

## Access restrictions eased to allow residents to return to Koolewong

**The Rural Fire Service has eased access restrictions to Koolewong at the weekend, while investigations into the fire which destroyed 16 homes and damaged a further 23 continue.**

"Access restrictions have now been lifted in all zones for residents to return to the area," said incident controller Mr Jonathon Hill in his final newsletter about the fire, issued on Saturday, December 13.

"Please note access is for residents only.

"We ask everyone to respect this and avoid unnecessary travel through the affected zones."

Residents were asked to

stay clear of cordoned areas, to observe barriers and to avoid marked asbestos hazards.

The fire service said the fire, which started around midday on Saturday, December 6, was "contained" on Tuesday, and was "now in its final stages and at a patrol status".

Police investigators said on Wednesday, December 10: "While the fire is likely to have originated in bushland on Nimbin Rd, the cause remains undetermined at this stage.

"Forensic examinations at the point of origin have not identified any evidence suggesting the use of ignitable liquids or a deliberate act.

"Examinations also indicate the likely cause of a fire near Koolewong Railway Station was a 'spot fire' from the original fire in bushland on Nimbin Rd.

"Scene examinations of affected properties within the fire zone have been completed and the area is no longer an active crime scene.

"Investigators continue to collect and review CCTV footage, recordings, and conduct inquiries with affected homeowners and witnesses."

**SOURCE:**  
Newsletter, 13 Dec 2025  
Rural Fire Service  
Media release, 10 Dec 2025  
NSW Police

**MORE FIRE NEWS – Page 8**



## Plan to close The Esplanade in coastal emergency

**The Esplanade could be closed in sections at Ettalong and Umina in an emergency caused by coastal inundation and erosion, according to an appendix in a draft coastal management plan.**

The action is foreshadowed in a Coastal Zone Emergency Action Subplan for Broken Bay Beaches, which is included in the draft Hawkesbury-Nepean River System Coastal Management Program.

Closures are among several "responses" to coastal erosion and coastal inundation events likely to occur once in 100 years – or events that have a "one percent annual exceedance probability", as the appendix puts it.

Other emergency responses include the use of sand bags and beach scraping, and collapsing the escarpment at access paths to "reinstate safe access" to the beach.

The "subplan", prepared by consultants Water Technology Pty Ltd for Central Coast Council in August, considers beaches at Ettalong, Umina, Pearl Beach and Patonga.

It regards the western parts of Ettalong Beach being at "high risk" due to both erosion and inundation.

"The main road along the beach (The Esplanade) is at risk of erosion across the reaches of foreshore that are not currently protected by permanent Coastal Protection Works.

"Towards the eastern end of Ettalong Beach, the foreshore in the vicinity of the Ettalong Wharf is also potentially exposed," it states.

The western part of Ocean-Umina Beach is also at high risk, "particularly due to the impacts of beach erosion".

"The Esplanade is at risk of erosion with potential impacts in adjacent properties particularly those near the intersection with Barrenjoey Rd.

"Erosion from this event is close to compromising Ocean Beach Surf Life Saving Club."

The plan said little impact of erosion or inundation was expected in the central and western parts of the beach, except to beach access paths and to some "foreshore recreation infrastructure" at the NRMA Ocean Beach Holiday Resort and at the entrance to Ettymalong Creek.

It stated that a high risk existed that about 30 properties at Pearl Beach would be impacted by erosion and "a few properties in the south of the beach will be inundated".

At Patonga, there was a high risk of "about 60 properties" being impacted by coastal inundation.

The "primary mechanism" would be "storm tide inundation" from the Patonga Creek side of the township, with more than 60 properties being "identified as at risk, located along Patonga Dr, Bay St, and Jacaranda Ave".

The emergency plan lists more than 10 measures each under headings of Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery.

Recovery measures include the "placement of sand on an opportunistic basis from dredging activities in the Ettalong Channel",

but the emergency plan does not discuss the longer-term maintenance or protection works for the beaches.

The appendix discusses the relationship of this plan to other emergency plans.

It discusses triggers for emergency action and the roles of various organisations, including Central Coast Council, the State Emergency Service, the Rural Fire Service, the Ambulance Service of NSW, the Bureau of Meteorology, NSW Marine Rescue, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, NSW Police, Surf Life Saving NSW and Transport for NSW.

The plan notes: "Private landholders are responsible for private land.

"Private property owners have responsibilities to monitor, manage, prepare and repair their properties for risks associated with coastal erosion, inundation and cliff and slope instability.

"Any physical works on private property are subject to development controls and environmental planning instruments, including the Central Coast Development Control Plan."

Central Coast Council's environment and planning committee has recommended the draft Program be placed on public exhibition.

**SOURCE:**  
Agenda item 3.7, 2 Dec 2025  
Environment and Planning Committee, Central Coast Council

**SEE MAPS - 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.

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**

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

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Next issue: Monday, January 12

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



Peninsula News  
Community Access

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

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

**NEXT EDITION:** Peninsula News 635  
Deadline: Thursday, January 8  
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**CONTACT DETAILS**  
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Please note: Peninsula News has no paid employees, and it may take a little time for us to get back to you. Our volunteers usually have other jobs and commitments, which compete for their time.

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

Fallback email address: editor@peninsulanews.asn.au

Editorial policy and guidelines

At its heart, Peninsula News is a community effort.

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

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

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

Locality

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

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

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

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

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

Readability

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

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

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

Forum letters

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

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

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

focus on the issues and not abuse or insult others.

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

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

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

Corrections

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

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

Source lines

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

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

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

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

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

The following descriptions are used:

**Media Release** - unsolicited contributions.

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

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

Association promotes holiday activities

The Pearl Beach Progress Association is promoting a range of local activities running from Christmas through to Australia Day.

Christmas Carols in the Arboretum will be held on Tuesday, December 23, from 5pm.

The evening will include classic carols under the trees, a visit from Santa and a range of food and drinks, with patrons welcome to bring their own.

Dogs are not allowed in the

Arboretum.

Family Bingo, where children and adults can play side by side, will be held at 4pm in the Pearl Beach Memorial Hall on Wednesday, December 31, and again on Wednesdays, January 7, 14 and 21.

Kids' Discos will be held at 5.30pm on Mondays, January 5, 12 and 19, with a barbecue dinner available from 5pm at the Memorial Hall.

Movie and Pizza Nights will

be held at the Memorial Hall on Thursdays, January 8, 15 and 22, with the movie starting at 5.15pm.

Australia Day celebrations will be held on the beach on Monday, January 26.

January, bringing people together in the relaxed, friendly way Pearl Beach is known for.

Details can be found online at [www.pearlbeachprogress.org.au](http://www.pearlbeachprogress.org.au).

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 3 Dec 2025  
Karina Stafford, PBPA



Fish puppets workshop

A workshop making fish puppets will be part of a school holiday program held at Woy Woy Library next month.

The session for eight to 12-year-olds will be held on Wednesday, January 21, and will cost \$8.

Those attending will be invited to play with colour, patterns and shapes in a "fun and creative" workshop to make fish puppets from tissue paper and card.

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

**SOURCE:**  
Website, 27 Nov 2025  
Library Services, Central Coast Council

Venturers hold barbecue

Venturers from 1st Woy Woy Sea Scouts held a fundraising barbecue on Sunday, November 30.

They held a stall at IGA Umina

to raise money to help update their hall in North Burge Rd, Woy Woy.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 30 Nov 2025  
1st Woy Woy Sea Scouts

On track for average December rainfall

December is on track to record its average monthly rainfall.

Halfway through the month, it has received about half the average December total, according to figures supplied by Mr Jim Morrison of Umina.

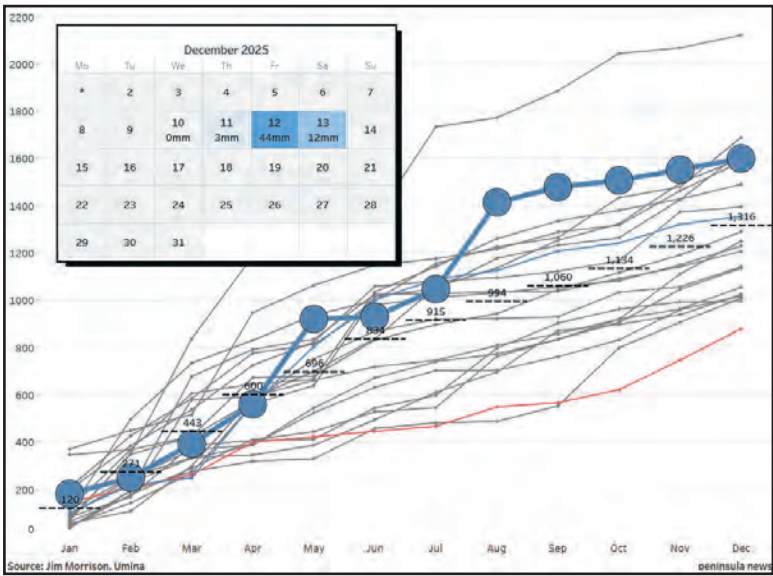
A total of 46.6mm was recorded by 9am on Friday, December 12, about half of the monthly average of 92mm.

Most of the total was recorded overnight and on the morning of December 12.

The cumulative total rainfall for the year stands at 1596.5mm, which is 22.3 per cent more than the average annual rainfall of 1305mm.

This makes it the equal fourth wettest year in 21 years.

Mr Morrison reported a further



11.9mm had fallen by 9am on Saturday.

More details, including daily rainfall figures, are available at

<http://penne.ws/Rain>.

**SOURCE:**  
Spreadsheet, 12 Dec 2025  
Jim Morrison, Umina

TIDE TIMES and Heights	Mon, Dec 15	Thu, Dec 18	Sun, Dec 21	Wed, Dec 24	Sat, Dec 27
	0624 0.99	0139 0.23	0337 0.22	0010 0.73	0235 0.82
	1253 0.33	0820 1.14	1007 1.19	0537 0.23	0819 0.31
	1820 0.75	1519 0.24	1718 0.18	1206 1.13	1433 0.97
		2051 0.74	2250 0.73	1916 0.16	2125 0.18
	Tue, Dec 16	Fri, Dec 19	Mon, Dec 22	Thu, Dec 25	Sun, Dec 28
	0020 0.23	0219 0.23	0415 0.22	0054 0.75	0331 0.89
	0705 1.05	0856 1.17	1045 1.18	0625 0.25	0930 0.33
	1347 0.30	1600 0.21	1757 0.17	1250 1.09	1533 0.91
	1915 0.74	2132 0.74	2329 0.73	1958 0.16	2211 0.20
AT ETTALONG	Wed, Dec 17	Sat, Dec 20	Tue, Dec 23	Fri, Dec 26	Mon, Dec 29
	0100 0.23	0259 0.23	0456 0.22	0142 0.77	0430 0.98
	0744 1.10	0931 1.18	1124 1.16	0718 0.28	1046 0.33
	1435 0.27	1639 0.20	1836 0.16	1339 1.03	1639 0.86
	2004 0.74	2212 0.74		2041 0.17	2259 0.22

NEWS email: contributions@peninsula.news



# Design work starts on Rawson Rd level crossing

Transport for NSW and Sydney Trains have started detailed design work to overhaul the Rawson Rd level crossing.

The design will include traffic lights at the adjoining intersection, with no right turn eastbound into Railway St.

A new pedestrian crossing will be installed across the southern side of the rail line, with separated pedestrian and vehicle paths on the northern side of the rail line.

It will include new cycle lanes, upgraded footpaths and kerbs, resurfacing, line marking, signage and video monitoring.

The community is expected to be able to comment on the plans next year.

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch said: "Anyone who lives here knows how busy and stressful this crossing can get, especially at school pick-up, during peak hour or on summer weekends.

"These upgrades will make a huge difference for the Woy Woy community."

The level crossing was the site

of 14 crashes in the five years to June last year, including three serious injuries, prompting calls from residents for urgent action.

Announcing the project, NSW Premier Mr Chris Minns said: "Families, commuters and kids walking to and from the station have been dealing with this dangerous crossing for too long, so we're stepping in to fix it.

"Everyone deserves to get home safely. This project will help make that happen."

He said funding would come through the Towards Zero Safer Roads Program and Sydney Trains' Level Crossing Safety Improvement Program.

Timing for construction would be confirmed following planning approvals.

Central Coast mayor Cr Lawrie McKinna said: "We look forward to working with Transport for NSW and Sydney Trains to ensure residents and visitors can enjoy increased safety and reduced risk when using the level crossing."

SOURCE:  
Media release, 1 Dec 2025  
Chris Minns, NSW Premier



## Woytopia receives \$19,800 grant

The Peninsula's biennial sustainability and community festival, Woytopia has been awarded a \$19,800 grant from Central Coast Council.

The funding will help expand Woytopia's program of workshops, live music and family-friendly activities, and ensure the festival continues to inspire residents and visitors alike, according to festival organiser Mr Julian Bowker.

The next Woytopia festival will

be hold on Sunday, October 11, next year.

"This support allows us to bring together people of all ages to learn, connect, and celebrate sustainability in a fun and engaging way," said Mr Bowker.

"Woytopia has become a much-loved family event for locals and visitors to the region.

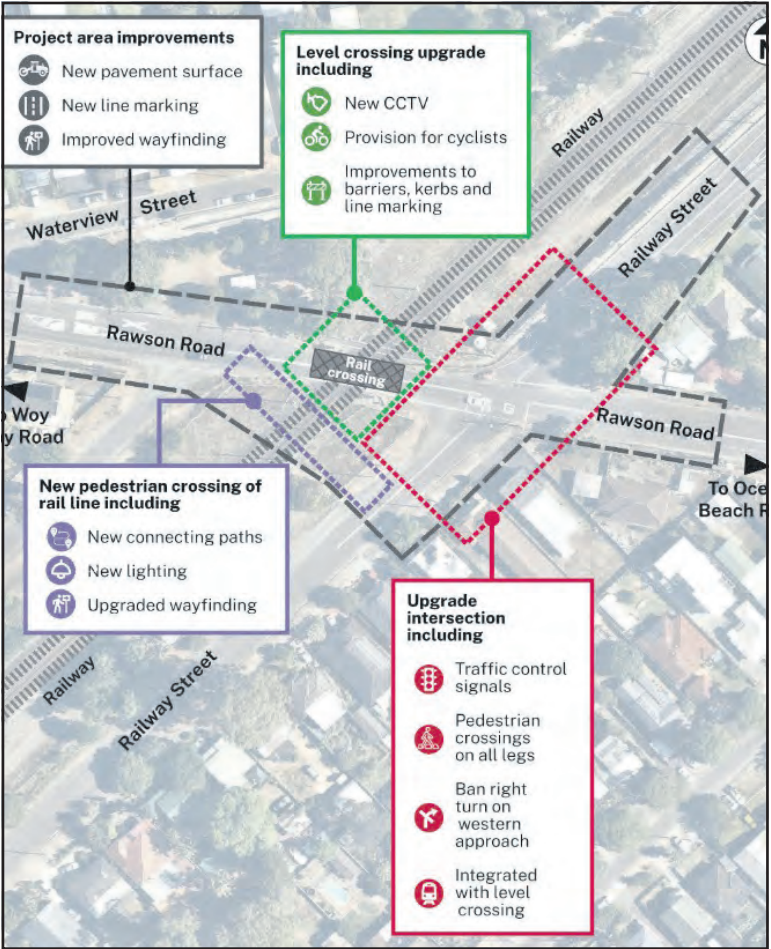
to support its mission of celebrating environmental awareness, creativity and local

culture."

Anyone interested in being involved, whether as a volunteer, a sponsor or stallholder, should email [info@woytopia.org](mailto:info@woytopia.org).

Picture are Woytopia wellness space organiser Ms Tina Vella, deputy mayor Cr John Mouland and festival organiser Mr Julian Bowker at a cheque presentation on Tuesday, December 9.

SOURCE:  
Media release, 13 Dec 2025  
Julian Bowker, Woytopia



## Hamper room donation for Mary Mac's

The Vietnam Veterans', Peacekeepers' and Peacemakers' Association of Australia Central Coast and the Rotary Club of Woy Woy together with a local supermarket have donated \$5000 to Mary Mac's Place in Woy Woy.

The donation will be used to stock Mary Mac's hamper room for next year and to contribute to its Christmas lunch and hampers

Representatives of the two groups and IGA Umina Beach made the presentation on Friday, December 5.

Project officer Ms Sally Baker said: "It is so special to me having you all in our lives to support those in need."

SOURCE:  
Social media, 6 Dec 2025  
Sally Baker, Mary Mac's Place



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263-267 Ocean View Rd, Ettalong Beach 4344 4200

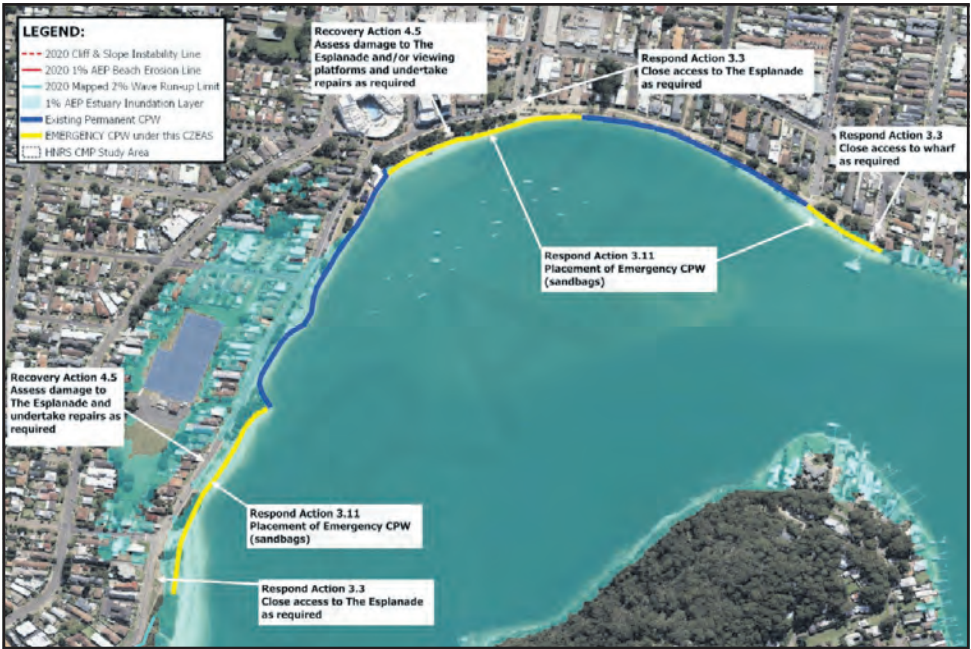
Community banking is based on a 'profit-with-purpose' model, which means our profits are returned directly to the community that has generated them.

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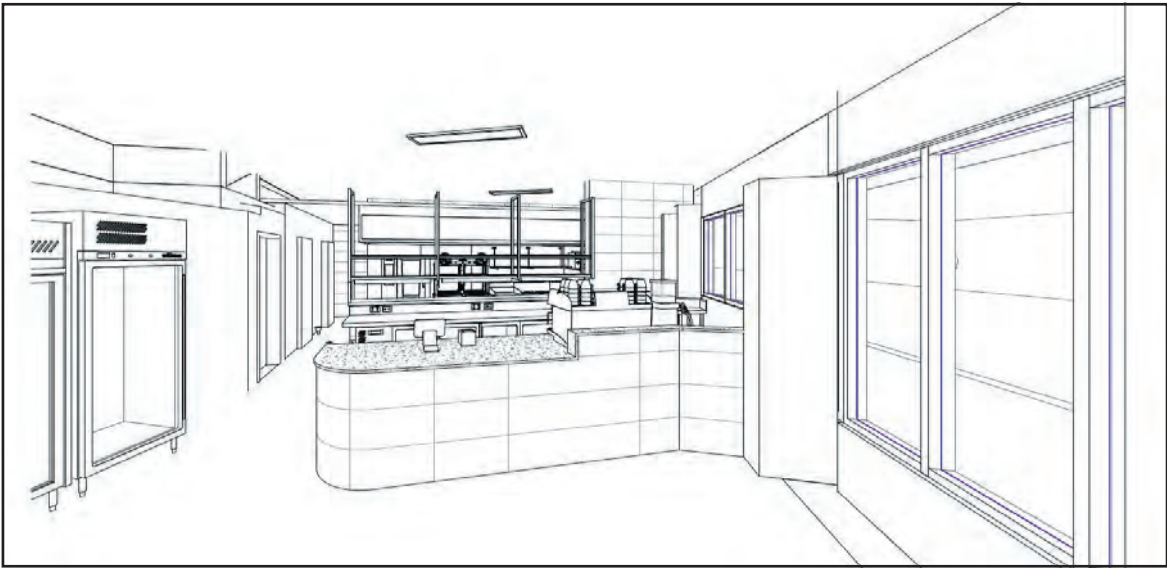
From lifesaving gear to community fundraisers, we put our profits back where they belong - into the heart of our community



## Broken Bay beaches coastal zone emergency action plan



Maps from the emergency action plan showing actions along The Esplanade



### Application for restaurant in Ettalong

A development application has been lodged with Central Coast Council regarding for a restaurant and cafe at 302-306 Ocean View Rd, Ettalong.

Prepared by PM Anderson Consulting on behalf of Domain Property Group, the proposal seeks approval for the establishment and fit-out of a restaurant and cafe on the ground floor of the mixed-use complex currently under construction on the corner of Ocean View and Ferry Rds.

The application outlines plans for the internal layout of a kitchen and bar, along with the inclusion of outdoor dining facilities situated

under the building's awning along the Ocean View Rd frontage.

According to the planning documents, the proposal involves the first use of the specific tenancy and does not require any alterations to the building's approved height, external footprint, or gross floor area.

The site is partially zoned E1 Local Centre, which permits food and drink premises with development consent.

The application notes that the restaurant will utilise existing essential services, including previously approved waste storage areas and parking arrangements, which were deemed sufficient

under the original development consent.

It concludes that the proposal is consistent with the character of Ettalong Beach area and aims to activate the street frontage while generating local employment opportunities.

The public exhibition is stated to be from Friday, December 12, to Monday, January 19.

However, over the weekend, a fault on the Council's planning portal prevented the download of documents for the application.

SOURCE:  
DA Tracker, 10 Dec 2025  
DA/1790/2025, Central Coast Council

### Planning documents not available on portal

An error with Central Coast Council's planning portal has meant that documents for 13 development applications for the Peninsula currently on "public exhibition" were not available over the weekend of December 13 and 14.

Attempts to look at plans for an application or to look at the Statement of Environmental Effects and other associated documents were met with a page stating: "Server error. 404 – File or directory not found."

"The resource you are looking for might have been removed, had its name changed, or is temporarily unavailable."

No advance notice of the unavailability of the documents was given.

The 13 applications included proposals for a multi-dwelling development, two dual occupancies, two double-

storey dwellings with secondary dwellings, two other secondary dwellings, and one to upgrade and extend a marina.

During the week, the planning portal was also out of action for a day, with the portal referring visitors to the NSW statewide planning portal, which also does not have detailed documentation available.

As a result, Peninsula News has been unable to access the documents to enable reports about these proposals to be published in this issue, within the advertised exhibition period.

It is not known whether the public exhibition period for these applications will be extended due to the unavailability of the documents.

Peninsula News will not have another issue until Monday, January 12.

SOURCE:  
DA Tracker, 14 Dec 2025  
Central Coast Council

### 'Gaza Nippers' film screened in Woy Woy

Central Coast Friends of Palestine held a screening of the film "Gaza Nippers - Hope amid Devastation" at the 1st Woy Woy Sea Scouts hall on Saturday, December 13.

The screening, with a post film discussion, was held to raise awareness and funds for the children of Gaza.

"This is a powerful and deeply moving documentary directed by Majed Badra, revealing the resilience, hope and heartbreak of Gaza's Children," said organiser Ms Catherine Sharpe.

"We were delighted to welcome Majed and his brother Shamik to our event for the post-film discussion.

"The film follows two young men who train as surf lifesavers in North Styne, Manly.

"On their return to Gaza, they set up a Nippers program for Gaza's children.

"But after one successful season, several of these children and supporting adults have been killed in Israel's bombardment."

SOURCE:  
Social media, 9 Dec 2025  
Catherine Sharpe, CC Friends of Palestine







## Australia Day flag ban is ‘not acceptable’, says Chamber

**The Peninsula Chamber of Commerce has described as “not acceptable” advice from Central Coast Council that it will not hang the Australian flag in West St, Umina, for Australia Day.**

Chamber president Mr Matthew Wales said that the council based its decision on advice from the Department of Premier and Cabinet that the existing banner infrastructure within the town centre did not meet the required dimensions for the Australian flag to be displayed “in accordance with the national protocol”.

“We have in the past installed the Australian Flag banner in West St without any difficulty and in accordance with the Australian Flag protocol,” said Mr Wales.

“Councils’ own resolution dated October 11, 2022, provides for this opportunity.

“I find it extraordinary that the NSW Government through the Department of Premier and Cabinet would prevent the

Australian community from flying the Australian Flag banner in our main street to celebrate Australia Day.”

Mr Wales said he had asked the council for “written advice from the Department of Premier and Cabinet so that we can take this matter up with the State Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch and the Federal Member for Robertson Dr Gordon Reid.

“Our local business community will be bitterly disappointed if Central Coast Council doesn’t support the installation of the Australian Flag banners.”

Council staff told Mr Wales that, while not providing flags, “Council will fabricate and install an Australia Day banner across all town centres, including the Peninsula.

“This banner will appropriately recognise and celebrate Australia Day in a consistent and inclusive way across the region.”

**SOURCE:**  
**Media release, 5 Dec 2025**  
**Matthew Wales, Peninsula Chamber of Commerce**

## Photos for Coast Shelter

**A group of Pearl Beach volunteers is organising Santa photos to raise money for Coast Shelter.**

Coast Shelter will use the money to help alleviate homelessness and housing insecurity, and families affected by domestic violence.

Booked sessions, costing \$85, include six photos.

Organiser Ms Karina

Stafford said local professional photographer Ms Lisa Haymes will take the photos with Santa on Saturday and Sunday, December 21 and 22, from 8:30am to 1pm, on Pearl Parade.

More information is available at [www.pearlbeachnsw.com.au/santa](http://www.pearlbeachnsw.com.au/santa).

**SOURCE:**  
**Media release, 4 Dec 2025**  
**Karina Stafford, Pearl Beach**

## Playground consultation closes on Sunday

**Community consultation for Central Coast Council’s review of its 2020 Playspace Strategy is expected to close on Sunday, December 21.**

The consultation surveys preferences for playground equipment.

It also states that feedback would be used “to create a revised draft Playspace Strategy”, but does not indicate what aspects of the Strategy will be reviewed.

The 2020 strategy did not plan to increase in the number of playgrounds on the Peninsula, while it shows 16 new playgrounds in other areas.

In the meantime, the Council

has adopted a “key enabling” plan to increase the number of homes on the Peninsula by 60 per cent over the next 10 years.

The strategy names the 21 existing playgrounds on the Peninsula, or 8.1 per cent of the 258 across the region.

The Peninsula has around 11 per cent of the region’s population, which would equate to 28 playgrounds on a per capita basis, without any population growth.

The 2020 Playspace Strategy claims: “The majority of Council playspaces are in local parks.

“Neighbourhood local parks accessible to communities within walking distance will remain as

valuable recreation facilities in addition to larger recreational multi-use open space destinations.”

Despite this, the council proposed to sell land on the Peninsula widely regarded as “pocket parks” in 2021, but ultimately decided not to.

Almost immediately following the adoption of the Strategy in June 2021, council staff decided to demolish the Pelican Park playground, which was identified as part of the “20-year” strategy.

This decision was later reversed.

**SOURCE:**  
**Website, 17 Nov 2025**  
**YourVoiceOurCoast**

## ‘Hot dogs’ attract 100 spectators

**With a temperature of 41 degrees, it was not the best conditions in which to hold a dog show.**

However, 30 entrants and about 100 spectators attended the Rust Ettalong Dog Show on the morning of Saturday, December 6.

“Next year, we will be staging the event in spring,” commented organiser Mr Michael Browning.

“Having said that, the dog show was a lot of fun.

“With judges Member for Robertson Dr Gordon Reid and Eric Wright from Coastal Hatters at the Galleria, the community loved it.



“The event showed great potential.”

Pictured is the winning “Top

**SOURCE:**  
**Media release, 7 Dec 2025**  
**Michael Browning, Rust Ettalong**

## Christmas trees sell quickly

**The Rotary Club of Woy Woy sold out of its first batch of Christmas trees soon after it started selling them in the carpark next to the railway line in Woy Woy on Saturday, December 6.**

“We had people waiting before 6am this morning to purchase

one of our Christmas trees,” said president Mr John Hardin

He said customers helped unload the trees, waited patiently for their turn to choose their tree, and in one case brought the Rotary members cold drinks and chocolates.

**SOURCE:**  
**Social media, 6 Dec 2025**  
**Rotary Club of Woy Woy**



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Forum

# Is the definition of ‘affordable housing’ good for us?

NSW Planning, in the next step of its master plan to remake planning in its own image, has just released the draft version of a new Regional Plan for greater Sydney called “The Sydney Plan”.

At this stage, that does not include the Central Coast.

However, if we want to know what’s in store for us, then The Sydney Plan might be a good place to look.

What struck me was the use of the word “affordable”, in conjunction with the word “housing”.

It’s repeated 46 times in the document.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, this affordability hype tends to be

concentrated in the section of the Plan called “Response 3: Secure the supply of affordable housing”.

What do the words “affordable housing” mean to you?

A common definition is that for housing to be “affordable”, it must be priced so that the household pays no more than 30 per cent of its gross income in rent.

And if a Plan talks about affordability, we expect it means affordability for all.

It’s a good thing, right?

So, with great anticipation, we go to Appendix C of “The Plan” which has a glossary which tells us what the Plan means by “affordable housing”.

It states that affordable housing is “as defined in the Environmental

Planning and Assessment Act 1979”.

What exactly does the Act have to say about affordable housing?

According to Section 1.4, affordable housing is defined as: “housing for very low income households, low income households or moderate income households, being such households as are prescribed by the regulations or as are provided for in an environmental planning instrument”.

That is all that the Act has to say on the matter.

One thing is clear, it is talking about renting, not buying.

The income band for “very low incomes” is less than 50 per cent of median income.

For “low income” it is 50 to 80 per cent of median income.

And for “moderate income” it is 80 to 120 per cent of median income.

The latest “limits” that a “household” can earn to be in the “very low” category in Sydney is \$61,600, and outside of Sydney it’s \$54,300.

The low income category limits are \$98,600 and \$86,900, and medium income limits are \$148,000 and \$130,000.

The actual numbers of “affordable” houses planned are not really that high.

The Plan waffles on about one-off examples of “up to 18 per cent” affordable housing here and there but generally the percentage of

affordable housing that developers have to provide under Transport-Oriented Development and other government initiatives is only about three per cent.

The Community Housing Providers who manage these affordable rentals have additional eligibility criteria that must also be met.

This “affordable” housing is therefore only for a small segment of the community who will, even if they qualify, need a significant amount of luck to secure a tenancy.

Next time you hear a politician or bureaucrat waxing lyrical about “affordable housing” ask them what they really mean.

SOURCE:  
Email, 14 Dec 2025  
Frank Wiffen, Woy Woy

## Rawson Rd level crossing needed, but how about a few footpaths?

Transport for NSW has announced that it is about to start planning for the upgrading of the Rawson Rd level crossing, and not before time.

Traffic signals are to be installed, and improved arrangements are to be put in place for pedestrian and bicycle crossings.

But, wait a minute, didn’t we just spend \$15 million (give or take) on a bicycle-pedestrian underpass at Rawson Rd. So what was that for?

Will that installation now be

abandoned?

Of course, it is gratifying that the public will be able to comment on the design, when it is drawn up in 2026, and this will be, no doubt, followed by construction drawings (in 2027?), the calling of tenders (in 2028?), and the commencement of work (in 2029?) for completion (at double the original budget?) in 2030.

It will give us all something to look forward to.

But what is this footnote at the bottom of the press release:

the whole project is “subject to funding”, so let us not get our hopes up too high.

Admittedly, this project isn’t as preposterous as the Bulls Hill underpass, but when simple roundabouts cost millions, maybe, we could put this one off and lay down a few footpaths instead, so that pedestrian ratepayers don’t have to compete with cars on our potholed streets.

SOURCE:  
Email, 5 Dec 2025  
Bruce Hyland, Woy Woy

## Growth pressure leads to loss of accountability

I refer to the Peninsula Residents Association’s comments on a development application for 43-46 The Esplanade, Ettalong.

The key words in the report are “systemic problem”.

How many “systemic problems” are there on the Peninsula?

Was the directorate in Gosford Council that included Development and Environment another indicator of a systemic problem, many years prior to amalgamation?

With the proposed development being on Ettalong’s waterfront, it is expected there will be a stringent

assessment, but of what – given the application “remains incomplete” to use Mr Gillis’ description?

Population growth, added to all other considerations, has made assessment of development assessments more contentious.

Instead of adapting, there has been pressure to reduce accountability and transparency.

This can only create additional problems in the future, when resources and finances will not be available.

SOURCE:  
Letter, 4 Dec 2025  
Norm Harris, Umina

Noticeboard - Public Notices

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Christmas Eve  
5:00 pm Christmas Story & Carols  
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Christmas Day  
9:00 am Communion & Carols



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Santa: 7-9pm December 20-23  
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Booker Bay



# Lifesavers rescue three from upturned boat

**Umina Surf Life Saving Club has rescued three people from a capsized boat in a joint effort with other rescue organisations and emergency services.**

The surf patrol was alerted to a small aluminium boat that had capsized around 1.5km offshore at about 1:50pm on Sunday, December 7.

Umina's inflatable rescue boat was launched immediately, supported by Central Coast Support Ski 7 and Ocean Beach surf lifesavers.

The overturned vessel and its three occupants were located about one kilometre offshore from Lobster Beach, near the Ettalong channel.

The occupants, a father and his two young sons, were found clinging to the upturned hull after being in the water for about 20 minutes.

All three were wearing new lifejackets, purchased the previous day.

The Umina crew safely retrieved all three and transported them to Umina clubhouse, where they were assessed by NSW Ambulance personnel with assistance from officers of the Brisbane Water Police District.

Meanwhile, the vessel was righted and towed to shore by water police and Marine Rescue.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 8 Dec 2025  
Umina Surf Life Saving Club



# Santa rides through Umina streets

**Santa's helpers, from the Patonga Volunteer Rural Bush Fire Brigade, took Santa for a run through Umina streets on Tuesday, December 9.**

They visited Lakeview Parade and Honeysuckle St, before arriving at Umina skate park.

The visit was well-attended and "even our friends from Brisbane Waters Police came to say a quick

hello to Santa and have a quick photo".

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 10 Dec 2025  
Patonga Volunteer Rural Bush Fire Brigade

# Art Group holds exhibition

**Woy Woy's Social Art Group is currently holding an art exhibition at Woy Woy library.**

The exhibition, which runs until tomorrow, Tuesday, December 16, has about 40 works on display by seven artists.

This group has been meeting at the library twice monthly for more than three years, according to member Mr Keith Manning.

"It is open to all who do art as a hobby or are semi- professional, young or old, beginner or advanced," he said.

"There is no agenda to speak of but most members bring art materials and work independently while joining in on discussions on art or any other subject of common interest."

The library is closed from December 24 until January 4, and the next art group meeting will be



on Tuesday, January 6, and then Tuesday, January 20.

For further information or to subscribe to the group's email list, email coordinator Purusa at purusart@gmail.com

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 3 Dec 2025  
Keith Manning, Social Art Group

# Chamber welcomes Rawson Rd design work

**The Peninsula Chamber of Commerce has today welcomed the NSW Governments announcement that detailed design work is underway for the Railway St-Rawson Rd rail crossing.**

"Following sustained lobbying from the Chamber over the last five years, its finally good news from the NSW State Government that detailed design is underway," said Chamber president Mr Matthew Wales.

"The Rawson Rd rail crossing and intersection is becoming increasingly dangerous with traffic volumes on the rise.

"The existing arrangement is a major safety risk and finally we have acknowledgement from the State Government that an upgrade is required.

"This is now more important than ever as Central Coast Council is due to start the Ocean beach Rd-Rawson Rd intersection reconstruction next year which will place further pressure on the rail crossing intersection."

"The Chamber will obviously be keen to see the design detail and provide input during the community feedback process", said Mr Wales.

"But we don't want to see this process drag on.

"It's imperative that the design is finalised as soon as possible and costings prepared for the work.

"Importantly, we want to see a commitment from the NSW Government that funding will be provided for the work and that the project actually happens."

**SOURCE:**  
Media release,  
Matthew Wales, Peninsula Chamber



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

ADVERTISEMENT

## Central Coast Council response to Koolewong Bushfires

**We were all alarmed by the speed, ferocity and impact of the bushfire at Koolewong last week. My thoughts go out to all who have been impacted, especially those that have lost homes.**

I know that there is a difficult journey ahead. I hope that the assistance being provided by all levels of government will help.

At our Council meeting on 9 December 2024, Council voted to put together a support package to help affected residents. This will help with clean-ups, waste disposal and making properties safe by assessing and removing hazards where necessary. There will also be assistance for those that will need to rebuild.

I would also like to thank all the RFS staff and volunteers that responded to the fire situation. It is through their actions that more homes were not lost. Together with other agencies, Council and other support organisations that has been a significant amount of work already done - and still to be done - as part of the recovery.

It is going to be a very challenging time for many. I hope that everybody can find some peace over the Christmas period.

Council has an information page at: <https://www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/clean-and-recovery-bushfires>

## Council repays debt - but what was the true cost?

**In November, Council paid off the "emergency loan" that was taken out under Administration. Let's not forget the true cost of the big lie.**

The narrative of the \$565 million debt. It is important to note that \$317M of this had been inherited from Wyong Council and Gosford Council. There was also about \$200M of restricted funds which were asserted to be required to be repaid - however, legal advice of the Crown Solicitor cast doubt on this.

It is fair to say that the former Council needed to respond more quickly to a weakening financial position - however, it should be noted that members of the Audit Risk & Improvement Committee (ARIC) indicated that they were not concerned by Council's financial position at that time.

**What was constructed as a crisis - when it didn't need to be - had its true impact and cost on our staff, our community, our democracy and our Council.**

Somewhere between 250 - 500 people lost their jobs either directly or indirectly. We can't put a value on the impact of that financially, emotionally, to their careers, to their families - or the impact in terms of skills, knowledge and expertise that went out the door.

There was also significant impact on the staff that

stayed - anxious about their jobs while friends and colleagues departed. It was a difficult time for them also.

**The undermining of confidence in our Council -** with Administrators constructing a false narrative, seeking to orchestrate a political outcome - and demonstrating what many believe was a complete lack of integrity and principled decision making.

**The harm done to local democracy and confidence.** The failure of the Liberal state government - as they committed to work cooperatively with Council and then U-turned to take political advantage of the situation. The failure of the Labor MPs to stand up for our community and democracy - perhaps because they didn't understand what was going on. Nonetheless, they demonstrated no capacity to show leadership - and fell into line.

There are lessons to be learned - but there is also much more to this story. I hope and expect that at some point there will be a true reckoning around these issues - and that we don't forget the real cost and the harm that has been done.



**Merry Christmas to all**

Central Coast New Independents

For more information or to subscribe to my eNews - [www.ccnewindependents.com](http://www.ccnewindependents.com)

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



Fires



## Politicians inspect fire damage

Local parliamentarians and State Government Ministers inspected fire-damaged areas of Koolewong on Sunday, December 7, after a briefing at Gosford RSL from emergency services.

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch and Member for Robertson Dr Gordon Reid were joined by Premier Mr Chris Minns and Minister for Emergency Services Mr Jihad Dib and Minister for the Central Coast Mr David Harris.

An evacuation centre was set up at Gosford RSL to accommodate many of the families forced to flee the fires.

The Local Members praised the efforts of emergency services, including the Rural Fire Service and Fire and Rescue NSW crews, for protecting people and property in difficult terrain and conditions throughout the weekend.

The Central Coast was subject to a Natural Disaster Declaration by the Albanese and Minns Governments on Sunday.

The declaration enabled support from the joint Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, providing assistance to eligible residents to help meet immediate needs like emergency accommodation and essential items.

Grants were available for low-income, uninsured residents to replace lost essential household items to maintain basic standard of living, and to undertake essential



structural repairs to restore their homes to a basic, safe and habitable condition.

Loans were available for non-profit organisations up to \$25,000.

Central Coast Council was provided with support to remove debris and for the reconstruction of essential public infrastructure.

Community members affected by the bushfires were advised to contact Service NSW on 13 77 88 or visit [service.nsw.gov.au](http://service.nsw.gov.au) to access information on disaster assistance, grants, and recovery support.

Ms Tesch said: "To the people who have lost their homes, our community is wrapping around you with love and the NSW Government will be there to support you as you rebuild and recover."

"In times of crisis our Central

Coast community comes together and our community will move forward as one in recovering from this disaster."

Dr Reid said: "My thoughts are with all those families who have lost their homes or have experienced damage to their properties during these fires."

"I want to thank our incredible emergency services personnel including the NSW Rural Fire Service and NSW Fire and Rescue who have been working tirelessly to get this fire contained."

"Over the next several days, my office and I will do everything we can to support our community as it recovers from this tragedy."

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 8 Dec 2025  
David Harris, Minister for the Central Coast

## Community organisations ‘stand ready to help’

Many local community groups were “standing ready to help” following the Koolewong fires.

These ranged from Rotary clubs, to branches of the Country Women’s Association and to sporting organisations, including surf life saving clubs and football clubs, through to the official “evacuation centre” at Gosford RSL.

Gosford RSL announced: “If you need a safe place to go, please come to us.

“Emergency services personnel are on site to assist and support the community.”

All the Peninsula’s registered clubs made offers of help.

Ettalong Diggers offered “shelter and a hot shower. Please let us know. We’ve extended our team to ensure you have a place to stay.”

Ettalong Bowling Club offered itself as a “refuge-evacuation centre” for fire-affected residents and emergency services personnel from the afternoon of the Koolewong fires.

“Food and a safe place for those who were threatened by the loss of their residence was the least we could offer our community,” said chief executive Mr Tim McGavin.

Everglades Country Club offered assistance: “We can provide water, a cool place to rest and space to recharge your devices.”

Local schools also offered support.

“Please remember that the school is here to support you,” said Woy Woy Public School principal Ms Sandy Knowles.

“If your family needs assistance, or if there is anything we can do to help your child feel safe and supported at school, we encourage you to reach out.”

St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School principal Ms Nicole Davies called on families at the school impacted by the fire needing support to contact the school office.

“We will work as a community to help in any way we possibly can.”

Mary Mac’s Place project officer Ms Sally Baker said: “I would like to let people know that if you are needing support after the devastating events of the weekend Mary Mac’s Place is here to help.

“We have free showers, washing machines, food and new toys on offer to those who need it.

“I also have access to services that can help with pets and health needs.”

Brisbane Waters Private Hospital said: “Our psychiatrists are available for anyone who may need support at this difficult time.”

The proprietor of a hair salon in Umina offered her business as a drop-off point for clothes.

Ms Angel Irwin from Golden Mane Hair Salon in West St accepted donations of clothes for men, women and children who had lost everything in the fires.

Peninsula Chamber of Commerce president Mr Matthew Wales encouraged other local business to follow Ms Irwin’s example.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 8 Dec 2025  
Mary Mac’s Place  
Social media, 6 Dec 2025  
Gosford RSL Club

## Government backs Vinnies’ relief efforts

The NSW Government has supported the local St Vincent de Paul Society outlet in Woy Woy distributing donations for those affected by the Koolewong fires, after first nominating the Givit organisation as its “official recovery partner”.

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch announced the support on Wednesday, December 10., saying: “They are also the NSW Government’s provider for the Government’s Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.”

Ms Tesch said: “I’ve heard feedback from the community that it would be appreciated to have an option directly managed by a local

organisation.

“That’s why I can now announce that Vinnies have created a fundraising portal for the Koolewong Fires.

“Vinnies is working locally in their Woy Woy office to work with affected individuals.

“To be clear, donations from Givit will still continue to provide assistance to those affected, working with local community organisations to provide assistance.

“This new portal from St Vinnies allows those who are so generous with their support to have a locally based choice when donating.”

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 10 Dec 2025  
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford

## Council announces support ‘for fire-affected residents

Central Coast Council has announced a support package for residents affected by the December 6 bushfires, which destroyed 16 homes at Koolewong and caused widespread damage

extending to Phegans Bay and Woy Woy Bay.

Supporting the council decision on Tuesday, December 9, Gosford West ward’s Cr Belinda Neal, a Woy Woy Bay resident, said: “As we move into the long road of recovery, Council will continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with every resident affected.

“We will ensure people have the support, guidance and resources they need to rebuild—and to feel safe again.”

At the council meeting, Council resolved to work closely with the NSW Reconstruction Authority to ensure affected households received coordinated support and access to vital recovery services.

The Council established a recovery fund of up to \$1 million, enabling immediate action and formal notification under Section 356 of the Local Government Act.

It would provide Expanded Waste and Clean-Up Services including bulk waste skip bins at centralised locations for disposal of spoiled food and priority waste items.

There would be additional and bulk kerbside collections upon request and replacement of

damaged household bins.

Extra collections of existing bins would be organised to manage excess household waste.

Weekly kerbside and bulk waste collections would continue and resume fully once currently closed roads reopen.

Council would also support residents by reducing waste disposal costs at Council facilities for building waste removed from fire-affected properties.

To help residents rebuild as quickly as possible, the Council would establish a free pre-Development Application advisory and assessment service for residents rebuilding their homes and would waive all development application fees and planning certificate fees for affected households.

Council would extend its rates hardship program to residents whose homes were destroyed or damaged by the bushfire.

Council officers would also work directly with affected households to identify additional support mechanisms as the recovery process evolves.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 10 Dec 2025  
Belinda Neal, Central Coast Council



# Community groups feed firefighters

Local community service organisations combined on Saturday, December 6, to feed firefighters battling the Koolewong blaze.

The Rotary Club of Brisbane Water, the Woy Woy Peninsula Lions and the Umina Beach branch of the Country Women's Association joined forces with the Gosford Rural Fire Service Catering Unit to deliver meals to Rural Fire Service crews.

When IGA Umina Beach was asked if they had stocks of certain foods available for immediate

collection, the store not only supplied the foods but made a matching \$250 contribution.

Volunteers packed and prepared the food supplies for the firefighters.

Crews from Kariong RFS were joined by other brigades including some from Sydney, all operating out of the Kariong base.

Rotary Club members Mr and Ms Mark and Margaret Simpson and Ms Jayne Mote spent many hours at the Kariong base alongside the Catering Unit's Captain Ben Bird and Mr Tony Griffith from Lions and

Ms Lyn Griffiths from Umina CWA Umina Beach.

Rotary club past president Mr Mitchell Gordon said the collaborative effort was "community at its best".

He said Rotary Australia World Community Service had approached the club with an offer of multiple \$500 relief cards for victims who had lost homes in the Koolewong area.

SOURCE:  
Media release, 9 Dec 2025  
Mitchell Gordon, Rotary  
Brisbane Water



# Bays group speaks of residents experience

The Bays Community Group has spoken of the experience of Bays' residents during the recent Koolewong fires.

"The recent Koolewong fires were an anxious and unsettling time for all of us in Woy Woy Bay, Phegans Bay and Horsfield Bay," said group president Mr Sam Bunyan in the group's newsletter.

"When the fire unexpectedly jumped the water, our community found itself in a "watch-and-act" situation that none of us will forget in a hurry.

"We want to extend our deepest thanks to The Bays Rural Fire Brigade, NSW Rural Fire Service and all emergency personnel who responded with incredible speed, professionalism and courage.

"Their presence in the Bays, with trucks stationed close to bushland and crews working tirelessly, brought reassurance during a frightening and fast-moving event.

"This incident also highlighted

the strength of our own community spirit.

"Neighbours checked on neighbours, shared updates, and supported one another, and kept information flowing through the Bays Community Buy Swap Sell Facebook group.

"We also want to express our sincere condolences to the Koolewong residents who lost their homes.

"Our thoughts are with them as they begin the difficult road to recovery.

"We are grateful that everyone remained safe.

"Finally, a gentle but important reminder: the fire season has only just begun.

"Please take time to review your bushfire plan, clear your properties where possible, and stay alert to warnings and alerts."

SOURCE:  
Newsletter, 12 Dec 2025  
Sam Bunyan, The Bays  
Community Group



# 'Recovery hub' held at community centre

The NSW Reconstruction Authority held a "recovery hub" at the Peninsula Community Centre on Friday, December 12.

The hub aimed to provide help for anyone affected by the

Koolewong bushfire.

The Authority provided a barbecue, cups of tea and coffee, and "practical recovery advice and support", with a number of organisations attending.

These included Central Coast Council, Service NSW, Vinnies,

Legal Aid NSW and the Woy Woy Peninsula Lions Club.

The team was at the community centre in McMasters Rd, Woy Woy, until 6pm.

SOURCE:  
Social media, 12 Dec 2025  
NSW Reconstruction Authority



# Shopping centre donates \$10,000 to appeal

A local shopping centre has donated \$10,000 to support a community appeal for families and residents affected by the devastating Koolewong bushfire.

As well as making the donation, Deepwater Plaza centre manager Mr Paul Savelberg has encouraged other local businesses to contribute what they can to support those affected by the fires.

The shopping centre is displaying QR codes which link

to the St Vincent de Paul Society (Vinnies) Koolewong Fires fundraising portals.

Pictured are Deepwater Plaza centre manager Mr Savelberg, Vinnies Woy Woy staff members Ms Nikki Willmette and Ms Krystal Lyle, deputy mayor Cr John Moulard, Cr Trent McWaide and Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch.

SOURCE:  
Media release, 11 Dec 2025  
Brooke Simmons, Pursuit  
Communications

# CWA branch raises \$2500 for fire relief

The Woy Woy branch of the Country Women's Association held its Devonshires Teas and Market Day at Woy Woy CWA hall on Sunday, December 7, with proceeds going to those who lost their houses in the Koolewong fires.

A total of \$2535.06 was raised on the day.

"Our market days, though often successful, exceeded expectations because our community answered our call," said branch president Ms Margy Ure.

"We guarantee that every cent and whatever gets donated into our bank account with the reference word "love" will go to those in Koolewong and surrounds who lost everything."

SOURCE:  
Social media, 7 Dec 2025  
CWA Woy Woy Branch



# Warning to take care on bush trails

The Bays Rural Fire Brigade has warned residents to take care when walking bush trails in areas affected by the Koolewong fires.

"Over the last several days the fires that have impacted our local communities have been devastating," the brigade said in a social media post.

"In The Bays area, we have had fires around the Woy Woy Bay and Phegans Bay hills.

"Many parts of this area have

been heavily affected.

"In particular, the fire trails are quite burnt out.

"There has been significant impact to the bushland and, as a result, there are several trees still at risk of falling down.

"We strongly encourage you all to either keep clear of this area for now or at the very least stay extremely vigilant if you walk these trails."

SOURCE:  
Social media, 9 Dec 2025  
The Bays Rural Fire Brigade



Education



## Umina campus students visit Gosford courthouse

**Year 8 and Year 9 students from Umina campus of Brisbane Water Secondary College have visited the Gosford Court House.**

They observed several cases in both the Local and District Courts. They had the opportunity to speak with Magistrate Elizabeth Ellis, who answered their questions and shared insights into her career

in law. Students then met in the Conditis Law boardroom with a young lawyer, who discussed his experiences at university and his early career in the legal profession. After lunch, they had a look through the new Gosford Library.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 3 Dec 2025  
BWSC Umina



## Jett wins national silver medal

**Brisbane Water Secondary College Umina campus student Jett May has returned from the Australian Athletics All Schools Championships with a silver medal.**

The championships were held over the weekend of December 6 and 7 at Lakeside Stadium at Albert Park, Victoria. Jett won his medal in Para U15 Discus with a throw of 27.96 metres, on his fourth and final attempt.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 9 Dec 2025  
BWSC Umina



## Remy scores in top per cent in science test

**Woy Woy South Public School student Remy Beeby has achieved a high distinction in this year's International Competitions and Assessments for Schools.**

His high distinction in science means that he scored in the top one per cent of students who took the test in 20 countries. Other results from Woy Woy South included nine distinctions, 19 credits and six merits.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 2 Dec 2025  
Woy Woy South Public School

## Students explore AI and robotics

**Year Nine students at Umina campus of Brisbane Water Secondary College explored careers in artificial intelligence and robotics earlier this month.**

They attended a presentation at Woy Woy campus by artificial intelligence educator Neuranext. The presentation included an interactive, hands-on experience, including time working with an AI robot and other engaging activities. Neuranext founder Mr Adrian Tyson said he believed that "for students to grasp and understand abstract concepts, they need to see



it action, to probe the technology, to break it and test its limits in order to get a sense of how it's working".

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 2 Dec 2025  
BWSC Umina

## Students taste Greek Christmas biscuits

**Year 6 students at St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School learnt about some of the Greek Christmas traditions last week.**

Thanks to their Greek teacher Ms Anna Karantonis-Dalton, they had the opportunity to taste traditional Greek Christmas biscuits.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 11 Dec 2025  
SJB Catholic Primary School



## Leadership training for teacher

**St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School teacher and religious education coordinator Ms Amanda Dillon has completed her accredited Catholic School Broken Bay Middle Leaders Program.**

"Throughout this formation program, Amanda has strengthened her leadership capability and deepened her impact on teaching and learning within our school," said school principal Ms Nicole Davies. "Her commitment helps our teams collaborate more effectively and ensures a strong, strategic focus on student growth and achievement."

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 11 Dec 2025  
SJB Catholic Primary School



## On Minister's Council

**Brisbane Water Secondary School Woy Woy campus student Will Kennedy has spent two days in Parramatta in his role as a member of the NSW Education Minister's Student Council.**

He attended workshops, meetings and discussions with NSW Education's leaders including Deputy Secretary Ms Deb Summerhayes and the Department of Education Secretary Mr Murat Dizdar. Topics ranged from anti-bullying initiatives, reviewing the student code of conduct, to the future of technology and artificial intelligence in schools. Will will also have the opportunity to interview next year's 12 shortlisted "voices of students" metropolitan candidates.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 8 Dec 2025  
BWSC Woy Woy



## Sam comes second in 800m medley relay

**Woy Woy Public School student Sam Rugendyke has come second in the 12 Years Boys Multi-Class 800m medley relay at the School Sport Australia Athletics Championships in Canberra.**

He also came second in the 12 Year Boys Multi-Class 4x100m relay. In other events in his class, he came third in discus, fourth in shot put, fifth in long jump and seventh in 200m. Harry Fawcett from Ettalong Public School came eighth in 12 Year Boys Multi-Class long jump.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 1 Dec 2025  
Southern Central Coast Primary School Sports Association





## Eight teams in summer bridge event

**Eight teams signed up for the Summer Teams red point event at Brisbane Water Bridge Club held on a typical Aussie summer day on Sunday, December 7.**

Team Bowerman won the day with a three VP win from Team Routledge.

Both teams had the same win-loss record of 3-0-1.

Unfortunately, due to the small four round tournament, they did not play head to head.

To make the day interesting, there were a couple of slams available and a few hands with opposing long suits that made bidding, at times, very competitive.

Results after four of four matches in the Summer Teams event played on December 6 were: 1 David Bowerman, Dasha Brandt, Wendy Mitchell, Henrietta Hohnen 57 Imps (57.61 VPs), 3 wins-0

draws-1 loss, 0.42 red points.

2 Karen Ody, Jim Routledge, Jaan Oitmaa, Sylvia Foster 49 (54.04), 3-0-1, 0.42.

3 Spider Redgold, Frankie Craven, David Adams, Deborah Guthrie 20 (47.07), 3-0-1, 0.42.

4 Anne Grayden, Julie Sadler, Stephanie Mathews, Gary Heyting 15 (44.74), 2-0-2, 0.28.

5 Christine Hadaway, Martin Johnson, Barry Foster, Chris Hasemore -9 (37.60), 2-0-2, 0.28.

6 Peter Hume, Elaine Hume, Matt Raj Mal, Donelle Foate -15 (36.26), 2-0-2, 0.28.

7 Hilary Owen, Qi Hasemore, Robyn Serra, Meg McGregor -52 (22.09), 0-1-3, 0.07.

8 Ross Templeton, Fiona Templeton, Beryl Lowry, John Aldersley -65 (20.59), 0-1-3, 0.07.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 7 Dec 2025  
Brisbane Water Bridge Club

## Success at Champion Lifesaver Carnival

**Saturday, December 6, saw six Ocean Beach Surf Life Saving Club members win their events in the branch Champion Lifesaver Carnival at Soldiers Beach.**

The covered a range of lifesaving skills with resuscitation, a theory paper, sprint, swim race, tube race and board race.

First place winners were U14 female Piper Lawrence, U14 male Will Nash and Ethan Best, U19 male Jacob Falconer, 40-49 male Dave Nash and 40-49 female Kristy Best.

These results put Ocean Beach on top of the leader board for lifesaving events for the branch.



Umina Surf Life Saving Club also did well at the event with medals won by 50-59 female Kerry Armstrong-Smith, Opens female

Shelley Smith and U19 female Matilda Lawrence.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 7 Dec 2025  
Ocean Beach SLSC

## Park run attracts 192 runners

**Woy Woy park run attracted 192 runners on Saturday, December 13.**

These included 95 male runners and 88 female, with six of them first timers and 26 runners scoring personal best times.

Three runners made milestones, with Roslind Wols running her 250th run, Kenneth Lau his 200th and Deanne-Marie Johnson her 50th.

First male finisher was Luke

Roberts who ran 19:07 in the 18-19 age group, while first female finisher was Rochelle Jillett who ran 20:14 in the 40-44 age group.

The first-timers were William Frost-Foster, Kate Pemberton, Eliza Uhle, Elizabeth Merino, Charlotte Murray and Rosey Anderson.

Personal best times were recorded by Cameron Long, Shane Bukovinsky, Jake Pittman, Matthew Davy, Tommy

Hamilton, Ezra Dewar, Keeleigh Day, Stephanie Power, Stuart Goodman, Hazel Smith, Bec Godfrey, Suzie Ridley, Shauna O'Meara, Ciara Irwin, David Norris, Helen Mower, Torah Camp, Aaron Camp, Amy Stewart, Linda Schembri, Achilles Terzoudis, Kristy Davy, Lucy Thornley, Judy Murray and Matthew Trewin and Tracey Dillon.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 13 Dec 2025  
Woy Woy Park Run



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Sport

Lions elect club captain

The Woy Woy Lions rugby club has announced that Tim “Cookie” Cook has been elected as club captain for the 2026 season.

“The club captain isn’t the one calling the shots on game day but it is the person who represents the heart and culture of our club,” said social media officer Joshua Quigley.

“It’s about leadership, connection, and carrying the values that make the red and white so special.

“He’s the bloke who checks in on teammates, welcomes new players, supports the juniors, and puts in the kind of effort that often goes unseen but never goes unnoticed.



“His presence lifts the club, both on and off the field, and he leads in a way that brings people together.”

SOURCE: Social media, 9 Dec 2025 Joshua Quigley, Woy Woy Rugby Club

Women’s club holds Christmas party

The Umina Beach Women’s Bowling Club had their Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 9.

“A great day was had by all,” said life member Ms Lesley Swales.

“The table decorations were lovely, and all got into the Christmas spirit.”

The members raffle was drawn after lunch and also lucky doors prizes.

President Pat Neal presented Club Umina with gifts for the staff.

Members Cherie Johnston and Yvonne Austin were presented with their 20-year membership badges.

The club also celebrated Hazel Lambert’s 80th birthday and Dawn



Burrows 90th birthday. “Dancing continued into the afternoon.”

SOURCE: Social media, 10 Dec 2025 Lesley Swales, UBWBC

Cycle group to ride to Erina and back

The Central Coast Bicycle User Group will hold a ride from Woy Woy to Erina on Thursday, December 18.

Starting at Woy Woy Fishermen’s Wharf, the 35km ride is expected to take about two

hours and 30 minutes.

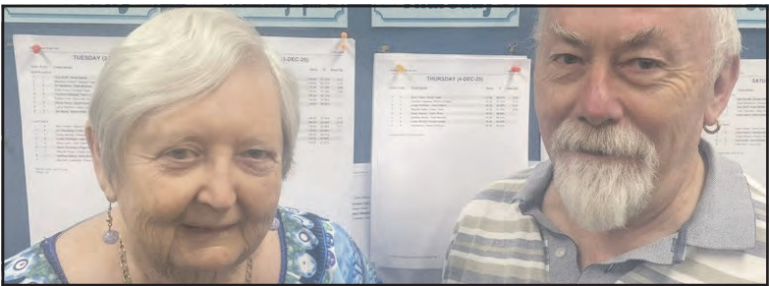
It is described as “an easy ride along mostly shared path to Erina and back” with a few very short hills.

A coffee break will be taken at Erina.

Riders are asked to arrive at least five minutes before start time to sign on.

For further information, phone ride leader Reg on 0411 705 410.

SOURCE: Social media, 12 Dec 2025 CCBUG



Summer Pairs event dominated by stalwarts

Seventeen duos signed up for the Summer Pairs, the Brisbane Water Bridge Club’s final red point event for 2025.

All the top spots went to club stalwarts with excellent percentages.

Winners were Judy Wulff and David Adams who collected the red points and wine prize.

Ever so close taking second spot, only 0.5 per cent away, were Sylvia and Barry Foster.

Third spot went to Jorgen Boettiger and Deborah Guthrie.

Player numbers up on this event compared to times, not all that long ago, when there were just a dozen pairs.

With only one novice pair, the wine prize for best novice pair could not be awarded.

The prize was awarded to the closest pair to 50 per cent.

It went to president, Caroline Nichols and partner Beryl Lowry.

Results of Summer Pairs played on December 9 were:

1 Judy Wulff, David Adams 225.0 (61.81 per cent), 0.90 red points.

2 Barry Foster, Sylvia Foster 223.2 (61.31), 0.63.

3 Jorgen Boettiger, Deborah Guthrie 222.1 (61.01), 0.45.

4 Susan McCall, Pamela Joseph 212.3 (58.33), 0.30.

5 Peter Hume, Felicity Fane 205.8 (56.55), 0.23.

6 Jim Routledge, Chris Hasemore 195.0 (53.57), 0.18.

7 Donelle Foate, Mal Matt Raj 188.5 (51.79), 0.15.

8 Christine Hadaway, Kevin Hughes 188.0 (51.65), 0.13.

9 Margaret Driscoll, Stephen Calcroft 185.3 (50.89).

10 Caroline Nichols, Beryl Lowry 180.9 (49.70).

11 Geoffrey Maltby, Meryl Duke 178.8 (49.11).

12 Daryll Knowles, Elaine Hume 164.7 (45.24).

13 Lynne Rainford, Hilary Owen 154.9 (42.56).

14 Qi Hasemore, Edith Marshall 153.8 (42.26).

15 Gai Mylne, Helen White 152.0 (41.76).

16 Robyn Serra, Meg McGregor 141.0 (38.74).

17 Maureen Lockwood, Fiona Galea 124.6 (34.23).

SOURCE: Social media, 9 Dec 2025 Brisbane Water Bridge Club

Touch teams reach State Cup finals

Peninsula Touch Association teams have reached the finals at NSW State Cup played at Port Macquarie Regional Stadium.

The Mixed Open team were quarter-finalists.

The Men’s Opens and Men’s 20s teams were also quarter-finalists.

The Women’s 20s team were runners-up in their grand final.

SOURCE: Social media, 7 Dec 2025 Peninsula Touch Association

Players to ‘meet the coaches’

Umina United Soccer Club will hold a “meet the coaches” evening at 7:30pm on Thursday, December 18.

Players from Men’s Premier League, Reserves and Under-23 squads have been invited to attend the event to be held in Umina United Clubhouse.

Players will have the opportunity to meet the staff, “hear the vision” and ask questions.

SOURCE: Social media, 13 Dec 2025 Umina United

Women’s major singles held in the heat

The final of the Everglades Women’s Major Singles was held on Thursday, December 4.

The weather was hot, with only a slight breeze.

Maureen Carlyle took an early lead and played a consistently strong game.

Jeannette Jenkins never gave up and fought hard until the end.

Outstanding bowls played by each of them.

Maureen Carlyle is now the 2025-26 Everglades Major Singles Champion, winning with a score of 25-14.

Sue O’Connor marked the game and Jan Jones was the umpire.

SOURCE: Media release, 6 Dec 2025 Vicki Redrup, Everglades Bowling Club



Seniors 70-plus final

The final of the Everglades Seniors 70-plus Championship was played on Tuesday, December 2, with Ken Young defeating Gary Clarke, 21-12, over 19 ends.

Gary held the lead midway through the contest, but Ken scored four shots on the 10th end

and took the lead.

Gary picked up three more ends, but Ken scored more shots picking up three twice, late in the contest.

Pictured are Ken Young and Gary Clarke.

SOURCE: Media release, 9 Dec 2025 Grant Ireland, Everglades Men’s Bowls