



A minute's silence

A minute's silence was held at a number of cricket grounds at the weekend in memory of John Jewiss, who died suddenly last week.

A life member of both Woy Woy Cricket Club and Southern Spirit Cricket Club, Mr Jewiss was remembered as a talented cricketer who represented at every level, "always with the mandatory zinc across his nose".

A supportive teammate and positive mentor to many young players stepping into grade cricket, fellow cricketers said he was the kind of clubman every community treasures.

"He was always willing to help, wherever and whenever he was needed," according to a tribute posted by Southern Spirit Cricket Club.

"He had a larger than life presence, a great mate with time

for everyone and a cracker story for every occasion.

"His impact on our club and the people within it will not be forgotten."

Woy Woy Roosters Rugby League Football Club posted: "Johnny was a great family man and was incredibly passionate about Rugby League.

"An integral part of the Roosters in the early 2000s, he served as head trainer of the all-conquering 2001 Country Cup champions and premiers."

He then went on to coach lower grades at the Roosters and was promoted to the Jim Beam Cup head coaching role in 2004.

"Later, Johnny worked with the NRL, dedicating his life to Rugby League while also being heavily involved in cricket."

SOURCE:

Social media, 22 Feb 2026
Southern Spirit Cricket Club

Council misses out on share in Greening Our City program

Central Coast Council has failed to secure a Greening Our City grant that was expected to be used to increase tree canopy on the Peninsula.

Of 43 eligible councils, 28 councils received grants from the grant program.

Central Coast Council was not one of them.

No reason has been given.

Despite this, a media release from the Department of Planning announcing the grants claimed the Central Coast was benefiting from the program.

Last August, the NSW Government announced that the program would be extended to enable Central Coast Council to apply.

"Central Coast Council will now be able to apply for a share of \$10 million to plant trees, shrubs, and native vegetation in parks, plazas, and other public spaces," said Minister for the Environment Ms Penny Sharpe, announcing that the program would be extended beyond the metropolitan area to include the Central Coast, as well as the Illawarra and the Hunter regions.

Without any indication of interest from the Council, Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch urged Central Coast Council to "get in on the bottom floor" and apply for its share of \$10 million to plant trees, shrubs, and native vegetation in parks, plazas, and other public spaces.

"With the Peninsula identified as an 'urban heat island', almost five degrees hotter than surrounding

leafier suburbs, it is imperative the Council applies for its share of the Greening Our City program," Ms Tesch said.

"The Greening Our City program is designed to increase tree planting, which helps reduce urban heat islands, supports our biodiversity and improves our public spaces and active transport routes."

In November, the Council confirmed it had made an application "which, if successful, will enable even more tree planting opportunities in Woy Woy, Ettalong and Umina in future years", according to council director Ms Melanie Smith.

Ms Smith said: "Street trees are more than just beautiful.

"They're essential for creating healthier, more sustainable communities."

Announcing the grants on January 30, Minister for Planning Mr Paul Scully said: "The Greening Our City program, which we have extended, is delivering 24,000 trees across Greater Sydney, the Illawarra-Shoalhaven, Hunter and the Central Coast."

The media release said "this fifth round of the Greening our City grant program was expanded to Illawarra-Shoalhaven, the Hunter, and Central Coast".

It said the grants would "green our streets and reduce the impacts of urban heating across Greater Sydney, the Illawarra-Shoalhaven, Hunter, and Central Coast".

In fact, the Central Coast did not receive any share of the \$10 million grant program.

In response to representations made by Ms Tesch on behalf of

the Grow Urban Shade Trees community group, Mr Scully said: "I am advised this round attracted strong interest, with applications significantly exceeding the \$10 million available

"All applications were evaluated by an independent assessment panel against the published grant criteria and were ranked accordingly.

"Central Coast Council submitted a comprehensive application and while the application met all eligibility requirements, other applications ranked higher in the assessment within the available funding envelope.

"The Department has offered to meet with Council to provide feedback to help strengthen the competitiveness of future applications."

In a media statement, Central Coast Council confirmed: "A meeting has been organised with State Government to receive feedback on why our application was not successful."

According to the department, the grant was designed to help councils with "urban greening in areas of low canopy and high urban heat that are targeted for housing growth".

It has not been disclosed in which areas the Central Coast application performed poorly.

However, over the past year, housing growth on the Peninsula has failed to come anywhere near the Council's published target.

SOURCE:

Media release, 30 Jan 2026
Department of Planning

PAGE 3: Housing growth falls short

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, March 9

Call us on 4342 5333
Email: 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 637
 Deadline: Thursday, February 5
 Publication date: Monday, February 9

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.



Dance group performs for 100th birthday

A resident of a Umina aged care facility has celebrated her 100th birthday.

Ms Norma Bailey celebrated the milestone surrounded by family at Peninsula Village.

She received a visit from The

Gals dance group, which gave a special performance for her.

Ms Bailey was one of the first members of the group.

SOURCE:
 Social media, 11 Feb 2026
 Peninsula Villages



Pelican Lady seeks funds to repair rescue van

Woy Woy's Pelican Lady has started a crowd-funding campaign to raise \$8500 to repair her pelican rescue van.

"I'm a self-funded full-time rescuer of pelicans and other birds primarily impacted by recreational fishing and toxic stormwater drain discharge.

"This is my 28th year of rescuing including 15 years without public funding on the Central Coast."

Ms Gillespie said, early last

year, her van was written off in an accident which she said disrupted her life and rescue service.

"The funds will be used to repair my written off van as I've just gained permission to repair it by NSW Transport."

Ms Gillespie's crowd-funding page can be found at <https://www.mycase.com.au/page/391093/repair-pelican-rescue-van>

SOURCE:
 Media release, 16 Feb 2026
 Wendy Gillespie, Pelican Care and Education



Monthly rainfall is one third average

A total of 48.2mm of rain has fallen on the Peninsula so far this month.

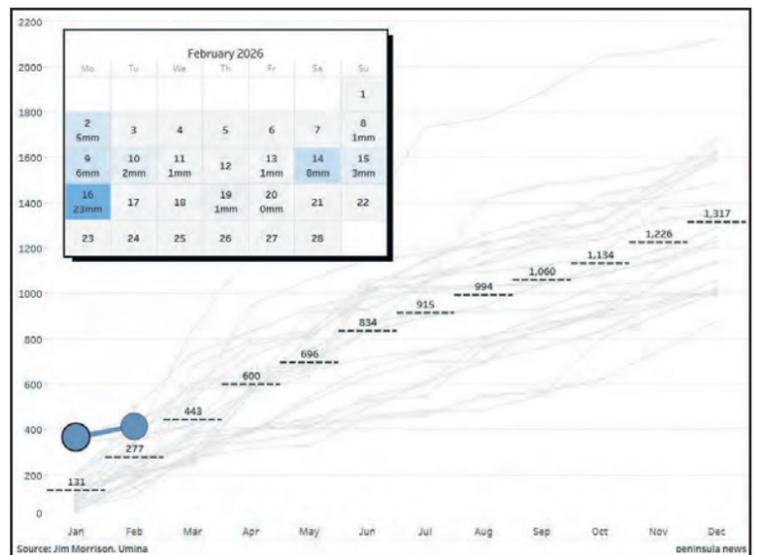
This is less than one third of the monthly average of 151mm, according to figures supplied by Mr Jim Morrison of Umina.

The heaviest daily rainfall for the month was 23.0mm recorded on Monday, February 16.

The total for the year to date stands at 412.8mm, which after January's heavy rain, is well above average.

The average cumulative total at the end of February is 271mm, which puts the current total more than 50 per cent ahead.

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



SOURCE: Spreadsheet, 20 Jan 2026
 Jim Morrison, Umina

TIDE TIMES and Heights	Mon, Feb 23	Thu, Feb 26	Sun, Mar 1	Wed, Mar 4	Sat, Mar 7
	0128 1.06	0441 1.04	0134 0.17	0416 0.13	0621 0.22
	0811 0.22	1211 0.21	0754 1.17	1009 1.15	1202 0.88
	1346 0.80	1747 0.62	1514 0.09	1706 0.10	1816 0.18
	1949 0.17	2314 0.24	2040 0.81	2239 0.97	
AT ETTALONG	Tue, Feb 24	Fri, Feb 27	Mon, Mar 2	Thu, Mar 5	Sun, Mar 8
	0223 1.05	0554 1.08	0234 0.14	0500 0.16	0029 1.01
	0922 0.24	1326 0.16	0842 1.19	1048 1.08	0702 0.24
	1452 0.69	1900 0.67	1556 0.08	1733 0.13	1238 0.78
	2043 0.21		2121 0.87	2315 1.00	1839 0.21
AT ETTALONG	Wed, Feb 25	Sat, Feb 28	Tue, Mar 3	Fri, Mar 6	Mon, Mar 9
	0328 1.04	0028 0.21	0329 0.13	0542 0.19	0106 0.98
	1046 0.24	0659 1.12	0927 1.19	1127 0.99	0747 0.27
	1616 0.62	1425 0.12	1633 0.09	1756 0.15	1316 0.68
	2154 0.24	1954 0.74	2200 0.93	2352 1.01	1908 0.25

NEWS email: contributions@peninsula.news

Council falls short on housing growth

Central Coast Council is falling well short of its target for housing growth for the Peninsula.

Applications for new additional dwellings on the Peninsula were approved last year at one eighth the rate required to meet the Council's 20-year "additional dwelling capacity" target of 11,500 new homes.

Council figures suggest about 75 new additional new dwellings were approved for the Peninsula last year.

This is just 13 per cent, about an eighth, of the numbers needed annually to reach the target.

To meet the "capacity" target, an average of 575 additional new dwellings would need to be built on the Peninsula each year over the next 20 years.

Of those approved last year, 40 new dwellings were provided by eight multiple dwelling developments.

The largest was 21 dwellings approved in a development by community housing provider Pacific Link in Macleay Ave, Woy Woy, a development which cannot be expected annually.

About 20 new dwellings were new secondary dwellings, while

the other 15 were provided through dual occupancy developments.

The numbers of new additional dwellings did not include new dwellings which replaced existing dwellings.

The Department of Planning has set a target of 9400 new dwellings for the Central Coast in the next five years.

At the current housing approval rate, the Peninsula could expect between 1000 and 1500 new dwelling approvals over the next 20 years, or between 250 and 375 dwellings over the next five years..

When the council adopted its housing strategy in May 2024, it rejected its consultant's "predicted take-up" of between 1663 and 2352 for the Peninsula, in favour of his theoretical additional dwelling capacity of 11,577.

The current figures fall below the consultant's estimates of reasonable growth under now obsolete and less generous planning provisions in force at the time of his study.

"Housing growth" was one of the selection criteria for receiving a Greening Our City grant.

SOURCE:
DA Tracker, 20 Feb 2026
Central Coast Council



Three-storey 134-bed extension planned for aged care 'campus'

A new three-storey 134-bed aged care facility is being proposed at 86-102 Pozieres Ave, Umina, as an extension of the Peninsula Village "campus".

Houses along the southern side of Pozieres Ave, between Bapaume Ave and Arras Ave will be demolished for the 13 metre high building.

A leaflet prepared by urban consultancy company Urbis describes the design as including "shared lounge and dining areas and resident support spaces" and a "covered outdoor area and landscaped courtyards".

A community information session will be held from 5pm to 7pm on Thursday, March 12, in the main lounge of Pam Palmer House at Peninsula Village, 91 Pozieres Ave.

Registration for the session is required and may be made online via <https://tinyurl.com/msheykp6>.

Peninsula Village stated in a social media post: "We welcome members of the community to attend our community information session.

"At this session we will be responding to all key questions in relation to the project.

"However, members of the community can also direct enquiries and feedback to our engagement email address: engagement@urbis.com.au."

Urbis may also be phoned on 1800 244 863.

Urbis will also be undertaking a social impact survey which will

close on Monday, March 16.

It can be found at <https://urbis.questionpro.com.au/t/ARokgZR9xE>.

"A social impact assessment is in independent, objective study undertaken to identify and analyse potential social impacts, positive and negative, associated with the construction and operation of the proposed development."

A printed version of the survey will be available at the information session.

The application for the proposal is being made as a State Significant Development Application, which will be assessed by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

The leaflet states Peninsula Village received the departmental Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements, which were industry-specific, in October.

It said an environmental impact statement was currently being prepared to assess the potential impacts of construction and operation of the proposal and propose suitable mitigation measures.

This would "detail the outcomes of technical assessments undertaken as part of the proposal including recommended mitigation measures".

"This will include studies of potential overshadowing and visual impacts, as well as noise, vibration and traffic considerations."

This will form part of the application to be submitted to the Department for approval.

Urbis said: "To help inform the environmental impact statement, Peninsula Village is engaging with the community, Council and key NSW Government agencies.

"The feedback we receive from the community and stakeholders will be collated into an Engagement Outcomes Report."

The application is anticipated to be submitted to the department in April.

It is expected that "public exhibition" of the proposal will take place next year, allowing "the local community to provide formal comments on the proposal".

A decision is expected to take six to 12 months.

The leaflet states: "The vision of the Peninsula Village at Umina Beach is to create a well-designed, integrated community that brings together comfortable living and resident aged care in one place.

"This will allow residents to age in place, maintaining independence while having access to high-quality compassionate care as their needs change.

"Well connected to the broader Peninsula Village campus, local services and public transport, the proposed design for the site responds to the growing need for aged care on the Central Coast, giving local seniors the opportunity to stay close to family and the people and place they love, while enjoying a high-quality lifestyle at every stage of retirement."

SOURCE:
Social media, 18 Feb 2026
Peninsula Villages



'Fantastic fundraiser'

A "fantastic fundraiser" was held at the Koolewong Marina featuring Little Quirks, Casey Chambers, Gina Jeffreys yesterday, according to Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch.

"I joined a number of the beautiful people who lost their homes in the Koolewong fires." She said that, organised by the

Kefi Restaurant, it was supported local businesses and fire brigade volunteers.

She said there was "delicious food, fabulous cocktails and great local generosity from all who attended".

She said the Kefi website had raffle tickets with great prizes on sale till the end of the week.

SOURCE:
Social media, 22 Feb 2026
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford

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.



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

‘Modification’ extends home by 32 square metres

Central Coast Council has received a “modification application” for a previously approved dual occupancy development at 59 The Esplanade in Ettalong.

According to the Statement of Modifications produced by Mr Ravi Sharma of Clarke Dowdle and Associates, the updated proposal seeks to introduce “design-style refinements” to the two-storey duplex, moving away from a “project home” look to embrace a “softer-organic building presentation with art deco style influences and motifs”.

While the core project still involves the demolition of the existing single dwelling to make way for two attached homes, the new plans introduce curved parapets, awnings, and circular windows in an attempt to better complement the streetscape with a “refined contemporary and coastal vernacular”.

New swimming pools will be positioned in the rear private open spaces

Internally, the floorplan has been modified to improve the ground floor bedroom layout, add a walk-in robe to the master suite and include a secondary living area.

To accommodate these upgrades for the four-bedroom units, the developers have requested a 32.3 square metre increase in the total floor space, noting that the “minor variation sought for the floor space ratio control primarily relates to the provision of secondary living areas”.

The consultant cites cases such as “North Sydney Council v Michael Standley & Associates Pty Ltd” and “Gann v Sutherland Shire



Council” to avoid having to submit a “Clause 4.6” request.

These cases established that because a modification is an amendment to an existing consent, applicants do not need to submit a formal Clause 4.6 written request to vary a standard.

However the applicant must convince the planner that the design is essentially the same as the approved version.

The application states that the modified plans enhance privacy and protect local amenity.

It also insists that the updated design will “not entail greater adverse amenity impacts in terms of privacy, sunlight access and views when compared to the approved dual occupancy development”.

In terms of sunlight access, the application states: “The approved application seems to generally overshadow the southern neighbour to just below the eaves.

“There is no amenity loss caused by the height of the parapet design.”

According to the document,

specific architectural changes have been made to directly benefit those living next door.

Large windows near the dining area have been reduced to prevent overlooking into the neighbouring yard, with the homes’ focal points now redirected eastward to capture water views.

Increased building articulation at the midpoint of the structure is designed to offer “improved” solar access for the southern neighbour.

Assurance is given that the increase in floor space will not alter the streetscape presentation, promising that the revised development offers “superior levels of architectural and urban design” with landscaping that is “more meaningful in terms of plant selection” and varied materials that will disguise the building’s bulk from the public domain.

The application is on public exhibition for written submissions until March 6.

SOURCE:
DA Tracker, 19 Feb 2026
DA/2797/2022/A, Central Coast Council

Council seeks approval by Planning Secretary

Central Coast Council’s Environment and Planning Sub-committee has asked Council general manager Mr David Farmer to write to the Department of Planning requesting the Council’s proposed “20-submission policy” be endorsed.

The policy would have the effect of increasing the number of unique submissions required to trigger a Local Planning Panel hearing from 10 to 20.

Currently, 10 submissions against a development application will cause the application to be determined by the Panel.

Last August, the council resolved to increase the number to 20 and submitted it to the Secretary of the Department of Planning Housing

and Environment for approval.

A report to the Council sub-committee said that the Department had emailed council staff on December 3 saying the matter was “under assessment”.

This came after “follow-ups” by council staff on September 12, October 18, November 13 and November 24.

At its meeting on February 3, the sub-committee resolved that it “requests the Chief Executive Officer to write the the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure requesting the urgent endorsement of Council’s Development Applications Submissions Policy”.

SOURCE:
Sub-committee Minutes, 3 Feb 2026
Environment and Planning,
Central Coast Council



Change of apartment use

A new modification application has been lodged with Central Coast Council for the mixed-use shop top development on the corner of Ocean View Rd and Ferry Rd with the applicant seeking to change the final use of the building.

The application proposes to significantly reduce the number of short-term holiday rentals originally planned for the site.

While the project was initially approved by the Land and Environment Court as a “mixed use building containing shop top housing, retail premises, serviced apartments and associated works”, the new proposal aims to shift the focus toward permanent residency.

The application seeks to amend a planning condition so that “tourist and holiday accommodation (serviced apartments) are only permitted in Unit 1,” effectively removing the short-term rental requirement from Units 2 and 8.

This would convert two-thirds of the building’s planned holiday inventory into standard apartments to “more adequately meet the changing needs of the housing market and increasing demand in the local residential precinct”.

The application refers to a Court of Appeal decision, which determined that “it is not necessary for the entire ground floor of a building to be retail or business use in order for the building to be shop top housing”.

By applying this precedent, the developers argue that Units 2 and 8 can legally transition to permanent residential use without violating local planning definitions.

Despite this, there is unlikely to be a physical difference in the construction.

The developer maintains that the “building envelope and footprint remains generally the same” and will stay “visually consistent with that approved in terms of architectural language and materiality”.

The application seeks to convince the Central Coast Council that a building with a single “serviced apartment” is “substantially the same development” as one with three serviced apartments.

The application is currently on public exhibition and open for written submissions until March 13.

SOURCE:
DA Tracker, 19 Feb 2026
DA/59732/2020/D, Central Coast Council

Application to extend alfresco gaming area

An application for an “alfresco gaming area extension” at Ettalong Diggers Club has been lodged with Central Coast Council

It states: “This proposal responds to a need for Ettalong Diggers Club to continuously improve their hospitality offering to keep up with local competition, while offering members of the public opportunities to engage in local social activities.”

“The works proposed to the north-eastern boundary is an extension to the existing alfresco gaming area by 43 square metres.

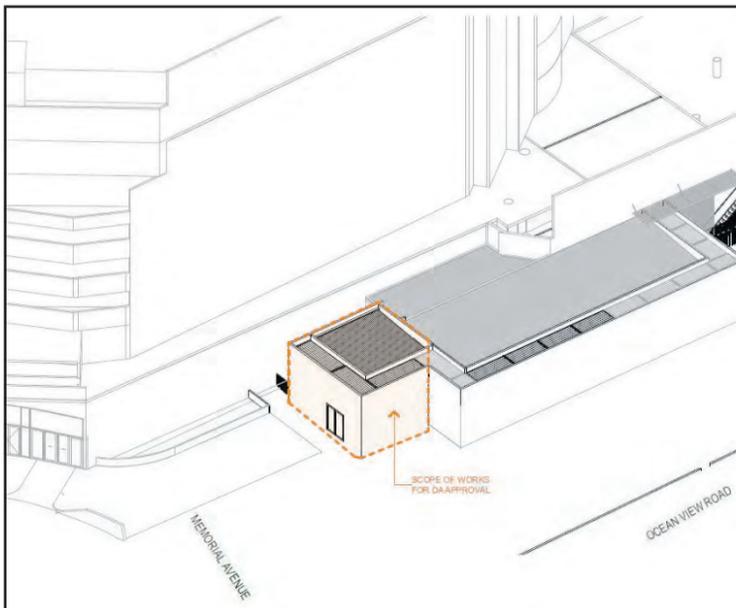
“The alfresco gaming area is extended in length and width with a new exit door.

“The existing garden bed will become wider.

“The existing gaming area is to remain.

A portion of existing footpath will “be removed to provide an egress door to the southeast”.

A portion of the existing asphalt



will also be removed.

“A new roof is proposed over the extended gaming area space along with necessary new adjustable aluminium louvres”.

The application states that no

other aspects of the club, including parking, will be affected.

It is currently on public exhibition and open for written submissions.

SOURCE:
DA Tracker, 19 Feb 2026
DA/24/2026, Central Coast Council

'Much larger' budget needed for trees - GUST

With applications to the Council's tree planting program closing, the Grow Urban Shade Trees community group has reflected on the magnitude of the tree planting program still required for the Peninsula.

"Funding for trees is a very small fraction of Central Coast Council's budget, even with the extra \$150,000 for the 200 trees forming the Peninsula Pilot Program," said group member Ms Jen Wilder.

"To give an idea of the much larger resourcing that's needed, there are approximately 10,000 bare verges on the Peninsula."

Ms Wilder said that the Peninsula had a 10 per cent tree canopy cover, compared to the

"globally-recognised" figure of 40 per cent for liveable suburbs.

Ms Wilder said other council's spent far more on trees.

"Our streets are largely bare and this is not normal in many other cooler greener LGAs.

"The Central Coast is a long way behind.

"With such a small budget, it is therefore not surprising that the much-anticipated new free street tree program and pilot program were short-lived this financial year."

Ms Wilder said that, despite the council closing applications, it was important that residents continued to ask so that "our council know the community demand for trees".

SOURCE:
Social media, 8 Feb 2026
Jen Wilder, Grow Urban
Shade Trees

Council closes requests for trees in planting program

Requests for trees as part of Central Coast Council's annual street tree planting program have now closed.

The requests are being assessed against the council's planting specifications and its Greener Places Strategy to determine suitability and priority for inclusion.

Those who submitted requests before submissions closed will receive a response once outcomes

are finalised.

Council staff said they had received a high volume of requests.

"We've received fantastic feedback and a significant number of requests to plant trees in specific areas as part of this program.

"We recently told you about our ongoing annual street tree planting program."

SOURCE:
Social media, 5 Feb 2026
Central Coast Council

Landcare group says vandalism signs ineffective

Signs erected by Central Coast Council advising of penalties for environmental vandalism have proved ineffective, according to Ettalong Landcare Group.

Group member Ms O'Leary said another grove of mature banksia trees had been poisoned on the Ettalong foreshore.

"This follows a similar incident in October last year," she said

"In response, the Council erected some small signs advising

of the penalties for environmental vandalism.

"These have proved an insufficient deterrent to the perpetrator, who is apparently wanting a view of water only.

"The offence has occurred on the dunes beside The Esplanade, opposite a new development between Kourung St and Barrenjoey Rd."

Media release, 13 Feb 2026
Margaret O'Leary, Ettalong
Landcare Group

Men's Shed looks for office manager to cover extra day

Umina Beach Men's Shed is looking for an office manager to allow it to extend its hours for an extra day a week.

"We need to look for a person and train him up, to look after the office on that possible extra day and perhaps one of the existing days," said the Shed's newsletter editor Mr Vic Brown.

"The person we need has to be happy being located in the office, and not out and about the shed."

Mr Brown said the role included handling sign-ins, phone calls and

receiving visitors at the gate.

"Hopefully we can attract a person with office management skills and good IT knowledge and happy to lock in two days a week from 8am to 12pm."

Someone would be available to explain all the systems, IT, filing and protocols, said Mr Brown.

Anyone interested is asked to phone the Shed on 4342 9606.

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 30 Jan 2026
Vic Brown, Umina
Beach Men's Shed



Umina bakery re-opens after renovations

Umina bakery Bakers Delight has re-opened after having been closed for two weeks at the start of February for renovations.

The renovations, which refresh and modernise the shop, come as Joe and Rose Mondal celebrate 23 years as Bakers Delight franchisees.

Ms Mondal said: "With the refurbishment and the new digital Rotel 3 Smart Oven, Joe and his baking team are set to produce high quality products that have proved to be a favourite with local customers."

She said they were particularly proud of their "artisan specials" like sourdoughs, ciabattas, Turkish and French baguettes, as well as their high-fibre low-GI white bread.

"Our baking team comprises of one head baker and two third-year apprentice bakers, who live in the area.

"We employ only local people." Bakers Delight area manager Mr John Graham said: "Franchisees Joe and Rose are buzzing with excitement.

"Having been part of the Umina community for 25 years, they are true local icons.

"The transformation is a testament to their dedication, resilience, and commitment to their community, a significant milestone in their long history of achievements."

Their contribution to the community has included support of the Salvation Army, Disability Surf Association, Catholic Church

at Woy Woy and local schools, spanning many years.

The supply of free bread for the "Koolewong Fires barbecue" helped raised funds for the victims of the fire.

Mr Graham said the response to the renovations had been "incredibly encouraging".

"Interest from the Umina community has been steady, demonstrating just how strongly locals support Joe and Rose and how eagerly they have welcomed the new-look bakery."

Ms Mondal said: "We are proud to be part of this Australian-owned franchise and hope to fly the Bakers Delight flag for a few more years."

SOURCE:
Media release, 10 Feb 2026
Rose Mondal, Bakers Delight Umina

Marine Rescue award for Woy Woy man

Woy Woy resident Mr Rob Murray was one of five Marine Rescue Brisbane Water volunteers have been awarded Member of the Month status.

They received their awards for their work on the Unit's Memorial Garden, a tribute to former unit members who have died or "crossed the bar".

"Former partners will soon

be invited to a gathering at the Point Clare base to inspect the monument," said Unit Commander Ian Morrow.

Announcing the selection of five joint award winners at the February unit meeting, for the first time in living memory, Commander Morrow said the members worked in 41-degree heat on a Saturday in December to position several huge sandstone blocks as work on the Unit's Memorial Garden began.

"The men's hard work continued through a hot December and January, and the memorial to our past members is expected to have finishing touches added at the weekend."

The other four to receive awards were Mr Kevin Sullivan, Mr Bob Knowles, Mr Peter Louie and Mr Andrew McKellar.

SOURCE:
Media release, 17 Feb 2026
David Wicks, Marine
Rescue Brisbane Water

Proudly serving the best Goan/Indian Food

Winner of 2025 awards

Spices 29
GOAN INDIAN RESTAURANT

34 Blackwall Road, Woy Woy-NSW 2256, Tel: 02 43398225, www.spices29.com.au

Forum

Decaying synthetic fibres a problem at Umina Oval

We have all become much more aware of the impact of plastic and micro plastic pollution on wildlife and human health and its impact on water supplies and the food chain.

Here at Umina we have the latest problem – decaying synthetic turf fibres from the futsal court next to Umina Oval washing out into the reserve and heading out to Ettalong Creek and from there into the ocean at Umina Beach.

Ettalong Creek is a known breeding area for Australian Bass and other fish species as well as the home for a number of important amphibian species.

The Chief Scientist's 2022 Independent Review of the design, use and impacts of synthetic turf gives ample warnings of the negative effect of synthetic turf on human and wildlife health and its widespread impact on soil and water.

The review reported: "Both turf fibre blades and rubber infill pose a risk of being transported to waterways as plastic pollution and threatening aquatic life.

"The dispersal routes of small fragments of turf fibres and disintegrated infills include 'walk off' on players' shoes, clothing or skin, maintenance equipment, removal with leaves, 'splash' from play, wind and transport through runoff to waterways"... and ... "synthetic turf surface temperature



can rise up to 38 degrees Celsius more than that of natural turf, with maximum surface temperatures ranging from the 70s to above 90 degrees Celsius"

Is this really what we want for our kids?

If you are as concerned as I am about this, I urge you to write or send a Facebook message to Council, local State members of Parliament and your sporting clubs asking them to address this local issue and to prevent public funds from being used to install such polluting and harmful surfaces in future, and that decaying surfaces already installed be disposed of responsibly before they do more harm.

SOURCE:
Email, 17 Feb 2026
Sue Ellis, Umina Beach

Electricity rates for strata areas

In Peninsula News, Edition 637, there is an article entitled "Remove Commercial Electricity Tariffs for Strata Residents", written by Susan Roberts of Ettalong Beach.

The Owners Corporation, of which my wife and I are a part, has over the last decade tried to understand why strata common area electricity attract commercial rates.

Our agent has made representations but nothing has come of it. It leads to nothing.

The article quotes that Ausgrid refuses to recognize it.

Is it just a money-grabbing position from a powerful organization?

Even with a good imagination it is hard to see how strata residents reside in commercial premises.

SOURCE:
Email, 10 Feb 2026
Charles Hemmings, Woy Woy



Last grove of banksias on dunes poisoned

The last grove of over 20 banksias on the sand dunes at Ettalong opposite 117 and 122 The Esplanade, Ettalong, has been poisoned.

There doesn't seem to be anything or anyone stopping the vandals from continuing their destructive vandalism.

The land that the banksias are on is Crown Land and managed by Central Coast Council.

This issue should be taken up by State Government in conjunction with Central Coast Council.

The banksias are a valuable asset to the dunes as they stop

erosion; give shelter to the wild life including humans and a important part of the dune ecosystem.

We need help to preserve this environment not destroy it.

These dunes have been cared for by bushcare volunteers for many years and the destruction is devastating.

It appears that signage outlining the consequences of destruction across from 117 The Esplanade is no deterrent.

Cameras might be.

SOURCE:
Email, 21 Feb 2026
Vickie Place, Booker Bay

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

Merlin & Maeve

Reiki and Energy Healing
Spiritual Life Coaching
Life Coaching

Mediumship, Tarot and Psychic Readings
Psychic Abilities Development courses
Defence Against the Dark Arts courses
Reiki Attunement I, II and III Courses

merlinandmaeve@gmail.com

Leonard O'Neill 0432 572 730
Brooke O'Neill 0415 724 960



FREE COACHING

EVERGLADES COUNTRY CLUB

DUNBAN ROAD WOY WOY

PHONE OUR ACCREDITED COACH

GARY: 0426 992 715

Car Boot Sale

Woy Woy Peninsula Lions Club

Sunday

Mar 29

7am to 1pm

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

Dunban 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

Fri Feb 27, 6pm

Michael Fix (Aus) &
Christine Collister (UK)

Everglades Club Woy Woy
All tickets \$25
For information
www.troubadour.org.au
4342 6716

Drones are 'inexpensive shark protection' - Wright

Cr Jared Wright has issued a media release calling for drones to be made available on all Central Coast beaches, the day after Umina Beach was closed due to a shark sighting.

Surf Life Saving NSW advised that a drone at Umina observed a shark at the beach at 2:25pm on Thursday, February 19.

The water was evacuated and the beach was closed.

"Drones are inexpensive, easy to use and can be rolled out quickly," he said.

"It's effective, it doesn't harm marine life and it provides the community with a sense of comfort and security when they are at the beach."

Cr Wright said he moved an "urgency motion" at Central Coast Council's January meeting for the Council to write to Minister for Agriculture Ms Tara Moriarty "to request a meeting about how we can work together to help mitigate the risk of shark attacks across our beaches".

"To date, no response has been received," he said.

"This isn't about throwing it all back on the NSW Government.

"It's about looking at how we can work with them to best protect beachgoers.

"We need more equipment like drones as soon as possible.

"We don't want to wait until tragedy strikes before we receive extra funding and resources.

"For example, when the smart drumlines aren't available on a given day, Council lifeguards could undertake extra patrol work or assist in getting messaging out to the public.

"There is no silver bullet when it comes to mitigating the risk of a shark attack, we need to be using a range of technologies."

He said that when drone technology, smart drumlines and a shark listening devices were coupled together, "these more modern and innovative alternatives to shark nets can significantly decrease the risk of a shark attack".

"At present, only three out of our 15 beaches on the Central Coast are using drone technology to their full potential.

"We have 41 beaches on the Central Coast in total."

SOURCE:
Media release, 21 Feb 2026
Jared Wright, Central Coast Council

Rubbish collected under public jetties

The Clean4shore marine clean-up group was joined by Scuba Gym Australia on Friday, February 20, to collect rubbish from beneath Brisbane Waters public jetties.

Two volunteer divers joined Ms Lyndi Leggett from the Scuba Gym in the "murky" water within Woy Woy Bay, with two on standby as support.

First find was a large heavy panel of "pool glass", a good heavy first find.

Beer bottles, metal piping, jetty material, crab trap, metal chairs, battery, bike parts and a computer were among the other rubbish lifted on board.

A sunken vessel was discovered close to Saratoga public jetty in



three metres of water.

A line was attached and the craft was towed to the shoreline, cut in half, and loaded on board.

The muddy 340kg load was delivered to Woy Woy Tip.

SOURCE:
Social media, 20 Feb 2026
Clean4shore

Journalist speaks to School for Seniors

Journalist Ms Merylyn Vale from Central Coast Council Watch has given a talk to the Peninsula School for Seniors at its meeting last week.

Today for our 2nd meeting of 2026 we had an interesting presentation from Merylyn Vale on her interest in Council Watch.

School convenor Ms Amber Golby said: "Merylyn's family has connections to the Central Coast with the naming of Vale's Point.

"After a successful career as a journalist and in the media, at retirement Merylyn took a keen interest in the working of the local council.

"Since 2017 she has attended every one of their meetings.

"She is keen for the public to take an active interest in Council decisions."

SOURCE:
Social media, 17 Feb 2026
Amber Golby, Peninsula School for Seniors

FRESH OUT OF THE OVEN!

Celebrating 23 years in Umina Beach, Joe & Rose invite you to the re-opening of their newly refurbished bakery!

SIGN UP TO DOUGH GETTERS FOR A FREE HOT CROSS BUN 6 PACK WITH YOUR NEXT \$5+ PURCHASE*

*Hot Cross Bun 6 Pack Welcome Offer is valid with your next \$5+ purchase for new Dough Getters members who sign up before 11:59pm AEDT on 2 April, 2026. Choice of Hot Cross Bun 6 Pack flavour applies but is subject to product availability. Only able to be redeemed at participating Bakers Delight bakeries. Redeemable on your next purchase in a bakery, and the purchase must meet a minimum of \$5 before the free product is added. Valid for new Dough Getters members who have fully completed their sign up. Offer valid for 14 days from issue. Cannot be redeemed within a Combo purchase. Cannot be redeemed through the Online Ordering System or through third-party providers or third-party delivery services. To redeem, members must scan their Dough Getters QR code or share their mobile phone number at a participating Bakers Delight bakery. Cannot be sold, redeemed for cash, transferred, assigned or shared with family, friends or others. Must be redeemed in one transaction, no change will be given. Rewards are limited to one Dough Getters Reward redemption per transaction. The value of the free product will not be credited towards your spend balance. The Dough Getters terms and conditions also apply and are available at <https://www.bakersdelight.com.au/pages/dough-getters-terms/>

Bakers Delight

Umina Beach
295 West St

DOWNLOAD THE APP



Arts

George Galea celebrates 50 years

Local entertainer Mr George "Houndog" Galea has celebrated 50 years in the industry.

George said he had dedicated his life to entertainment since 1976.

From his early days spinning records in Sydney's suburbs to establishing himself as recognisable figures in the retro and rock-n-roll scene, he said his journey has been powered by passion, perseverance, and an unshakeable love for music.

Through dance schools, festivals, club events, and



community celebrations, he hoped to introduce people to the joy of jive, the excitement of live

entertainment, and the magic of a packed dance floor.

"Longevity in entertainment is never accidental.

"It demands adaptability, consistency, and above all, heart."

Mr Galea said 50 years represented more than time served.

"It represents memories created, friendships formed, dance floors filled, and communities strengthened. "It represents a legacy built one song at a time."

SOURCE:

**Media release, 12 Feb 2026
George Galea, Sydney's Live Entertainment Agency**



Year's first folk concert

The Troubadour Folk Club's first major concert for the year will be held next Friday, February 27.

Club president Mr Michael Fine said it would feature "the internationally acclaimed duo of Australian finger-style guitarist Michael Fix with Christine Collister, from the Isle of Man".

"Collister and Fix will be presenting many of the greatest ballads and popular music classics of the past 50 years – from the Beatles and Bob Dylan through to Roberta Flack and Aretha Franklin, along with a few of their own compositions".

"Christine is a legendary singer with a hauntingly beautiful voice," said Mr Fine.

"Her professional recording career began in the 1980's, coming to national attention in the UK singing the 1987 theme for the BBC Television series The Life and

Loves Of A She Devil.

"Michael Fix began performing in his home town of Wollongong at the age of 12 and was later 'discovered' by the legendary Tommy Emmanuel.

"Michael played with the acclaimed folk band Hat Trick, and later with Graeme Connors.

"He has won the Golden Guitar Award at Tamworth three times and has won numerous other awards in Australia and overseas."

Mr Fine said ticket prices had been kept to \$25, "to make sure as many people as possible can get to enjoy a live performance from two of the very best live musicians".

Bookings may be made online through www.troubadour.org.au.

For further information, phone 4342 6716.

SOURCE:

**Media release, 12 Feb 2026
Michael Fine, Troubadour Central Coast**

Three artists featured in art space

The work of three local artists is being featured in Deep Water Art Space's Spotlight Room this February and March.

The Spotlight Room is a space local artists, who aren't members of the Art Space collective, to hold an exhibition for one month.

Volunteer Ms Jennifer Reid said: "Some of our Spotlight Room artists have never shown their work before, and this room allows them to create a beautiful display without the pressure of approaching a gallery.

"Peninsula shell artist Kylie Pecotich has an exhibition inspired by the natural beauty of the sea, By the Shore, on display until



March 10."

Members of the Ettalong 50+ Leisure and Learning Centre's art group, David Barraclough and Joyce Reed, are sharing the space in a collaborative exhibition called

'Love Life', from March 11 to April 10.

David said he and Joyce visited Deep Water Art Space and saw the potential to show their work through the Spotlight Room.

David and Joyce will hold an opening at 2pm on March 14.

Deepwater Art Space is located next to the Reject Shop in Deepwater Plaza shopping centre and operated voluntarily by a collective of 20 Central Coast artists.

It is open from 10am to 5pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 4pm on weekends.

SOURCE:

**Media release, 16 Feb 2026
Desley Stewart, Deepwater Art Space**

Forum

Abundant inexpensive houses needed, not big houses that push limits

While the state and federal governments continue to chant the mantra of "increasing housing supply" to fix our affordability crisis, residents on the Woy Woy Peninsula are witnessing a different reality.

It is a planning system that looks more like an expensive game of cat-and-mouse.

Take the recent modification application for 59 The Esplanade, Ettalong.

Originally approved in April last year as a dual-occupancy development, the developer has returned to Council with a "Statement of Modifications" that should raise eyebrows for every ratepayer on the Central Coast.

Despite the Central Coast planning provisions setting a clear floor space ratio limit of 0.5:1, the applicant is now seeking to push that to 0.55:1, a 10 per cent increase.

In raw terms, they are asking for an extra 32.3 square metres of floor space, the same size as many granny flats.

Why? The applicant claims this extra space is needed to provide

"secondary living areas" for four-bedroom units.

This isn't just a design "refinement", it is a strategic move to shift the development into a higher market bracket.

While the government begs for more houses, we are getting bigger houses that push the limits of our local planning laws.

The idea that we can somehow "encourage" developers to produce what is really needed, abundant inexpensive housing, is laughable in the face of market reality.

It's like trying to herd cats.

According to Gemini Deep Mind, the applicant stands to make an extra \$400,000 to \$530,000 if this modification is approved.

What is most frustrating for the community is the legal strategy used to bypass standard rules.

The applicant's consultant argues that because this is a "modification" (Section 4.55), they don't even need to submit a formal "Clause 4.6" request to break the floor space ratio rule.

Instead, they rely on complex Land and Environment Court precedents to argue the building is "substantially the same" as the one already approved, even while

they add length to the first floor and change the entire architectural style to an "art deco vernacular".

Every time a developer comes back for "an extra bite of the cherry" with modifications like these, it clogs the system.

Council planners, funded by our rates, must spend hours wading through hundreds of pages of legalised mumbo jumbo to determine if a 10 per cent breach is "minor" or if "increased articulation" truly makes up for lost sunlight.

At a time when we need a streamlined, honest planning process to deliver genuine housing, we instead see the system being used to "polish" approvals for maximum profit.

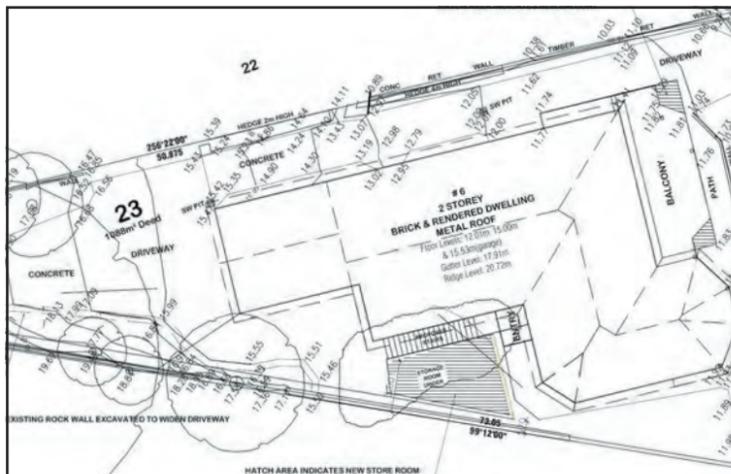
If we want to solve the housing crisis, we need developers to play by the rules the first time, not treat our Local Environment Plan as a mere suggestion.

Until then, the throughput of DAs will continue to be choked by these tactical manoeuvres, leaving ratepayers to foot the bill for a process that seems designed to serve the few at the expense of the many.

SOURCE:

**Email, 22 Feb 2026
Frank Wiffen, Woy Woy**

Planning



Horsfield Bay certificate

An application for a Building Information Certificate (BC/328/2025) has been submitted to Central Coast Council for a residential building at 6 Horsfield Rd, Horsfield Bay.

According to the Council website "A building information certificate is typically sought by property buyers or sellers to ensure that a building and its land can remain as is, without regulatory action from Council."

The application describes its scope as "internal modifications to existing dwelling, retaining wall

and reinstating external staircase and deck and storeroom".

The documentation provided in the public exhibition is a set of notification plans with the title bars reading "Unauthorized Work as Built Plans".

The application is currently on public exhibition and open for written submissions from the public.

The closing date for submissions was unable to be confirmed as the Council planning portal was down for maintenance at the time of writing.

SOURCE:

**DA Tracker, 21 Feb 2026
BC/328/2025, Central Coast Council**



Stars of the Central Coast launched in Ettalong

The Cancer Council fundraiser Stars of the Central Coast 2026 was officially launched in Ettalong last week.

The launch attracted 150 guests, including sponsors, community leaders, past participants and the newly announced 2026 Stars.

The launch was hosted and fully-funded by Ettalong Diggers Club.

The club's community manager Ms Kim Cole said the club was honoured to stand behind the event and presented a \$10,000 cheque to kick-start this year's fundraising campaign.

"Stars of the Central Coast is so much more than a dance gala," she said.

"It's everyday people stepping well outside their comfort zones to

raise life-saving funds.

"Having experienced the journey myself, it was incredibly special to return as MC to help launch the 2026 campaign."

She said the 2026 Stars would now embark on "a 12-week fundraising and dance journey", culminating in a gala performance at Laycock St Community Theatre in Gosford on Friday, May 8.

"Funds raised will directly support the vital work of Cancer Council NSW across the Central Coast, funding research, prevention programs and essential support services for individuals and families navigating a cancer diagnosis," she said.

SOURCE:
Media release, 21 Feb 2026
Kim Cole, Ettalong Diggers

Podiatry service to operate at Mingaletta

A podiatry service will operate from Mingaletta on the last Thursday of every second month.

The first session will be held this Thursday, February 26.

It will offer general footcare, diabetic assessments or answer questions about particular foot issues.

Provided by Umina Podiatry, those attending are asked to seek referrals from their doctor where appropriate.

SOURCE:
Social media, 10 Feb 2026
Mingaletta ATSIC

New medical service

A new medical service is being offered at Mingaletta in Umina.

New patients are invited to book for the bulk-billing service.

"We're excited to welcome this new doctor to Mingaletta."

For further information, call 4342 7515.

SOURCE:
Social media, 10 Feb 2026
Mingaletta ATSIC



Surf club installs two more defibrillators

The defibrillator project team from Ocean Beach Surf Life Saving Club has installed four of its planned seven defibrillators across the Peninsula

The third and fourth of these defibrillators were installed recently at The Box on the Water Cafe in Ettalong and Anderson's Boatshed in Booker Bay.

The team, led by club life member Mr Richard Grimmond, will hold an Automated External Defibrillator Awareness Session at Ettalong Diggers Club on March 9.

Two further installations are planned for The Cove cafe on Mt Ettalong Rd, Umina, and at the Lone Pine Ave-Glenn St corner in Umina in coming months.

Mr Grimmond said defibrillators helped save lives in emergency situations.

"Survival from cardiac arrest improves from six per cent to 37 per cent when a defibrillator is used along with effective cardio-pulmonary resuscitation."

SOURCE:
Media release, 9 Feb 2026
Penelope Catchlove,
Ocean Beach SLSC



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



71 Blackwall Road, Woy Woy NSW 2256

gosford@parliament.nsw.gov.au

(02) 4342 4122

www.liesltesch.com.au

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

Sport

Social Projects group has 'great opportunities'

Umina Beach Public School is asking students to talk to their parents about becoming part of the Social Projects group at the school.

"Social Projects is a student-led group, designed for students who show high potential or giftedness in the social-emotional domain," said school principal Ms Karen Wardlaw.

"If a child demonstrates a high level of emotional awareness, a strong sense of fairness and moral reasoning, leadership skills, and social insight, this is a great opportunity for them.

"We welcome all students with

these qualities who want to make a positive difference in our school and local community.

"Last year, over 30 passionate students raised money for our school pantry, collected and delivered Christmas gifts for We Care Connect, and supported local charities through fundraising.

"There's plenty of important work still to do in 2026.

"There are also leadership opportunities for students who want to take on more responsibility and develop their skills."

SOURCE:
Social media, 20 Feb 2026
Umina Beach Public School



Buddy program starts

Kindergarten students at Woy Woy Public School have started their buddy program with Stage 3 students.

Students spent time getting to know each other and made special bookmarks.

"The buddy program helps younger students feel safe,

supported and confident as they begin their school journey," said principal Ms Sandy Knowles.

"It also gives older students the opportunity to lead, mentor and build meaningful connections."

SOURCE:
Social media, 13 Feb 2026
Woy Woy Public School



Students celebrate World Greek Language Day

Greek language students at St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School celebrated World Greek Language Day on Monday, February 9.

The day recognises Greek's global importance and historical role in democracy, science, philosophy, literature, culture, and its influence on modern languages.

St John the Baptist students learn Greek in their weekly classes, discovering stories, traditions, and ideas that connect classroom

learning to real life.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for students to feel proud of their learning and celebrate the rich Greek language and culture," said Greek teacher Ms Anna Karantonis-Dalton.

The day also honours, Dionysios Solomos, Greece's national poet and the writer behind the Greek national anthem.

SOURCE:
Social media, 10 Feb 2026
SJB Catholic Primary School



Eight students chosen for zone trials

Five boys and three girls from Peninsula schools have been chosen to represent the Southern Central Coast in the Combined Zone Rugby League trials on Tuesday, March 3.

They were selected at the Southern Central Coast Primary Schools Sports Association held at its Boys and Girls Rugby League trials at Ettalong Oval, on Tuesday, February 17.

Woy Woy South students Zane Proctor and Manaia Mikare,

Ettalong students Jai Salkeld and Cooper Guttenbeil and Umina Beach student Beau Wallace were selected for the boys' team

Ettalong students Ellie McManux, Violet Wolfe and Matilda Wolfe were selected for the inaugural girls team.

"We got lucky with the weather and this allowed for some outstanding free-flowing football being played and a successful trial for both the boys and the girls," said rugby league convenor Mr Mitch Frew.

"We had 43 students trial for the boys team and 10 students trial for the girls team.

"The boys had three full teams trial against each other, playing two games each.

"The girls were lucky enough to have NRLW and NSW State of Origin representative, Jocelyn Kelleher, take them through some skill development drills and then they played a modified game against each other."

SOURCE:
Social media, 17 Feb 2026
Mitch Frew, SCCPSA



Campus offers learning space

Woy Woy campus of Brisbane Water Secondary College is offering an "outdoor learning space" for community use.

It is "one of the many incredible facilities we're proud to share with the Community", according to campus principal Ms Rebecca Cooper.

"Featuring a sandstone lecture block with seating for a full class, this space next to our Yarning Circle provides the perfect setting for lessons that invite reflection, discussion and connection.

"It is a calm, welcoming setting among beautiful trees, natural surroundings and the sound of birdsong.

"It's a place where students can step outside, slow down and engage with learning in a different way.

"We love making the most of our environment and providing valuable everyday experiences that inspire curiosity and imagination."

SOURCE:
Social media, 10 Feb 2026
BWSC Woy Woy



Kokoda trek sponsorship

A registered club has announced applications have opened for sponsorship of a Year 11 Brisbane Water Secondary College student to attend the Kokoda Youth Leadership Challenge.

The Ettalong Diggers sponsorship will give the student the opportunity to trek across The

Kokoda Trail later this year.

The sponsorship will cover travel and incidentals.

The club will also sponsor one of its employees on the trek.

Ettalong Diggers chief executive Mr Col Murphy made the trek last year, pictured.

SOURCE:
Social media, 17 Feb 2026
Ettalong Diggers



Pickleball attracts 40 adults

A "Come and Try" pickleball session at Woy Woy Tennis Club on Sunday, February 15, was well-attended.

The children's session was popular, but the group of more than 40 adults was more than expected.

"There was lots of laughter with groans and celebrations as the morning progressed."

SOURCE:
Social media, 20 Feb 2026
Woy Woy Tennis Club



Eight seven-board matches for Swiss pairs

The Brisbane Water Bridge Club held its championship for Open Swiss Pairs was fought out over eight seven-board matches on February 16.

The event attracted 20 duos representing all levels of play at the club.

At the half way mark eventual winners Chris Hasemore and Jaan Oitmaa trailed the first three by a small margin.

However, it wasn't until round five when they put together four great match results of 3, 3, 1 and 1, thus making the championship theirs.

The contest for second was a great battle and at the finish with only 0.4 per cent separating the combatants.

Judy Wulff and David Adams finished second with Karen Ody and Jim Routledge third.

Quite a number of novice and restricted players joined the

championship giving them a great chance to test their bridge skills.

Anne Birt and Susan Ashley who finished best of nine novice duos amongst a strong open field.

Results of Club Swiss Pairs after eight of eight matches were:

1 Chris Hasemore, Jaan Oitmaa 89.50 Imps (110.68 VPs), W-D-L 7-0-1, 1.28 green points.

2 Judy Wulff, David Adams 67.83 (105.36), 5-2-1, 0.98.

3 Karen Ody, Jim Routledge 64.50 (104.97), 7-0-1, 0.94.

4 Susan Mccall, Pamela Joseph 58.62 (100.30), 4-1-3, 0.61.

5 Felicity Fane, Matt Raj Mal 26.83 (90.56), 5-0-3, 0.59.

6 Donelle Foate, Christine Hadaway 15.20 (85.00), 4-1-3, 0.52.

7 Pamela Lumby, Carol Long 12.83 (84.82), 4-1-3, 0.50.

8 Hilary Owen, Meg Mcgregor 8.54 (84.01), 3-1-4, 0.29.

9 Peter Hume, Elaine Hume 9.93 (82.65), 3-0-5, 0.25.

10 Beryl Lowry, Tracey Dillon -2.39 (79.78), 4-1-3, 0.38.

11 Anne Birt, Susan Ashley -13.35 (75.78), 5-0-3, 0.42.

12 John Sandra, Bernadette Sandra -7.22 (75.25), 3-0-5, 0.25.

13 Carolynne Mucharsky, Blair Glass -16.68 (73.64), 4-0-4, 0.34.

14 Steve Anderson, Kerry Anderson -19.43 (71.80), 3-0-5, 0.25.

15 Spider Redgold, Frankie Craven -21.64 (71.64), 3-1-4, 0.29.

16 Julie Barker, Annie Creasey -35.54 (66.78), 3-0-5, 0.25.

17 Connie Lewis, Caroline Nichols -40.19 (65.55), 3-0-5, 0.25.

18 Jacqueline Wilson, Jenny Buckley -49.21 (62.50), 1-0-7, 0.08.

19 Jenni Murray, Roz Laws -72.25 (55.96), 4-0-4, 0.34.

20 Bob Lowry, Dieter Mucharsky -75.89 (52.97), 1-0-7, 0.08.

SOURCE:
Social media, 16 Feb 2026
Brisbane Water Bridge Club

Record volunteer numbers help disabled surfers

A record 242 volunteers attended the February event of the Central Coast Disabled Surfers Association at Umina Beach, enabling 51 surfers to take to the water.

"We had a massive 242 volunteers at our February event so are looking to repeat this at our next event on March 7," said association branch president Ms Rae Fiechter.

"We need large numbers of volunteers to make our surfing experience safe and enjoyable.

"Interested volunteers are asked to pre-register online via <https://bit.ly/March7th2026> so we know how many surfers we can accept.

"Volunteering consists of helping participants to and from the beach, assisting them in and out of the water and helping set up and clean up.

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

"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 is provided at the end of the day."

Volunteers will also be accepted on the day.

SOURCE:
Social media, 7 Feb 2026
Central Coast Disabled Surfers Association

WHAT'S ON at ETTALONG BOWLING CLUB

Exciting Times ahead at Ettalong Bowling Club!

Big news, everyone! Stage 1 of our renovations kicks off in the second week of March 2026, and we couldn't be more thrilled! While we work on making our Club even better, we promise to keep any disruptions to a minimum for our wonderful members and guests.

Get ready for some fun this Easter! Don't miss our fabulous Easter Egg and Seafood Raffle, with amazing prizes up for grabs! Stay connected with us through our Club app and website for all the latest updates and info. Or feel free to chat with our friendly staff if you have any questions!

Mark your calendars for a night of tunes and good vibes! Join us on Saturday, February 28th, in the Auditorium, where Sounds From Downunder will rock the stage from 7:30 PM onwards!

We can't wait to embark on this exciting journey with you all!



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



GIANT EASTER Baskets

UP FOR GRABS!

FRIDAY 27TH MARCH

20 LARGE EASTER BASKETS

will be included in the Friday Night Club Raffle.

Don't miss the chance to win yourself a basket full of joy!

HOP ON IN EARLY
to purchase your tickets from 10am.
Raffle drawn 8.15pm.

THE BEST-KEPT SECRET ON THE CENTRAL COAST

Brisbane Water members win Gosford bridge pairs

Brisbane Water Bridge Club members Jaan Oitmaa and Sylvia Foster have won the Gosford club's Mixed Pairs Championship held over two recent Tuesdays.

A number of other Brisbane Water members also made the journey but without similar success.

Fourteen duos fought out the event with Jaan and Sylvia taking the honours by a comfortable two per cent.

While first place was clearcut, the battle for the other places was red hot, with those pairs scoring great percentages.

With 0.21 per cent separating the combatants, probably one board result was the difference.

Second were Eunice De Vries and David Bowerman and third were Louise Lewis and Vis Pietraszkiewicz.

SOURCE:
Social media, 17 Feb 2026
Brisbane Water Bridge Club



Umina fours championship final played

The final of the Umina Beach Men's Bowling Club Fours Championship was played in sunshine on Sunday, February 15.

The game was played between a team of Sid Stokie, Glenn Simington, Lee Cribbs and Greg Shirley and the team of Roger Twells, John Hall, Rob Merrill and Colin Mew.

"This was always going to be a great game," said club secretary Mr Peter Springett.

"Colin Mew's side got out to an early 4-0 lead after three ends.

"Greg's side struck back and it

was 7-6 to Colin's side after eight ends.

"Greg picked up three shots on the ninth end to go 9-7 up.

"Colin picked up a five on the 10th end to go 12-9 up.

"Both sides got one each on ends 11 and 12.

"Greg won the next three ends to go 15-13 up.

"Colin won the next five ends to go 21-15 up after 20 ends.

"Colin's team was holding six shots on the 19th end and Greg drew a sensational shot, through lots of traffic, to reduce the score to only one down.

"The score was 21-15 after 20

ends.

"Greg and Colin shook hands and the game was over ... or so we all thought.

"However, the skips then decided to play the 21st end.

"Once again, Colin's side were holding a few shots and with his last bowl.

"Colin trailed the jack to go one down.

"Greg had a run to try and kill the end, but missed the target.

"Colin's side was victorious 21-16."

SOURCE:
Social media, 15 Feb 2026
Peter Springett, UBMB



Valentine's Day bridge attracts 17 pairs

Valentine's Day red point event attracted 17 pairs to the Brisbane Water Bridge Club on Saturday, February 14.

The club was not able to divide the field into Open and Super Novice divisions as it did "in the pre-covid days".

A \$30 shopping voucher each is awarded to the winner of red point events.

However, a shopping voucher prize for lower level duos was not awarded on this occasion due to lack of participants.

The day belonged to club stalwarts with Judy Wulff and Sue McCall, taking the honours with a three per cent buffer.

Regulars Joan Walsh and Jenny Buckley were second, while Christine Hadaway and Donelle Foate were third.

Results of the Valentines Day event played on February 14 were:

1 Judy Wulff, Susan McCall 232.0 (61.38 per cent), 0.90 red points.

2 Joan Walsh, Jenny Buckley 221.6 (58.63), 0.63.

3 Christine Hadaway, Donelle

Foate 215.0 (56.88), 0.45.

4 Elaine Hume, Peter Hume 208.1 (55.06), 0.30.

5 Felicity Fane, Matt Raj Mal 208.0 (55.03), 0.23.

6 David Adams, Deborah Guthrie 200.3 (52.98), 0.18.

7 Chris Hasemore, Jacqueline Wilson 199.0 (52.65), 0.15.

8 Alan Bustany, Pauline Caust 192.4 (50.89), 0.07.

8 Wendy Mitchell, Barry Foster 192.4 (50.89), 0.07.

10 Jaan Oitmaa, Sylvia Foster 191.3 (50.60).

11 Karen Ody, Jim Routledge 187.0 (49.47).

12 Carol Long, Faith Ross 186.8 (49.40).

13 Dasha Brandt, David Bowerman 172.1 (45.54).

14 Edith Marshall, Hilary Owen 167.0 (44.18).

15 Tracey Dillon, Kevin Hughes 163.0 (43.12).

16 Fiona Templeton, Ross Templeton 149.6 (39.58).

17 Robyn Serra, Helen Cashman 129.0 (34.13).

SOURCE:
Social media, 15 Feb 2026
Brisbane Water Bridge Club



Pathways squads in pre-season Cup

Southern and Ettalong United Football Club's U13s and U15s Pathways squads have played in the Central Coast-Pre Season Cup in Tuggerah.

The U13s finished third overall and demonstrating composure, intensity and "real growth under pressure".

"The development across the group was clear to see."

The U15s finished sixth overall,

competing hard all weekend, testing combinations and building match fitness against strong opposition.

SOURCE:
Social media, 18 Feb 2026
Southern & Ettalong United Football Club

Bicycle to ride to Erina

The Central Coast Bicycle User Group will hold a ride from Woy Woy to Erina and back from 7:30am to 10am on Thursday, March 5.

The ride of about 35km via Gosford is described as "an easy ride mostly along a shared path to Erina and back".

It includes a few very short hills,

with coffee at Erina.

Riders are asked to arrive at Woy Woy Fishermen's Wharf, Woy Woy, five minutes before start time.

For further information, phone ride leader Alan Corven on 0414 538 977.

SOURCE:
Social media, 19 Feb 2026
Central Coast Bicycle User Group

Light rain did not deter charity bowlers

Charity bowlers raised \$890 at Ettalong Bowling Club on Sunday, February 8.

The light rain did not dampen the spirits of the 46 bowlers in attendance, raising funds for Central Coast Kids in Need, according to organiser Mr John

Orme.

The spider was won for the first time by long time helper Bob Willis and the lucky rink winners Vicky, Tamara, Fran and Gaye won a bottle of wine each.

Bowls was followed by a cold meat and salad lunch and a raffle.

Winners were Mark Endicott and Vicki Young who also won the Wednesday bowls bourbon. Glenn Winter won the \$50 voucher.

The next charity bowls event will be Sunday, March 15.

SOURCE:
Media release, 9 Feb 2026
John Orme, Ettalong Charity Bowls