



## No funding for \$19.5M beach erosion management plan

**Implementation of the Umina-Ocean Beach Erosion Management Strategy has been costed at \$19.5 million, but no funding has been programmed for it in the next eight years.**

The project is the largest foreshadowed for Central Coast Council in the final draft of the Hawkesbury Nepean Coastal Management Program.

The draft is expected to be placed on public exhibition early this year.

The Council's Environment and Planning Committee recommended that the December 9 council meeting seek public comment "to ensure that exhibition can proceed at the same time as the other partner Councils".

However, it did not appear on the agenda for that meeting.

The draft states: "The Umina-Ocean Beach Erosion Management Strategy provides a detailed framework for managing coastal erosion at Umina-Ocean Beach over the long term.

"The preferred approach to managing coastal erosion risk at Umina-Ocean Beach is through beach nourishment.

"However, Erosion Management Strategy also includes provision for the future construction of a terminal protection structure if coastal erosion reaches a trigger point where it significantly threatens critical infrastructure along The Esplanade.

"The strategy outlines a concept design for coastal protection, which features a rock-armoured revetment stretching from Kourung St boat ramp to Ocean Beach Surf Life Saving Club and a stepped

concrete seawall in front of the club."

The project would include "development of a trigger for installation of coastal protection works".

"This should be based on the proximity of observed (or predicted) coastal erosion to key assets and infrastructure to a point where erosion is believed to place key assets and infrastructure at risk.

"It is Council's strong preference to maintain a natural dune profile in front of the club for as long as this remains feasible.

"The installation of a TPS in the form of a stepped concrete seawall would only be considered as a last resort option if progressive erosion results in the complete loss of the foredune.

"Should it proceed, there would be community engagement to ensure public input and feedback are incorporated into the final design, promoting transparency and local support for the project.

"Council would endeavour to maintain and enhance the existing dune buffer by a combination of vegetation planting and maintenance, beach scraping to enhance beach recovery following storm erosion, and opportunistic beach nourishment campaigns using sand sourced from maintenance dredging."

The draft allocates \$140,000 over the next four years for a coastal vegetation and dune management strategy for Broken Bay beaches, with a total of \$350,000 allocated over 10 years.

A Broken Bay Beach Nourishment Framework is allocated \$85,000 over the next four years, with a total of \$205,000

allocated over 10 years.

An updated Beach Maintenance Program for Broken Bay beaches is allocated \$250,000, with a total of \$550,000 allocated over 10 years.

The actions described for the Peninsula in the final draft of Coastal Management Program appear to be largely unchanged from the Stage 3 consultation round at the end of 2024.

The 445-page document claims that this consultation across the catchment area showed no less than 75 per cent support in online feedback for any one proposed action.

Average support was 97 per cent.

It claims to provide a "detailed implementation plan" to "translate the recommended management actions into a practical, costed pathway for delivery".

However, a number of actions that rely entirely on council funding are not costed and no expenditure is programmed.

Among the projects programmed for the next four years are \$2.44 million in coastal protection at Lance Webb Reserve, Ettalong, and \$625,000 at the Rip Rd Reserve, Booker Bay.

The Phegans Bay Foreshore Management Plan has also been allocated \$500,000.

Close to \$5 million of work has been programmed for the Peninsula for the next four years, and a total of about \$8 million over eight years.

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

MORE DETAILS – Page 8

## Council issues 'temporary' beach health warning

**Central Coast Council has issued a "temporary health warning" after routine water quality monitoring has detected elevated bacteria levels at Ettalong Beach.**

The council installed temporary health warning signs and advised people not to swim at Ettalong until the signs were removed.

The signs were installed at major beach access points on Thursday, January 8, and an officer was on-site to advise beachgoers in the morning.

"Monitoring will continue until levels return to an acceptable standard," according to a council social media post.

"This issue is not related to the

recent algal bloom reported at other beaches in the north of the region."

The post said that the monitoring was part of Council's ongoing Beachwatch program.

"Enterococci bacteria occur naturally and can come from animals or stormwater.

"There is no indication of a pollution or sewage event.

"Water quality is good at nearby Umina Beach and Ocean Beach, so head there instead."

For daily water quality forecasts, visit <https://beachwatch.nsw.gov.au/>.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 9 Jan 2026  
Central Coast Council

Produced on the Peninsula

Peninsula news & advertising  
for the Peninsula community

## Subscribe to our email lists

**Peninsula News has recently introduced a number of new digital services, as well as providing digital copies of the first 50 issues of the paper.**

Among these services are a number of email lists.

There are two newsletters available. One lists the EXTRA articles that did not fit in the print edition, with links to them on the Peninsula News website. The other is an index to all articles in the current issue.

A third email list provides "Miscellaneous emails".

Media releases and other emails often come across the editor's desk which may be of general interest to Peninsula readers. Not being specific to the Peninsula, they are not eligible to appear in the paper.

They include State or regional

policies that will ultimately affect the Peninsula and broader issues evident in Australian society that are relevant on the Peninsula.

Subscription links are provided on the Peninsula News website.

**Mark Snell, 2 Nov 2025**

### Can't find a copy of Peninsula News?

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



**Next issue: Monday, January 26**

**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 636  
Deadline: Thursday, January 22  
Publication date: Monday, January 26

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

Please note: Peninsula News has no paid employees, and it may take a little time for us to get back to you. Our volunteers usually have other jobs and commitments, which compete for their time.

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

Fallback email address: editor@peninsulanews.asn.au

Editorial policy and guidelines

At its heart, Peninsula News is a community effort.

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

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

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

Locality

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

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

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

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

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

Readability

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

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

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

Forum letters

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

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

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

focus on the issues and not abuse or insult others.

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

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

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

Corrections

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

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

Source lines

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

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

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

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

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

The following descriptions are used:

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

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



Paul Sharpe  
awarded  
national surf  
medal

Umina Surf Life Saving Club life member Paul Sharpe has been awarded a National Medal as part of Surf Life Saving Australia's National Medal Batch 54.

"The award recognises long and diligent service, and is a testament to Paul's dedication and commitment to surf lifesaving over many years," said club president Kerry Armstrong-Smith.

"His contribution has had a lasting impact on our club and our community.

"It is a well-deserved recognition."

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 23 Dec 2026  
Umina Surf Life Saving Club



Aged care residents  
celebrate  
Elvis' 90th birthday

Residents at a Umina aged care facility have celebrated Elvis Presley's 90th birthday on January 8.

They held a themed morning tea, with staff dressing up as Elvis to add to the atmosphere.

Morning tea included banana and peanut butter sandwiches, pound cake, banana chocolate and peanut butter milkshakes, and

fresh fruit.

The celebration continued with Elvis trivia, a sing-along to his greatest hits, and watching video clips of his music.

The event concluded with a "Thank you very much" from Elvis as he left the building.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 9 Jan 2026  
Peninsula Villages

Fourth highest annual rainfall in 2025

Annual rainfall on the Peninsula for 2025 was 1615mm, the fourth highest annual total in the last 21 years.

The total was 23.8 per cent above the annual average of 1305mm.

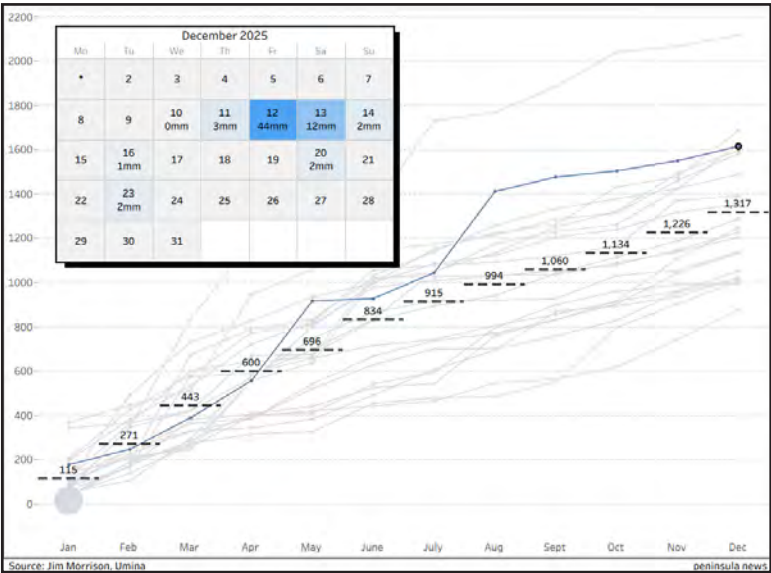
At the end of November, the rainfall total of 1549.9mm was the second highest at that time of year, behind 2022, according to figures supplied by Mr Jim Morrison of Umina.

However, below average rainfall in December placed the 2025 total behind the 2020 total of 1686mm and the 2007 total of 1622mm.

The highest annual rainfall was recorded in 2022 when the total was 2119mm.

December's rainfall was 65.1mm, almost one third below the December average of 92mm.

Only 4.7mm was recorded in



the second half of the month.

In the first week of January, only 12.3mm was recorded, only one 10th of the month's average rainfall of 120mm.

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

**SOURCE:**  
Spreadsheet, 9 Jan 2026  
Jim Morrison, Umina

| TIDE<br>TIMES<br>and<br>Heights | Mon, Jan 12 | Thu, Jan 15 | Sun, Jan 18 | Wed, Jan 21 | Sat, Jan 24 |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                 | 0440 0.88   | 0030 0.26   | 0247 0.19   | 0451 0.18   | 0109 0.89   |
|                                 | 1116 0.34   | 0719 1.01   | 0918 1.14   | 1106 1.19   | 0715 0.23   |
|                                 | 1641 0.62   | 1422 0.22   | 1627 0.16   | 1814 0.14   | 1311 1.02   |
| AT<br>ETTALONG                  | 2246 0.25   | 2000 0.63   | 2151 0.73   | 2342 0.83   | 1946 0.13   |
|                                 | Tue, Jan 13 | Fri, Jan 16 | Mon, Jan 19 | Thu, Jan 22 | Sun, Jan 25 |
|                                 | 0538 0.92   | 0119 0.24   | 0329 0.18   | 0535 0.19   | 0158 0.93   |
|                                 | 1230 0.31   | 0802 1.06   | 0954 1.17   | 1145 1.16   | 0814 0.25   |
|                                 | 1800 0.58   | 1505 0.19   | 1705 0.15   | 1845 0.13   | 1400 0.91   |
|                                 | 2339 0.26   | 2041 0.66   | 2226 0.76   |             | 2025 0.15   |
|                                 | Wed, Jan 14 | Sat, Jan 17 | Tue, Jan 20 | Fri, Jan 23 | Mon, Jan 26 |
|                                 | 0631 0.97   | 0204 0.22   | 0410 0.17   | 0024 0.86   | 0253 0.97   |
|                                 | 1332 0.26   | 0842 1.10   | 1030 1.19   | 0623 0.21   | 0923 0.27   |
|                                 | 1910 0.59   | 1547 0.17   | 1742 0.15   | 1226 1.11   | 1500 0.79   |
|                                 |             | 2116 0.70   | 2303 0.79   | 1914 0.13   | 2113 0.17   |



# Umina toilets information to go to council meeting

Information about the design and financial plans for the toilets adjacent to Umina Surf Club will be provided at the January 27 council meeting

Gosford West Ward's Cr Belinda Neal asked for the information as a "Question with Notice" at the December 9 council meeting.

Cr Neal asked: "Could Council provide the design and financial plan for the replacement of the toilets adjacent to Umina Surf Club, including a change room for adults with a disability, in the financial year 2025-26 including the total cost of the project and the time period for the project to be completed including each stage?"

She said that the council resolved at its September meeting "that a design and financial plan for the construction of replacement toilets adjacent to the Umina Beach Surf Club in the 2025-26 year be prepared and that a report be brought to Council which sets out these matters before the end of this year".

She said the council resolved at its November meeting to move "the public toilet renewal Implementation Plan forward six

months".

She said the information requested in the resolution needed clarification and "this question makes a further request for information".

Cr Neal and Cr Jane Smith, also representing Gosford West Ward which includes the Peninsula, moved: "That Council considers the required funding allocation for the reconstruction of the toilet block adjacent to the Umina Surf club with a change room for people with a disability as part of the 2026/2027 operational plan and budget process to start February 2026."

The motion was lost seven votes to eight, with the other councillors supporting the motion being Cr Kyle MacGregor, Cr Margot Castles, Cr Helen Crowley, Cr Sharon Walsh, and Cr Corinne Lamont.

Against the motion were mayor Cr Lawrie McKinna, Cr John Mouland, Cr Kyla Daniels, Cr Doug Eaton, Cr Rachel Stanton, Cr Jared Wright, Cr John McNamara and Gosford West ward's third representative Cr Trent McWaide.

SOURCE:  
Central Coast Council  
agenda 7.7, 9 Dec 2025



# Film about dementia cafe entered in Sydney festival

A documentary film about the Dementia Cafe run by the Rotary Club of Brisbane Water has been entered into Tropfest, Sydney's short film festival.

Documentary filmmaker Mr Justin Schneider said his parents, Ken and Nancy Schneider, attended the cafe.

Nancy lives with dementia, while Ken attends as her carer.

"I just think what this cafe does for people who have dementia and their carers is wonderful," Justin said.

"This concept of regularly meeting for morning tea, chats, games and exercise deserved to be captured on film."

The film, made together with cameraman Terry Webster, captures moments from the fortnightly sessions – morning tea

conversations, card games, and light chair yoga.

The Dementia Cafe meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 10am in the Umina CWA Hall, where people with dementia and their carers can socialise, engage in activities, and support one another.

SOURCE:  
Media release, 27 Dec 2025  
Mitchell Gordon, Rotary  
Brisbane Water



# Bingo favourite: 6-7

The Rotary Club of Umina Beach has been holding its annual summer holiday bingo nights for holiday-makers at Ocean Beach Holiday Park.

"The park hall was absolutely full of players with standing room only by the time we started," said club publicity officer Mr Pat Lewis.

Club president Mr Dave Tanare was "Master of Calling", with 20 games played and prizes for the winners.

The most popular numbered called was Tik Tok meme "6-7".

"The kids loved it," said Mr Lewis.

SOURCE:  
Social media, 31 Dec 2026  
Rotary Club of Umina Beach

# Electricity outage closes tennis courts

Woy Woy Tennis Club will close its courts today due to a "planned electricity outage".

"The outage will render the electronic gate system unusable, and sadly we have been forced to close the courts," said president Mr Walter Pearson.

The blackout will last from 7:30am to 5:30pm and affect 191 customers.

Streets affected will include Azalea Ave, Blackwall Rd, Brickwharf Rd, Camellia Circuit, Daffodil Dr, Iris Place, North Burge Rd, Primrose Place and Sonter Ave.

Another "outage" is planned from 8am to 3:30pm on Wednesday, January 14, in Horsfield and Phegans Bays with 128 customers affected.

Streets affected will include

Banyo Cll, Gabagong Rd, Goodi Cl, Kunala Lane, Monastir Rd, Roma Cl and Woy Woy Rd.

Phegans Bay will suffer another outage from 8am to 3:30pm on Thursday, January 22, with 55 customers affected.

Streets affected will include Alkira Rd, Monastir Rd and Phegans Bay Rd.

SOURCE:  
Social media, 9 Jan 2026  
Woy Woy Tennis Club

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

Be part of our local community

Community Bank Ettalong Beach  
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.





# Plans lodged to rebuild Pearl Beach restaurant

**Plans have been lodged to rebuild the fire-ravaged Pearls on the Beach restaurant at Pearl Beach.**

The beachfront property at 1 Tourmaline Ave, which also contains dual occupancy dwellings, was extensively damaged by a fire on December 28, 2024.

The proposal, submitted by Doug Sneddon Planning on behalf of owner Mr James Ruben, seeks approval for a staged development that would see the complete removal of the fire-damaged structure followed by the construction of a replacement building.

According to the application, the primary objective is a "like-for-like" replacement of the building.

The architectural plans provided by Slater Architects mirror the design previously approved by the Council in 2019 and constructed in 2020.

The application states that "the proposed rebuilding has the same bulk, scale, site coverage, architectural design and structural design as the fire damaged building".

The internal civil works, including driveway access and parking arrangements, are also



proposed to remain unchanged from the previous approvals.

While the design remains consistent with the pre-fire structure, the application identifies its height as non-compliant with the current local planning controls which specify a "maximum building height of 8.5m".

The proposed replacement structure reaches a maximum height of 9.21 metres at the second-storey roof gable on the south-eastern corner.

The applicant has submitted a formal request to vary this requirement, arguing that "compliance with the development standard is unreasonable or

unnecessary in the circumstances of the case".

Planners for the applicant note that the height "is minor and mirrors the exceedance of the building before the fire damage".

The application notes the property is located within an R2 Low Density Residential zone, where commercial restaurants are prohibited.

However, the application relies on "existing use rights" which it states were reaffirmed through a development consent originally granted by the former Gosford City Council in August 1990, which recognised the property "as a restaurant enjoying existing use

rights and a residential flat building comprising two dwellings".

The application claims the existing use has not been abandoned, citing the involuntary cessation of trade caused by the fire and "the time taken to reach final settlement with QBE (Australia) Insurance Limited".

Given the property's location within the Coastal Zone, bounded by Green Point Creek and Pearl Beach, the application includes coastal and flood assessments.

The site is mapped as being impacted by the 1-in-100-year flood extent.

A coastal engineering report prepared by Horton Coastal

Engineering concludes that the rebuilding is "not likely to cause increased risk of coastal hazards".

The proposed minimum habitable floor level is set at 5.8 metres AHD, which complies with flood planning requirements by sitting above the flood level of 4.55 metres AHD.

The path to redevelopment has faced complications regarding site safety following the blaze, according to the application.

The documentation indicates that investigations were required regarding the cause of the fire and the management of contaminants, specifically the "presence of friable asbestos in the burnt materials".

The application states that once consent is granted, the owners intend to proceed immediately with Stage 1 of the development.

This involves the "demolition of the existing fire-damaged building and rehabilitation of the site" to address these safety concerns before construction begins.

The application is currently on public exhibition and open for written submissions until January 16.

**SOURCE:**  
DA Tracker, 9 Jan 2026  
DA/1855/2025, Central Coast Council



## Council designates land for affordable housing

**Central Coast Council has unanimously decided to add two residential blocks at the corner of McMasters Rd and Ross St, Woy Woy, to its "Affordable Housing Land Proposal".**

At its meeting of December 9, the Council resolved unanimously to "endorse the addition of the sites to the Council Affordable Housing Land Proposal and direct the CEO to undertake action to progress sites 89 [1/DP7926] and 91 [12/DP559020] McMasters Rd, Woy Woy".

The Council's Community and Culture Committee was told at its meeting on November 11 that

the "two sites in Woy Woy had previously been earmarked for a Community Service Provider (Coast Community Connections)".

They "are now surplus to their requirements and the organisation has provided 30 days' notice that they will hand these sites back to Council".

"The inclusion of these sites would support Council's ongoing commitment to expanding affordable housing options across the region and aligns with strategic efforts to address housing needs for low to moderate income households and complements the broader objectives of the Strategy."

**SOURCE:**  
Central Coast Council agenda 5.1, 9 Dec 2025

## 'Art deco complex' to replace house

**A plan has been lodged with Central Coast Council to replace a single storey brick house at 25 Waratah Ave, Woy Woy, with a three-dwelling two-storey housing complex.**

The design by Zion Architects features flat roofs and rendered brick finish in an "art deco" style featuring rounded corners on a 854 square metre site, according to the application by Pragma Urban Planning Pty Ltd.

The layout is proposed in the form of a traditional "gun barrel" with a concrete driveway extending almost the full length of the site.

Two of the units (1 and 3) will contain four bedrooms with unit 2 having three bedrooms.

The application is not compliant with driveway design requirements of local planning provisions.

The provisions require driveways to be offset from a side boundary by at least two metres at the front boundary and may taper back to a 500mm side setback within the front building line.

This offset area and side setback for the length of the driveway must be landscaped with trees and shrubs to soften the hardstand areas and provide for infiltration and provide visual appeal to the streetscape.

The application argues that, without the offset, the proposed arrangement allows for "two on-street parking spaces rather than one".

The plans also to show the driveway flush with the side boundary.



The applicant argues that this is "consistent with the existing townhouse pattern in the streetscape" and notes that compliance would reduce on-street parking availability.

The Private Open Space for each unit is also non-compliant.

While it meets the minimum area requirement of 45 square metres, Units 1 and 2 do not have the required minimum dimension of 4.5m for the entirety of these spaces.

The application contends that despite this non-compliance, the spaces remain "functional and responsive" and are "appropriately integrated into the side setback".

The exhibited site plans do not display vehicle turning templates, nor does it address the requirement for forward egress on common driveways.

The application asserts that due to the site's south-north orientation, the proposed living areas and private open spaces will "receive in excess of three hours of direct sunlight" between 9 am and 3 pm on June 21. However no shadow

diagrams have been provided.

The development includes five resident car parking spaces with units 1 and 3 having double garages and unit 2 a single garage.

One visitor space will be located at the rear of the site.

The application states: "The proposal seeks approval for the removal of trees and vegetation in accordance with the architectural plans accompanying the application".

However, the exhibited plans do not include any such details and there is no landscape plan provided.

In spite of requirements of street tree planting of "at least two semi advanced trees per 15 metres of frontage", there is no information on proposed street tree planting apart from the comment in the application that "The site has a width of 15.24m and the street can facilitate a street tree if required".

It is on exhibition from January 16 to February 9.

**SOURCE:**  
DA Tracker, 10 Jan 2026  
DA/1831/2025, Central Coast Council





## Clean4Shore takes a tonne of rubbish to the tip

**The Clean4Shore marine clean-up group has taken more than one tonne of rubbish from local waterways to Woy Woy tip last week.**

Two students joined the team to clean up a 100 metre section of foreshore on Pelican Island before being joined by a group of scuba divers to clean up around Ettalong public wharf.

Fresh plastic bottles, bait bags and soft plastics were collected

from Pelican Island.

"But more work will need to be completed here," said coordinator Mr Graham Johnston.

He said the crew was joined by four divers from Lyndi Leggett's Woy Woy-based Scuba Gym Australia and two others.

"A large crowd was present at Ettalong Jetty, waiting for the ferry as the team of divers ventured into the water on a dead low tide, without current," he said.

"Metal and plastic pipe, metal

chairs, scooters, a bicycle, fishing rods and much fishing line was removed close to the jetties.

"Beer bottles (102 counted), soft and hard plastics, bait bags and old glass bottles filled the small collection bags which were then transferred into the six very full bags off loaded at the tip.

"As the tide began to turn the team drifted back removing many more glass bottles and plastics.

"Only 100 metres of the Ettalong Channel was cleaned by

the divers with much more work to be completed.

"Lyndi introduced Clean4shore to the new owners of Andersons Boast Shed with several old kayaks removed plus a five-metre fibreglass vessel, beached for the past four years."

The vessels were towed to Lions park, requiring two trips of the car trailer to deliver them to Woy Woy Tip.

A total of 1.04 tonne was deposited at the tip, with 420kg in

the vessel and 620kg collected by the scuba team.

Mr Johnston said: "Unfortunately we are still in business as irresponsible recreational practices, poor stormwater policies, flood debris and derelict vessels seem to keep the rubbish coming into our waterways."

**SOURCE:**

**Social media, 9 Jan 2026  
Graham Johnston, Clean4shore**

## Patonga brigade life member dies aged 91

**The first life member of the Patonga Volunteer Rural Bush Fire Brigade has died at the age of 91.**

The death of Mr Col Zwan on December 28 was announced by the Billinudgel-Ocean Shores Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade, near Brunswick Heads in the NSW Northern Rivers region.

Mr Zwan was born on August 18, 1934.

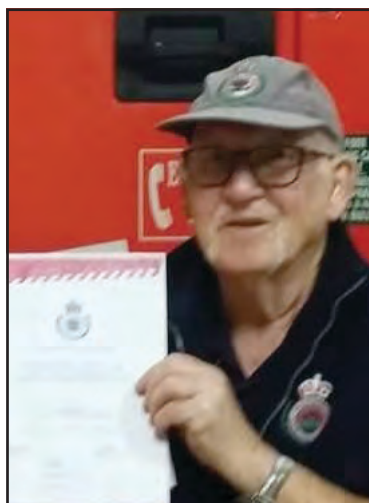
"It is with great sadness that our most respected firefighter Col Zwan has passed," said brigade captain Mr Darren Cornale.

"Col started with the Patonga Beach Brigade in 1953 and moved up to Billinudgel area in 2008 and joined our brigade.

"Col held every possible role between both brigades: captain, senior deputy captain, deputy captain, president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, First Aid officer, equipment officer, OHS officer, training officer, RFSA rep, community engagement officer and fire permit officer.

"Col received Life Membership of both brigades and received a National Medal 3rd Clasp, RFS Service Medal 60 Years and the Premier's Citation for the 2019-2020 fires.

"Col was a very valued firefighter and will be sadly missed



by everyone who knew him."

Patonga Volunteer Rural Bush Fire Brigade captain Mr Matt Hauser said: "Col was an integral member of Patonga Brigade since the 1950s and our first Life Member.

"He accomplished much for our brigade and also as a member of the SES.

"Col leaves us with an amazing legacy which continues with his son and his grandchildren."

**SOURCE:**

**Social media, 1 Jan 2026**

**Patonga Volunteer Rural**

**Bush Fire Brigade**

**Social media, 30 Jan 2025**

**Billinudgel-Ocean Shores**

**Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade**

## Chamber calls for Shadow Minister review

**The Peninsula Chamber of Commerce has expressed its disappointment that Member for Terrigal Mr Adam Crouch has not been retained by the NSW Opposition as Shadow Minister for the Central Coast.**

Shadow Minister for the Central Coast is now Ms Jacqui Munro after the recent reshuffle of the NSW Shadow Cabinet.

"We are deeply disappointed with the appointment of Upper House Member Ms Jacqui Munro as Shadow Minister for the Central Coast over local Member for Terrigal Mr Adam Crouch, who previously served in this position," said Chamber president Mr

Matthew Wales.

"To the best of my knowledge, Ms Munro has little connection with the Central Coast whereas Mr Crouch has over a decade of service and experience in the local area with extensive knowledge of the issues affecting local residents".

"Sadly, this would appear to reflect a complete lack of understanding of the Central Coast by the NSW Opposition," said Mr Wales.

He said Mr Crouch was an outstanding local politician who continued to serve his community with distinction and had attracted millions of dollars of State funding to the local area.

Mr Crouch had been a member

of the Chamber executive prior election to State Parliament.

Mr Wales said Mr Crouch's understanding and commitment to the local community had been "totally ignored" by the NSW Opposition Leader Ms Kelly Sloane, said Matthew Wales.

"This was a golden opportunity gone begging to show the Central Coast that the NSW Opposition backed its only local State Member with such an important position.

"This decision needs to be urgently reviewed so that the local business community can be confident that the Opposition is truly committed to the local area."

**SOURCE:**

**Media release,  
Matthew Wales, Peninsula  
Chamber of Commerce**

**Proudly serving the best Goan/Indian Food**

*Winner of 2025 awards*

34 Blackwall Road, Woy Woy-NSW 2256, Tel: 02 43398225, [www.spices29.com.au](http://www.spices29.com.au)



# School for Seniors seeks speakers

The Peninsula School for Seniors is looking for people willing to talk about “something they are passionate about”.

“We have had all sorts of ordinary people come and talk about things like honey bees, model aeroplane makers, bonsai keepers and dancers, as well as local politicians, historians and

authors,” said coordinator Ms Amber Golby.

She said the school would love to hear from people who spend a lot of time on an interest or had something they were passionate about.

For further information, phone 0400 455 577.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 2 Jan 2026  
Peninsula School for Seniors



# Workshop to make ‘collage fish puppets’

Children aged eight to 12 years will be able to make “collage fish puppets” in a school holiday activity to be held at Woy Woy Library next week.

They will be invited to “play with colour, patterns and shapes” while making fish puppets from tissue paper and card.

Two sessions will be held next Wednesday, one from 10am to 11:30am and the other from 2pm to 3:30pm.

Bookings are essential, at \$8 per ticket, and may be made at the library or by phone on 4304 7555.

**SOURCE:**  
Website, 9 Jan 2026  
Library Services, Central Coast Council

# Residents help with pelican release

Members of the Peninsula Residents’ Association have started the year helping with a pelican release.

The young pelican had been in care with Ms Wendy Gillespie

of Pelican Care and Education, having suffered injury from algal bloom toxicity.

After four days’ care, it was able to be returned to Pelican Island back.

Residents Mr Gary Machin, Ms Jan Deighton, Ms Sally Wilson and Ms Deb Sunartha helped with the release on Friday, January 2.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 4 Jan 2026  
Debbie Sunartha, PRA

# Lottery winner thought she was receiving sales call

A self-employed Woy Woy woman initially thought she was receiving a sales call when lottery officials phoned to confirm a prize win.

“The Central Coast resident held the first prize winning entry

in Lucky Lotteries Mega Jackpot draw 1750, drawn on Monday, January 5,” said The Lott’s public relations co-ordinator Ms Eliza Wregg.

“You’re not trying to sell me something are you?” the winning

woman asked initially.

She had her phone on speaker for her husband and daughter to hear the official confirm her \$200,000 win.

“I’ve been playing on and off for years but never thought I’d win,”

she said.

Lucky Lotteries Mega Jackpot is a raffle-style game, with a set number of tickets in each draw.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 6 Jan 2026  
Eliza Wregg, The Lott

# Forum

# Clean up Umina shopping precinct

The paved area in front of all the shops in West St Umina shopping precinct for pedestrians could certainly do with a clean up of some sort.

A build up of dirt, grime, coffee and food spills over a long period of time has made the shopfronts look degrading to say the least.

As there are many eateries and restaurants along West St, Umina, it is becoming a popular destination for locals and tourists to enjoy a meal and/or a coffee.

Maybe the Council could arrange for a pressure washer cleaning service to be provided once a month.

If the Council can’t find the funds or time to make the area a cleaner and healthier place to eat and shop then they may have to instruct the owners of the shops to do so and provide this service on a regular basis.

Surely something can be achieved if all companies got together and agreed it would be beneficial for them all to have work like this carried out on a regular schedule if the Council can’t see fit to supply the necessary services needed to maintain the paved areas with cleanliness and safety of all personnel.

**SOURCE:**  
Email, 31 Dec 2025  
Terry O’Sullivan, Umina

# Noticeboard - Public Notices

**CARPENTRY & BUILDING WORK**

General carpentry and construction work

Decks, pergolas, roof repair, flooring, cabinets, windows, doors, gutters, downpipes, gates, locks, painting, backyard and much more

Affordable, Insured, Qualified

**Ernest**

**0468 612 956**

Lic no. 184942C - Contractor  
Ernesto Tiburcio Zamora Concha

Sliding door repair

Screen door repair  
Re-mesh screens  
Windows, bi-folds

Maintenance and carpentry  
Fully insured

Please call Heath Manton

**0494 197 908**

**Bricklaying  
Concreting**

All aspects both trades

Over 40 years’ experience  
Quality work  
Licensed, insured

**Phone Greg**

**0456 895 943**

Lic No. 124312C - Bricklayer  
Greg Doyle

**T&G**

**Carpentry Work**

**Renovations, Decks, Pergolas, Windows, Doors**

Serving the Central Coast  
Fully Insured

Call

**Tom 0436 300 422**

**Gary 0458 130 829**

**KEVIN'S REMOVALS & DELIVERIES**

Deliveries and Removals, Local Sydney, Newcastle & Country  
Single items or a house full.  
Competitive rates.

**0411 049 559**



 kevinremovals@optusnet.com.au

**Acupuncture and Massage Woy Woy**

(Formerly of Deepwater Plaza)  
Now by appointment only

HICAPS Medical rebates  
Member Australian Massage Therapists

Still in Woy Woy

Call 02 43412899 or

**0405 018 927**

**Car Boot Sale**  
Woy Woy Peninsula Lions Club


Sunday  
**Jan 25**

  
7am to 1pm

Great variety of stalls – BBQ, Tea & Coffee.  
Vendors Welcome – \$25 per car

Dunbar Road Car Park  
NB stall sites not open until 6.30am  
Cnr. Ocean Beach Road Woy Woy

Not held in December  
Enq: 0478 959 895



**The Troubadour**  
Folk and Acoustic Music Club

**Thu Jan 14, 6pm**

**Flora Falls (Can/Aus)**

House Concert  
All tickets \$20  
For information  
[www.troubadour.org.au](http://www.troubadour.org.au)  
4342 6716



## Brisbane Water in top 10 locations for jetski offences

**Brisbane Water was in the top 10 locations across the State for jetski offences, with 17 detected in a recent weeklong campaign to "reduce risky behaviour and keep waterways safe".**

Operation Cool Your Jets was a joint campaign undertaken in early January by NSW Maritime and NSW Police Marine Area Command.

NSW Maritime patrols issued 74 penalty notices and 214 official warnings, with over a third of official actions linked to jetskis.

NSW Maritime Operation Cool Your Jets coordinator Ms Sonia McKay said: "We want people to enjoy our amazing waterways, but

that means respecting the rules and looking out for others."

She said jetski popularity continued to grow, with more than 92,000 riders now licensed in NSW, a 23 per cent increase in five years.

She said among the key rules for riders to remember was to stay at least 30 metres from other vessels, objects or the shore when travelling at six knots (11kmh) or more.

Where possible, they should keep at least 60 metres from people or dive flags.

Riders and passengers must wear a lifejacket and licences and registrations must be up to date.

**SOURCE:**

Media release, 5 Jan 2026  
Scott McIntyre, Transport NSW



## Product of first quilting class 'rediscovered'

**A wall-hanging made in 1990 by the first student of a quilting class at Ettalong Beach Arts and Craft Centre has been "rediscovered".**

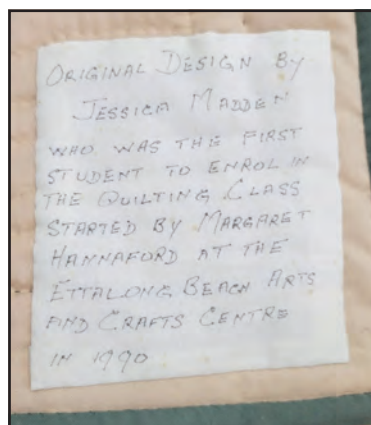
The wall hanging had been stored away at the centre, and forgotten.

Having been "rediscovered" during a recent reorganisation, it is now washed and hangs again in the quilting room.

"We loved the hanging, especially with the label that informed us of its age and significance," said patchwork tutor Ms Penny Howard.

"It was made in 1990 by the first student enrolled in the new quilting class, Jessica Madden.

"It was carefully washed, and



once again hangs proudly in our clean room."

**SOURCE:**

Social media, 17 Dec 2026  
Ettalong Beach Arts and Craft Centre



## 'Paint and sip' for the young and the old

**"Paint and sip" activities have been organised for the young and the old over the holiday break.**

A Jungle Animals Paint and Sip will be held at Umina Beach Library School tomorrow, Tuesday, January 13, as part of its school holiday program.

Children aged six years and older will be invited to paint their favourite jungle animal from

10:30am, "while sipping on a refreshing beverage – fruit juice or water".

Bookings are essential and may be made at the library or by phone on 4304 7333 at a cost of \$8 each.

Participants have been advised to wear old clothes or bring their own apron.

Last week, the Peninsula Village aged care facility in Umina offered its residents "Sips and

Paint" as "a relaxing afternoon to enjoy music and drinks, and to socialise and express themselves through creative painting".

The activity, pictured, aimed to "support fine motor skills and promote emotional well-being".

**SOURCE:**

Social media, 9 Jan 2026  
Peninsula Villages  
Website, 9 Jan 2026  
Library Services, Central Coast Council

## Free workshop in electronic music production

**Free hands-on training in electronic music production will be offered to 12-16 year olds in a Digi Beats Workshop at Umina Beach Library on Tuesday, January 20.**

The workshop is "for anyone with a passion for electronic music production and is suitable to both those with experience and those just starting out".

It will cover DJing, rapping, beat making, sound design and lyric

writing.

Running from 10am to 2:30pm, there will be a 30-minute lunch break with pizza provided.

Digi Beats is funded by Create NSW and delivered by The Skill Engineer Ltd in partnership with Songlab and the Central Coast Library Services.

Bookings are essential and may be made at the library or by phone on 4304 7087 or 4350 1578.

**SOURCE:**

Website, 9 Jan 2026  
Library Services, Central Coast Council

## Art teacher wanted

**Ettalong Beach Arts and Crafts Centre is seeking an art teacher for its classes this year.**

The centre has more than 100 members attending classes, including pottery, watercolour, patchwork, jewellery and art.

Anyone interested in teaching art classes this year is invited to send an email to ebacc.email@gmail.com with details.

Classes are for adults, and a minimum class size of six students.

**SOURCE:**

Social media, 4 Jan 2026  
Ettalong Beach Arts and Craft Centre

## Little Theatre offers gift certificates

**Woy Woy Little Theatre has produced gift certificates for its coming season of plays.**

"A gift certificate for Woy Woy Little Theatre is the perfect Valentine's Day gift," said box office manager Mr Graham Vale.

"Woy Woy Little Theatre has been running for over 60 years and offers four full length plays each

year, produced and performed by locals."

The plays were "the perfect date night", he said.

Details of the gift certificates and of discounted yearly subscriptions were available online at [www.woywoylt.com](http://www.woywoylt.com).

**SOURCE:**

Social media, 8 Jan 2026  
Woy Woy Little Theatre

## Fairy magic

**Children will "create some fairy magic" to hang on the wall at home in a school holiday activity at Umina Beach Library on Thursday.**

The "Fairy garden wreaths" workshop will run from 10:30am to 11:30am.

The cost is \$8 with bookings essential, made at the library or by phone on 4304 7333.

**SOURCE:**

Website, 9 Jan 2026  
Library Services, Central Coast Council



## Coastal management plan for \$5M in Peninsula works

**Close to \$5 million of work has been programmed for the Peninsula for the next four years, and a total of about \$8 million over eight years under the final draft of the Hawkesbury Nepean Coastal Management Program.**

The draft, which is expected to be placed on public exhibition soon, includes a “detailed implementation plan” to “translate the recommended management actions into a practical, costed pathway for delivery”.

In the first four years, \$2.44 million is programmed for repair and renewal of Coastal Protection Works at the Lance Webb Reserve, Ettalong.

Funding for the project would come jointly from Central Coast Council and the NSW Coasts and Estuary Grants Program.

Coastal protection works at the Rip Rd Reserve at Booker Bay are also programmed at a cost of \$625,000.

Implementation of the Phegans Bay Foreshore Management Plan is also given a high priority, with \$500,000 to be spent in “Years 1-4”.

Repair and renewal of coastal protection works at Patonga have been allocated \$480,000 and at Patonga Creek have been allocated \$285,000.

An updated Beach Maintenance Program for Broken Bay beaches is allocated \$250,000, with a total of \$550,000 allocated over 10 years.

The draft allocates \$140,000 over the next four years for a coastal vegetation and dune management strategy for Broken Bay beaches, with a total of \$350,000 allocated over 10 years.

A Broken Bay Beach Nourishment Framework is allocated \$85,000 over the next

four years, with a total of \$205,000 allocated over 10 years.

An upgrade of Broken Bay beach life guard patrol towers and ancillary structures has been allocated \$100,000, with \$250,000 allocated over 10 years. (low, unsubsidised?)

Coastal protection works at Pearl Beach have been allocated \$50,000.

In the second four years, \$1.19 million has been programmed for coastal protection works at Phegans Bay Rd, Phegans Bay.

Other projects to be scheduled in the second four years are a foreshore masterplan for Patonga Creek (\$250,000), Patonga Sand Management Plan (\$80,000), Patonga Levee Feasibility Investigation and Design (\$65,000), Ettalong Beach Foreshore Stabilisation Investigation (\$65,000) and water level gauges at Umina and Pearl Beach (\$60,000).

In Years 9 and 10, the “naturalisation” of the Austin Butler drainage channel has been scheduled at \$40,000.

Despite claiming to provide a costed implementation plan, the draft lists a number of actions that rely entirely on council funding are not costed and no expenditure is programmed.

These actions include the high priority project to monitor public coastal assets and infrastructure in Broken Bay (and Brisbane Water).

Other projects that are not funded include improvement of coastal stormwater outlets at Umina Beach, recommended actions for Green Point Creek, Pearl Beach Lagoon and Ettymalong Creek, ambulant access at Pearl Beach Rock Pool, and a review of waste collection in coastal public spaces.

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

| Applicant: S J Langlar |  |          |
|------------------------|--|----------|
| Documents              |  |          |
| Registered             | Title  | Download |
| 12/11/2025 10:42:11 AM | PUBLIC - Portal Doc - 42 Gwendolen Avenue, UMINA BEACH - DA/1728/2025 - Waste management plan        |          |
| 12/11/2025 10:41:06 AM | PUBLIC - Portal Doc - 42 Gwendolen Avenue, UMINA BEACH - DA/1728/2025 - Survey plan                  |          |
| 12/11/2025 10:39:06 AM | PUBLIC - Portal Doc - 42 Gwendolen Avenue, UMINA BEACH - DA/1728/2025 - Site Plans                   |          |
| 12/11/2025 10:30:12 AM | PUBLIC - Portal Doc - 42 Gwendolen Avenue, UMINA BEACH - DA/1728/2025 - Notification Plan            |          |
| 12/11/2025 10:26:06 AM | PUBLIC - Portal Doc - 42 Gwendolen Avenue, UMINA BEACH - DA/1728/2025 - BASIX certificate - 1820017M |          |
| Page size: 50          |  |          |
| 5 items in 1 pages     |  |          |

## Application details missing

**A development application has been lodged with Central Coast Council for a “New Two-Storey Dwelling with Secondary Dwelling and Pool” at 42 Gwendolyn Ave, Umina.**

The application includes demolition of an existing dwelling as a staged development.

The application is currently on exhibition for public comment until

Monday, January 19.

The exhibition period began on December 10.

However the Statement of Environmental Effects, which gives the detail of the application, is missing from the documents on exhibition on the Council’s planning portal.

**SOURCE:**  
**DA Tracker, 9 Jan 2026**  
**DA/1728/2025, Central**  
**Coast Council**

## Dual occupancy plan remove 15 trees

**A total of 15 trees would be removed from a site at 103 Bourke Rd, Umina, to make way for a new attached dual occupancy and subsequent Torrens title subdivision, according to a development application lodged with Central Coast Council.**

The application, submitted by Urban Living Solutions on behalf of S Handoo, is for two double-storey four-bedroom units on the 673.1 square metre R1 General Residential block in a “side by side” configuration facing Bourke Rd.

The proposal exceeds the floor space ratio of 0.5:1 permitted under the planning provisions, requesting a “variation” to 0.51:1.

However, details of the request have not been included in the documents on exhibition.

An arboricultural impact assessment identifies 28 trees on the site, 15 of which are slated for removal.

The trees identified for removal are mainly located within the building footprint and include six Alexandra palms, several Cocos palms, a Hills weeping fig, a camphor laurel, and an umbrella tree.

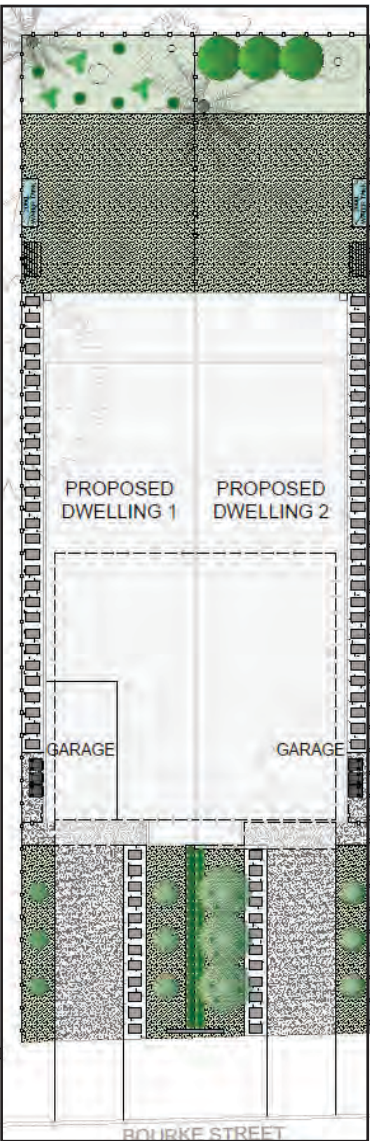
The arborist report prepared by Arbor Express, notes that many of these are of low retention value, describing some as “potentially hazardous, very poor specimens” or environmental weeds.

Specifically, the removal list includes trees 1 through 7 and trees 21 through 28, which the report states “must be removed for the development to proceed.”

However, the application proposes retaining 13 trees, including “high-retention value” native species such as two eucalyptus pilularis (blackbutts) and a banksia serrata (old man banksia).

However, the banksia and one blackbutt are subject to “major encroachment” from the proposed works.

The arborist report states that, to minimise impacts, “the design should incorporate a tree-sensitive construction approach, such as



pier and beam footings or on-grade structures” or require root mapping to determine if roots can be retained.

The report warns that “any excavation within the Tree Protection Zones” must be supervised by a project arborist to ensure the viability of these significant native trees.

In response to the requirement for details of replacement street tree planting, the application states: “Please refer to landscaping plans by qualified landscape designer.”

However there appears to be no mention of street trees in the landscape plan prepared by Built2Last.

The arborist report shows all trees at the front of the site to be

removed including trees 25, 26 and 27 which are near or on the front boundary.

Two of them are described as having “very low” retention value with the third, a callistemon viminalis (bottlebrush), being given a “high” retention value.

All three of these trees are classified as having 100 per cent encroachment (within the building foot-print) including number 26 which, confusingly, is midway between the two proposed driveways.

In terms of built form, the development complies with the maximum building height of 8.5 metres, proposing a height of 6.88 metres, and meets setback requirements.

The application claims the design features facades articulated with a mix of hipped and skillion roofs, utilizing recesses and balconies to minimise overlooking into neighbouring properties.

It provides one lock-up garage per unit with tandem parking spaces.

To offset the removal of the 15 trees, the landscape plan proposes a planting schedule of 38 new plants, including dwarf tree ferns, coastal rosemary, and ornamental pears, achieving a total landscaped area of 39 per cent, which exceeds the minimum requirement of 25 per cent.

While the application claims “no retaining walls or structural supports required,” preliminary engineering notes suggest that if site conditions change, additional structures may be needed, advising that “if additional retaining structures are required... the engineer shall be consulted.”

Shadow diagrams have been provided in the exhibited documentation and indicate that living areas are orientated north to maximise solar access.

According to the Council planning portal, the exhibition period for public submissions is from January 16 to February 9.

**SOURCE:**  
**DA Tracker, 10 Jan 2025**  
**DA/1849/2025, Central**  
**Coast Council**

## Aged care home building work awaits Budget outcome

**A Woy Woy aged care home will await the outcome of the Federal Budget in May before it decides whether to proceed with further building work.**

Blue Wave Living is currently undertaking the “final stage of works” in the redevelopment of its original Shores building, according to chief executive Mr Matt Downie.

“I expect this stage to be completed by around May or June,” he said.

“On completion of this stage, we will take a pause before undertaking further building works.

“While we do have further plans for more works to be undertaken, we will be reviewing how best

to move forward in our current industry landscape.”

Mr Downie said: “With the federal budget on the horizon, Aging Australia has put forward recommendations to the Federal Government to help ensure we have a sustainable industry, and one that encourages further growth and development.

“Further changes and improvements are needed to see our industry adequately funded.

“The current backlog of aged persons stuck in hospital nationally will only increase while there continues to be a void of development for additional residential aged care beds.”

Mr Downie said redevelopment to date had seen the two buildings

at the home joined, providing four “households” with 63 newly built bedrooms and a variety of new and additional spaces.

“It has also been fantastic to see the new Salon getting used, and I expect our gym-physio room will see increasing use.”

He said the work on the Shores building would see an additional 10 newly-rebuilt bedrooms and other spaces made available, completing the “Beachside House”.

It would also include a private lounge-dining area, which would be available for families gatherings in private with residents at BlueWave.

**SOURCE:**  
**Newsletter, 1 Jan 2026**  
**Matt Downie, Blue Wave Living**





## Aged care food coming from garden to plate

**Food at a Woy Woy aged care home is coming directly from garden to plate.**

Following the Maggie Beer “Improving Food in Aged Care” program, Blue Wave Living has established a “Maggie Beer Garden”.

“it has been busy growing capsicums, cherry tomatoes and zucchinis, and nothing went to waste,” said chief executive Mr

Matt Downie.

“The fresh produce was picked and handed straight to our kitchen team, who turned it into meals for our residents, including gnocchi sauce, fried rice and tasty zucchini steaks.

“There’s nothing better than home-grown goodness shared together.”

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 5 Jan 2026  
BlueWave Living

**Two Marine Rescue vessels, Brisbane Water vessels, BW22 and BW21, rushed to the assistance of a fishing boat crew member with suspected spinal injuries last Wednesday morning near Ettalong Wharf.**

The boat’s skipper said the crew member stumbled and fell after the craft hit a sudden wave.

There were only two men on

board.

Another fishing boat was in close proximity and did what it could to assist while Marine Rescue Brisbane Water boats were on their way.

A call went out for an ambulance to meet the rescue vessel at the Ettalong Wharf, which then liaised by supplying updates to the Marine Rescue base at Point Clare.

Later that day, a flat battery caused problems for a family of four

aboard a 20 foot open runabout in Pittwater near Palm Beach.

Upon arrival, BW22 secured the disabled vessel and towed it safely to Newport.

The crew on board the rescue vessel returned to base at Point Clare following a two-and-a-half-hour mission.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 7 Jan 2026  
Marine Rescue Brisbane Water  
Photo: Lindsay Edgar

## Emotional support chickens

**The Umina Beach branch of the Country Women’s Association has knitted “emotional support chickens” for the benefit people in times of stress.**

Branch member Ms Rikki McIntosh has knitted some more, which were donated to Hammond Care last week.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 8 Jan 2026  
CWA Umina Beach



**LIESL TESCH MP**  
STATE MEMBER FOR GOSFORD

## As your local Member for Gosford I’m here to help

I’m here to assist with any NSW Government matter such as:

- ✓ Housing and Homelessness
- ✓ Education and Schools
- ✓ Hospitals and Health
- ✓ Police and Emergency Services
- ✓ Public Transport
- ✓ Congratulatory messages
- ✓ State roads
- ✓ Environment

**HAVE YOUR SAY**  
Complete my community survey here





Education

## College says HSC results show ‘40 per cent uplift’

**Brisbane Water Secondary College has reported that the school has “lifted outcomes across the board in HSC results for a range of diverse students”.**

The college reported a “40 per cent uplift” in the top three bands compared to last year, with 66 per of students in the top three bands.

This corresponded to a 57 per cent reduction in the number of students in the bottom two bands.

Campus principal Ms Rebecca Cooper said students had “been supported by dedicated teachers, strong learning programs and a community that believes in them”.

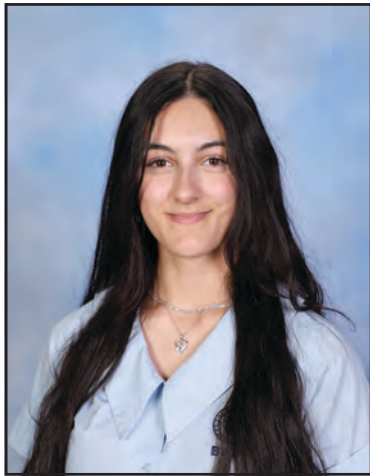
**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 18 Dec 2026  
BWSC Woy Woy



Ruby Burdett



Keira Soames



Lara Cass

## Students achieve HSC Band 6 results

**Seven students at Brisbane Water Secondary College have achieved a result in the highest HSC band for one or more courses.**

Three students achieved Band 6 results in Society and Culture and two in Music 1.

Eden Karazinov has been named Dux of Brisbane Water Secondary College after she achieved Band 6 results in two subjects: Society and Culture, and Aboriginal Studies.

Campus principal Ms Rebecca Cooper said that in both subjects “Eden demonstrated exceptional critical thinking, ethical research practice and a sophisticated understanding of social structures, culture and identity.”

“This dual success, highest in college history for these courses, reflects Eden’s intellectual rigour, consistency and relentless commitment to academic fields.”

Ruby Burdett and Keira Soames also achieved a Band 6 result in Society and Culture.

Ms Cooper said Ruby showed

“strong written expression, thoughtful engagement with course content and ability to clearly communicate complex ideas”.

“Her work demonstrated focus and a genuine understanding of how complex social issues impact individuals and macro society.”

She said Kiera showed “exceptional analytical skills, depth of understanding and clarity of expression.”

“Her work consistently applied contemporary research, social theory and course concepts to complex social issues with sophistication and insight.”

Lara Cass and Emlyn Barry both achieved outstanding results in Music 1.

Ms Cooper said Lara showed “exceptional musicianship, technical skill and expressive performance”.

“Her work reflected a deep understanding of musical concepts, refined performance practice and a strong commitment to creative excellence.”

Ms Cooper said: “Emlyn’s

achievement showcases an impressive level of musical sophistication, discipline and artistic confidence.

“Through consistent rehearsal, strong performance skills and thoughtful musical interpretation, Emlyn produced work of a very high standard.”

Aya Rodden achieved her result in Japanese Continuers.

Ms Cooper said she demonstrated “strong linguistic proficiency across reading, writing, listening and speaking”.

“Her work showed accuracy, cultural understanding and confidence in applying language skills to a range of contexts.”

Lucy Marshall achieved recognition in Community and Family Studies.

Ms Cooper said: “Her work demonstrated maturity, critical thinking and a genuine understanding of how individuals, families and communities are shaped by social structures.”

**SOURCE:**  
Social media,  
BWSC Woy Woy



Emlyn Barry



Aya Rodden



Lucy Marshall

## Teachers remain undefeated in annual netball

**Teachers at both Woy Woy and Woy Woy South Public Schools have remained undefeated champions in their end-of-year netball games against students.**

The basketball and netball game at Woy Woy South was described as “a blast”.

“Despite the heat, the teachers remain undefeated champions.”

At Woy Woy, the day “was a hot one, but both students and teachers had a great morning playing netball”.

“Teachers remain undefeated.”



**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 19 Dec 2025  
Woy Woy South Public School

Social media, 19 Dec 2025  
Woy Woy Public School

## Uniform shop open online and in person

**Woy Woy South Public School’s uniform shop will be open online and in person before the start of school next month.**

Orders may be placed online at <https://www.quickcliq.com.au> all of January.

The shop itself will be open 2:30pm - 5:30pm on Thursday, January 29, and 9am to 12pm on Friday, January 30.

From Monday to Friday, February 2 to 6, it will be open before school from 8:30am to 9am.

Each morning before school in Week 1, Monday 2nd - Friday 6th February With inquiries, contact the Uniform Shop Co-Ordinator by emailing [uniformshop@wwspandc.org](mailto:uniformshop@wwspandc.org).

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 31 Dec 2026  
Woy Woy South Public School P/C

## Mr McCrohon retires after 20 years

**TAS teacher Mr Terry McCrohon has retired after more than 20 years at Brisbane Water Secondary College.**

Campus principal Ms Rebecca Cooper described Mr McCrohon as “a true heavyweight of our college”.

“Terry has left an incredible legacy through his work in TAS, teaching Construction and Industrial Technology Timber with unwavering commitment and care,” she said.

“Across decades, Terry shaped countless students lives, not just with practical skills, but with patience, high standards and quiet leadership.

“He has been a trusted mentor to colleagues, a steady presence



in workshops, and a teacher who genuinely made a positive impact.”

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 19 Dec 2026  
BWSC Woy Woy



## Year 6 graduation mass

**St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School had an “equally joyous and emotional” celebration at the Year 6 Graduation Mass.**

Principal Ms Nicole Davies said

families had shown continued support for their children and had partnered with their teachers.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 17 Dec 2026  
SJB Catholic Primary School Woy Woy



## Woy Woy wants over-35 soccer players

**Woy Woy Football Club is looking for expressions of interest in joining its Over-35s soccer teams.**

Players are wanted for both its men's and women's teams.

"Whether you've been playing for years, are thinking about getting back into the game, stepped away while your kids' sport took over weekends, or just want to give it a go, we'd love to hear from you," said president Diane Fathers.

"As a boutique club, Woy Woy FC prides itself on a strong community feel, personal connection, and a supportive environment, while still embracing competitive football.

"Our aim is to build a fun, competitive, and supportive team." For further information, email [registration@woywoyfootball.org.au](mailto:registration@woywoyfootball.org.au).

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 11 Jan 2026  
Woy Woy Football Club



## Park run had 295 runners despite the heat

**A total of 295 runners took part in the Woy Woy Park Run on Saturday, January 10, despite a forecast maximum temperature of over 40 degrees.**

Starting at 8am with an air temperature of about 30 degrees, the run had finished in 70 minutes, before the temperature had reached 35 degrees.

First finisher was Nathaniel

Jones in a time of 18:41 minutes in the male 35-39 class.

First female was Jenny Doak in a time of 21:36 in the female 45-49 class.

There were 14 first-timers in the run, six runners recorded personal best times and 16 volunteers who organised the run.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 10 Jan 2026  
Woy Woy Park Run

## Filling Ettalong Beach with Christmas spirit

**Central Coast SUP Club aimed to fill Ettalong Beach with Christmas spirit when held its Christmas Community Paddle.**

Dressed in festive outfits, 35 stand-up paddler boarders gathered at the Ettalong Boat Ramp before launching together for a relaxed group paddle, creating a colourful Christmas parade on the water.

The event welcomed members, non-members, families, regular Bombora Ettalong Beach SUP

paddlers, kids and friends, bringing the local SUP community together to celebrate the end of the year, said club secretary Ms Tina Vella.

After returning to shore, participants had a barbecue breakfast and social catch-up, in a festive atmosphere.

"This event highlighted the strong sense of community around stand-up paddle boarding on the Central Coast and the joy of sharing our local waterways together," Ms Vella said.

She said the club was founded

in December 2023.

"It brings together SUP enthusiasts to enjoy the region's incredible waterways while promoting health, wellbeing and social connection.

"The club supports stand-up paddle boarding through social events and competitions and welcomes new members to be part of its growing community."

More information is available online at <https://ccsupclub.com>.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 22 Dec 2025  
Tina Vella, Central Coast SUP Club

## Swans invite interest in committee

**The Woy Woy Peninsula Swans AFL football club has announced its 2026 committee.**

Some vacancies remain on the committee and club is inviting anyone interested to put themselves forward.

Club president is Warren Lal, vice-president Evan Mannell, secretary Alissa Patoulis and treasurer Dan Shine.

Uniform and merch coordinator is Sophie McCarthy.

Auskick coordinator is Pete McCarthy and coaching coordinators Brad Deitz and

Damian Gatte.

General committee members are Phil Knight, Kass Brown and Grant Davis.

Email [psjafl@gmail.com](mailto:psjafl@gmail.com) for further information.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 9 Jan 2026  
Woy Woy Peninsula Swans AFL

## WHAT'S ON at ETTALONG BOWLING CLUB

### Cheers to a bright New Year

Exciting things are happening at Ettalong Bowling Club in 2026.

Club renovations will commence this year to bring a fresh new face to our beloved Bowling Club. Our members are going to be blown away with our new build so we can continue to be the best club on the Coast.

The Club will continue to trade throughout the renovations, and we strive to keep our members happy with new upcoming promotions.

### Celebrate Australia Day with us!

Join us for a fantastic day of celebrations, including:

- Free sausage sizzle from 11am.
- Live entertainment from members' favourite duo **Blackstar**, performing in the main lounge from 1pm.
- A classic fresh lamington from the Greens Café - because it wouldn't be Australia Day without one!

### Become a member

Membership is only \$7.50, giving you access to great rewards, offers and exclusive benefits.

For the latest information download our club app or visit our website to stay in the loop.

Management and our wonderful staff would like to thank you for all your continued support throughout 2025. We look forward to welcoming you back in 2026 and sharing an exciting year ahead.



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



THE BEST-KEPT SECRET ON THE CENTRAL COAST



## Bridge club attracts 92 players for Christmas pairs

**The Brisbane Water Bridge Club attracted 92 players to its pairs competition on its Christmas Party and Presentation Day on Monday, December 15.**

With such large numbers players were divided into three divisions: Angels, Elves and Shepherds.

Winners were: Shepherds Judy Wulff and David Adams, Elves Caroline Nichols and Connie Lewis, and Angels Kay Manning and Phil Fenney.

After the bridge games, the club members adjourned to Diggers for presentation of the championship prizes and for a Christmas Party.

Results of Christmas Pairs played on December 15 in the Shepherds division were:

1 Judy Wulff, David Adams 402.0 (62.04 per cent), 1.30 red points.

2 Chris Hasemore, Martin Johnson 393.0 (60.65), 0.91.

3 Marilyn Jarrett, Warren Nicol 381.0 (58.80), 0.65.

4 Meg McGregor, Qi Hasemore 378.0 (58.33), 0.43.

5 Pamela Lumby, Carol Long 368.0 (56.79), 0.33.

6 Christine Hadaway, Donelle Foate 367.0 (56.64), 0.26.

7 Gary Heyting, Stephanie Mathews 354.0 (54.63), 0.21.

7 Michael Greenfield, Peter Hume 354.0 (54.63), 0.21.

9 Deborah Guthrie, Frankie Craven 350.0 (54.01), 0.16.

10 John Aldersley, Beryl Lowry 348.0 (53.70), 0.14.

11 Lynne Rainford, Hilary Owen 347.0 (53.55), 0.13.

12 Jorgen Boettiger, Mal Matt Raj 345.0 (53.24), 0.12.

13 David Bowerman, Dasha Brandt 341.0 (52.62), 0.11.

14 Jaan Oitmaa, Sylvia Foster 332.0 (51.23).

15 Sue Eastman, David Howells 329.0 (50.77).

16 Kathryn Ivits, Alma Van Der Walt 325.0 (50.15).

16 Daryll Knowles, Elaine Hume 325.0 (50.15).

18 Alan Bustany, Pauline Caust 318.0 (49.07).

19 Felicity Fane, Tracey Dillon 313.0 (48.30).

20 Kerrel Walker, Barry Foster 307.0 (47.38).

21 Jacqueline Wilson, Jenny Buckley 283.0 (43.67).

22 Edith Marshall, Robyn Serra 260.0 (40.12).

23 Susan McCall, Pamela Joseph 252.0 (38.89).

24 Shirley Crockett, Linda Brown 237.0 (36.57).

25 Jan Kukura, Helen Cashman 213.0 (32.87).

26 David Lempert, Ron Meaney 202.0 (31.17).

Elves results were:

1 Caroline Nichols, Connie Lewis 111.8 (58.20 per cent), 0.33 red points.

2 Fiona Templeton, Ross Templeton 111.3 (57.94), 0.23.

3 Blair Glass, Carolynne Mucharsky 103.8 (54.04), 0.17.

4 Anne Birt, Marilyn Reid 101.8 (52.99), 0.11.

5 Bob Lowry, Dieter Mucharsky 95.5 (49.74), 0.02.

5 Susan Ashley, Kerry Robertson 95.5 (49.74), 0.02.

5 John Drew, Denyse Stephens 95.5 (49.74), 0.02.

8 Judith Lambkin, Jennifer Tebb 88.0 (45.83).

9 Meryl Duke, Philip Harper 83.5 (43.49).

10 Wendy Byrne, Suzanne Rochester 73.5 (38.28).

Angels results were:

1 Kay Manning, Phil Fenney 113.5 (59.11 per cent), 0.20 red points.

2 Steve Anderson, Kerry Anderson 106.8 (55.60), 0.14.

3 Carolyn Harper, Roz Laws 105.5 (54.95), 0.10.

4 Jenni Murray, Julie Barker 101.5 (52.86), 0.07.

5 Thuy Chapman, Denise Edwards 99.5 (51.82), 0.05.

6 John Sandra, Bernadette Sandra 98.0 (51.04).

7 Maureen Lockwood, Fiona Galea 90.5 (47.14).

8 Carolyn Girdwood, Annette Clarke 87.5 (45.57).

9 Rohan Creasey, Annie Creasey 83.3 (43.36).

10 Annette Bonnici, Jan Livingstone 74.0 (38.54).

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 16 Dec 2026  
Brisbane Water Bridge Club



## Levi wins his first national open water qualifier

**Woy Woy Swim Club member Levi Sinclair has come away from the 2025 NSW Open Water Championships with his first national open water qualifier.**

Levi headed down to Penrith to

take part in the five kilometre event just before Christmas.

Levi has been working this season on his 800 and 1500m events in the pool, which allowed him to qualify for the five kilometres for the first time.

Not only did he qualify for this event and swam it well, he walked away with his first ever national open water qualifier.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 22 Dec 2026  
Woy Woy Swim Club

## Volunteers needed for Disabled Surfers

**The first Surfing for the Disabled event for the summer was held on Saturday, December 6, at Umina Beach with 50 surfers and 150 water-based volunteers.**

Umina Community Group supplied some volunteers.

Pictured are Peter Springett, Janis Chean, Sean Richardson and Tony Winch, who volunteered as carpark attendants.

Volunteers are now needed for the event on Saturday, February 7.

The Disabled Surfers Association branch president Ms Rae Fiechter said: "We need large numbers of volunteers to make our surfing experience safe and enjoyable.

Volunteers are asked to register

prior to the event "so we know how many surfers we can accept".

Volunteers will also be accepted on the day.

Online registrations may be made via <https://bit.ly/7thFeb2026>.

"Volunteers do not need to know how to surf although water skills are highly valued," said Ms Fiechter.

"A water refill station and a rash shirt will be provided for the day, but volunteers are encouraged to bring their own wetsuits.

"A sausage sizzle will complete the event."

For information about the Umina Community Group email [contacts@uminacommunitygroup.com.au](mailto:contacts@uminacommunitygroup.com.au).

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 10 Dec 2026  
Umina Community Group



## Fact-finding mission for Hawaii tour

**Woy Woy Rugby Club's player-coach Damien Fleming has just been on a family visit and fact-finding mission in Hawaii.**

"He's been connecting with local

clubs to tee up matches for our Hawaii 2027 Seniors Tour," said club president Mr Phil Burgess.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 9 Jan 2026  
Phil Burgess, Woy Woy Rugby Club

