

## Woy Woy South excels at swimming championships



Woy Woy South Public School won 31 place ribbons and had 11 race victories in the Southern Central Coast swimming championships held at the Peninsula Leisure Centre - MORE DETAILS, Page 9

## Council budget would see \$23.7M in capital works

Capital works to the value of \$23.7 million will be undertaken on the Peninsula by Central Coast Council next year if the Council's \$1.17 billion draft budget is adopted at tomorrow night's council meeting.

The \$23.7 million is the Peninsula's identified share of the Council's \$343.1 million capital works program.

Of the Peninsula's allocation, \$11 million will be spent on the Ocean Beach-Rawson Rds intersection upgrade.

Another \$3.7 million will be spent on work at Woy Woy tip.

The intersection is expected to cost a total of \$32 million over the next three years, while the tip is expected to cost more than \$21 million over the next four.

Other major expenditure this coming year includes \$2.1 million to renew sewer pumps at The Esplanade in Umina and at Horsfield Bay, \$1.65 million to replace the wharf at Little Wobby, \$1.2 million to upgrade the pool on the Woy Woy waterfront and \$1.1 million for the Woy Woy waterfront reserve project.

The playground at the recreation precinct at Umina will be renewed for \$550,000 and \$120,000 will be spent to renew the Stoney Park playground in Woy Woy.

Pathway lighting at Woy Woy oval will be replaced at a cost of \$335,000 and a shade sail and landscaping will be undertaken

at Umina Childcare Centre for \$292,000.

"Landfill remediation" totalling \$171,000 this year will be undertaken at Rogers Park, James Browne Oval and Austin Butler Oval, each of which were created on top of "closed" rubbish tips.

The budget foreshadows a total expenditure of \$1.8 million on these areas over four years.

Investigation and design work for the "renewal" of the Patonga seawall has been allocated \$500,000.

A start will be made on a revetment at Phegans Bay, with \$350,000 spent on this over two years, and more than \$2.5 million has been allocated over two years from 2027-28 for renewal of the Lance Webb Reserve revetment in Ettalong.

Patonga Campground has been allocated \$400,000 in the coming year for a road and drainage upgrade, with spending on the campground costing more than \$3.6 million in the next three years.

The budget allocates a total of \$1.8 million over three years to upgrade the Mt Ettalong Lookout, starting in 2027-28.

Viewing platforms at Ocean Beach and Ettalong have also received an allocation for 2027-28 of \$262,000.

Two projects have been foreshadowed for 2029-30, being the Umina Library Renewal at \$270,000 and a shared pathway on Barrenjoey Rd and The Esplanade at \$647,000.

The budget papers no longer reveal the source of funds for the projects, but the Ocean Beach-Rawson Rds intersection upgrade is expected to be federally-funded, while the Woy Woy pool upgrade is State-funded.

The Woy Woy waterfront project was identified in previous Council budgets as being funded from rate revenue.

Replacement of fitness equipment and renewal of filters and pumps at the Peninsula Leisure Centre will cost \$430,000 this.

Total expenditure over \$1.35 million over the next four years is foreshadowed, including \$475,000 on "pool area renewal" in 2027-28.

Income from the leisure centre is not disclosed in the draft budget.

Unlike previous years, no projects are listed as "subject to grant funding".

Of the total, \$55 million is allocated to "region-wide" projects, with the remaining \$288 million allocated to identified suburbs.

The Peninsula's share of this is 8.2 per cent, while the Peninsula's population represents 11 per cent of the local government area.

Scant detail is given of the Council's operational budget of \$828 million.

However, about \$18 million of this is listed, which includes \$200,000 on tree planting.

None of this spending is specific to the Peninsula.

SOURCE:  
Central Coast Council  
agenda 6.1, 24 Mar 2026

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

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Next issue: Monday, April 6

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Email: [contributions@peninsula.news](mailto:contributions@peninsula.news)

# Peninsula News

Community Access

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

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

**EMAIL ISSUES?**

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

Fallback email address: editor@peninsulanews.asn.au

**Editorial policy and guidelines**

At its heart, Peninsula News is a community effort.

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

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

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

**Locality**

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

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

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

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

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

**Readability**

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

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

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

**Forum letters**

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

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

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

focus on the issues and not abuse or insult others.

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

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

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

**Corrections**

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

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

**Source lines**

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

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

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

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

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

The following descriptions are used:

**Media Release** - unsolicited contributions.

**Media Statement** - sent in response to our questions.

**Website** or **Social Media** - information published online.

**Newsletter** or **Report** - published in print or online.

**Interview** or **Meeting** - statements recorded by a reporter.

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

## Prize wins in CWA Group cookery competition

**Woy Woy Country Women's Association member Ms Pam Clifton has won two first prizes and three third prizes for her entries in the Northumberland Group Cookery competition.**

The competition was held at The Central Coast Leagues Club with fierce competition between the 13 branches that make up Northumberland Group.

Ms Clifton came first for her

coffee sponge and tomato jam.

She also received the award for the most successful exhibitor and the branch received the award for the most successful branch in cookery.

She will now compete in the CWA state finals with her two first places.

This year's conference will be held in Forster, from May 3.

**SOURCE:**  
 Media release, 21 Mar 2026  
 Jane Bowtell, CWA Woy Woy



## The Bays Art Show dates announced

**The dates for the 2026 Bays Art Show have been announced.**

Opening night will be held from 7pm on Friday, May 29, with the show running from 10am to 4pm on Saturday and Sunday, May 30 and 31.

The art show is held in The

Bays Community Hall at 19 Woy Woy Bay Rd.

The show aims to promote "the diversity and creativity of our local art scene".

The Bays Community Group is seeking volunteers to help run the show.

"This is our biggest event of the year and goes a long way in

keeping the lights on and paying ever-increasing bills."

People are wanted to staff the cafe over the weekend and to donate food.

For further information, email thebaysemail@gmail.com.

**SOURCE:**  
 Newsletter, 8 Mar 2026  
 The Bays Community Group

## Appeal to dispose of green waste properly

**Pearl Beach Arboretum has asked people using contractors for garden maintenance and tree work to oversee the disposal of green waste.**

"Please ask your contractors

not to dump green waste or mulch in bushland or road verges," said Arboretum president Ms Mary Knaggs.

"You are usually paying for their disposal at Woy Woy tip so make sure they do it properly.

"Not only is green waste dumping prohibited by Council and in the National Park, it spreads weeds and pathogens in our beautiful bushland."

**SOURCE:**  
 Social media, 16 Mar 2026  
 Pearl Beach Arboretum

## Deluge takes total above March average

**A wet week last week took the month's rainfall well above the March average, with more wet weather forecast before the end of the month.**

A total of 212.1mm of rain had fallen by 9am on Friday, according to figures supplied by Mr Jim Morrison of Umina.

The March average is 172mm.

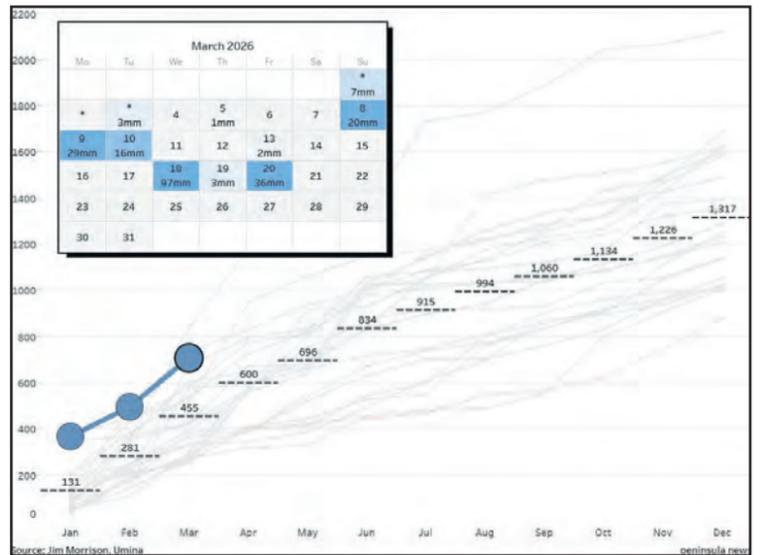
Another 26mm was recorded by 9am on Saturday.

The largest fall was 97.0mm, recorded last Thursday, March 18.

Three other days of the month had falls of more than 20mm.

As of Friday, the total rainfall this year has totalled 705mm, which is 59 per cent more than the average for the first quarter of the year of 443mm.

More details, including daily



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

**SOURCE:**  
 Spreadsheet, 20 Mar 2026  
 Jim Morrison, Umina

TIDE TIMES and Heights	Mon, Mar 23	Thu, Mar 26	Sun, Mar 29	Wed, Apr 1	Sat, Apr 4
	0015 1.19	0314 1.07	0030 0.25	0320 0.18	0521 0.22
	0713 0.17	1051 0.21	0645 1.08	0904 1.07	1058 0.88
	1245 0.84	1630 0.63	1357 0.14	1549 0.15	1701 0.21
	1839 0.17	2147 0.29	1939 0.83	2131 1.04	2314 1.12
	Tue, Mar 24	Fri, Mar 27	Mon, Mar 30	Thu, Apr 2	Sun, Apr 5
	0106 1.16	0430 1.05	0135 0.21	0403 0.19	0458 0.23
	0816 0.19	1204 0.18	0737 1.10	0944 1.02	1033 0.81
	1346 0.73	1751 0.67	1440 0.13	1616 0.17	1626 0.23
	1927 0.22	2313 0.28	2019 0.90	2206 1.08	2248 1.10
ATTALONG	Wed, Mar 25	Sat, Mar 28	Tue, Mar 31	Fri, Apr 3	Mon, Apr 6
	0204 1.12	0544 1.06	0231 0.19	0444 0.21	0536 0.24
	0931 0.21	1305 0.16	0823 1.10	1021 0.95	1110 0.74
	1502 0.65	1851 0.74	1517 0.13	1639 0.19	1656 0.25
	2028 0.26		2057 0.98	2240 1.11	2324 1.06

# Neal speaks out against child care fee increase

**Gosford West ward's Cr Belinda Neal has spoken out against a proposal that could see child care fees increase by 10 per cent at Council facilities next year.**

She said the increase foreshadowed in Central Coast Council's draft budget would place additional pressure on families already struggling with the rising cost of living.

Increasing cost in council centres would also encourage private sector childcare centres to put up their costs so the broader community will be affected, she said.

Cr Neal said childcare must remain accessible and affordable for local families.

"Families are already dealing with higher costs for housing, groceries, energy and fuel.

"A 10 per cent increase in childcare fees would make life harder for many working families and could place additional pressure on parents trying to balance work and family commitments."

She said Council-operated childcare centres played an important role in supporting

parents to remain in the workforce while ensuring children had access to high-quality early education.

These centres also focussed on high-need areas including children with a disability and families needing support.

Cr Neal said she believed Council should be focused on supporting families rather than increasing fees.

"Childcare is not a luxury. "It is an essential service that helps families participate in the workforce and supports children's development," she said.

"I believe we should be doing everything we can to keep childcare affordable for local families."

She said the issue would be discussed as part of the budget consideration at the upcoming Council meeting at 6pm on Tuesday, March 24, at Gosford Regional Library.

Community members were welcome to attend.

If the draft budget is approved, it will be put on exhibition for public comment.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 17 Mar 2026  
Belinda Neal, Central Coast Council



## Hamper donation arrives as shelves empty

**Just as the shelves emptied in the hamper room at Mary Mac Place, a fresh donation has been received.**

"We have given hundreds of

food hampers already this year and the shelves were bare," said project officer Ms Sally Baker.

Then a donation from The Bikers Hand arrived, "filling up our

hamper room".

"I cannot say a bigger thank you," said Ms Baker.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 13 Mar 2026  
Sally Baker, Mary Mac's Place

## Life membership for Victoria Crawford

**The Pearl Beach Progress Association has awarded life membership to Ms Victoria Crawford for her "exceptional and sustained service".**

Ms Crawford and her husband Ian have been part of the community since 1976, becoming actively involved from the 1980s in the progress, arboretum and tennis associations.

From 2014–2019, Victoria Ms Crawford managed the Progress Association's book fair from 2014 to 2019.

She continued her contribution through the cafe on the back deck of the hall.

Joining the executive committee in 2020, she took on hall management, leading significant upgrades to the community hall, including insulation, painting, flooring, air-conditioning and security improvements, with further enhancements underway.

Ms Crawford also led a review of the Association's constitution, guidelines and code of conduct



between 2023 and 2025.

During a challenging period in March 2024, with the resignation of a number of executive members, she stepped into dual roles as president and treasurer for nine months.

She continued to serve as vice-president from October 2024 to October 2025, and once again took on financial responsibilities from August 2025 to February 2026 in the absence of a treasurer.

She has also worked to maintain community connection, including coordinating access to

local coffee services after the Pearl Beach Cafe's closure, and leading community concerts since 2019.

The award also recognised her contribution to the Arboretum committee, serving as treasurer, president, secretary and now as a general committee member.

She is pictured between Progress Association vice-president Mr Russell Grove and president Ms Naseema Sparks.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 19 Mar 2026  
Karina Stafford, Pearl Beach Progress Association

## Shade trees group issues list of winter-flowering trees

**The Grow Urban Shade Trees group has issued a list of local tree species that have spring and winter flowers and fruits to help feed endangered birds and bats.**

"Our group is often asked which trees will not only shade our hot urban surfaces but will also provide maximum benefit for wildlife," said group member Ms Jen Wilder.

"With less than 10 per cent canopy left on the Peninsula, one of the state's worst performing regions, many of our most important local native trees have disappeared but you can help change that.

"All local species are important however spring and winter flowering or fruiting species are the highest priority for our important and threatened long distance nomadic pollinators.

"This is where there are food shortages for threatened species such as the regent honeyeater, black-chinned honeyeater, little lorikeet, swift parrot and grey-headed flying-fox.

The list also includes summer-flowering local tree species, but the winter-flowering ones are highlighted.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 7 Mar 2026  
Jen Wilder, GUST

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## Plans to keep street tree in Bream Rd

**A new iteration of a proposal for a multi-dwelling development at 23 Bream Rd, Ettalong, has been submitted to Central Coast Council.**

The new plans will see the retention of an established street tree and the removal of an enclosed front courtyard from the previous plans.

Following its initial public exhibition early last year, the proposal to demolish an existing single-storey dwelling and construct three two-storey townhouses drew scrutiny from adjacent neighbours.

During that first exhibition, locals lodged objections, targeting the loss of residential amenity, privacy and solar access.

One neighbour expressed distress over the proposal's scale, arguing that "that long very high wall will most definitely destroy the enjoyment and privacy, with greatly reduced sunlight" of their private backyard.

The close placement of the buildings to the boundary was characterised by an objector as "an extreme non-caring action by the builder" that would diminish their well being.

Other concerns included potential alterations to overland water flow in a flood-planning area, the proposed removal of a "large gum tree" providing vital shade and habitat, and soft landscaping that a resident described as "inadequate" for mitigating hard surface drainage.

In response to the site's constraints, the developers submitted a revised application last month, accompanied by updated designs from a new firm, Kink Architects.

A significant change is the relocation of the proposed driveway from the western boundary to the eastern side.

By opting to "utilise the existing vehicle crossing", the applicant has removed the need for new excavation near the western boundary, effectively protecting the established "14m tall street tree (Sydney blue gum)".

The revised design has also removed a previously proposed enclosed front courtyard and 1.8-metre decorative fence, with the latest documents confirming that "No front boundary fence is proposed".

Additionally, the rear boundary setback has been increased to 4.6

metres, and the eastern ground-floor setback has been widened to 4.1 metres.

However, while the eastern side of the property enjoys a much wider buffer, the ground-floor setback on the western boundary has been reduced to the minimum 0.9 metres.

The project's overall density has expanded, with the Gross Floor Area increasing to 488 square metres and pushing the Floor Space Ratio to 0.5:1, the maximum allowed under planning controls.

To accommodate this larger building footprint, the front setback has been reduced to seven metres.

The revised design still falls short of the Council's 25 percent soft landscaping requirement, offering only 22.8 percent, or 220 square metres.

The application seeks to justify this 23.6-square-metre non-compliance on "merit", arguing the area is acceptable and provides a "desirable configuration for usability".

No new submissions have been displayed on the Central Coast Council planning portal.

**SOURCE:**  
DA Tracker, 21 Mar 2026  
DA/76/2025, Central Coast Council

## Secondary dwelling proposed with garage

**An application has been lodged for a secondary dwelling with an attached garage at 10 Korina Ave, Umina.**

The existing principal dwelling will be retained, and the new addition will feature a 34.6 square metre granny flat alongside a 16.2 square garage, accessed via a new driveway from the rear laneway.

The application prepared by Lyric Architects, claims the design will match the area's coastal character, with the structure being built using "weatherboard cladding, fibre-cement finishes, and timber windows".

Environmental and aesthetic

impacts are said to have been minimised, with the landscaping strategy retaining "all existing mature trees on the site".

The development is single-storey and "no elevated decks or terraces are proposed".

The application claims that the design mitigates overlooking to ensure there is "no direct line of sight into the private open space or main living areas of neighbouring dwellings" by strategically placing standard-height windows, utilising a solid-walled garage, and incorporating fencing around a new ground-level patio.

The proposal seeks a single variation to local planning controls regarding the rear boundary,

asking for a reduced setback of 2.3 meters for a portion of the building, along with eaves that "encroach up to 700 mm into the rear setback".

This departure relies on a local provision that "permits reduced setbacks for up to 50 per cent of the rear boundary length" and the application claims it is justified by the building's modest height, its low-scale form, and its interface with a rear lane way rather than adjoining private residential yards.

The application is on public exhibition until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 24.

**SOURCE:**  
DA Tracker, 22 Mar 2026  
DA/188/2026, Central Coast Council

## Council improves assessment services, says McKinna

**Central Coast mayor Cr Lawrie McKinna has claimed the Council has shown significant progress in improving its planning and development assessment services.**

He said this followed a "targeted program of investment, recruitment, and process reform".

"I'm committed to improving Council's services and processes, especially those that enable the growth and prosperity of our region," Cr McKinna said.

"We listened carefully when industry professionals told us that applications were taking too long and that too many were stuck in the system.

"That feedback set the change in motion."

He said Council embarked on an extensive improvement program aimed at strengthening planning and development assessment functions, with "a focus on enabling growth, accelerating housing delivery, and restoring confidence across the sector".

"We knew we needed to recruit the right people, build capability, and put solid procedures in place," he said.

"I'm pleased to say that our investment is now paying off."

Over the past 18 months, the number of development applications in the system has dramatically reduced, bringing the backlog down to a sustainable level.

Assessment of complex applications has improved significantly, and the number of large applications pending for more than 12 months is now at its

lowest point since 2021.

Assessment timeframes are also trending downward.

"So far, in the 2025-26 financial year alone, Council has determined development applications with a combined capital value exceeding \$1.8 billion," Cr McKinna said.

"This demonstrates both the scale of development in our region and the improved efficiency of our processes."

Customer service has also seen major improvements, with faster response times and the return of in-person "duty planning services" to support industry and the community.

"People are telling us they're more satisfied with the service they're receiving, and that's exactly what we want to hear," Cr McKinna said.

He said the Council planned to continue reform, including the creation of a dedicated, streamlined pathway for processing applications.

"Our improvement journey doesn't stop here.

"Additional investment will help us continue to support industry, reduce delays, and ensure our region remains a great place to invest and build."

Cr McKinna said he was thankful for constructive feedback from industry stakeholders and community members for their throughout the reform process.

"These insights were instrumental in helping us identify areas for improvement to encourage investment and growth," he said.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 20 Mar 2026  
Lawrie McKinna, Central Coast Council

## Affordable housing could take more than five years

**Council land at the corner of McMasters Rd and Ross St, Woy Woy, could take more than five years to develop for affordable housing, according to a report to Central Coast Council.**

The Council resolved in December to add the two lots to its "Affordable Housing Land Proposal".

However, the report has indicated that both lots are zoned as Public Recreation and one is classified as Community Land.

They would have to be reclassified as Operational Land and rezoned to permit residential use before the sites could be sold and developed.

The report said that rezoning and reclassification would require a Council-led Planning Proposal, submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, because it "does not

meet the asset class for a State-led expedited rezoning process".

The land was previously leased for use as a childcare centre but was "handed back to Council" after the childcare centre "dissolved".

The report stated that the land was "identified as surplus to Council need" and did not need to be retained for public recreation.

"The Planning Area meets benchmarks for the rate of recreation park supply."

The report did not reveal the benchmark or whether this would remain the case with the Council's planned 60 per cent population increase for the Peninsula over the next 20 years.

The report described the site as "well located, affordable market, high yield", with "amber flood and environmental constraints".

**SOURCE:**  
Agenda 2.2, 10 Mar 2026  
Community/Culture Committee, Central Coast Council

## Two playgrounds go and seven renamed in draft strategy

**A Central Coast Council committee has recommended placing on public exhibition a draft playgrounds strategy.**

The draft, approved by the Community and Culture Committee, would remove two Peninsula playgrounds and change the names of seven others.

The draft removes playgrounds at Ettalong Oval and at Umina Tennis Courts from the current strategy which was adopted in 2021, leaving 19 Peninsula playgrounds on the list.

In five cases, the strategy renames "playgrounds" as

"playspaces".

The Lentara Rd Playground becomes the Lentara Rd Playspace.

The Nambucca Dr Playground becomes the Nambucca Dr Playspace.

The Pearl Parade Playground becomes the Pearl Parade Playspace.

The Wallaby Playground in Blackwall becomes the Wallaby Playspace.

The Trafalgar Ave Playground becomes The Runway Playspace.

In one case, the Australia Ave Playground becomes Guyagil

Park.

In the seventh case, the Umina Recreation Area becomes the Peninsula Recreation Precinct.

However, in two other cases, the "playground" title remains.

Reports to the committee did not explain the changes.

The draft strategy claims in one place: "Playspaces are more than just playgrounds, they are vital community assets that support the health, wellbeing, and social fabric of the Central Coast."

But the strategy itself also uses the term "playground", stating "Contemporary playground design has evolved beyond traditional standalone elements such as swings and slides, and now incorporates integrated equipment, theming, varied levels of challenge, and inclusive experiences that support children of all ages and abilities to be active, engaged, and socially connected."

**SOURCE:**  
Minutes 2.5, 10 Mar 2026  
Community-Culture Committee,  
Central Coast Council



## Tree planting led to gardening interest

**Hannah Ryan, 7, of Ettalong, has grown in a year, and so has the tree she helped plant.**

Last year the Grow Urban Shade Trees group helped her plant her street tree.

Now, she is enjoying the benefits

"Look at the shade it is already giving us," she said.

The Year 2 student at Ettalong Public School has joined the

school gardening club and is proud of her thriving street tree, a brush box.

She has also been growing her own vegetables over summer.

"It's so important to encourage children to understand the symbiosis we have with plants," said tree group member Ms Jen Wilder.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 6 Mar 2026  
Jen Wilder, GUST

## Annual Easter book fair to be held at Pearl Beach

**The annual Pearl Beach annual Easter Book Fair will be held from 9am to 5pm on Easter Saturday, April 4, in the Pearl Beach Memorial Hall.**

The Fair will feature a selection of second-hand books, with both fiction and non-fiction, along with DVDs, CDs, vinyl records and puzzles.

Refreshments and community stalls will be available on the day.

Funds raised from the Book Fair, run by the Pearl Beach Progress Association, go directly towards the maintenance of the Pearl Beach Memorial Hall.

Also on Saturday, visitors can

explore the Pearl Beach Art Trail, where a number of local artists open their studios and workshops with exhibitions and artwork for sale. On Easter Sunday, the community will host its monthly Breakfast Barbecue with bacon and egg rolls, along with a selection of local produce including fruit and vegetables, fresh eggs, breads and pastries, homemade baked goods, as well as local honey and jams.

Easter crafts for kids will be held on the Back Deck, along with an Easter egg hunt.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 11 Mar 2026  
Karina Stafford, PBPA

## Seniors to apply for grants for first time

**The Peninsula School for Seniors is planning to apply for government funding for the first time in 38 years.**

"As our 38th anniversary approaches, the costs of keeping our doors open are rising faster than we can keep up," said president Ms Amber Golby.

"To ensure our group survives for another 38 years, we are looking to apply for several community grants.

"These funds would go directly towards subsidising transportation for members with limited mobility, updating our aging equipment, and organising educational workshops

and social outings."

Ms Golby said the school was looking for a volunteer to help with the application process.

Phone 0400 455 577 for further information.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 16 Mar 2026  
Amber Golby, Peninsula School for Seniors

## WHAT'S ON at ETTALONG BOWLING CLUB

We're OPEN and ready to welcome you!

Harry's Restaurant and Alfresco Brasserie, including the café, are here serving up delicious meals for you to enjoy. Don't miss Harry's lunchtime specials – a great selection of tasty dishes available now.

Renovations are officially underway, and while there are a few changes to help guide you through the new areas, we're doing everything we can to make your visit comfortable during this exciting upgrade. We truly appreciate your patience and continued support.

What's on:

- Raffles: Thursday to Sunday
- Trivia & Poker: Now on Tuesday nights
- Bingo: Mondays from 11am

Don't miss our upcoming raffle on Friday 27th March which includes Giant Easter Egg Baskets up for grabs!

Stay up to date with all the latest news by following us on Facebook and or Club app.

We look forward to seeing you soon at Ettalong Bowling Club!

**ETTALONG**  
BOWLING CLUB

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

## HARRYS LUNCH SPECIAL

MONDAY - SATURDAY FROM 11.30AM - 2PM

COMBINATION FRIED RICE AND YOUR CHOSEN MEAL

CHOOSE FROM

- Sweet & Sour Pork
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- Satay Chicken
- Mongolian Beef
- Curry Chicken
- Beef with Vegetables
- Pork Chop with Plum Sauce
- Beef with Black Bean
- Sweet Chili Chicken

**\$12.90**

THE BEST-KEPT SECRET ON THE CENTRAL COAST

# Arts

## Trivia night for Bays group

The Bays Community Group will hold its March Easter Trivia Night at 7pm on Friday, March 27, at the community hall at 19 Woy Woy Bay Rd.

The event raises money for maintenance of the group's hall, with tickets at \$20 per person plus processing fees.

A cheese platter for two is also available at an extra cost.

Drinks will be available for

purchase from the bar on the night. Bring-your-own alcohol is not allowed, due to liquor licensing requirements.

However, those attending may bring their own snacks.

More details are available on the group's website, <https://www.thebayscommunity.org>.

**SOURCE:**  
Newsletter, 8 Mar 2026  
The Bays Community Group

## Concert for Arboretum's 50 years

The Bathtub Gin Orchestra will perform at Music in the Arboretum at Pearl Beach from 1pm on Sunday, April 12.

The Orchestra will bring a blend of 1920s stomp, early 1930s swing, and a hint of Gypsy Jazz.

The band was formed to celebrate music from the 1920s.

After discovering a demand for the music from this Flapper era, they have curated a set list from the period.

The concert, in aid of the Arboretum and marking its 50th anniversary, will have support acts, including Pearl Beach locals The Pearlers, led by Phil and Lynne Rich, who will start the afternoon with some 60s and 70s rock and roll numbers.

Parking will be near the Pearl Beach tennis courts, with a short walk through the bush to the open performance area.

Food vans and plant sales will



be available.

Tickets are \$30 plus booking fee, with concessions for Arboretum members.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 20 Mar 2026  
Andrew Alter, Pearl Beach Arboretum

## Produce swap on Saturday

A produce swap will be held at Woy Woy Peninsula Community Garden from 10am to 11am on Saturday, March 28.

The swap is held at the Garden at 87 Moana St, Woy Woy, on the last Saturday of every month.

The group describes the swap as "having a set time and place for backyard growers to bring the

excess food they have grown to share with other growers".

"It is a very casual affair and nobody keeps score.

"It is simply a way of everyone sharing the food they have grown with the fellow growers in the neighbourhood."

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 16 Mar 2026  
Woy Woy Peninsula Community Garden

## Noticeboard - Public Notices

### CARPENTRY & BUILDING WORK

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### 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

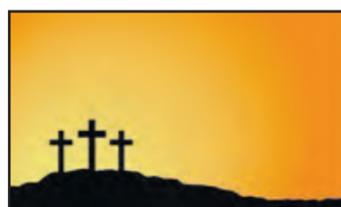


### The Troubadour Folk and Acoustic Music Club

Sun Apr 19, 2pm  
Celtic Guitar Heaven

Tony McManus (Scotland)  
& Marcus Sturrock (Tas)

Everglades Club Woy Woy  
Tickets \$25 members  
and \$30 non-members at  
[www.troubadour.org.au](http://www.troubadour.org.au)  
4342 6716



### EASTER SERVICES

2-5 April 2026

You are warmly invited to our Easter Services at

Holy Apostles Anglican Church

Maunder Thursday @ 6pm  
Holy Communion

Good Friday @ 9am  
Holy Communion

Holy Saturday @ 6pm  
with Vigil fire

Easter Day @ 9 am  
Holy Communion

147-149 Blackwall Rd, Woy Woy  
(Limited parking at rear)



### FREE COACHING

EVERGLADES COUNTRY CLUB  
DUNBAN ROAD WOY WOY

PHONE OUR ACCREDITED COACH  
GARY: 0426 992 715

### St John the Baptist Catholic Parish WOY WOY PENINSULA 54 Victoria Rd, Woy Woy

## EASTER Mass Times 2026

2nd Rite of Reconciliation  
7.00pm - Friday, 27th March

Holy Thursday  
7.00pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday  
8.00am - Stations of the Cross  
at the Church

10.00am - Stations of the Cross  
St John the Baptist Primary School  
21a Dulkara Rd, Woy Woy

3.00pm - The Lord's Passion

Easter Saturday  
8.00am - Devotion to Mother  
of Sorrows  
6.00pm - Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday  
7.30am & 9.15am.  
No evening Mass.

Easter Monday  
9.00am

## Rotarian named Gosford woman of the year

**Community advocate Ms Jayne Mote has been named the 2026 Gosford Local Woman of the Year.**

The Local Woman of the Year Awards recognise and celebrate progressive thinkers, everyday heroes, social advocates and community role models.

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch said Ms Mote represented everything that was remarkable about community service.

Umina Beach resident Ms Mote was cofounder of Rotary Brisbane Water among a long list of contributions to the local community spanning five decades as an exemplary volunteer and leader, said Ms Tesch.

Her nomination states her service represented "an extraordinary legacy of compassion, leadership, and community building".

Ms Mote was among those listed in an Honour Roll of local women nominated by their MPs will be acknowledged during NSW Women's Week, March 2-8.

"We are so lucky to have people such as Jayne working for good in our community and beyond," Ms Tesch said.

"Her work spans local food relief, international cultural exchange, youth development, environmental



protection, cultural enrichment, and health advocacy."

In her nomination, Rotary Brisbane Water director Mr Mitchell Gordon wrote: "She has not merely responded to community needs but has actively identified gaps and created new organisations and initiatives to address them."

Ms Mote said: "My involvement with my community started years ago while still living in England.

"I started two youth clubs in small villages where there was nothing for young people to do.

"In July 2019, my husband and I started a new Rotary Club on the Central Coast – Rotary Brisbane Water – our motto being 'Come when you can, do what you can'."

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 9 Mar 2026  
Joely Langmaid, Office of the Member for Gosford

## Patonga Easter Fete to be held on April 4

**The Patonga Beach Easter Fete will be held on Saturday, April 4, from 9am to 1pm at the Patonga Hall at the corner of Brisk and Bay Sts.**

The fete will include a range of stalls, entertainment and family-friendly activities, according to organisers.

It will have a sausage sizzle and a cakes and preserves stall, as well as vintage collectibles, whiteelephant and second-hand book stalls, with a focus on children's books this year.

New additions to the fete include a seafood paella stall and delicatessen foods from the Patonga Pantry.

For families, there will be a jumping castle and the popular Chocolate Wheel.

Local fire brigade volunteers will demonstrate equipment and share information about their work in the community.

The Patonga Creates Group will display its works and portrait sketches will be offered by local artist Ms Jocelyn Maughan.

Music with an old-time feel has been chosen "to help create a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere".

The fete is organised as a fundraiser for the Patonga Beach Progress Association.

"It really is a unique local event, with everything sourced or made locally," said association publicity officer Ms Jo-anne Quirk.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 12 Mar 2026  
Jo-anne Quirk, Patonga Beach Progress Association

## Bank staff instructed in defibrillator use

**Ocean Beach Surf Life Saving Club defibrillator project leader Mr Richard Grimmond has provided hands-on instruction for staff at the Ettalong Community Bank.**

Bank manager Ms Emma Black said the staff members appreciated Mr Grimmond for sharing his time, knowledge and expertise "to help build our confidence in responding to emergencies".

"It's an important skill that can truly make a difference in our community.

"We have been delighted to be able to support this project across the Peninsula."



Seven defibrillators will be installed at public locations through the project.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 20 Mar 2026  
Community Bank Ettalong Beach

# ONE EMBER CAN END IT.

## You don't need to live near the bush to face a bush fire.

Most homes are destroyed by embers, not flames.

These small, silent sparks can attack neighbourhoods up to 20km from the fire front.

Join your community in getting prepared. Clear your gutters, mow your lawn, and trim your garden.

It's easy to get prepared at [myfireplan.com.au](http://myfireplan.com.au)

**PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.**



**RFS**



## A rare chance to see our 'circus' in person

**Many people joke that council meetings are a circus.**

But here is a rare chance to see local government in action at our end of the Coast.

Central Coast Council will be holding its next meeting at the new Gosford Library at 6pm on Tuesday, 24 March.

For those of us on the Peninsula, it's a welcome change to have a meeting held closer than Wyong.

It gives residents a real opportunity to watch the debate, hear the arguments firsthand, and

see how decisions affecting our community are made.

Yes, you can watch it on YouTube — but why not make an evening of it and show your councillors that you value accessible, local representation?

Booking is required, and it only takes a moment on the Council website (just search "meetings").

And a tip: you don't need to stay until the end.

Hope to see you there.

**SOURCE:**  
Email, 13 Mar 2026  
Julian Bowker, Umina

## Holistic approach needed on foreshore erosion

**The Ettalong foreshore referred to in the last issue of Peninsula News is currently in extremely bad condition.**

There has been a major erosion of the foreshore, including the loss of trees.

Council has recently cut trees on the western side of the ferry wharf and left ugly stumps in the place, which presumably are supposed to assist with the erosion, and are failing to do so.

There needs to be a holistic

approach to resolve this including the beach erosion to Picnic Parade.

Additionally the house to the eastern side of the ferry wharf is a disgusting eyesore.

This is the first impression visitors get of the Central Coast and needs addressing.

On another note, what is the status of Dr Reid's promised \$1.8 million contribution to all of this?

**SOURCE:**  
Email, 13 Mar 2026  
Michael Browning, Ettalong

## What does council mean by democracy?

**Council staff and councillors refer to democracy as though it is a panacea to solve all problems.**

When council staff and councillors refer to democracy, they do not say what they mean.

A little research shows there are numerous versions such as: modern representative democracies, fragile democracies, weaker electoral democracies, liberal democracies and "restricted democratic practices".

With time available for research, you will find others.

Which version is adopted by council staff, councillors and other stakeholders?

One academic has commented that the practice in this Local Government Area is more plutocracy than democracy.

I agree, given the division at every council meeting that determines the outcome regardless of debate.

I believe plutocracy exists at the highest level, with democracy at the bottom practised by a small number of councillors.

How many councillors sit in the council chamber to serve all residents and protect the environmental character of the region?

**SOURCE:**  
Letter, 20 Mar 2026  
Norm Harris, Umina

## By all means write, but don't expect action

**Lesley Harvey from the community group Grow Urban Shade Trees urges residents to write to Central Coast Council concerning the foreshores of Ettalong Beach, between Ferry Rd and Picnic Parade.**

For years, I have witnessed council neglect of the said

foreshores.

For years, I have written to council with my environmental concerns of the foreshores to no effect.

By all means write to council complaining about Ettalong Beach foreshores, but don't expect anything to be done.

**SOURCE:**  
Email, 13 Mar 2026  
Patrick Croke, Ettalong Beach

## Is Council in the market for a substantial source of sand?

**The Central Coast Council has a video entitled Ettalong Umina Coastal Management about the beaches at Umina and Ettalong.**

It can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x88mfl2vTJ4> and gives a good general take on the situation in a graphic and interesting way.

The commentary emphasises that an eroding beach is not "broken".

Movement of sand on and off a beach is quite normal.

However, there are two occasions in the commentary when it is suggested that, in the case of Ettalong, the movement might "possibly" be just one way.

No prizes for guessing which way that is.

Bearing those comments in mind I read a story entitled "Beach to be nourished this year" in the Peninsula News online archive dated January 21, 2013.

It informs us that "a petition with

1037 signatures was received by Council on October 23 asking that the foreshore between Schnapper Rd and Ferry Rd, Ettalong, be restored."

"Council responded stating that coastal engineers had advised that the nourishing of the beach would restore beach amenity between Schnapper Rd and Ferry Rd for a period of between 10 to 15 years."

You've got to hand it to those "coastal engineers".

Their estimate was pretty bang on.

Here we are 13 years later and I'm looking at a map on the Digital Earth Australia website.

It shows the varying shoreline of Australia using satellite imagery for the last 25 years or so.

The latest shoreline shown on the map (2024) for the expanse of shoreline from Ferry Rd to The Esplanade shows that erosion of the beach (if it can still be called a beach) is worse than it was in 2013 when the petition was presented to

Council.

In March 2023, Council Administrator Mr Rik Hart assured ratepayers that parking for the proposed shop-top development at 46 The Esplanade would only be at ground level, as recorded in the minutes of the council meeting at which the necessary zoning changes were approved?

It must have been true at the time.

Mr Hart quoted the developers' architect.

Could it be that "coastal engineers" reminded the Council bosses that they're going to be in the market for a substantial source of sand at Ettalong pretty damn soon?

Is it possible that this could be the reason that the Central Coast Council has now decided to allow the applicant to include basement parking in the proposed development?

**SOURCE:**  
Email, 7 Mar 2026  
Frank Wiffen, Woy Woy

## Bus stops and shelters and Potemkin village footpaths

**Having recently had abdominal surgery, I am not allowed to drive for two weeks.**

As well as my post-operative discomfort, I have a flare-up of arthritis in one knee, leading me to call a cab to get to my GP's surgery.

The experience being far from positive, I decided to get a bus home.

I knew that our bus stop on the corner of Warwick and Springwood Sts had disappeared, but as I am normally a good walker I left it to someone else to complain.

Getting off the bus at Wallaby

St, I encountered my first hurdle.

When "they" decimated the bus stops, they also artistically placed some footpaths, but only on one side of Springwood St.

On the side I needed to walk was only rough grass, not ideal terrain for an old woman with a walking stick, so I chose to risk getting run over by walking on the roadway.

Alternating between skittering around parked cars and shuffling through the gutter, I eventually reached Warwick St.

No footpaths here either, but at least I could do as the locals do and walk straight down the middle of the road.

I got home safe and sound.

As I am sitting here, too tired to move, I cannot help but wonder at the genius who decided to take away bus stops in a region already badly served by public transport.

What's more, bus shelters have disappeared, meaning no protection from rain and sun.

Mostly, however, I smile at the Potemkin village mentality of only putting footpaths on one side of the road:

"Don't look on that side. Look over here where we have a lovely strip of concrete to walk on."

**SOURCE:**  
Email, 9 Mar 2026  
Jane Hendy, Blackwall

## Long-time Peninsula resident dies

**Long-time Peninsula resident Ms Margaret Ellis, formerly of Huckleberry Finn's fish shop, Woy Woy, passed away on Friday, March 13, at Hillview House.**

"When she arrived on the Woy Woy Peninsula in 1960, she quickly got involved in the community, taking part in the celebrations for the electrification of the railway line to Woy Woy as a marching girl," said her son Mr Mark Ellis.

"With previous experience cooking fish and chips at her sister's shop in Punchbowl, Margaret secured a job at the Alderton brothers' fish and chip shop on Brickwharf Rd.

"This shop later became Huckleberry Finn's, where



legendary fish and chips were served for over 30 years."

Mr Ellis said his mother was an enthusiastic photographer and

nature lover who enjoyed holidays with her family.

With her three boys, Morsley, Ken and Mark, she was also active in the Woy Woy Sea Scouts, the Woy Woy Public School P/C, and helped the Woy Woy Junior Rugby League Club," he said.

"After retiring in 1997, Margaret travelled around Australia and the world with her late husband Maurie and enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren Jacob, Marcus, Thomas and Heidi."

A funeral service was held this morning, Monday, March 23, at Palmdale Memorial Park, Ourimbah, where was laid to rest with her husband Mr Maurie Ellis.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 19 Mar 2026  
Mark Ellis, Woy Woy

## Woy Woy parents elect their committee

The parents and citizens association of Woy Woy South Public School held its annual general meeting on Thursday, March 19.

Members elected their executives committee for the coming year.

Elected were president Ms Brian Church, vice-president Ms Vikki Hudnall and Ms Zoe Anderson, secretary Ms Catherine Bonatesta, treasurer Ms Ivonne Canales, assistant treasurer

Ms Jessica Sheridan, canteen convenor Ms Michelle Stoddart, communications co-ordinator Ms Elle Rushton and uniform shop co-ordinator Ms Alice Ames-Durey.

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month, with the next meeting to be held at 7pm on Thursday, May 21.

No meeting is scheduled for April due to the school holidays.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 20 Mar 2026  
Woy Woy South Public School P/C



## Congratulations for 'lifetime' sports award

Brisbane Water Secondary College has congratulated its Woy Woy campus teacher Mr Patrick Crouch on receiving a "Lifetime Membership Award" from the Sydney North Schools Sports Association.

Mr Crouch is the secondary girls' rugby league coach-manager for the association.

"Over 20 years of dedication, passion and outstanding contribution to regional sports have made a lasting impact on countless students' physical education," said campus principal Ms Rebecca



Cooper.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 10 Mar 2026  
BWSC Woy Woy

## Woy Woy South swims in second

Woy Woy South Public School came in second at the Southern Central Coast Primary School Sports Association swimming championship held on Tuesday, March 10, at the Peninsula Leisure Centre.

Avoca Beach Public School came first and Copacabana Public School came third.

Woy Woy South won 31 place ribbons and had 11 race victories.

As a result, seven students will be attending the Sydney North championships at the end of the month.

Three Peninsula students were "Age Champions", for achieving the highest point score in their

respective age groups, including two from Woy Woy South.

They were Emily Jackson (top left) from Woy Woy South in Junior Girls, Cooper Appleby (above) from Woy Woy South in 11 Years Boys and Dakota Van Ryn (top right) from Ettalong in 11 Years Girls.

Umina Beach student Rory Townrow broke the record in the Senior Boys Multi-Class 50m Freestyle (S15) event with a time of 1.10.98.

A number of student leaders helped on the day, including Isaac Collard from Umina Beach, Zander Morales from Woy Woy, Mila Jank (right) from Ettalong and Eden Wilson from Woy Woy South.

Convenors of the event were

Woy Woy South teachers Ms Olivia Mostaert and Ms Zoe Boxsell.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 16 Mar 2026  
Southern Central Coast Primary School Sports Association





Scan to stay updated on your new local preschool

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## Education

# College shows 'major lift' in performance

**Brisbane Water Secondary College has been identified as one of four schools on the Coast and 45 in the State to show "an increase in the number of students who achieved higher bands of the HSC" over seven years.**

Minister for Education Ms Prue Car said: "These results show what can be achieved when teachers can focus their time and expertise in the classroom, providing high-impact teaching for their students."

"We are unwavering in our commitment to academic excellence, and we will continue to challenge our students to reach their full potential."

"This commitment is backed by the largest school building program in our state's history,

more teachers in the classrooms and more opportunities for high potential and gifted students."

Minister for the Central Coast Mr David Harris said the Government's efforts had led to "a major lift in performance in schools here on the Central Coast".

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch said: "Our Central Coast public schools continue to mark academic milestones driven by years of strong leadership, innovative approaches and skilled educators."

"As a former high school teacher at Brisbane Water Secondary College Woy Woy, I have seen first-hand the passion and dedication of our local teachers."

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 18 Mar 2026  
Prue Car, Minister for Education



## Cross country cancelled

**Cross Country training scheduled for Saturday, March 21, at Woy Woy South Public School was cancelled following rainfall of more than 135mm in three days.**

The schoolgrounds were reported to be "already flooded

with more rain on the way".

Students were urged to keep training for the School Cross Country event on Thursday, April 21, the first week back next term.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 19 Mar 2026  
Woy Woy South Public School

## Progress reported on new public preschool

**The NSW Department of Education has issued as summary of progress on the new public preschool under construction at Umina Beach Public School.**

"A construction zone has been established with temporary fencing to separate the school from the work area."

"Temporary solid plywood hoarding has also been installed along high-foot-traffic areas within the school grounds, including near the covered outdoor learning area and school entrances."

"The hoarding provides a robust physical barrier between the construction site and school areas, particularly during peak periods, while allowing construction to

progress.

"Internal demolition of Building A is underway, alongside earthworks to prepare the site for the new preschool, including excavation, soil preparation, and installation of concrete footings."

The next steps will include groundworks to prepare and construct the foundation for the new preschool building, and integrating services, including electrical, plumbing and data."

To minimise the impact on the school and surrounding community, noise management, dust control and site separation measures will be taken."

**SOURCE:**  
Website, 20 Mar 2026  
School Infrastructure, Department of Education



## Pies on sale for \$3.14 on Pi Day

**Woy Woy campus of Brisbane Water Secondary College took part in Pi Day on Friday, March 13.**

Activities included maths challenges and adventures, and pies for \$3.14.

Several students showed an

impressive memory, reciting PI from memory to up to 200 places.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 16 mar 2026  
BWSC Woy Woy

## 'Mini Arvo' event held at St John's

**St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School held a "Mini Arvo" on Friday, March 13, running from 5pm to 7pm.**

The evening included a two-hour disco, face-painting and ice-cream and coffee vans.

There were also a sausage sizzle and treat stalls.

The event was organised by the Parent Representative Group, supported by staff who gave their "time, service and smiles".

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 16 Mar 2026  
SJB Catholic Primary School



## Rylie wins poster competition

**Student Rylie Selwyn from the The Learning Centre at Woy Woy campus of Brisbane Water Secondary College has won a poster competition promoting the "Night under the Stars" at the campus.**

He is pictured with campus principal Ms Rebecca Cooper.

The evening, which starts at 6pm on Thursday, March 26, offers students the opportunity for students to perform their music to the school community.

The evening is free. Those attending are asked to



bring a picnic rug or chair, and may bring their own food or purchase food at the event.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 15 Mar 2026  
BWSC Woy Woy

## Harmony Day celebrated with live music

**Harmony Day was celebrated Woy Woy campus of Brisbane Water Secondary College with live music, a sausage sizzle, drinks and painting.**

"Harmony Day is a chance to

recognise and celebrate the rich cultural diversity that makes our school so special," said campus principal Ms Rebecca Cooper.

"It's about respect, inclusion and belonging — reminding us that everyone's story matters and that

there is Strength through Unity.

"What a fantastic celebration of culture, connection and community - such a positive and meaningful experience."

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 20 Mar 2026  
BWSC Woy Woy

## Chris Powell appointed as Eagles Under-23s coach

**Former First Grade coach Chris Powell has been appointed to guide the Umina United Soccer Club's Under-23s as coach this season.**

"Chris knows what it takes to win in Umina colours," said club president Mr Danny Nelson.

"His experience, standards,

and passion for the game will play a massive role in developing the next generation of Eagles.

"To say we're excited to have him leading our Under-23s is an understatement."

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 20 Mar 2026  
Umina United

## Social bowls at Easter

**The Umina Beach Women's Bowling Club will be hosting a social bowls afternoon on Easter Monday.**

Players are invited to attend from 1pm on Monday, April 6, at the Umina Beach Bowling Club.

Family and friends are welcome. Neat casual dress is requested. Single entry is \$10.

A lucky door prize will be drawn.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 16 Mar 2026  
Lesley Swales, UBWBC



## Women's Triples semi-finals played at Umina

**The semi-finals of the Women's Triples at Umina Beach Women's Bowling Club were played on Sunday, March 22.**

In one semi-final, Lee Van Lint, Annette Kerz and Kerry Yates (above) defeated Jean Harrison, Leila Gilmour and Lynne Gordon in a very close match.

In the other semi-final, Terry Mack, Nicole Dargan and Katie Brown shot away to a good lead but Gay Foulkes, Barbara Schultz

and Meena Kelso (below) fought back, winning the last five ends to make it all level after 18 ends.

"On the extra end, it was Meena's team who got up with one shot," said committee member Ms Lesley Swales.

Both matches were great to watch and worthy semi-finals.

The final will be played tomorrow, Tuesday, March 24.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 22 Mar 2026  
Lesley Swales, UBWBC



## Pearl Beach pickleball courts opened

**Two new pickleball courts at Pearl Beach have been officially opened by Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch.**

The opening on Thursday, March 5, came after permanent line markings were installed and affiliation being accepted by the

Pickleball Association of NSW.

The Pearl Beach Tennis, Bowls and Pickleball Club describes the courts as being "in the most beautiful serene bushland setting imaginable".

The club can supply paddles and balls, which are included in

the price of \$25 per hour for non members or \$20 for members.

For more information and bookings, phone Ms Judy McFarlane on 0418 436 225.

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 6 Mar 2026  
Pearl Beach Tennis Bowls and Pickleball



## New entry point for Ettalong bowlers

**Bowlers and patrons at Ettalong Bowling Club are being directed to a new entry point during the club's major renovations.**

"When driving into the car park at the front of the club, the only entry point for patrons is on the far right, through an alleyway.

"A sign on the adjacent fence directs bowlers to the lounge and

greens.

"Bowls bags mst be left outside the club."

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 13 Mar 2026  
Ettalong Eagles

## Felix achieves highest touch referee qualification

**Peninsula Touch Association member Felix Tebbutt has achieved his National Referee upgrade.**

The qualification is the highest level a referee can achieve in fouch football.

"This is a fantastic milestone and a true testament to the hard work,

dedication and passion he brings to the sport," said association president Mr Rod Dillon.

"We're incredibly proud to have Felix as part of our talented referee group at Peninsula Touch."

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 8 Mar 2026  
Peninsula Touch Association



# Sport

## WPL players to coach all SEU junior girls' soccer teams

Every junior girls' soccer team at Southern and Ettalong United Football Club will have a Women's Premier League player involved as a coach or assistant coach this season.

"This has been something we have been working toward for a number of seasons," said club president Ms Stevie Skene.

"Creating visible pathways and strong female role models within our club is incredibly important to us, and ensuring our young girls are learning from players currently competing at the highest level of football in our region is a huge step forward.

"Our WPL players bring experience, leadership and a genuine understanding of the women's game, helping inspire the

next generation of players as they develop their skills and love for football."

Ms Skene said three of the club's non-competitive girls teams would also be coached by WPL players, "further strengthening the connection between our junior programs and our senior women's pathway".

"This initiative is about more than just coaching.

"It's about representation, mentorship and showing every young girl at the club what is possible.

"We are incredibly proud of our WPL squad for stepping up and giving back to the club, and we can't wait to see the impact they have this season."

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 16 Mar 2026  
Stevie Skene, SEUFC



## Surf club holds first drone championship

Umina Surf Life Saving Club has held its first drone championship.

The winners were: first Rebeka Kendall, second Simon Gilbert and third Ian Lawrence.

The club held its inaugural Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Club Championship on Sunday, March 1.

The championship was organised by "UAV coordinator"

Dean Tetley and was held to "showcase the skill and precision of our drone pilots who play such an important role in beach safety".

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 16 Mar 2026  
Umina Surf Life Saving Club



## Everglades holds Triples Carnival

Everglades Bowling Club held its Everglades Triples Carnival on Monday, March 16.

"The weather was outstanding, the friendship amazing and the banter hilarious," according to committee member Ms Vicki Redrup.

"The lollies were delicious. The lunch was lovely.

Winners were Grant Ireland, Fay Wood and Brian Taylor  
Umpire was Kevin Hughes.

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 17 Mar 2026  
Vicki Redrup, Everglades Bowling Club

## Applications sought for men's netball team

Woy Woy Peninsula Netball Association is seeking applications for its Open Men's Rep team for the coming year.

Last year, the team was second in Division 2 and has stepped up to Division 1 this year.

The association plans to grow

its men's program.

"We're looking for the next players ready to step up and be part of it." Applications may be made online at [linktr.ee/WWPNA](http://linktr.ee/WWPNA).

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 19 Mar 2026  
Woy Woy Peninsula Netball Association

The Upside-Down Pairs competition of the Brisbane Water Bridge Club gave inexperienced players a chance to play with higher level members.

The event proved popular with 21 restricted-novice players attending.

North-south winners were David Bowerman and Steve Anderson.

East-west winners were Jim Routledge and Fiona Templeton.

North-south results of the Upside Down Pairs, played on March 13, were:

1 David Bowerman, Steve Anderson 203.0 (60.42 per cent), 0.33 green points.

2 Judy Wulff, Denise Edwards 199.0 (59.23), 0.23.

3 Susan McCall, Adi Jones 178.0 (52.98), 0.17.

4 Felicity Fane, Karen Jamieson 174.0 (51.79), 0.11.

5 Donelle Foate, Ros Lunday 172.0 (51.19), 0.08.

6 Beryl Lowry, Annette Clarke 169.0 (50.30).

7 Barry Foster, Roz Laws 166.0 (49.40).

8 Ed Vaughan, Linda Dowling 154.0 (45.83).

8 Sylvia Foster, Carolyn Harper 154.0 (45.83).



10 Jenny Buckley, Ross Templeton 151.0 (44.94).

11 Elaine Hume, Robyn Smith 128.0 (38.10).

East-west results were:

1 Jim Routledge, Fiona Templeton 202.0 (60.12), 0.33.

2 Robin Vaughan, Carolynne Mucharsky 198.0 (58.93), 0.23.

3 Jaan Oitmaa, Thuy Chapman 194.0 (57.74), 0.17.

4 Kathryn Ivits, Margaret Hockley 184.0 (54.76), 0.11.

5 Deborah Guthrie, Susan Ashley 174.0 (51.79), 0.08.

6 David Adams, Connie Lewis 165.0 (49.11).

7 Shirley Crockett, Kerry Anderson 161.0 (47.92).

8 Karen Ody, Julie Barker 159.0 (47.32).

9 Marilyn Jarrett, Michael Hall 143.0 (42.56).

10 Pamela Joseph, Annette Bonnici 134.0 (39.88).

10 Dasha Brandt, Jennifer Tebb 134.0 (39.88).

**SOURCE:**  
Social media, 14 Mar 2026  
Brisbane Water Bridge Club

## Final event for Disabled Surfers

Central Coast Disabled Surfers Association will hold its final event of the season at Umina Beach on Saturday, April 11.

The March event had 204

volunteers attending.

Volunteers are asked to pre-register for the April event at <https://bit.ly/11thApril2026>, "so we know how many surfers we can accept", said branch president Ms

Rae Fiechter.

"Volunteers will also be accepted on the day."

**SOURCE:**  
Media release, 12 Mar 2026  
Rae Fiechter, CCDSA