44 years later.

It meets from noon until 2pm every Friday, weather permitting.

The standard is "social all welcome".

The cost is \$6 per session.

For more information, phone Paul on 0428 426 110 or email efishtent26@gmail.com.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 4 Sep 2025  
Pearl Beach Tennis and Bowls

## WHAT'S ON at ETTALONG BOWLING CLUB

Ettalong Bowling Club is excited to hold our Annual Spring Fest event on Saturday 1st November from 1pm – 6pm.

Proudly supporting local with all proceeds from the day's event will be donated to Mary Mac's Place – Woy Woy. Mary Macs is located in the hub of Woy Woy, the wonderful volunteers work tirelessly to provide meals and services five days a week.

A family friendly day on the green to celebrate all things Spring. Enjoy the sunshine while the kiddies are entertained with a petting zoo & two jumping castles to suit all ages.

Live entertainment on the green with Soul Station Trio from 2pm and an outdoor bar for the bigger kids to enjoy a few beverages along with a BBQ stall.

Lots of prizes up for grabs with raffles and giveaways. Come along to support local while you have an enjoyable day with friends in family.

**ETTALONG**  
BOWLING CLUB

103 Springwood St, Umina Beach NSW 2257 (02) 4341 0087

# SPRING FEST

AT ETTALONG BOWLING CLUB

**FAMILY FUN DAY ON THE GREEN**

**SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2025 1PM - 6PM**

**ACTIVITIES ON THE DAY INCLUDE:**

- MAJOR PRIZE GIVEAWAY ON THE DAY
- LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FROM 2PM WITH SOUL STATION TRIO
- SAUSAGE SIZZLE
- RAFFLES & GIVEAWAYS

**FOR THE KIDDIES:**

- JUMPING CASTLES / PETTING ZOO / SNOW CONE MACHINE

Proceeds from the day's event will be donated to Mary Mac's Place Woy Woy. Ettalong Bowling Club is proud to support local.

**FREE EVENT**

THE BEST-KEPT SECRET ON THE CENTRAL COAST



Sport

Southern defeats Ourimbah in MPL match

Southern and Ettalong United has defeated Ourimbah 4-0 in their round 17 soccer match in Men's Premier League.

Southern extended their incredible record to 14 wins in 17 fixtures this season, and setting up the Ourimbah Falcons for a potential relegation play-off.

In-form Jayke Browne had a chance in the opening five minutes, but he was unable to guide the ball into the back of the net.

Southern enjoyed a string of corners and long throw-ins, which the Ourimbah defence was able to defuse.

One of these long throw-ins saw Ourimbah counterattack with pace and the attack finished with Aron Bone striking, almost giving Ourimbah the lead against the run of play.

Southern would find the opening goal at the other end just minutes later.

Five minutes after getting their first, Southern were awarded a penalty after a scrappy challenge inside the box.

Captain Todd Balneaves stepped up for his team, but his first effort was saved.

The goalkeeper could only parry it back into Balneaves' path and he finished in an open net.

Ourimbah ended the period with chances of their own, but the Southern defence remained intact to hold their 2-0 lead to conclude the opening 45 minutes.

Southern couldn't ask for a much better start to the second period, scoring after just 40 seconds thanks to a Jack Ellwood cross that found Keith Gumbs alone at the back post with the veteran striker finishing clinically into the bottom corner.

Things went from bad to worse for Ourimbah as their goalkeeper, Kyle Lawther, was shown a straight red card on the 70-minute mark, giving Southern their second penalty of the day.

Drew Lawther went in goals as Todd Balneaves stepped up to the spot once more.

Balneaves again fired low and hard, this time beating the keeper, to claim all three points for his side.

Match official was Preston Lorusso.

SOURCE: Website, 1 Sep 2025 Central Coast Football



Major Singles final decided after deferral

The Major Singles final was contested Everglades Men's Bowls on Sunday, August 24, after being deferred due to bad weather and a medical issue for one of the competitors.

The knockout tournament ran over several weeks, with the

competition format being four bowls and the first to reach 25 shots.

Ken Young defeated Andrew McDonald 25-3 over 16 ends "with a display of exceptional, consistent bowling", according to club secretary Mr Grant Ireland.

"The scoreline certainly did not

reflect the standard of bowls on the day."

The next tournament at Everglades is the Minor Pairs which commences on Saturday, September 13.

SOURCE: Media release, 25 Aug 2025 Grant Ireland, Everglades Men's Bowls

Jodie Meade part of Australian win

Ocean Beach Surf Life Saving and Woy Woy Swim Club member Jodie Meade has worn the Green and Gold for the first time to be part of an Australian win against New Zealand in Queensland.

Jodie was part of the Australian Youth Team competing in the Battle of the Tasman held over the weekend of August 30 and 31.

She took part in a number of events over two days against their fellow New Zealand rivals,

Both the Australian Youth and Pathway teams led the final points to give Australia the win overall.

SOURCE: Social media, 1 Sep 2025 Woy Woy Swim Club



The Brisbane Water Bridge Club Premier Pairs event was contested by 12 pairs over two sessions, culminating on Saturday, August 30.

The event also doubled as a qualifier for the State Pairs Championship to be held later this year at the home of NSW Bridge in Sydney.

This year the championship consisted of two sessions; the first a Mitchell and finally an Interwoven Howell so that by the end of the tournament all pairs had played each other.

Christine Hadaway and Donelle Foate were the club champions for this year.

Their win was quite impressive with great scores both weeks ensuring a one per cent buffer at the close of play.

Pauline Caust and Alan Bustany took the second spot with Gary Heyting and Stephanie Mathews



third. Results were: 1 Christine Hadaway, Donelle Foate 304.0 (55.27 per cent). 2 Pauline Caust, Alan Bustany 298.0 (54.18). 3 Gary Heyting, Stephanie Mathews 289.0 (52.55). 4 Barry Foster, Chris Hannan 288.0 (52.36). 5 David Adams, Deborah Guthrie 283.0 (51.45). 6 Jaan Oitmaa, Sylvia Foster 282.0 (51.27). 7 Martin Johnson, Chris

Hasemore 278.0 (50.55). 7 Anne Grayden, Julie Sadler 278.0 (50.55). 9 Mal Matt Raj, Sue Morris 276.0 (50.18). 10 Edith Marshall, Hilary Owen 260.0 (47.27). 11 Frankie Craven, Spider Redgold 243.0 (44.18). 12 Robyn Serra, Helen Cashman 221.0 (40.18).

SOURCE: Social media, 31 Aug 2025 Brisbane Water Bridge Club

Surf club wants people to join in 24-hour row

Umina Surf Life Saving Club is asking members, non-members, family and friends to join in the Gotcha4Life 24-hour row at the club from 12pm on Saturday, September 13, to 12pm on Sunday, September 14.

Everyone of all ages, abilities and genders is welcome.

The club is asking people to "pop in when it suits you".

There is no obligation to

fundraise.

Food and drinks are available all weekend.

Participants row or paddle for 30 mins or longer, with changeovers available at anytime.

They need not worry about speed: "Just keeping the rower moving."

All efforts help spread the Gotcha4Life message for mental fitness.

SOURCE: Social media, 5 Sep 2025 Umina Surf Life Saving Club

Grubs receive grant to help cover costs

A non-profit surf club for local children aged four to14 has received a \$5000 grant.

The club provides the opportunity for its members to learn, compete and have fun in a safe and supportive environment at Umina Beach.

The Grommet Umina Boardriders club, known as GRUBS, has a membership of

about 50 boys and girls.

It has a focus on participation, family inclusion, and building a lifelong love for the ocean.

The \$5000 ClubGrant from Ettalong Diggers "will help GRUBS cover rising costs such as insurances, council permits and Surfing NSW registrations," said Diggers community manager Ms Kim Cole.

"Importantly, it means the club can keep fees low for families, provide safety rashies and encouragement awards, and invest in coaching and development programs.

The club meets on the first Sunday of every month.

SOURCE: Social media, 26 Aug 2025 Kim Cole, Ettalong Diggers