



Church overflows for Aunty Robyn Reid's funeral

Holy Apostles Anglican Church in Blackwall Rd, Woy Woy, was filled to capacity on Saturday, March 7, for the funeral of Aunty Robyn Reid.

Those people who couldn't fit were directed across the road to the school hall at Woy Woy Public School for a live stream screening of the event.

Mingaletta had also said it would live stream the funeral at its hall in Umina.

Funeral director was Aunty Robyn's son, Mr Bryan Reid of Bryan J Reid Funeral Services.

He had asked that people wear colourful clothing.

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State Government welcomes social housing project

The State Government has welcomed start of work on a 21-unit social housing project at 18 Macleay Ave, Woy Woy, after the issue of a construction certificate by Central Coast Council in December.

"The Government has invested \$4.8 million into the project," said State Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch.

The development, being built by community housing provider Pacific Link Housing, was also supported by Australian Government agency Housing Australia.

The project has been more than five years in the making, with it first made public when Central Coast Council heard a rezoning application from Pacific Link Housing in July 2021.

Construction is expected to be complete by August-next year.

Ms Tesch said the development would have "a high-quality, modern mix of 12 social and

nine affordable units and villas, featuring communal areas and shared gardens".

"This boost to the social and affordable housing stock is a welcome addition."

Minister for Housing and Homelessness Ms Rose Jackson said the development was designed to meet the needs of its future community, and was "within walking distance of parks, schools, childcare and public transport, providing convenient access to everyday essentials and services".

The development is 2.3km from the railway station and shops at Woy Woy, 1.9km walking distance to the nearest public school at Woy Woy South and 400m from St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School.

It is about 1.4km from the nearest childcare centre at the Peninsula Community Centre.

A bus service to Woy Woy stops around the corner in Nambucca Dr,

about 150m away.

The site backs onto the Nambucca Dr playground and Burrawang bushland reserve.

Ms Jackson said: "Addressing the housing crisis requires all levels of government to work together, and this Woy Woy project shows exactly what can be achieved when we partner to deliver more homes where they are needed most."

The development was "ensuring the area remains a vibrant and inclusive community where locals, key workers and seniors can find a home that suits their needs", she said.

"We cannot solve homelessness without more homes and that's why we are on a mission to transform underutilised land into places people in need can call home and that's exactly what we're doing here in Woy Woy."

SOURCE:

Media release, 6 Mar 2026
Rose Jackson, Minister for Housing and Homelessness



Produced on the Peninsula

Peninsula news & advertising
for the Peninsula community

Peninsula News: A voluntary activity

Peninsula News is as much a community activity as it is a community service.

Our fortnightly voluntary non-profit community newspaper is produced by members of our community as a service to our community.

It relies on voluntary participation, ranging from submitting material through to being an active part of the production team. No-one is paid.

Volunteering can range from spending an hour or two through to taking responsibility for a role within the production team. Training is provided.

Volunteers are currently needed to help with fundraising and sponsorship, news gathering, and sub-editing collected material into news style.

Other available roles include

that of photographer and picture editor, online production manager and bookkeeper.

For further information, call 4342 5333 or email editor@peninsula.news and one of our volunteers will get back to you.

Mark Snell, 9 Mar 2026

Can't find a copy of Peninsula News?

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Next issue: Monday, March 23

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.

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

EMAIL ISSUES?

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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.

Donation to fire service catering unit

The Woy Woy Peninsula Lions Club and Woy Woy Neighbourhood Services have joined with the Terrigal-Wamberal Lions Club and Lions Disaster Relief to donate \$16,000 to the Rural Fire Service catering unit.

A presentation ceremony took place at Gosford district operations centre at Kariang on Monday, March 2.

The donation is expected to help refurbish the unit's barbecue trailer, to get a bigger generator for the catering truck and to explore the possibility of getting a combination oven for the truck. Mr Tony Griffith represented



Woy Woy Peninsula Lions Club and Mr Ian Taylor represented Woy Woy Neighbourhood Services at the presentation.

SOURCE:
 Media release, 4 Mar 2026
 Lin Griffith, Woy Woy Peninsula Lions Club

Older Women hold Easter raffle

The Deepwater branch of the Older Women's Network will hold its Easter Raffle at Woy Woy on Tuesday, March 31, and Wednesday, April 1.

The branch's second annual raffle will be held outside Kmart at Deepwater Plaza.

"There are four raffle prizes containing so much chocolate that any family will be set up for some time," said branch secretary Ms Jennifer Brown.

"All funds raised will go to the three local food pantries; Mary Mac's Place, Seventh Day

Adventist Community Food Pantry, and Community SOS at the Peninsula Community Centre."

First prize was large wicker basket containing boxes of chocolate and Easter eggs.

Second, third and fourth prizes were also of chocolates and Easter eggs.

The raffle will be drawn by Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch in her offices at 9am on Thursday, April 2.

Ms Brown said: "The Older Women's Network advocates for the rights, dignity and wellbeing of

older women in the community. "The Deepwater Branch has grown to over 40 members who have social lunches, coffee mornings and meetings with a guest speaker

"We also support Meals-on-Wheels with funds to provide petrol vouchers to their volunteers and Capes4Kids, the Ettalong 50+ Leisure and Learning Centre and the Umina Beach PCYC and their Fit for Life program."

SOURCE:
 Media release, 7 Mar 2026
 Jennifer Brown, OWN Deepwater

Below average rainfall for February

The total rainfall for February was 15 per cent below average, according to figures supplied by Mr Jim Morrison of Umina.

The month's total of 128.3mm was 85 per cent of the February average of 151mm.

Rainfall of more than one millimetre was recorded on nine days in the month, with three days having more than 10mm.

A fall of 23mm was recorded on February 16, 68.1mm on February 27 and 11.0mm on February 28.

The year's total at the end of February was 492.9mm, 81.9 per cent more than the average figure of 271mm.

A total of 10.8mm was recorded in the first five days of March, which has a rainfall average of 172mm.



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

SOURCE:
 Spreadsheet, 6 Mar 2026
 Jim Morrison, Umina

TIDE TIMES and Heights	Mon, Mar 9	Thu, Mar 12	Sun, Mar 15	Wed, Mar 18	Sat, Mar 21
	0106 0.98	0345 0.87	0027 0.30	0300 0.18	0527 0.14
	0747 0.27	1106 0.29	0659 1.00	0858 1.16	1103 1.05
	1316 0.68	1648 0.54	1401 0.20	1553 0.14	1727 0.13
	1908 0.25	2201 0.36	1938 0.74	2127 1.00	2329 1.18
ATTALONG	Tue, Mar 10	Fri, Mar 13	Mon, Mar 16	Thu, Mar 19	Sun, Mar 22
	0147 0.95	0503 0.88	0121 0.25	0348 0.16	0617 0.15
	0842 0.29	1218 0.27	0741 1.07	0937 1.16	1152 0.95
	1403 0.60	1810 0.59	1442 0.18	1625 0.13	1800 0.14
	1945 0.29	2322 0.35	2014 0.82	2205 1.08	
ATTALONG	Wed, Mar 11	Sat, Mar 14	Tue, Mar 17	Fri, Mar 20	Mon, Mar 23
	0238 0.90	0609 0.93	0211 0.21	0437 0.14	0015 1.19
	0949 0.30	1315 0.23	0819 1.13	1019 1.13	0713 0.17
	1511 0.55	1900 0.66	1518 0.16	1656 0.12	1245 0.84
	2042 0.34		2049 0.91	2245 1.14	1839 0.17

NEWS email: contributions@peninsula.news

Move for high rise in Woy Woy narrowly defeated

A motion to investigate building high-rise apartments in Woy Woy has been narrowly defeated in Central Coast Council's Environment and Planning Committee.

A planning staff report to the committee on Tuesday, March 3, had recommended the Council investigate Woy Woy being designated as an "Accelerated Transport Oriented Development Precinct".

The designation would allow high-rise development of greater than six storeys within 1200 metres of Woy Woy station, the report stated.

The report was prepared following a request from the Business NSW Integrated Chamber for Council to seek to upgrade Woy Woy's current Transport Oriented Development program.

The report recommended: "That the Committee recommends to Council writes to the Secretary of the Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure expressing interest in setting up a joint process with the Department and Council to investigate options for Woy Woy to be included as an Accelerated Precinct."

Mayor Cr Doug Eaton moved the recommendation, with deputy mayor Cr John Mouland seconding it.

The motion was defeated 3-2 with Cr Jane Smith, Cr Margot Castles and Cr Sharon Walsh voting against it.

The report stated: "The NSW Government is investing \$520 million in the Accelerated Precincts for community infrastructure, such as critical road upgrades, active transport links and good quality public open spaces.

"Such funding would be welcomed by the Central Coast precincts including Woy Woy where lack of infrastructure (eg roads, drainage) restricts development potential."

However, despite making the recommendation, the report stated: "Potential for any of the Central Coast precincts to be reclassified is likely to be low.

"While Council staff can initiate

discussions as to the potential for Woy Woy to be reclassified, it is likely that the other centres on the Central Coast (Gosford, Tuggerah and Wyong) exhibit less constraints and are also suitable for reclassification to accelerate their growth."

Reclassification was unlikely because the master-planning and rezoning for the accelerated precincts had been completed, and the associated policy changes were only applicable until November 30 next year, it said.

"It is uncertain as to whether any of the Central Coast Precincts are capable and/or suitable to deliver the high-rise housing anticipated for the Accelerated Precincts, and a State-Led Rezoning is currently underway for Gosford."

There are currently eight accelerated precincts in Sydney, which were selected from 305 stations in Sydney, the Illawarra, the Hunter and the Central Coast.

The report stated: "Woy Woy was not originally chosen as one of the 31 well-located transport stations included as a Transport-Oriented Development precinct.

"Woy Woy was added to the program after local business advocacy and Departmental consultation with Council."

As part of the program, residential apartment buildings may be built in all residential zones within 400m of Woy Woy railway station.

Residential apartment buildings and shop-top housing may be built in local and commercial centres within 400m of the station.

Maximum building height for residential flat buildings is 22 metres (about six storeys) and 24 metres for buildings containing shop top housing.

The floor space ratio can be up to 2.5:1.

The minimum lot width is 21 metres but there is no minimum lot size.

Development in the local centre zones must consider active street frontages of buildings at the ground floor.

Two per cent of a development must be affordable housing.

SOURCE:
Environment and Planning item 2.8, 3 Mar 2026
Central Coast Council



Residents submit their own nomination for Black Spot funding

The Peninsula Residents Association has submitted a Black Spot Program nomination to Transport for NSW, calling for immediate safety upgrades at the high-risk pedestrian area at the end of Picnic Parade, Ettalong.

"The location has long been recognised by locals as a dangerous crossing point, with risks escalating significantly over the past two years due to increased residential development and the relocation of the Ettalong post office," said association secretary Ms Sally Wilson.

"A detailed issues report was

compiled in February last year, highlighting the growing hazards faced by pedestrians in the area.

"Last March, Central Coast Council was encouraged to seek funding for improvements under the NSW Black Spot Program."

The project was not selected for the 2025-26 funding round.

Ms Wilson said a community traffic survey last month recorded more than 500 vehicle movements in just 30 minutes.

"More recently, a pedestrian was struck and knocked under a vehicle at one of the crossings, prompting police involvement and heightening community concern.

"The increase in pedestrian activity in Ettalong has been

dramatic, and the current conditions are no longer safe," she said.

"We are calling for proactive action to protect both locals and visitors in what has become a busy and vibrant part of the Peninsula."

She said there were several other nearby areas requiring attention to ensure the safety of all road users.

"The Association is seeking support from government representatives, agencies, and the wider community to prioritise these improvements."

SOURCE:
Media release, 8 Mar 2026
Sally Wilson, Peninsula Residents Association

First community cafe held in Ettalong

The Rotary Club of Brisbane Water held its first Community Cafe in Ettalong on Thursday, February 26.

The club described it as "a great success" with 30 people attending the Hatter's Tea House to enjoy the club's hospitality "while making new friends".

The next community cafe will be held on Thursday, March 26.

All are welcome.

SOURCE:
Social media, 26 Feb 2026
Rotary Brisbane Water



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Automated car wash proposed for Rawson Rd

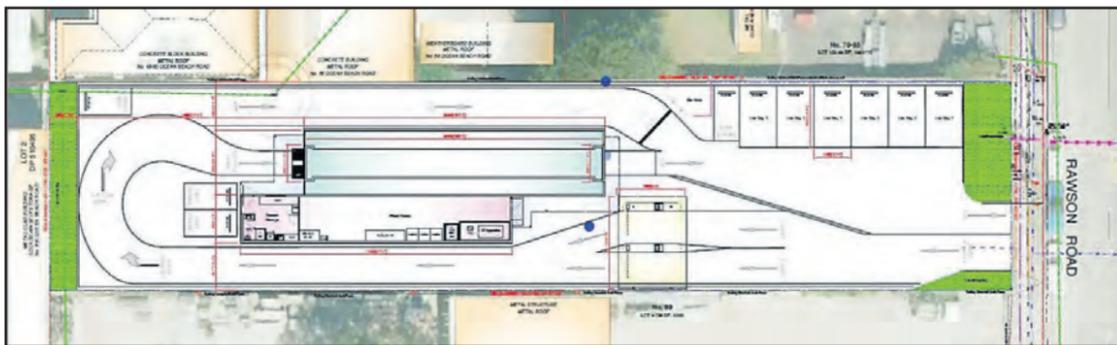
A car wrecking yard at 87 Rawson Rd, Woy Woy, would be turned into an automated car wash if a development application submitted to Central Coast Council is approved.

The proposal, submitted by The Wash Factory, outlines plans for a tunnel car wash featuring a single automated wash bay, a covered pay station, six vacuum bays, and a dedicated plant and storage room.

The application submitted by Resolve Urban Planning includes an arboricultural impact assessment and a detailed stormwater management plan.

The proposed hours of operation are not consistent within the documentation.

The Operational Management Plan indicates it will be open from 6am to 10pm seven days a week, while the body of the application



(the Statement of Environmental Effects) states the premises will operate 24 hours a day, with a staff member on-site at all times.

Three mature Norfolk Island pines between 31 and 34 metres in height would be removed for the development.

According to the arborist's report by Active Green Services, the pines are in direct conflict with the proposed construction footprint and would face a "major" root zone encroachment.

The report notes that, under the

proposed design, the trees will "not remain viable post-development" and must be removed unless "tree sensitive design modifications" are made.

The application claims that the trees are not ecologically significant as they were planted over time in an urban area isolated from significant vegetation corridors.

One of the pines, designated as Tree 1, sits directly on the western boundary fence line and may be jointly owned.

The application claims that

the proposed facility will not significantly impact the existing road network, as the design provides ample on-site space for the queuing of vehicles.

It states the site layout ensures that all vehicles, including medium rigid delivery trucks, will be able to enter and exit the property safely in a forward direction.

To manage noise generated by the light industrial use, particularly given the proximity of a childcare centre located to the west, a An acoustic assessment, which

identified a childcare centre to the west, stated that the development would have no significant impact on the local acoustic environment, provided mitigation measures are implemented.

Wash water would be automatically treated and reused on-site, directing any wastewater to the sewer rather than the local stormwater network.

Because the land was historically used as a vehicle wrecking yard, a detailed contamination assessment and remediation action plan have also been submitted.

Resolve Urban Planning notes the facility aims to "operate without significant impact on the amenity of adjoining land users".

The application is currently open for written submissions until March 13.

SOURCE:
DA Tracker, 24 Feb 2026
DA/151/2026, Central Coast Council



Floor space ratio 14 per cent above limit

Central Coast Council has received a request to amend an existing development approval for a dual occupancy development at 391 Orange Grove Rd, Blackwall.

The application represents a modification to the approval for an attached dual-occupancy, to substantially increase the floor space ratio.

The plans and calculations table currently on exhibition disagree on the exact new proposed floor space ratio.

In one case, the new ratio is stated as 0.57:1. In the other, it is stated to be 0.58:1.

These ratios exceed the planning control maximum of 0.5:1 by 14 per cent and 16 per cent respectively.

Both are greater than a 10 per cent "variation" which would normally trigger referral to the Local Planning Panel for determination.

It is unclear whether this practice applies to a proposed amendment to an already approved development application.

No Statement of Environmental Effects is among the documents available on exhibition on the

council planning portal to explain the impacts of the changes.

There is no assessment of how the expanded building envelope would affect adjoining properties, including over-shadowing and privacy, or how it would encroach on deep soil or landscaping of the property itself.

There is no statement about the effect of the new design on the character of the area.

The original application was lodged in July 2023.

The application sought to demolish an existing single-storey dwelling and freestanding garage to construct the new attached dual-occupancy development.

Each of the two units was designed as a premium four-level home, with a basement single-car garage, a storage area, an internal lift; open-plan living, dining and kitchen spaces at ground level, an atrium, a plunge pool; four bedrooms on the second storey, a main bathroom, and north/south-facing balconies and a rooftop terrace accessed via the internal stairs and lift.

During the council assessment, the proposal required exceptions

(Clause 4.6 variations) to two primary development standards:

The 8.5m height limit was exceeded by 9.4 per cent (reaching 9.3m).

Council supported this because it was restricted to a small portion of the rooftop terrace cover, which was set back 2.7m from the building's edge to prevent overshadowing and privacy impacts on neighbours.

The maximum floor space ratio of 0.5:1 was exceeded by four per cent at 0.52:1.

Council also permitted this, noting the bulk and scale were still compatible with the local context and the "parkland hillsides" character of Blackwall.

The application was officially approved on February 28, 2024, subject to conditions, including building to bushfire standards (BAL-12.5) and paying \$22,960.35 in developer contributions.

The amending application is currently on public exhibition for written submissions until March 20.

SOURCE:
DA Tracker, 7 Mar 2026
DA/1253/2023/A, Central Coast Council

A new MRI service for Woy Woy?

Woy Woy may get a new magnetic resonance imaging service if Central Coast Council approves a development application for a "change of use".

Plans have been submitted for a specialist medical imaging clinic at 52 Railway St, Deepwater Plaza shopping centre.

The new facility, operated by Life Medical Imaging, will be located in a currently vacant space that was previously part of the "old Franklins Supermarket which changed to IGA before closing".

An internal fit-out is planned to transform the retail tenancy into a "diagnostic hub".

Patients visiting the clinic will have access to consulting rooms and a specialised MRI room, along-side a front entry waiting area and a reception and administration area.

The facility will also include a doctor reporting area, a communications room, and a staff room.

According to the application, the clinic will be accessible to the community.

Visitors will be able to use the centre's "extensive ground level and multi-deck parking off George St and Charlton St".

It said the location was well-served by local public transport, providing "regular interconnection between the site and the nearby town centres" via multiple bus routes and the nearby Woy Woy train station.

It is claimed that the clinic will bring positive economic and health benefits to the Peninsula, generating local employment with the business planning to "employ eight people".

The clinic will be open Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 5:30pm and on Saturday from 8am to 12pm.

The application is currently on public exhibition until March 16.

SOURCE:
DA Tracker, 7 Mar 2026
DA/205/2026, Central Coast Council





Trees group calls for action on foreshore erosion

The Grow Urban Shade Trees community group is asking residents to write to Central Coast Council to save trees in danger on the Ettalong foreshore.

The group is concerned that banksias and other vegetation are being undermined by erosion along the waterfront between Picnic Parade and the ferry wharf.

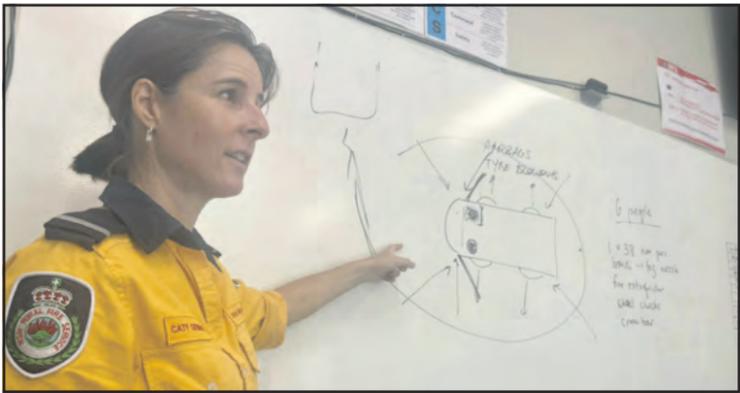
“Already, several coastal banksia trees have not survived from being undermined,” said group member Ms Lesley Harvey.

“Where is Council’s plan to reinforce the foreshore before the adjacent gardens, pathway and homes are put at risk and becomes a more expensive remediation?”

She said the group was asking residents to write to the Council calling on it to act as a matter of urgency

She said emails should be addressed to ask@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au.

SOURCE:
Media release, 4 Mar 2026
Lesley Harvey, GUST



Brigade keeps up training

Members of the Pearl Beach brigade of the NSW Rural Fire Service have been involved in training for car fires recently.

They said they were “always

training, keeping our skills up to scratch and our minds fresh, ready to tackle any incidents that may arise”.

SOURCE:
Social media, 21 Feb 2026
Pearl Beach Brigade, NSW RFS



Paul Harris Fellowship for Liesl Tesch

The Rotary Club of Umina Beach has presented a Paul Harris Fellowship to Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch at the club’s 50th birthday celebrations.

It also award Paul Harris Fellowships to its Past President Mr Tom O’Connor and former member Mr Tony McPhee, who were founding members of the club 50 years ago.

“The presentations were in honour of their long community service,” said club president Mr David Tanare.

He said Mr McPhee had remained a generous supporter of club projects.

The club was granted its charter on January 20, 1976, and held its first meeting on February 26 that year.

Ms Tesch was guest of honour for the celebrations.

Current and past club members attended, along with members of the Rotary Clubs of Woy Woy and Brisbane Water, and family and friends, Mr Tanare said.

“Gosford Town Crier Mr Stephen Clarke provided a unique proclamation of congratulations and a bugle heralding of the event.”.

SOURCE:
Social media, 28 Feb 2026
David Tanare, Rotary Umina Beach



Program sees 540 batteries installed

Close to 540 solar batteries have been installed under the Australian Government’s Cheaper Home Batteries program in the 2256 and 2257 postcodes, according to Member for Robertson Dr Gordon Reid.

The postcodes cover the Peninsula but also include suburbs outside the Peninsula.

A total of 158 installations have occurred in the 2256 postcode district which includes Woy Woy and The Bays, Pearl Beach and Patonga.

The postcode area also includes Koolewong and Little Wobby.

The 2257 postcode district has

had 381 installations.

This covers Umina and Ettalong, but also includes areas off the Peninsula including Daleys Point, St Huberts Island, Empire Bay, Killcare and Pretty Beach.

Dr Reid said the results reflected what households were telling him: people want to cut their power bills, get more value from their solar, and take control of their energy use.

“Batteries help households store the cheaper, cleaner energy they generate during the day, and use it at night.

“That means less reliance on peak prices, a more reliable grid and putting downward pressure on prices for everyone.

“Families and local businesses are embracing energy upgrades that save them money and make their homes and businesses more energy-efficient.

“These results show our community is getting on with it, taking up batteries and backing a cleaner energy future that is made from Australia’s abundant renewable resources.

“People here don’t want slogans.

“They want bills that are easier to pay, and a plan that delivers.

“That is exactly what this program is doing.”

SOURCE:
Media release, 4 Mar 2026
Gordon Reid, Member for Robertson

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

Forum

Council vandalism sign is inadequate

Regarding the two articles in the last edition of Peninsula News (#638) detailing the poisoning of banksias at Ettalong, this picture shows what Lane Cove Council does when trees are poisoned.



Below right is what Central Coast Council does.

This sign has been placed after more than eight banksias have been poisoned opposite 117 and 122 The Esplanade, Ettalong.

This sign is not even next to the banksias.

It's opposite a different house to the one that will now have good views when these tall trees topple over.

Instead of putting a large sign that is right in front of the trees, the council put a tiny sign 15-20m from where the poisoned trees are.

The bushcare volunteers who painstakingly remove weeds, plant new plants and cart water to water the plants, were not consulted and

more trees were poisoned after this sign was erected - obviously because they realised how small the ramifications would be since the sign is not even near the trees.

It might be a good idea for council to work with their own bushcare groups and put cameras up to help prevent this destruction.

A large sign to block the view where the trees are is the very best deterrent.

SOURCE:
Email, 25 Feb 2026
Carol Richardson, Umina



Council attention needed for tree branch threat

In the early hours of Monday this week, there was a loud noise and rumbling felt at our home in Flathead Rd.

A large tree branch in Ettalong Oval had fallen to the ground from a gum tree which displays decaying branches causing the fall.

There was no wind or storm related conditions.

This area of the oval provides shelter and shade from the elements when there are sporting events on weekends and school excursions during the week.

It is fortunate that this incident did not present any harm to the public or vehicle damage.

A similar incident with the same conditions happened in Kitchener Park opposite the oval some months prior to this.

The incident in Kitchener Park was brought to the attention of the Central Coast Council and a partial

stump is still visible to this day.

This incident prompted Flathead Rd property owners to request Council to address the threat from overhanging branches from the ageing and decaying trees to their properties.

Council was reminded also as to their duty of care for the safety to the public.

To date, there has been no action.

Council obviously has no ongoing action plan to identify trees that require attention or, if they have, it certainly has failed at the Ettalong Beach Oval and in Kitchener Park.

Other sites on the Central Coast may also be in peril from overhanging branches as well.

It appears that this Council gambles on a "wait and see" attitude before they act.

It is too late if lives are lost or property damage occurs..

Trees with overhanging branches close to verges, arterial roads and power lines all present danger without ongoing tree maintenance and when climatic conditions occur.

It is not a good look either for locals or visitors.

SOURCE:
Email, 5 Mar 2026
Bob Welch, Ettalong Beach

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7am to 1pm

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The Troubadour
Folk and Acoustic Music Club

Sun Mar 22, 2pm
Martyn Wyndham-Read (UK)
& Warren Fahey (Aus)

Everglades Club Woy Woy
Tickets \$25 members
and \$30 non-members at
www.troubadour.org.au
4342 6716

Council is not revealing Ettalong erosion plans

I have written to Central Coast Council asking about its plans for beach and foreshore erosion at Ettalong.

I received a reply from director of environment and planning Mr Luke Nicholls saying that this will not be determined until after the draft Hawkesbury-Nepean River System Coastal Management Plan is exhibited "in coming months".

Mr Nicholls is keeping his cards very close to his chest.

I am certainly interested in work that is "targeted at addressing the current and future risks to the coastal environment".

I imagine others are too, and would like community meetings to have actions explained.

My recommendation is to identify issues of concern before the draft is exhibited and study Ettalong's foreshore in advance.

SOURCE:
Letter, 4 Mar 2026
Norm Harris, Umina

Little Theatre holds play reading

The play "Harp on the Willow" by John Misto was the February Play Reading at Woy Woy Little Theatre on Wednesday, February 25.

The informal reading was held in the foyer at Peninsula Theatre, Woy Woy.

The play follows Mary O'Hara, who is a highly regarded and commercially successful Irish folk singer and harpist who vanished at the height of her fame to join an extremely strict order of cloistered Catholic nuns.

John Misto's bio-play has much fun with the strictness of that self-enclosure.

The bulk of the play is set in the early 1970s, before dress reform finally buried the wimple.

The holy penguins cannot be seen by, or see, their visitors.

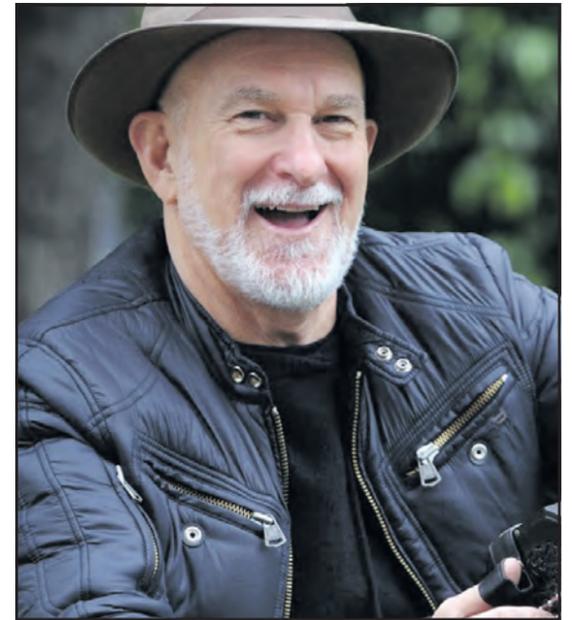
Silence is enforced for much of the day, and their confessor has an odd attachment to the apparent benefits of self-flagellation.

The play readings are usually held at 7pm on the last Wednesday of the month.

They are free and open to all.

Those attending can choose to read or just listen.

SOURCE:
Social media, 25 Feb 2026
Woy Woy Little Theatre



Martyn Wyndham-Read and Warren Fahey to play at folk club

English folk singer Martyn Wyndham-Read and Australian folklore collector Warren Fahey will present "Bushwacked, Bothered and Bewildered" at Troubadour Folk Club at 2pm on Sunday, March 22, at the Everglades Country Club.

The concert will follow Australia from its struggling convict settlement through to the early 20th century.

"Old favourites will merge with newer songs to tell the Australian stories which should never be allowed to disappear," said folk club publicity officer Mr Bill Young.

Martyn Wyndham-Read has released over 30 solo albums and is recognised for his polished, rounded singing style.

He is equally at home singing sensitive age-old ballads and the often raucous songs of the shearers and drovers on the spree.

Born in Sussex, England, he lived and worked in Australia from 1958 to 1967.

This will be his final Australian tour.

He will be honoured with the National Folk Festival's Lifetime Achievement Award at Easter this year.

Warren Fahey has received

many honours including Australia's highest award for a lifetime contribution to music, The Don Banks Music Award.

He prefers to say he is a graduate of the Dingo University of the Outback.

The pair will be joined for the concert by musicians Marcus Holden on fiddle, mandolin and banjo, and Garry Steel on accordion.

Further information and bookings are available online at troubadour.org.au.

SOURCE:
Media release, 6 Mar 2026
Bill Young, Troubadour
Central Coast

Author talks about Birds Go Boho

An author talk by Alison Jane Rice will be held at Umina Beach Library from 11am to 12pm on Thursday, March 26.

She will present her book Birds Go Boho.

Ms Rice is expected to talk about her creative process and her art, and to discuss the journey behind her picture book.

Birds Go BoHo is described as "more than a children's book", "a visual exploration of character, community and our changing environment, using 18 vivid bird personas to open up bigger themes of biodiversity and habitat loss".

Limited copies of the book will be available for sale on the day.

Bookings are essential and may



be made at the library or by phone on 4304 7333.

SOURCE:
Website, 24 Feb 2026
Library Services, Central
Coast Council



Two artists join gallery

An Ettalong art gallery has had two artists join its co-operative.

Ms Ingeborg Stiefel has joined the Art Studios Co-op at the Bay Gallery, while Ms Carole Witton has returned to the gallery.

Ingeborg's artworks explore rich colours, and diverse styles and subjects.

Carole works primarily with oils on canvas or board, as well as water colours, "embracing the medium's unpredictability".

Her style leans toward abstract realism.

Carole's paintings are often inspired by the diverse Central Coast landscapes.

Their works are exhibition at the gallery, along with new works from the other members of the cooperative, including Phil Rich, Carolyn Griffiths and Marty Nuku.

The Gallery is open Friday to Sunday in Broken Bay, Ettalong.

SOURCE:
Media release, 7 Mar 2026
Art Studios Co-op

School for Seniors announces program

The Peninsula School for Seniors has announced its March program, with speakers from Rotary, the State Emergency Service, Guide Dogs and the School of Fool.

A speaker from the Rotary Club of Brisbane Water will speak tomorrow, Tuesday, March 10.

The talk is expected to cover activities of the club, as well as other Rotary services including Rotary Youth programs, peace fellowships, Australian Rotary Health and Shelter Box Australia.

The NSW State Emergency Service will make a presentation on Tuesday, March 17.

It will describe the work of the

service, including flood and storm damage, and search and rescue, and helping other emergency services with bushfire responses, medical emergencies and at crime and crash scenes.

Ms Angela Allen, with her guide dog Jolie, will speak on Tuesday, March 24.

"I'll share my story and talk about the special partnership I have with my guide dog, Jolie.

"I'll explain how Jolie works as a guide dog, the extensive training she has received, and the important role she plays in helping me travel safely and confidently each day.

"I'll also speak about the broader range of services provided

by Guide Dogs NSW/ACT."

On Tuesday, March 31, Ms Alicia Gonzalez from the School of Fool will speak about clowning "as a powerful tool for creativity, resilience and connection".

Trained in physical theatre and clown, she works with schools, community groups and organisations across NSW, encouraging people to rediscover playfulness, curiosity and courage.

The School for Seniors meets every Tuesday from 10am, with speakers starting as 11am.

After lunch, members play Rummikub.

SOURCE:
Media release,
Amber Golby, Peninsula
School for Seniors

'Paint and create' workshop

A Paint and Create workshop will be held at Umina Beach Library from 1pm to 3pm on Tuesday, March 24.

The workshop offers "the perfect blend of fun and relaxation at this guided painting experience".

"With step-by-step instruction, you'll be led through the creative process as you paint your own unique artwork on canvas. No experience is needed."

The event is described as suitable for adults only, with participants invited to bring an apron.

With tickets costing \$15.50, bookings are essential and may be made at the library or by phone on 4304 7333.

SOURCE:
Website, 27 Feb 2026
Library Services, Central
Coast Council

EBACC AGM

The Ettalong Beach Arts and Craft Centre will hold its annual general meeting at 1pm today, Monday, March 9.

The meeting will be held at the centre in Kitchener Park, Ettalong, where members will elect the 2026 committee and office bearers.

SOURCE:
Social media, 20 Feb 2026
Ettalong Beach Arts
and Craft Centre

Aunty Robyn farewelled in Woy Woy's 'first State Funeral'

Aunty Robyn Reid has died at the age of 84 on Wednesday, February 25 in Gosford Hospital.

Her funeral was held on Saturday, March 7, with Holy Apostles Church in Woy Woy filled to capacity, and the service live-streamed to the Woy Woy Public School hall and to the Mingaletta hall in Umina.

Introducing his eulogy, her grandson Member for Robertson Dr Gordon Reid remarked light-heartedly: "I would just like to say: Welcome to Woy Woy's first State Funeral."

He said that Aunty Robyn was "aunty to more people than can ever be counted and, to me, she was my nan".

"When someone like nan walks this earth, they do more than simply live.

"They will shape communities.

"They will shape families and, in quiet and in determined ways, they will help shape the country itself."

Leading the service, the Reverend Ms Jacqui Smith said: "Aunty Robyn was much-loved by her family and friends and her community."

Funeral director was Aunty Robyn's son, Mr Bryan Reid of Bryan J Reid Funeral Services.

He had asked that people wear colourful clothing.

"We want to celebrate Mum's life.

"She would love to have a send off in the same way she lived, in big beautiful colours."

Aunty Robyn received tributes from across the community.



Mingaletta ATSIIC issued a statement saying Aunty Robyn's "kindness, beauty, and radiant sunshine touched every corner of our community".

"Aunty Robyn had a gift for making every person feel seen, welcomed, and valued.

"She carried a warmth that lifted spirits, a generosity that knew no limits, and a quiet strength that inspired all who were lucky enough to know her.

"She gave tirelessly, especially to all who attended Mingaletta, offering her time, her energy, and her heart without ever asking for anything in return.

"Aunty Robyn's presence was a shining light, showed that love, compassion and goodness still exists in the world.

"That legacy will continue to ripple through our community for years to come."

Mingaletta co-ordinator Aunty Di O'Brien said: "Aunty Robyn had

a heart of gold.

"She loved life, she loved her community, and she loved families.

"She was always planning, always organising, always giving, whether it was for her role in the Labor Party or here at Mingaletta.

"Nothing was ever too hard. Nothing was ever too much trouble.

"She was a sunshine spirit, someone who brought warmth and laughter wherever she went.

"Our friendship grew into something truly precious she loved that we were both Granville girls, two strong women who shared strength, stories, and pride in where we came from.

"I will miss her more than words can ever say.

"Aunty Robyn was my friend, my rock, someone whose kindness touched not only me but also my whole family.

"She loved them, and they loved her right back."

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch said: "I have watched Aunty Robyn touch the lives of so many people across the Peninsula.

"She always lifted people up with her presence, encouraged us to think that anything is possible, helped sow the seeds for dreams while making the world a better and fairer place.

"Her positivity, joy, warmth and courtesy were gifts she extended to everyone she met, whether at a street stall, early voting, or in quiet conversation.

"She led by example, always generous in spirit and achieved deeply human heart-felt connection in every way.

"With absolute generosity



Aunty Robyn engaged with young people across the Peninsula, supporting all students to grow in understanding, acceptance and inclusion of Aboriginal peoples and culture.

"Her contribution was profound and enduring, and something to be truly celebrated."

Koorana Aboriginal Education Consultative Group said: "There will be a massive hole left in our community with the passing of Aunty.

"She gave up so much of her time to share her knowledge and stories across our school community.

"She would walk into schools and it would be like a celebrity getting swarmed by the students all wanting to say hello to her.

"She will be missed dearly by many across the Peninsula."

Words on the Waves Writers Festival posted: "We were saddened to hear of the passing of

respected local elder Aunty Robyn Reid, someone who over the years supported many Words on the Waves events with generous and thoughtful Welcomes to Country.

"She always made a point of acknowledging the talent and optimism of the next

generation – something we also wholeheartedly believe in."

Central Coast Outriggers said: "Aunty Robyn performed several cultural blessings for our canoes, Daringyan and Bungaree before they entered the water, and extended Welcomes to Country for our club regattas, inspiring deep respect and gratitude toward the outrigger culture in our community.

"Aunty Robyn was a woman who was larger than life with a smile and laugh to match.

"Her kindness and warmth touched everyone who knew her.

"She will be sadly missed."

SOURCE:

**Social media, 26 Feb 2026
Mingaletta ATSIIC**

Bays artist leaves lasting legacy

The man who painted the Welcome to the Bays signs and the iconic bus shelters in The Bays area has died.

Mr Jim Doe, a resident of The Bays, died on January 17 at the aged of 86.

A tribute to Mr Doe written by Ms Gwynneth Weir has been published in The Bays Community Group's newsletter:

You might not have met Jim in person, or even know his name, but you will certainly know his art work.

Jim was an exceptionally talented artist, who painted the 'Welcome to The Bays' signs that greet you as you enter The Bays.

He also painted the sign outside the Rural Fire Station in Wattle Crescent, the sign outside the Community Hall and our iconic bus shelters that have become a tourist attraction.

Jim was born in London, England, and left for Australia aged 17 as a Ten Pound Pom.

Within a few years he met his future wife, Anita, on a blind date at Central Station.

A marriage that lasted 64 years resulted.

From 1970 onwards, Jim worked for Westfield, using his



artistic and creative talents in a commercial environment.

His work ethic was renowned and he was highly respected for his dedication, reliability and loyalty.

That continued into his retirement when he was always active, working in his beloved garden, working around the home and contributing to the community.

In 1995 Jim and Anita moved to The Bays.

With his strong sense of community, Jim quickly became involved in the Bays Community Group.

Jim was the instigator and main

organiser behind The Bays Art Show.

The Bays Art Show has been held for over 20 years and every year is the main fund-raising event for The Bays Community.

Jim was passionate about the native wildlife and produced amazing work for National Parks and Wildlife, which can be seen at Cockle Bay, Bouddi National Park and Wamberal Lagoon.

Jim's community contributions also extended to the Rural Fire Service, local schools and participation in bush regeneration.

Jim had a great sense of style and will be remembered as a dapper man who was always elegantly turned out.

There are so many more adjectives you could use to describe Jim: principled, always positive, generous, warm.

Jim was certainly a "one-off".

Thanks to the legacy he has left behind, his memory will live on as talk about Jim between ourselves, and to new residents, for many years to come.

SOURCE:

**Newsletter,
Gwynneth Weir, The Bays
Community Group**

Grieving mother finds comfort in fellowship

A grieving Woy Woy mother has found comfort in the fellowship she has seen between his son's friends.

"My youngest son, Simon Joseph Ross, died on November 29," said Ms Kerry Fisher.

"He suffered from a genetic disorder, known as Alpha 1.

"At his request, his ashes were distributed off Woy Woy waterfront where he fished."

She said he started the Woy Woy fishing club.

Members attended the ceremony: "Forty or more fishermen weeping silently, some with sun leathery skin, some not; some well built, some not; some with impressive hair and moustaches, some not; some from private schools, some not.

"What did they have in common? Fellowship."

A wreath in the shape of a cross, with a fishing rod and her son's picture was lowered onto the water to float gently away.

"Right there I witnessed a spirit of fellowship I had never seen before: grown men openly weeping for their mate, their



fellow fisherman, their sometimes mentor.

"It was obvious to all that the spirit was with the members of the Woy Woy Fishing Club and Ocean Beach Fishing Club on this day.

"No church service could have given Simon a better passing than what her received from his friends."

Ms Fisher said she was touched by the ceremony but also overwhelmed.

SOURCE:

**Media release, 25 Feb 2026
Kerry Fisher, Woy Woy**

Aged care home redevelopment nears completion

The final stage of redevelopment work at a local aged care home is expected to be completed soon.

The \$12 million redevelopment project at Blue Wave Living in Woy Woy started four years ago in March 2022.

"Our final stage of works in the original Shores building continues to progress well," said chief executive Mr Matt Downie.

"All the roughing-in of services is now largely complete, and most of the internal walls are now sheeted.

"The spaces are coming together nicely and potentially a

little ahead of our programmed timeline.

"We remain on track to complete this stage of works sometime during May."

This would provide an additional 10 newly-rebuilt bedrooms and other spaces, completing the "Beachside House" household within the complex, he said.

It would also include a private lounge-dining area, which would be available for families to book for extended family gatherings in private with loved ones, he said.

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 2 Mar 2026
Matt Downie, Blue Wave Living



Helicopter winches injured person from fire trail

A rescue helicopter was tasked to assist ground crews with a person requiring assistance on a fire trail in the Woy Woy Bay area on Tuesday, March 3.

NSW Ambulance and Fire and Rescue NSW were on the scene preparing to gain entry to the trail via Koolewong.

However, they were unable to

gain access via Koolewong and they are relocated to Woy Woy Rd.

A paramedic was winched from the helicopter down to the patient who had suffered injuries in a fall.

The patient was winched to the helicopter and flown to Royal North Shore Hospital.

SOURCE:
Social media, 3 Mar 2026
NSW Central Coast Incident Alerts

Special guests at dementia cafe

The Dementia Cafe run by the Rotary Club of Brisbane Water had some special guests on Monday, February

23. Residents and carers from Peninsula Villages attended "for a morning of connection, support,

and fun, rounded off with some energising exercise".

SOURCE:
Social media, 23 Feb 2026
Rotary Brisbane Water

Understand the person, says nurse

Dementia changes the brain, not the person, according to a new clinical nurse specialist at a local aged care facility.

"When you're supporting someone living with dementia, it can be hard to know what to do when communication changes or behaviours shift," said Ms Tess George who was recently appointed clinical nurse specialist in dementia at Peninsula Villages in Umina.

Her role is to support residents, families and staff "by translating dementia care into practical, person-centred strategies that make everyday life calmer, safer and more connected".

"Dementia is not a normal part of ageing," Ms George said.

"Behaviours caused by changes in the brain do not define who a person is, nor do they erase their life story, identity or the love shared with those around them.

"People living with dementia are sometimes unable to express their needs in conventional ways.



"My goal is to understand what a person is trying to tell us," she said.

"When we work together as a team and listen closely, we can

make a meaningful difference in their everyday lives."

SOURCE:
Media release, 3 Mar 2026
Tessa Little, Brilliant Logic

Aged care donors asked to contact staff first

Donors of goods to support residents of a Woy Woy aged care home have been asked to contact staff before bringing in any donations.

"We are incredibly grateful for the kindness and generosity of our families and community members who wish to donate goods to support our residents," said Blue

Wave Living chief executive Mr Matt Downie.

Donors should speak with Leisure and Lifestyle staff or a clinical manager "to ensure items are appropriate, safe, and suitable for our current programs and storage capacity", he said.

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 2 Mar 2026
Matt Downie, Blue Wave Living

Rotary club to hold 'Biggest Morning Tea'

The Rotary Club of Brisbane Water will hold an Australia's Biggest Morning Tea on Wednesday, May 27.

It will be hosted by Ettalong Diggers with doors opening at 9:30am and entertainment by Shane Edwards.

The morning will include raffles

and guest speakers.

Tickets will cost \$25 per person or \$10 for virtual seats for contributions by those who cannot attend.

All proceeds will be donated to the Cancer Council NSW.

SOURCE:
Social media, 1 Mar 2026
Ettalong Diggers

Two new aged care board members

A Woy Woy aged care home has appointed two new board members.

Mr Richard Grimmond and Mr Stephen Anderson will join other members of the local community on the volunteer board of Blue

Wave Living, said chief executive Mr Matt Downie.

"Our governing body provides stewardship and high level governance," he said.

"Our board members are all volunteers from the local

community who share an interest in Aged Care and ensure that we continue to serve the community appropriately."

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 2 Mar 2026
Matt Downie, Blue Wave Living

Education

Parents association describes committee roles

Umina Beach Public School Parents and Citizens Association has described the roles of each of its committee members who are to be elected at its annual general meeting on Monday, March 16.

The president guides the association, "ensuring direction and collaboration".

"This role supports and coordinates rather than running every event.

"They provide leadership and keep the group on task and focused." The two vice-presidents "support the president and help keep things moving between meetings".

They "work as a team and can share tasks based on strengths, availability, and what's happening in the school calendar".

"They guide and support all other executive roles, subcommittees and events.

"The secretary helps keep everything organised behind the scenes.

"It's mainly admin, keeping files organised, meeting preparation

and communication.

"The treasurer looks after the finances and helps ensure funds are used in ways that benefit students." The treasurer manages finances for events, fundraising and funding distribution.

"The assistant treasurer supports the treasurer in their duties and helps share the workload." "The canteen co-ordinator oversees Salty's Snack Shack and supports the canteen team.

"The uniform shop coordinator manages uniform stock and ordering so families can access what they need." "They also manage store openings twice a week with a team of regular volunteers.

Other important roles include uniform shop assistant, merchandise co-ordinator, community and sponsorship liaison, grants officer, social media liaison and event sub-committee leads." For more information and to nominate, email pandc2257@gmail.com.

SOURCE:

Social media, 27 Feb 2026
Umina Beach Public School
P/C Association



'Class parents' act as central point of contact

Volunteer "Class Parents" have been appointed at St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School.

Principal Ms Nicole Davies said: "You will notice the Class Parent for your children's classes sharing key communications as a central point of contact, within your core parent communication class group chat.

"They will also, from time to time, represent your class at school events." She said Class Parents volunteers played an essential role in supporting the relationship between the school and families at a class level.

SOURCE:

Social media, 4 Mar 2026
SJB Catholic Primary
School Woy Woy

Values-focussed program

Students from Woy Woy South Public School have participated in their first session of a program, focusing on the values of respect, integrity, strength and empowerment.

The program aims to support students in building resilience, confidence and leadership through

physical training and teamwork.

Coach Satali Tevi-Fuimaono from Complete Boxing presented the program to the students.

"We are excited to see the impact it will have throughout the year," said school principal Mr Matt Barr.

SOURCE:

Social media, 4 Mar 2026
Woy Woy Public School



College wins in Sydney North cricket

Brisbane Water Secondary College has won the first round of Alan Davidson Shield competition in Sydney North Combined High Schools cricket.

Captain Eli Zdravic led the

side, which was dominant with the bat, scoring 4/168 including Pat Crowley 61 and Jaxon Markham 31.

Logan Warner 2/15 and Henry Baudinette 2/13, on debut, were best bowlers, helping the side

dismiss Tuggerah Lakes for 125.

Teachers commented that it was "an exceptional performance from a side made up of all ages across the college".

SOURCE:

Social media, 26 Feb 2026
BWSC Woy Woy

Clean Up

Woy Woy South Public School joined in Clean Up Australia Day on Tuesday, February 24.

"Many students gave up their recess or lunch to clean up eight full bags of litter around the school grounds," said school principal Mr Matt Barr.

"Litter that ends up blowing out of the school gates and into other environments and harms animals.

"We are so proud of the students who volunteered to take action by caring for and protecting their environment and making a difference."

Students and their families donated money to the charity.

"All donations went towards equipment and resources to make this event possible in the future and to teach people the importance of putting a stop to litter and waste," said Mr Barr.

SOURCE:

Social media, 3 Mar 2026
Woy Woy South Public School



Boys volleyball team played 'super well'

Teachers have described the Brisbane Water Secondary College boys volleyball team as playing "super well" in their Combine High Schools knockout competition.

The team was defeated by just two points in the tie breaker.

"They left everything on the court and we are so proud of their

perseverance."

Most-valued player was Matt Tonkin for "outstanding performance under pressure".

"Hype Man" was Brayden Duggan for "bringing the energy, the voice and the vibes all game long".

SOURCE:

Social media, 24 Feb 2026
BWSC Woy Woy

Three boys selected for basketball trials

Three Peninsula primary school boys have been selected to compete in Sydney North region basketball trials.

They are Louis Wallis from Woy Woy South Public School and Joel McBride and Charlie Connolly from Ettalong Public School.

They were among 48 boys and 20 girls who participated in Southern Central Coast and Brisbane Water Primary School

Sports Associations combined zone basketball trials.

The trials were held on Thursday, February 26, at Niagara Park Stadium.

"It was great to see an increased number of students attending, with 48 boys and 20 girls participating in the event this year," said basketball convenor Ms Mitzi Self.

"The students worked hard to demonstrate their basketball skills and team work through a

combination of drills and full court games.

"The selection process proved quite difficult for the three conveners, but 10 Southern Central Coast students were chosen to go through to the next level." The boys will compete at the Sydney North trials on March 24.

SOURCE:

Social media, 1 Mar 2026
Mitzi Self and Michelle Maier SCCPSSA

Swans resort to AI for reasons to play Auskick

The Woy Woy Peninsula Swans AFL Club has resorted to artificial intelligence to find reasons for children to play Auskick.

The club asked ChatGPT: "Can you give me a short pitch on why kids should play Auskick?"

The AI bot responded that Auskick introduced children to AFL in a fun, safe and inclusive environment.

"There's no pressure, no grading, and no experience needed, just plenty of encouragement and high-fives."

"Kids learn the fundamentals like kicking, handballing and

teamwork through game-based activities that keep them moving and smiling."

It said that Auskick helped develop co-ordination and motor skills, confidence and resilience, teamwork and communication, and a love of being active outdoors.

"Every child gets involved. Every child touches the ball. Every child improves at their own pace."

"Whether your child dreams of playing AFL one day or just wants to run around and be part of a team, Auskick is where it all begins."

SOURCE:
Social media, 3 Mar 2026
Woy Woy Peninsula Swans AFL

Disabled Surfers trial separate tents

Central Coast Disabled Surfers Association is trialling separate tents in response to its beach tents becoming congested.

"We are trialling a separate tent for the beach marshals and surfer name board," said association branch president Ms Rae Fiechter.

"First Aid will also be located here along with surf sox and blankets."

Carers have been asked to hand in their surfer orange slip at the small tent to get their name on the board before moving to the shade tent where there will be a small chalk board which will be updated with next two surfers names.

"The water refill cooler and cups will remain in the shade tent."



The association is also asking volunteers to leave the main surf club carpark for use by its surfers.

"There is parking around the recreation precinct, Sydney Ave

and Ocean Beach Rd," Ms Fiechter said.

SOURCE:
Social media, 2 Mar 2026
Rae Fiechter, CCDSA

Ride from Gosford to the Peninsula and back

A bicycle ride from West Gosford to the Peninsula, looping around it and returning to West Gosford will be held from 6:30am to 9am on Thursday, March 19.

The ride, organised by the Central Coast Bicycle User Group, will start at Gosford RSL at West Gosford, opposite Bunnings.

It is described as "a relaxed mostly shared path ride from Gosford to Woy Woy, then around Orange Grove to Ettalong and Umina for coffee, then back to Gosford."

For further information, phone ride leader Gary on 0419 800 557.

SOURCE:
Social media, 2 Feb 2026
CCBUG

SEU says it is girls' club of choice

Southern and Ettalong United Football Club is seeking more players for its junior girls soccer teams, promoting itself as the club of choice for girls on the Peninsula.

"On the Peninsula, more girls pull on Southern colours than any other club," said club president Ms Stevie Skene.

"It's no accident."

"We've built something incredible in the female space," she said.

"From our booming junior ranks right through to our Women's Premier League program, there is a genuine pathway, real depth, and a culture that backs girls to be brave, competitive and confident." The club was filling final spots in its Under-10s, Under-12s and Under-13s girls' teams.

Ms Skene said players were

coached with intent and care, saw older girls they could aspire to and were "part of the strongest female football community on the Peninsula".

"Our WPL squad, our All Age women, our junior girls, they all started somewhere."

"And it starts here."

SOURCE:
Social media, 23 Feb 2026
Southern and Ettalong United Football Club



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STATE MEMBER FOR GOSFORD

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Sport

Southern Spirit finishes season in a 'fantastic way'

Southern Spirit Cricket Club has finished the season with its 1st Grade side in fourth place on the ladder.

Its 4th Grade and 8th Grade teams were both minor premiers.

"It's a fantastic way to close out the regular season," said club president Mr Anthony Clarke.

"Across every grade we've witnessed resilience, teamwork, growth and some standout team

and individual performances.

"It's been especially pleasing to see new players joining our club and many juniors stepping into senior cricket, gaining invaluable experience across the grades.

"The future is looking bright." The club is planning to hold its presentation night on Saturday, May 2.

SOURCE:
Social media, 1 Mar 2026
Southern Spirit Cricket Club



Bridge members attend Great Lakes Congress

Sixteen Brisbane Water Bridge Club members have attended the Great Lakes Congress held at the Forster-Tuncurry Bridge Club.

The Saturday session attracted 68 pairs.

Tournament favourites Helena Dawson and David Weston took the honours.

Two of Brisbane Water pairs finished in the top 10.

Sylvia Foster and Jaan Oitmaa finished sixth, while Alan Bustany and Pauline Caust finished 10th.

On the Sunday, the club was represented by Team Caust and Team Foster.

Team Caust comprised Anne Grayden, Julie Sadler, Pauline Caust and Alan Bustany.

Team Foster comprised Jaan Oitmaa, Sylvia Foster, Hope Tomlinson and Barry Foster.

Teams Caust and Foster were ranked first and second going into the last round but had played each other earlier in the day.

Team Caust maintained their winning ways and won the tournament with a five wins and one loss scorecard.

Team Foster finished fourth.

SOURCE:
Social media, 2 Mar 2026
Brisbane Water Bridge Club



Seven touch referees at Junior State Cup

Peninsula Junior Touch had seven referees at the Junior State Cup played in Dubbo over the weekend of Friday to Sunday, February 20 to 22.

They were Craig South, Felix

Tebbutt, Kai Zahra, Kim Skelly, Mason Colwell, Max Westerman and Tracey Wilson (pictured).

SOURCE:
Social media, 22 Feb 2026
Peninsula Junior Touch

Knockout tournament for mixed pairs

The final of the 2025-26 Everglades Mixed Pairs Championship was held on Tuesday, March 3.

The knockout tournament took the format of four bowls over 18 ends with 15 sides competing.

The team of Helen Cooper and Ken Young (18) defeated Karen Eagleson and Ross Meyers, 18-

11, in the final.

The game was tied after three ends, but Helen and Ken picked up nine shots over the next three ends.

Although each side won nine ends each, picking up singles just wasn't enough to claw the lead back.

The club is now concentrating

on its Open Gender Pennant campaign but does have some mixed tournaments scheduled for Easter and Anzac Day.

Helen Cooper and Ken Young are pictured.

SOURCE:
Media release, 5 Mar 2026
Grant Ireland, Everglades Bowling Club

Women's minor singles final at Umina

The final of the 2026 Umina Beach Women's Minor Singles was played on Tuesday, February 24, between Renette Burgess and Debra Moore.

Renette had defeated Lee Van Lint in a close semi-final game, while Debra had defeated Lorraine Field in her semi-final.

The final was played in ideal conditions.

"It was a very close game with only a couple of shots, and in some cases only one shot, difference between them throughout," said match committee chair Ms Lesley Swales.

"Over the 34 ends played, the score was level five times.

"On the 32nd end, they were tied on 21, then Renette got a one on the 33rd end making it 22 - 21.



"There had not been many multiple scores, but Renette drew three lovely bowls on the 34th end to take out the match.

"What a great game which

thrilled the many spectators who came to watch.

"A worthy final."

SOURCE:
Social media, 14 Feb 2026
Lesley Swales, UBWBC

Eva to play in floorball world champs

Brisbane Water Secondary College Woy Woy campus student Eva Mortensen has been selected for the Under-19 Australian National Floorball Team.

She will compete at the World Championship in Italy later this year.

"Eva will tour Europe, competing internationally at the highest level for her age group," said campus principal Ms Rebecca Cooper.

"To represent your country on the world stage is something truly special and we are so proud of her

"What an incredible opportunity and a phenomenal accomplishment.

"Not only is she an exceptional athlete, but Eva is also a diligent and dedicated student who consistently applies herself in the classroom."

SOURCE:
Social media, 4 Mar 2026
BWSC Woy Woy

