

Peninsula News

Community Access

EDITION 644

THE PENINSULA'S OWN NEWS SERVICE INC

18 MAY 2026



The Italian Festival held at Ettalong Galleria over the weekend was well-patronised, with young and old enjoying the happy atmosphere.

Unexpected tree grant awarded for \$600,000

Central Coast Council has received belated approval of its \$600,000 application to plant 360 trees and 1500 square metres of "biodiverse understorey" on the Peninsula.

It was one of five councils with projects approved, totalling \$1.8 million, which were not included in the January funding announcement under the Greening Our Cities 2025 program.

The announcement on Friday, May 8, came just days after the Council decided at an "extraordinary meeting" on Tuesday, May 5, to cut its own tree planting budget for the Peninsula to around \$9000.

Announcing funding for the Peninsula project, Minister for the Central Coast Mr David Harris said: "The Greening our City program supports councils to grow tree canopy cover, which helps reduce urban heat and boosts biodiversity, so neighbourhoods are more liveable and climate resilient.

"Planting more trees across Ettalong, Umina and Woy Woy is a practical way to help beat the heat in our growing community," he said.

"More trees mean more shade, cooler streets, and a better, more sustainable quality of life.

"The Greening our City program is helping our region grow into a healthier, more resilient place for future generations."

He said that almost 90 per cent

of plantings in the 2025 program would go into sites that had less than 20 per cent canopy cover.

"These plantings will cool neighbourhoods, improve air quality, and support communities in areas that need it most."

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch said: "I've been fiercely advocating for further investment in greening across the Gosford electorate and I am thrilled to say that the Government is delivering \$600,000 to tackle urban heat across the Peninsula.

"This is fantastic for our community and will make a real difference in shaping the liveability of our community into the future.

"This is the kind of investment that makes the Peninsula a better place to live, not just for the residents of today but for the families who will call this community home for generations to come."

Minister for Planning and Public Spaces Mr Paul Scully said: "This is another example of the Government helping create high-quality green spaces."

Grants totalling about \$10 million were initially awarded under the 2025 program in January, going to 28 projects for 24 councils.

The program website now states that there are 33 projects funded for 29 councils.

The projects now total almost \$12 million dollars, despite a previously announced cap of \$10 million.

No reference is made to the

change, which apparently results from a second round of approvals under the 2025 program, or how this came about.

However, in his media release, Mr Harris stated: "The program is funded by the NSW Climate Change Fund and administered by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, with applications assessed by an independent panel and overseen by a probity advisor."

Mr Scully said with the January announcement that the department had offered to meet with Central Coast Council to provide feedback "to help strengthen the competitiveness of future applications".

While Mr Harris said a list of successful applicants was available on the NSW Government website, the newly-funded projects are only found in a comparison of two separate NSW Government portals.

They are the Grants and Funding portal, which shows the original 28, and the Greening our Cities portal which shows the current 33 approved projects.

The other new approvals are \$647,625 to The Hills Shire, \$299,800 to Lane Cove Council, \$200,000 to Hunters Hill Council and \$57,500 to Waverley Council.

SOURCE:
Media release, 8 May 2026
David Harris, Minister for the Central Coast

Council cuts tree budget – Page 3

Produced on the Peninsula

Peninsula news & advertising
for the Peninsula community

Subscribe to our email lists

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

Among these services are a number of email lists.

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

A third email list provides "Miscellaneous emails".

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

They include State or regional

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

Subscription links are provided on the Peninsula News website.

Mark Snell, 2 Nov 2025

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Next issue: Monday, June 1

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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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.



Anzac Day donation to Vietnam Veterans

The Central Coast branch of the Vietnam Veterans' Peacekeepers' and Peacemakers' Association of Australia has received a donation of \$615 from Anzac Day activities.

The donation came from the Empire Bay Fishing Club and the Empire Bay Progress Association from their barbecue at the Empire Bay Tavern, where donations were collected throughout the day.

"These funds will assist in providing assistance in

compensation advocacy and wellbeing advocacy services to both serving and veteran members of the Australian Defence Forces," said branch secretary Mr Eric Daniel.

Pictured at the presentation were association members Mr Wayne Jennings (left) and Mr Graeme Harvey (right) with Mr Stuart Eadie from Empire Bay Fishing Club.

SOURCE:
 Media release, 11 May 2026
 Eric Daniel, VPPAACC

School for Seniors seeks new facilitator

The Peninsula School for Seniors is seeking a new facilitator, with the current facilitator Ms Amber Golby having to step aside due to family commitments.

Ms Golby said the facilitator was "the engine that keeps our social calendar humming".

The role included sourcing local speakers to share stories, hobbies and expertise at weekly meetings, organising outings, liaising with venues and bus operators and attending month social lunches.

"The Peninsula School for Seniors has been a cornerstone of connection, laughter, and lifelong learning for our local retirees for 38 years," she said.

"We meet once a week for two and a half hours, though you're always welcome to stay longer for a chat."

"Whether you're a retired professional looking to keep your skills sharp or someone with a knack for planning and a big heart, we'd love to have you."

She said the facilitator role could be filled by one person or shared by a pair of friends, and no special qualifications were needed.

SOURCE:
 Media release, 12 May 2026
 Amber Golby, School for Seniors

Most of rainfall recorded in one day

Rainfall totalling 39.7mm has been recorded on the Peninsula so far this month.

The majority of this was a fall of 24.5mm recorded in the 24 hours to 9am on Thursday, May 14, according to figures supplied by Mr Jim Morrison of Umina.

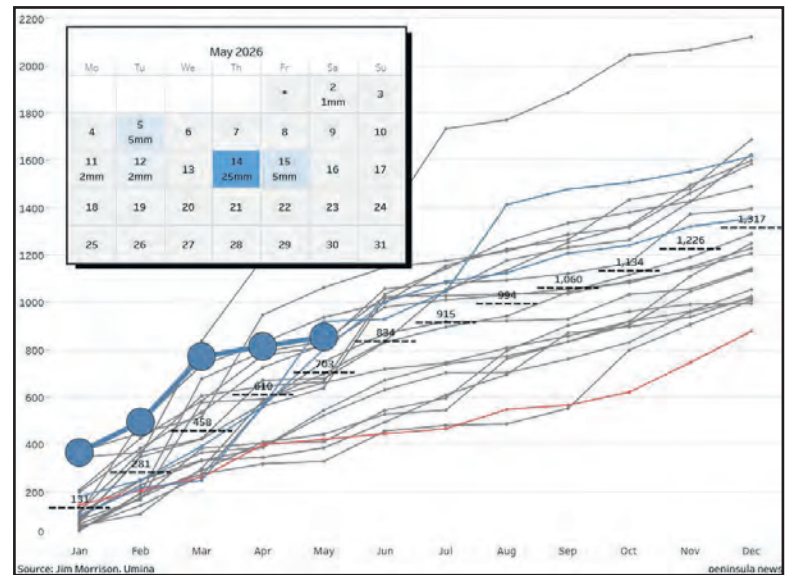
The average rainfall for May is 96mm.

The cumulative rainfall total for the year stood at 852.2mm on Friday, May 15.

This is 22.4 per cent more than the average total rainfall for the first five months of the year, which is 696mm.

Further details, including daily rainfall figures, can be found online at <https://penne.ws/Rain>.

SOURCE:
 Spreadsheet, 15 May 2026
 Jim Morrison, Umina



TIDE TIMES and Heights	Mon, May 18	Thu, May 21	Sun, May 24	Wed, May 27	Sat, May 30
	0418 0.17	0721 0.18	0245 1.07	0008 0.35	0229 0.30
	0941 0.90	1245 0.80	0957 0.22	0543 0.90	0758 0.81
	1526 0.21	1809 0.29	1558 0.87	1200 0.26	1337 0.28
	2149 1.42		2150 0.37	1821 1.08	2008 1.22
ATTALONG	Tue, May 19	Fri, May 22	Mon, May 25	Thu, May 28	Sun, May 31
	0519 0.17	0039 1.24	0349 1.00	0102 0.33	0305 0.29
	1040 0.85	0817 0.19	1042 0.23	0631 0.86	0837 0.80
	1615 0.23	1349 0.80	1652 0.94	1233 0.27	1412 0.29
	2243 1.39	1917 0.33	2302 0.37	1858 1.14	2044 1.23
ETTALONG	Wed, May 20	Sat, May 23	Tue, May 26	Fri, May 29	Mon, Jun 1
	0622 0.17	0142 1.15	0448 0.94	0148 0.31	0342 0.28
	1141 0.82	0908 0.20	1123 0.24	0715 0.83	0916 0.79
	1709 0.25	1455 0.82	1740 1.01	1304 0.28	1449 0.29
	2340 1.32	2033 0.36		1933 1.19	2119 1.23

Council reduces tree planting budget to \$9000

Central Coast Council has decided to reduce its tree planting budget for the Peninsula from \$150,000 last year to around \$9000 for the coming year.

The Council decided in March to reduce a tree planting allocation from \$200,000 to \$100,000 in its draft \$1.17 billion budget.

The budget is still to be adopted following public exhibition.

The council has now decided, at an extraordinary meeting on Tuesday, May 5, to spread the remaining \$100,000 across the municipality – providing \$9090 for the Peninsula on a per capita basis.

It resolved to “consolidate and expand all urban street planting programs to create a Central Coast Council Adopt a Verge Program ... with a view to allocating the \$100,000 for annual tree planting to this Adopt a Verge Program”.

The program would require residents to apply to the council for permission to plant trees on the verge.

In a notice of motion, Cr Rachel Stanton noted: “Street trees play an important role in cooling and shading our urban spaces, providing habitats for wildlife and increasing the streetscape within our community.

“Central Coast residents often make requests for Council to plant trees in their local area.

“While Council undertakes annual tree planting and approved a one-off pilot program on the Peninsula in 2025, the aim of the consolidated Central Coast Council Adopt a Verge Program is to enable residents all over the Coast to green their streets.

“The Program will create an opportunity for community members to plant native trees and gardens on the public nature strip outside their homes, encouraging them to adopt the verge and take care of and maintain it.

“Residents would apply to Council via a simple application process and Council would then assess and approve the application.

“In addition to being able to plant their own trees-plants on the verge, residents also would

also be able to register to receive free plants-trees to plant funded through Council’s annual budget, increasing our street canopy and creating green corridors, thereby reducing urban heat island effect.”

Following the meeting, Gosford West’s Cr Belinda Neal condemned the removal of funding for trees on the Peninsula.

Cr Neal said that the allocation, which had aimed to increase the tree canopy on the Peninsula, had only recently been included as part of the draft 2026-27 budget, which had yet to be adopted.

“The Peninsula is the most heavily populated area of the Central Coast and suffers more than any other region from the effects of heat sink and a significant lack of tree canopy.”

Cr Neal said: “To reallocate this small amount of money away from where it is most needed is both cynical and misdirected, and will fail to achieve the environmental improvements required for the community.”

She said: “ The Peninsula tree planting allocation is crucial for enhancing local biodiversity, providing shade, and improving community amenity on the Peninsula.

“Diluting these funds at this stage would undermine the targeted environmental benefits and community-driven initiatives that have been thoughtfully planned for the area.

“Cr Staunton should have secured further funds for tree planting rather than cannibalising the funds already allocated to green the Peninsula.”

Cr Neal said she was steadfastly committed to supporting tree planting projects on the Peninsula.

Cr Stanton’s motion was seconded by Cr Doug Eaton and supported by Mayor Cr Lawrie McKinna, Cr John Moulard, Cr Kyla Daniels, Cr Jared Wright, Cr John McNamara and Cr Trent McWaide.

It was opposed by Cr Kyle MacGregor, Cr Margot Castles, Cr Helen Crowley, Cr Sharon Walsh, Cr Belinda Neal, Cr Jane Smith and Cr Corinne Lamont.

SOURCE:
Central Coast Council extraordinary meeting 3.1, 5 May 2026



Dredge starts work in Ettalong Channel

The dredge Port Frederick has started work in the Ettalong Channel to improve navigation for commuter ferries.

The project follows the diversion of ferry services from the Ettalong Channel to Patonga on Saturday, May 2, following “navigational challenges” experienced by the Palm Beach ferry service.

Dredging is expected to continue for another week, weather permitting, to remove material that is impeding navigation.

The Ettalong Channel was last dredged in May last year, with shoaling in some parts of the channel re-occurring sooner than anticipated.

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch said the dredging project would return the channel to an adequate depth allowing ferries to return to normal service.

“It’s expected around 30



thousand cubic metres of sand will be removed during this project to give ferry services navigational certainty when entering the channel,” said Ms Tesch.

“I know the diversion of ferry services is an inconvenience for the community but, with sand shoaling obstructing navigation, it

was the right thing to do,” said Ms Tesch.

NSW Maritime executive director Mr Mark Hutchings said: “We’re asking boaties to be aware of the dredge in the channel and keep your distance while navigating on the waterway.”

Until the dredging has finished, replacement shuttle buses will run on a loop service between Ettalong and Patonga, to meet the Palm Beach to Patonga ferries

The shuttle buses leave about 30 minutes prior to the Palm Beach ferry departure from Patonga Wharf.

A ferry shuttle is servicing passengers between Wagstaffe and Ettalong wharves for peak travel periods such as weekends and weekdays morning and evening commuter times.

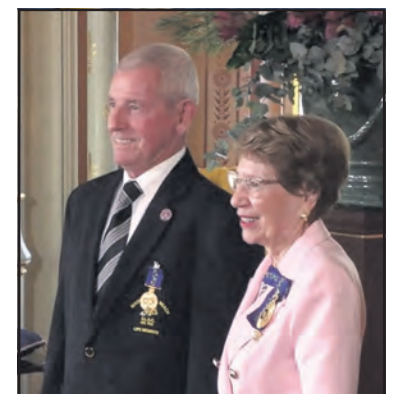
SOURCE:
Media release, 12 May 2026
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford

Jono receives his OAM

Marine clean-up group Clean4shore co-ordinator Mr Graham “Jono” Johnston was presented with his Order of Australian Medal at a presentation at Government House in Sydney last Thursday, May 14.

Mr Johnston was awarded his honour in the Australia Day Honours List both for his work with Clean4shore and for his contribution to Macmasters Beach Surf Life Saving Club.

SOURCE:
Social media, 14 May 2026
Clean4shore



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Planning

Beachfront house approved at Pearl Beach

Central Coast Council has approved an application for a beachfront house at 36 Coral Cres, Pearl Beach.

The house has five bedrooms, an internal elevator, two car basement parking with a vehicle turntable, and multiple living and terrace spaces, with an estimated construction cost of more than \$2.6 million.

The land has an area of 670.2 square metres and is zoned R2 Low density residential.

The application attracted eight "unique submissions" from neighbours and local residents about its scale, environmental impact, and adherence to local planning controls.

A primary concern was the bulk and scale of the building.

Some community members described the project as a "McMansion styled dwelling" and expressed unease that "this behemoth is really a duplex in all but name".

Objectors pointed out that the floor space ratio of 0.458:1 exceeded the standard 0.4:1 limit for Pearl Beach, arguing that it presented an "inappropriate bulk and scale for the Pearl Beach and Coral Cres context".

Neighbours also worried that the dwelling's front setback of

4.172 metres fell short of the six metre requirement, with some arguing that building forward set a "dangerous precedent, creeping property lines forward".

In addressing these concerns, the Council's assessment concluded that the bulk and scale were compatible with the desired future character of the beachfront.

Planners noted that the "exceedance of the floor area to the development controls is not readily visible from the street and the public domain and does not discernibly impact on bulk and scale".

They also claimed that the development presents a generally smaller bulk compared to a previously approved 2021 application for the site, which the applicant must formally surrender before beginning construction.

Another point of contention was the encroachment of structures seaward of the Coastal Building Line.

Many submissions complained that a proposed swimming pool and paved terrace were located too close to the beach.

In response, the "swimming pool at the eastern side of the dwelling house has been removed from the proposal" and will be replaced by a lawn area.

However, the paved terrace was retained as it was "considered acceptable" as an ancillary structure.

Reidents also objected to the proposal to replace a removed street tree with a tuckeroo.

They said that the tuckeroo was "not endemic to the Pearl Beach area" and was a "species that has become invasive in our dunes".

Council planners agreed and mandated that the landscape plan "be amended by applicant or in red to remove reference to tuckeroo".

Instead, the developer must plant a native species suitable under power lines, such as a "magenta cherry or blueberry ash".

Concerns about potential short-term holiday rentals acting as "a commercial enterprise in a residential area" were also raised, though Council noted these were typically exempt developments regulated separately by NSW Fair Trading.

With these conditions and design amendments in place, the Council determined that the project would not have adverse social or environmental impacts and granted approval.



SOURCE:

DA Tracker, 17 May 2026
DA/845/2024, Central Coast Council

Tree group calls for stronger planning rules

The Grow Urban Shade Trees group has called for strengthening of local planning rules.

It was commenting on proposed "minor modifications" to Central Coast Council's development control plan (DCP).

It said that the community was left vulnerable to further urban canopy loss and over-development, "with an already weak DCP, and proposed state governments amendments to planning controls".

These as well as a "loss of community participation and democratic planning rights" would "significantly impact on the liveability of our suburbs".

The group called for the planning provisions to be strengthened "to ensure liveable, cool, resilient and

attractive suburbs are prioritised into the future".

It suggested "additional amendments to the DCP, to increase urban tree protections, to combat the ongoing loss of mature canopy across our suburbs".

It wanted to see minimum tree retention requirements for development sites, with "protection of existing mature trees as a priority design constraint".

It called for clear canopy targets aligned with climate resilience goals, supported by increased deep soil zones to support large canopy species.

It suggested high mandatory replacement ratios, with stronger enforcement mechanisms for unauthorised tree removal.

SOURCE:

Social media, 14 May 2026
Grow Urban Shade Trees

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

Coastal plan open for public comment

A long-term plan for the management of the Hawkesbury-Nepean river system has been placed "on exhibition" for public comment until Sunday, May 31.

The Hawkesbury-Nepean River System Coastal Management Program brought together the six councils of the Central Coast, Northern Beaches, Ku-ring-gai, Hornsby Shire, The Hills Shire and Hawkesbury City, along with the NSW Government, according to Central Coast mayor Cr Lawrie McKinna.

"This coordinated, whole-of-system plan, covers 145km of tidal waterways from Broken Bay to Yarramundi, including Pittwater and Brisbane Water, representing a new, integrated approach to river management," he said.

He said the plan proposed a

10-year program of actions for strengthening how the river system is managed.

"Our waterways don't stop at council boundaries, and neither should the way we care for them," Cr McKinna said.

"For the Central Coast, this is about special places we know and love including Brisbane Water, Broken Bay, Umina, Pearl Beach, Patonga and Mangrove Creek."

"I encourage you to view the draft plan and have your say," Cr McKinna said.

"Together, we can shape the future of our waterways."

The Hawkesbury-Nepean River System Coastal Management Program is on public exhibition on the council's Your Voice Our Coast website, under Our Coast Our Waterways.

SOURCE:

Media release, 20 Apr 2026
Lawrie McKinna, Central Coast Council

UPDATES from ETTALONG BOWLING CLUB

We say farewell to the Alfresco Brasserie Team

Exciting changes are underway at Ettalong Bowling Club, as a much-loved era comes to a close and a vibrant new chapter begins.

Since 2011, Karen Jackson, Jeff Knox and their dedicated team have been at the heart of Alfresco Brasserie, serving crowd-favourite pizzas, popular surf and turf, and quality meals in the warm, family-friendly atmosphere that members and guests have come to love. For nearly 15 years, Karen's commitment to great food and genuine hospitality has been an important part of the Club experience.

As Alfresco Brasserie farewells its final service on 18 May 2026, Ettalong Bowling Club extends its sincere thanks to Karen and the entire team for everything they have contributed to the Club community. We wish them all the very best for the chapter ahead.

On 20 May 2026, The Springwood Brasserie will open its doors, operated exclusively by Ettalong Bowling Club and led by Head Chef Mitch Edwards.

Members and guests can look forward to an exciting new menu where elevated dining meets relaxed sophistication. Thoughtfully crafted dishes, premium produce and warm coastal hospitality await, all within the welcoming surrounds of your local Club.

There has never been a better time to be part of Ettalong Bowling Club. To celebrate this exciting new chapter, the Club is offering a special membership promotion for new and existing members as from 1st June 2026.

Join or renew by 30 June 2026 and receive a three-year membership for just \$7.50, plus a \$15 dining voucher to use when dining in at The Springwood Brasserie. To receive your voucher, simply swipe your membership card at the kiosk. T&Cs apply.

To join or renew, visit Ettalong Bowling Club (ettalongbowlingclub.net) or speak with the friendly team at reception.



ETTALONG BOWLING CLUB
103 Springwood St, Umina Beach

THE BEST-KEPT SECRET ON THE CENTRAL COAST



Council congratulated on historic photo display

The Peninsula Chamber of Commerce has congratulated Council's Community and Culture team on the installation of the historic photos on the exterior of the Umina Beach Library in West St.

"This is a great collaboration between the Chamber of Commerce and Council which has resulted in several iconic historic photos of Umina Beach, reflecting its rich social history ranging from classic photos of West St to the surf club on our unique beachfront", said Chamber president Mr Matthew Wales.

"It is important to recognise our local history and remind our new residents how our area has grown, and the lessons we have drawn on from the past, that has made Umina Beach such a successful town centre and a wonderful community to live in."

Mr Wales said it was part of an ongoing business relationship with

Council's Community and Culture team which aims "to progressively upgrade our public spaces and build better town centre outcomes".

"It is important to recognise that clean, vibrant and activated retail centres promote good business and generate jobs and investment," he said.

"Many wouldn't realise that the famous reptile park at Somersby began in Umina Beach as the Ocean Beach Aquarium owned by Eric Worrall on the corner of Augusta St.

"The building still remains there today at the top end of West St."

Mr Wales said: "We have always said it is great to know where you come from, even better to know where you are going."

Pictured are the Council's community and culture unit manager Ms Beth Burgess with Chamber president Mr Matthew Wales.

SOURCE:
Media release, 5 May 2026
Matthew Wales, Peninsula Chamber of Commerce

Tesch pays tribute to Peter Lambeth

Member for Gosford Ms Liesl Tesch has paid tribute to Ocean Beach surf life saving club member Mr Peter Lambeth who died recently.

"Peter was an esteemed member of our community whose lifelong commitment to the surf lifesaving movement was truly exemplary," she said.

"Peter spent 40 years managing the Central Coast Council's nursery at the Erina depot, providing over

10,000 trees to volunteer groups each year as well as for National Tree Day.

"His Order of Australia Medal received in the 2025 King's Birthday Honours was a fitting tribute to a man who dedicated his life to the service of others.

"Many of our community members, particularly on the Peninsula, know Peter and his beautiful personality.

"He was instrumental in creating innovative ways to teach water

safety, a passion he shared with his dear wife, Louise.

"In recognition of his service, Peter was recognised as a life member of both the Ocean Beach Surf Life Saving Club and Surf Life Saving Central Coast, thanks to his 60-plus years of service.

"Peter was a remarkable man who gave so much of himself to the community he loved."

SOURCE:
Hansard, 14 May 2026
Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford



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Residents call for return of Gosford council meetings

The Peninsula Residents' Association has urged Central Coast Council to reinstate its alternating meeting schedule at Gosford Library.

The Council decided on May 5 to stop holding meetings at the Gosford Library and to return exclusively to the Wyong Chambers

"When Council adopted the resolution to alternate meeting locations between Gosford and Wyong in September, it was presented as a step toward greater accessibility, transparency, and balanced regional representation," said association vice-president Mr Julian Bowker.

"Reversing that decision only a few months later represents a clear backflip on that commitment.

"For residents on the Peninsula and surrounding suburbs, Gosford meetings significantly reduced travel time and made in-person participation more realistic.

"Returning all meetings to Wyong places a disproportionate

burden on southern communities and undermines the principle of fair access to local government.

"Given the recent Gosford city summit and growth expected for Gosford, many saw the alternating-location model as a sign that Council was serious about engaging more equitably with communities and commercial centres across the Coast.

"Abruptly abandoning that approach raises questions about how the business community can have confidence in Council decisions when commitments are overturned so quickly."

Mr Bowker said the library was designed to have the ability to host council meetings.

He said "teething issues" like parking and access should be resolved.

"If councillors cannot resolve logistical issues like parking and access, how are local businesses expected to do the same?"

SOURCE:
Media release, 6 May 2026
Julian Bowker, Peninsula Residents Association

Council meeting decision isolates the Peninsula

This week marks a somber milestone: exactly 10 years since the forced amalgamation of Gosford and Woyong Councils.

I remember it vividly because I was sitting in the Gosford Council gallery when the vote for amalgamation took place.

We were fed a diet of optimistic slogans: it would be better for residents. It would streamline grant applications, and we would emerge as a "strong region."

A decade later, for those on the Woy Woy Peninsula, the reality tells a much bleaker story.

Our rates are higher, but our Peninsula roads are in a state of neglect, water pipes are bursting with alarming frequency, and our local park and reserve maintenance has fallen by the wayside.

Perhaps most disappointing is the total abandonment of our unique local environment.

Despite extensive community consultations where Peninsula residents repeatedly cite the environment as a top priority, the actual focus has vanished.

It seems "consultation" is now just a box-ticking exercise rather than a driver for genuine policy.

The final insult occurred this evening while sitting in the gallery of the council meeting.

To see seven councillors vote to move all future meetings to the Wyong chamber effectively abandoning the Gosford area and further isolating the Peninsula was nothing short of gob-smacking.

It was particularly galling to watch councillors representing the Gosford West Ward, which covers the Peninsula community, turn their backs on their own constituents.

During the debate, Cr Moulard stated that council meetings are "not community engagement sessions" but "formal decision-making and governance forums".

He even compared the council to the State Government, noting they "don't move around."

If Cr Moulard bothered to review the reports from former Administrators Mr Dick Persson and Mr Rik Hart, he would see a clear warning: this council should not be "parliamentary".

Yet, this move toward an insulated, centralised power base is exactly what we saw tonight.

Accessibility is transparency.

The gallery at the Gosford Regional Library was nearly full at the meeting there in March, proving the public wants to be present.

Many of our older Peninsula residents cannot, and should not have to, trek all the way to Wyong on dark nights to witness the decisions that affect their lives.

Nor should they be expected to rely on a livestream they may not have the technology to access.

To add further insult, while seven councillors voted for less transparency, one councillor lacked even the courage to cast a vote, choosing instead to walk out of the chamber.

I urge every resident from Woy Woy, Umina, and Ettalong to look up how their ward councillors voted on this motion.

Reach out to them and ask why they believe Peninsula residents deserve less access to their elected representatives.

We can only hope the seven councillors who voted for this retreat reflect on their consciences and ask themselves: who do you truly serve?

Do you serve the residents who elected you to be visible and accountable, or do you serve another master?

We have long memories, and we have endured 10 years of let-downs.

While you may hide in a single chamber for now, you cannot hide from the ballot box.

We are watching closely and, in 2028, the Peninsula community will remember exactly who voted to shut the peninsula residents out.

SOURCE:
Email, 5 May 2026
Joy Cooper, Green Point

No attention being paid to anti-democratic planning law

There has been a welter of changes to NSW Planning Law over the last year or so.

Individually they don't appear to be particularly dramatic but collectively they add up to a "sea change" in NSW planning.

The latest proposed change is a standardised NSW Community Participation Plan currently in draft form and on exhibition until June 3.

The name is a bit of a sick joke as it is explicitly designed to eradicate community involvement in planning at a local level.

It's been obvious for some time that the NSW State Government and NSW Planning have been looking for a way to kick the community out of the local planning loop.

What's happening now is basically an expansion of the Complying Development principle but using council staff instead of private certifiers and using the Development Control Plan (DCP) instead of the Housing SEPP (State Environmental Planning Policy).

Exhibition and notification of development applications will virtually become a thing of the past.

It's ironic that the Central Coast

Council, like other NSW Councils, has a myriad of "community consultations" on all sorts of things from playgrounds to swimming pools.

But when it comes to a development next door that might steal your privacy, sunlight and peace of mind; you won't know anything about it until the dozers move in . . . unless it's a shop top or residential flat building; in which case you'll get a generous seven days notice.

There will still be community participation in local planning but it will be at a "strategic" level and will be taken as a blanket authorisation of anything and everything that occurs below that.

Just like in China.

History provides several distinct examples where the erosion of transparency in local governance and land management presaged a loss of democracy.

The most annoying thing is that there is not the slightest mention of this in the mainstream media or from our political representatives, let alone - dare I say it - any protest.

SOURCE:
Email, 15 May 2026
Frank Wiffen, Woy Woy

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Cameron Jones & Friends
and The Go-Twos

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

Heart technology study

Mingaletta has promoted a “heart health and technology” study to its members.

Aboriginal community members over the age of 55 years have been invited to be part of “an important health study looking at new technology for monitoring heart health”.

“Technology like smart watches and wearable patches is changing quickly,” according to Mingaletta co-ordinator, Aunty Di O’Brien.

“These tools can track heart health and physical activity, but we don’t yet know how useful they are for our mob.

“That’s why this study matters. “Your voice and experience can

help shape the future of health care in our communities.”

Participants would join a small group, wearing a smart watch for 28 days and a special heart monitor patch for up to seven days.

They will meet weekly with a research assistant and share their experiences in relaxed yarnning circles.

Eligibility criteria include having high blood pressure, not having a pacemaker or having been diagnosed with atrial fibrillation.

For further information, email Corrine Henson at c.henson@unsw.edu.au or Dave Kampers, at d.kampers@unsw.edu.au.

SOURCE: Social media, 6 May 2026 Mingaletta ATSIIC



Registered clubs have Purple Friday

Registered clubs on the Peninsula have united for Purple Friday to raise awareness of domestic and family violence.

Ettalong Bowling Club, Everglades Country Club and Ettalong Diggers supported Purple Friday, joining other clubs across New South Wales.

“Together, the three clubs are standing as one community to help promote respectful relationships, encourage important conversations, and remind those affected that support services are available,” said Ettalong Diggers community manager Ms Kim Cole.

“Purple Friday is a statewide initiative supported by ClubsNSW, encouraging clubs to play an active role in creating safer communities.”

The three Peninsula displayed purple-themed awareness messaging and encouraged staff, members and guests to wear purple on Friday, May 8, and to learn more about domestic and family violence.

“Purple Friday is about community, awareness, and support.

“By standing together as Peninsula clubs, we are sending a clear message that domestic and family violence has no place in our community and that help is available for those who need it.”

Pictured is Ettalong Diggers chief executive Mr Col Murphy promoting Purple Friday at the club.

SOURCE: Media release, 7 May 2026 Kim Cole, Ettalong Diggers

Ambulances attend college

Seven ambulances were reported to have attended a suspected drug overdose at Umina campus of Brisbane Water Secondary College on Friday.

The Australian Broadcasting Commission and the Daily Telegraph reported that four affected students were taken to Gosford Hospital, and others were assessed at the school.

SOURCE: Social media, 15 May 2026 NSW Central Coast Incident Alerts

Suicide prevention training

Wesley LifeForce will hold free suicide prevention training at Woy Woy Library from 9:30am to 2pm on Monday, June 15.

The training is designed to provide practical skills to support someone in distress.

It is described as “a practical, evidence-based workshop that builds skills and confidence to recognise when someone may be at risk of suicide and how to respond safely and compassionately”.

Topics include: how to use safe and supportive language, how to ask about suicide, active listening strategies, safety planning and self-care, risk and protective factors and how to connect someone with support services.

For further information, email lifeforce@wesleymission.org.au or call 1800 100 024

Places are limited and registration is essential.

SOURCE: Media release, 14 May 2026 Maria Krohn, Wesley LifeForce

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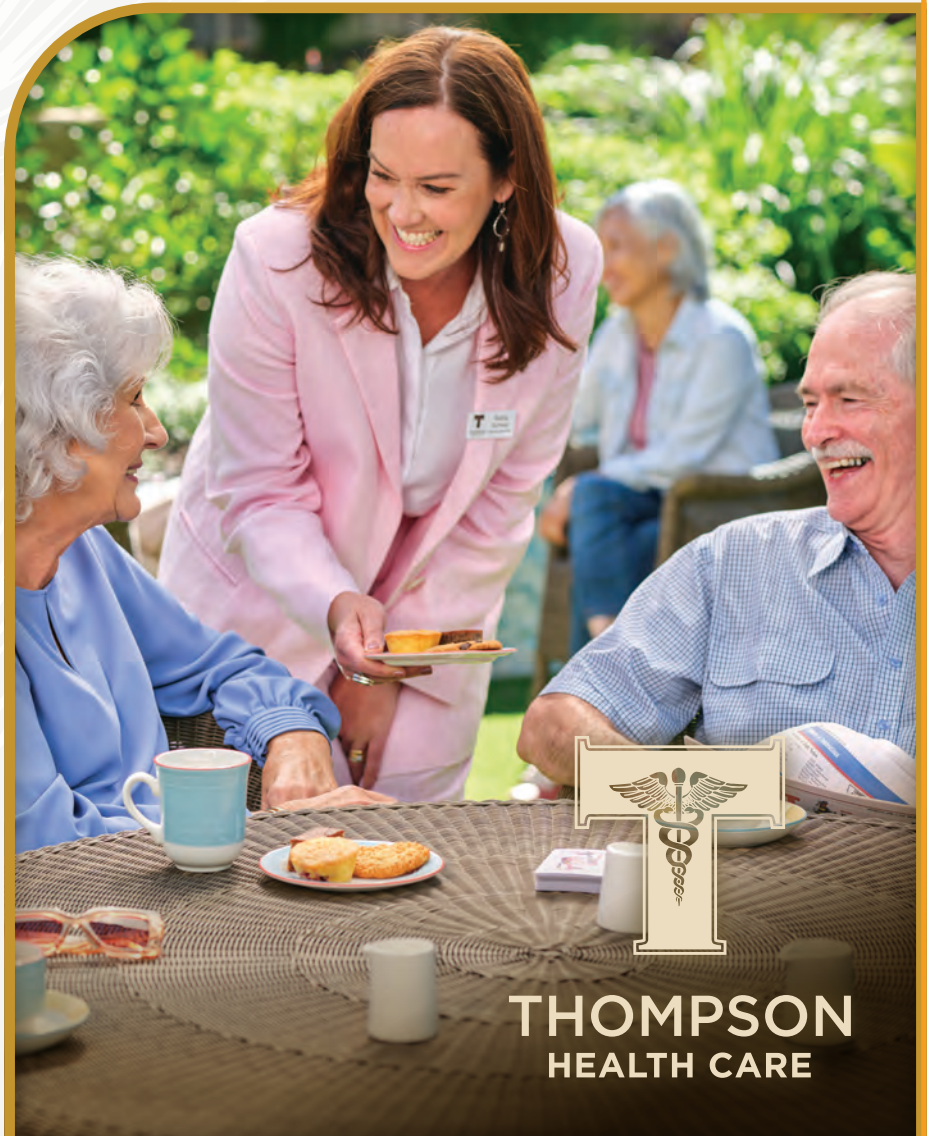
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Weekend of music at Pearl Beach

It will be a weekend of music in Pearl Beach starting with the scholarship concert of the Central Coast Conservatorium of Music at the Community Memorial Hall on Saturday, May 23.

The 11th annual event is supported by the Pearl Beach Progress Association and members of the Pearl Beach community and features the best junior and senior musicians from the Conservatorium.

The day begins with the Junior Showcase, with performances from the Conservatorium's Rising Star Scholarship recipients and the Irvine Family Piano Scholarship performer.

In the afternoon, the Senior Music Scholarship Competition takes place.

Top young musicians compete for a scholarship with high-level performances across a range of instruments.

The audience can be part of the action by casting a vote in the

People's Choice Award.

The Junior Showcase runs from 11am to 12:15pm.

The Senior Scholarship Competition runs from 2:30pm to 4:30pm.

The music continues from 2pm to 4pm on Sunday, May 24, with Jazz Piano Through the Ages, a special concert with pianist Carolyn Packer, joined by bassist Fiona Lugg.

It will take audiences on a journey from ragtime through to modern jazz, performing on the Kawai grand piano.

Ms Packer claims more than 30 years of professional experience, and a dynamic style, blending blues, jazz, swing, funk and soul, along with an engaging stage presence and soulful vocals.

Tickets for both events are available on the association's website: www.pearlbeachprogress.org.au

SOURCE:
Media release, 4 May 2026
Karina Stafford, Pearl Beach Progress Association



Mother's Day nine times over

It was Mother's Day and in a big way at the Umina campus farm of Brisbane Water Secondary College.

The sow at the farm gave birth to nine piglets on Sunday, May 10. "Happy Mother's Day and welcome to the world," was the

message from the school.

SOURCE:
Social media, 10 May 2026
BWSC Umina

Bays Art Show to include children's art competition

A children's art competition will be held for artists under 16 years of age as part of this year's Bays Art Show, which runs from Friday, May 29, to Sunday, May 31.

The art show, run by The Bays Community Group at The Bays Community Hall, will have a ticketed Grand Opening Evening from 7pm on Friday, May 29.

The evening is being promoted as having a "vibrant social atmosphere", where neighbours may mingle, and "perhaps find that perfect piece" to adorn their home "before the Bays Art Show opens its doors the following morning".

The show will be open to all for a gold coin donation from 10am to 4pm on Saturday and Sunday, May 30 and 31.

The community group is seeking volunteers and donations of food for its cafe, which will operate during the show.

Donations may be home-made or bought, sweet or savoury.

"Any contribution large or small will make a difference to our profits and, thus, our ability to continue to fund our very special community

hall," said group president Mr Sam Bunyan.

"Larger items like cakes or quiche, bought or homemade, do extremely well."

Anyone able to help should email gwyneth.weir@gmail.com.

Children's artwork will be accepted on A4 paper, with entries costing \$5.

Winners will be chosen by public vote during the exhibition in three age-groups: under-8 years, 8-12 years and 13-16 years..

To enter, phone Sam on 0404 767 565.

Tickets to the Grand Opening cost \$20 and include a selection of light food.

They are available via <http://penne.ws/YEVV6S>.

A bar will be stocked with an assortment of wines, beers, and soft drinks.

All proceeds will contribute to the upkeep of the community hall.

All artwork sold supports Central Coast artists, ensuring their continued growth and contribution to our community.

SOURCE:
Newsletter, 7 May 2026
The Bays Community Group



Six residents receive awards

The Rotary Club of Brisbane Water has recognised six Peninsula residents for extraordinary service in aged care, emergency services, the arts, and community volunteering

The club has presented Pride of Workmanship Awards to them at a dinner on Thursday, May 7.

Registered nurse Ms Debra Fox was recognised as a steadfast presence at Peninsula Villages in Umina Beach since 2011, recently stepping into a more senior role.

She was nominated by executive manager Ms Nicola Burton, who described her as a committed resident advocate, whose care for the people she serves was personal.

Ettalong Diggers Ms Michelle Banks was recognised for the warmth, reliability, and genuine investment she brings to her role.

Nominated by operations manager Ms Mardi Belle, Michelle was praised for regularly stepping in outside her rostered hours and for building real trust with patrons and staff alike.

Rural Fire Service volunteer Ms Alison Bird was honoured for an 37 years of volunteer service with the

Service, having joined in 1989.

Over that time, she has held positions including deputy captain, senior deputy captain, secretary, treasurer, community engagement officer and callout officer.

Her nomination was submitted by her son Ben, captain of the Gosford Catering Unit

because We Care Boutique volunteer fundraiser Ms Vicki de Carle was recognised for her efforts which injected more than \$50,000 into the service through events including a Christmas in July dinner, the Bling It Up Gala Ball, a Sustainable Saturday Fashion Sale, two international Bali boutique retreats, and a Frockin the Outback project, which delivered 2,000 dresses to 350 women in remote New South Wales.

Nominator community engagement officer Ms Sharyn Becker described her as "a true Gosford community champion".

Rise Foundation manager Mr Satali Tevi Fuimaono was recognised for his work with young people through the junior boxing program at PCYC Umina and his Kings Club men's wellbeing initiative.

He was nominated by PCYC

Umina manager Ms Judy Tolhurst, who described him as a man who lives by the belief that "if a child is on the street, his job is not done."

FunHaus Factory founders Ms Glitta Supernova and Mr Juan locco were jointly recognised for their contribution to arts, culture, and inclusion on the Peninsula.

As directors of the Coastal Twist Festival since 2019, they have raised approximately \$60,000 and overseen a volunteer team of 170.

Nominated by Rotary Brisbane Water club directors Ms Jayne Mote and Mr Mitchell Gordon, the pair were described as embodying the Rotary ideal of "Service above self".

Rotary Brisbane Water president Ms Cherie Simpson said: "These awards exist to shine a light on people who make our community stronger, kinder, and more connected,

"Every one of this year's recipients is a reminder of what the peninsula is capable of when people choose to give their best."

Pictured is Ms Michelle Banks with her award.

SOURCE:
Media release, 11 May 2026
Mitchell Gordon, Rotary Brisbane Water

Three arrested

Three teenage boys were arrested in Woy Woy on Friday and were charged with 39 offences.

They were taken to Gosford Police Station where a 15-year-old boy was charged with 14 offences.

A second 15-year-old boy was charged with 15 offences.

A 16-year-old boy was charged with 10 offences.

The charges relate to break-ins at six homes and a business in Umina Beach, Pearl Beach, Erina, Wamberal, Patonga and Killcare Heights in April and May.

SOURCE:
Media release, 16 May 2026
NSW Police media

Double bill for next folk club concert

The Troubadour Central Coast Folk Club will have a double bill at its next concert at 2pm on Sunday, May 24.

The concert at the Everglades Country Club will feature The Go-Twos as well as Cameron Jones, Marcus Holden and Friends.

Cameron Jones, Marcus Holden and Friends is an assortment of talented musical friends, according to club president Mr Michael Fine.

They are expected to play "an amusing and exciting mix of gypsy jazz, classic folk and some of the great Americana classics".

French-style gypsy jazz guitar and jazz fiddle player Cameron Jones will be joined by fiddler and multi-instrumentalist Marcus Holden, Garry Steel on accordion and David Seidel on bass.

The afternoon will be opened by The Go-Twos, delivering "a menu of what could be called antipodean folk and bluegrass", said Mr Fine.

"They blend this with influences from Irish, Scottish and Celtic folk resulting in a captivating musical experience."

The group will launch their new album Kurrawarra at the concert.

Mr Fine said recent concerts had proved popular, with last month's concert "a packed house", so bookings were advisable.

He put down their success to "the quality and calibre of the artists the club has been able to attract".

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

With inquiries, phone 4342 6716.

SOURCE:
Media release, 7 May 2026
Michael Fine, Troubadour Folk Club



Three free book launches and a free book club discussion will be held on the Peninsula as part of this year's Words on the Waves Festival which will run from Wednesday, May 27, to Monday, June 1.

Flesh fiction, an anthology of erotic short stories entered for last year's Not Quite Write prize, will be launched by curators Ed Bicioc and Amanda Scotland at 6:30pm on Thursday, May 21, at Bar Toto in Ettalong.

The theme was "Making the unsexy irresistible".

"Bold and inventive, these stories prove desire can bloom in the most unexpected places," they say.

No Credit, All Impact by Adam

Free events at Words on the Waves

Hennessy will be launched at the Work Collective in Umina at 6:30pm on Friday, May 22.

In conversation with Teresa Read, "for readers interested in purposeful leadership, high-trust teams and creating lasting change, this timely conversation explores a powerful alternative to ego-driven success".

Wingspan: a Festschrift for Robert Adamson edited by Judith Beveridge will be launched at Bar Toto at 6:30pm on Thursday, June 25.

The book "brings together essays, letters, poems and

remiscences from acclaimed Australian and international writers ... celebrating the life, work and enduring influence of one of Australia's greatest poets".

The two and a half hour session will be conducted by Judith Beveridge and Mark Mordue, with an introduction by Devin Johnstone and a reading by Anthony Lawrence.

A free book club discussion with Toni Jordan in conversation with Jane Tara will be held in the Festival Marquee at the Peninsula Recreation Precinct, Umina, at 8:30am on Saturday, May 30.

Toni Jordan will talk about her

eighth novel, Tenderfoot, a coming-of-age story set in Brisbane in the 1970s.

Words on the Waves Festival will run at venues across the Central Coast with a raft of invited authors.

Personal tales will be invited from Dame Quentin Bryce, Bob Brown, Rosalie Ham, Bob Carr, Tara Moss and Sarah Wilson.

"Literary heavyweights" will include Steve Toltz, Thomas Keneally, Heather Rose, Bri Lee, Jacqueline Maley and Louise Milligan.

Authors "from the cutting edge of society, culture and politics"

include Niki Savva, Amy Remeikis, Tracey Lee Holmes, and Mark Kenny.

This year new event formats such as historic walks and publisher pitch sessions join old favourites: author talks, headliner conversations, literary readings, storytelling soirees, writing workshops and a literary cruise.

Weekend passes cost \$170, while day passes cost \$95. A \$3.50 booking fee applies.

Tickets for single session talks at The Dip in the Festival Marquee cost \$15.

Bookings are essential including for free events, which may be made via <https://penne.ws/EFaJVC>.

SOURCE:
Media release,
Words on the Waves



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Education

Demountable toilet to be removed from Umina

The Education Department is removing a demountable toilet from Umina Beach Public School, which is located behind Building D on the south side of the school.

The demountable is no longer required by the school and will not be replaced.

After removal, the area will return to "open play space for students to enjoy".

Due to the age, condition and known presence of bonded asbestos, the demountable will be demolished on site before being removed next Saturday, May 23.

"All work involving asbestos containing materials will include

safety measures such as personal protective equipment, air monitoring and temporary fencing to restrict public access," according to a notice from the Department.

"Once removed, an independent hygienist will inspect the area and confirm it can be reopened for school activities.

"All work will be done in accordance with work health and safety laws and the NSW Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan.

"All work will be completed by licensed asbestos contractors."

SOURCE: Newsletter, 14 May 2026 Umina Beach Public School



Students take part in Talent ID sessions

Stage two students at Woy Woy South Public School participated in "Talent ID" sessions on Tuesday, May 12, to assess them for sporting

talent.

Successful candidates will be eligible to join the Peninsula schools' Future's Academy sporting development program.

"All students showed great sportsmanship and skills," said school principal Mr Matt Barr.

SOURCE: Social media, 13 May 2026 Woy Woy South Public School

New assistant principal

St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School has a new assistant principal this term.

She is Ms Christine Hibbard, who was previously at St John Vianney Primary School in Morisset.

"She brings bright energy and a wealth of experience from neighbouring catholic school communities, the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle and Parramatta Diocese," said school principal Ms Nicole Davies.

"It's been wonderful to see so many of our students and families introducing themselves to Christine and our school community here in Woy Woy."

SOURCE: Social media, 5 May 2026 SJB Catholic Primary School



School crossing supervisor

Transport for NSW is advertising for a school crossing supervisor for St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School.

Applications for the permanent part-time position close on Wednesday, May 20.

"School crossings require 20 hours of supervision per fortnight, during morning drop off and afternoon pick up times, Monday to Friday during the school term.

"School crossing supervisors receive \$26.43 per hour plus superannuation and holiday pay." For more information, email sandhini.chaudhary@transport.nsw.gov.au.

The school is not involved in the recruitment for the position.

Principal Ms Nicole Davies said: "After much perseverance of our school staff and community, we are thrilled to share that Transport for NSW is advertising for a school crossing supervisor." She said the person would help protect the school community and be "a second set of eyes for local motorists at busy times".

SOURCE: Social media, 14 May 2026 SJB Catholic Primary School Woy Woy



Medals for Sam

Brisbane Water Secondary College Umina campus Year 7 student Sam Rugendyke has been presented with medals from the NSW All Schools Secondary triathlon and aquathlon championships.

Sam dominated in the aquathlon

and triathlon events in the junior boys multi-class solo category F, finishing first in NSW All Schools and first in Combined High Schools in both events.

As a result, Sam was selected for the NSW team.

SOURCE: Social media, 9 May 2026 BWSC Umina

Open day at Ettalong

Ettalong Public School will hold an open day for next year's Kindergarten students on Wednesday, June 3, with one-hour sessions from 9:30am and from 6pm.

The sessions include a school tour, student performances and information.

Kindergarten enrolments are now being accepted for 2027, via the school website.

Your enrolment will automatically place your child in our transition-to-school program called Head Start.

This program runs over four consecutive weeks in Term 4.

Children will be placed in one of two groups.

Short meetings with families will take place in Term 3 between September 16 and 18.

SOURCE: Media release, 11 May 2026 Ettalong Public School

Four selected for North Sydney touch football trials

Four students from the Peninsula have been selected to attend the North Sydney touch football trials at Narrabeen on Thursday, May 28.

They are Zane Proctor and JJ Boros from Woy Woy South Public School and Elise Abel from Umina Beach Public School and

Faith Hosking from Ettalong Public School.

They were selected at combined zone trials for Southern Central Coast and Brisbane Water Primary Schools Sports Associations at Bill Sohler Park Ourimbah, on Tuesday, May 5.

SOURCE: Social media, 7 May 2026 Southern Central Coast Primary School Sports Association

Australian

The Umina Beach Public School's Years 3-6 choir recently joined the Coastal a Cappella for a performance.

As part of a 100-voice choir, they sang I Am Australian.

SOURCE: Social media, 3 May 2026 Umina Beach Public School

Named as finalist

The head teacher of Technological and Applied Studies and of Vocational Education and Training at Woy Woy campus of Brisbane Water Secondary College has been recognised in Central Coast awards.

Ms Angela Cox has been named a finalist for "VET Teacher of the Year - Central Coast".

SOURCE: Social media, 14 May 2026 BWSC Woy Woy





Dojo holds open training night for 10th anniversary

The Umina dojo of Jishukan Ryu martial arts will hold a 10th anniversary training night on Monday, May 25, at the PCYC in Umina.

"The dojo is opening its doors to anyone interested in experiencing a traditional martial art firsthand," said instructor Mr John Finn.

"Visitors are invited to come along and watch the training or join in.

"Beginners are always welcome."

The anniversary is expected to attract past and present students to celebrate the dojo's journey together.

"Since opening in May 2016, the dojo has welcomed students from 12 years of age and all experience levels, helping them build confidence, fitness, discipline and practical self-defence skills in a supportive environment," said Mr Finn.

"For more than half a century, the traditions of Jishukan Ryu have been passed from generation to generation, preserving a unique

blend of Japanese martial arts and discipline.

"Founded during the reign of Emperor Hirohito of Japan by Soke Shuho Sugita, the first head of school, Jishukan Ryu teaches a dynamic combination of jujitsu (locks and throws), kempo (striking techniques) and jojitsu (short staff fighting).

"The art was brought to Australia in 1961 by Colonel James Laughlin, who trained directly under Soke Sugita while stationed in Japan.

"What began as a small class in Canberra has since grown into a respected martial arts community with dojos across the country.

"Today, Jishukan Ryu is taught in Japan, the United States and throughout Australia, where there are now eight dojos nationwide."

Jishukan Ryu is a member of the Australian Jujitsu Federation, the peak body for jand related martial arts recognised by the Australian Sports Commission.

SOURCE:
Media release, 14 May 2026
John Finn, Jishukan Ryu Umina

Mixed pairs bridge championship serves as State qualifier

Eleven pairs of bridge players faced off in this year's Brisbane Water Bridge Club Championship for Mixed Pairs, played over two sessions on Thursdays, April 30 and May 7.

The high-stakes event also served as a qualifier for the State Championships, with the top-performing eligible pairs earning sponsorship to compete in the tournament finals.

Champions were Sylvia Foster and Jaan Oitmaa who secured a commanding victory, finishing with a comfortable two per cent lead over the field.

Runners-up, continuing their recent streak of excellent form, were Margaret Driscoll and Steve Calcroft.

In third place were club stalwarts Judy Wulff and David Adams.

Overall results of the State Mixed Pairs qualifying event were:

1 Jaan Oitmaa, Sylvia Foster, session one 60.67, session two 52.40, total 113.07.

2 Margaret Driscoll, Stephen Calcroft 59.67, 51.60, 111.27.

3 Judy Wulff, David Adams 47.00, 60.00, 107.00.

4 Wendy Mitchell, Barry Foster 50.00, 55.20, 105.20.

5 Karen Ody, Jim Routledge 57.67, 46.80, 104.47.

6 David Bowerman, Dasha Brandt 56.33, 47.60, 103.93.

7 Chris Hasemore, Donelle Foate 42.00, 60.40, 102.40.

8 Geoffrey Maltby, Edith Marshall 62.00, 39.60, 101.60.

9 Lynne Rainford, Hilary Owen 51.33, 41.20, 92.53.

10 Elaine Hume, Peter Hume



36.00, 51.60, 87.60.

11 Pamela Joseph, Susan McCall 36.00, 46.80, 82.80.

State Mixed Pairs Qualifying results for week two played on May 7 were:

1 Chris Hasemore, Donelle Foate 151.0 (60.40 per cent), 0.90 red points.

2 David Adams, Judy Wulff 150.0 (60.00), 0.63.

3 Wendy Mitchell, Barry Foster 138.0 (55.20), 0.45.

4 Jaan Oitmaa, Sylvia Foster 131.0 (52.40), 0.30.

5 Elaine Hume, Peter Hume 129.0 (51.60), 0.21.

5 Margaret Driscoll, Stephen Calcroft 129.0 (51.60), 0.21.

7 David Bowerman, Dasha Brandt 119.0 (47.60).

8 Karen Ody, Jim Routledge 117.0 (46.80).

8 Susan McCall, Pamela Joseph 117.0 (46.80).

8 Felicity Fane, Helen Cashman 117.0 (46.80).

11 Lynne Rainford, Hilary Owen 103.0 (41.20).

12 Geoffrey Maltby, Edith Marshall 99.0 (39.60).

State Mixed Pairs Qualifying results for week one played on April 30 were:

1 Geoffrey Maltby, Edith Marshall 186.0 (62.00 per cent), 0.90 red points.

2 Jaan Oitmaa, Sylvia Foster 182.0 (60.67), 0.63.

3 Margaret Driscoll, Stephen Calcroft 179.0 (59.67), 0.45.

4 Karen Ody, Jim Routledge 173.0 (57.67), 0.30.

5 David Bowerman, Dasha Brandt 169.0 (56.33), 0.23.

6 Lynne Rainford, Hilary Owen 154.0 (51.33), 0.18.

7 Wendy Mitchell, Barry Foster 150.0 (50.00).

8 Judy Wulff, David Adams 141.0 (47.00).

9 Chris Hasemore, Donelle Foate 126.0 (42.00).

10 Jan Kukura, Helen Cashman 124.0 (41.33).

11 Pamela Joseph, Susan McCall 108.0 (36.00).

11 Elaine Hume, Peter Hume 108.0 (36.00).

SOURCE:
Social media, 7 May 2026
Brisbane Water Bridge Club

WHAT'S ON at ETTALONG BOWLING CLUB

Exciting times ahead at Ettalong Bowling Club! Join us on a journey of new experiences and thrilling developments. Get ready for a fresh twist on Trivia at our brand-new Springwood Brasserie, officially opening Wednesday, 20th May!

SOFT LAUNCH ALERT! Dive into our exciting new offer on Wednesday's featuring delicious \$1.00 wings! But that's not all—indulge in mouth-watering sides like homemade Jalapeño poppers, roasted corn on the cob, and hot rubbed hash browns!

Coast Trivia is perfect for families and friends looking for a night of fun and friendly competition. With fantastic vouchers up for grabs, why not give it a shot? Plus, it's FREE to play! Commencing every Wednesday from 6.30pm – 8.30pm. Mark your calendar and bring your A-game!

Watch this space for more upcoming offers and promotions or visit our website, club app or head into to see our friendly staff.

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

THE BEST-KEPT SECRET ON THE CENTRAL COAST

Sport

Water polo players among champions at afternoon tea

Two members of the Woy Woy Wombats Water Polo club have been among eight sporting champions recognised for their achievements during an afternoon tea hosted by Member for Robertson Dr Gordon Reid.

They were Brychan Drewe and Reef Mueller who both took part in the Australian Youth Water Polo Championships.

The afternoon tea took place on Wednesday, April 29, and

acknowledged sportspeople who have received Federal Government support through the Local Sporting Champions Program.

Dr Reid said: "It was fantastic to hear about all their sporting achievements and what they are working towards in the future."

"I was able to recognise each sportsperson and ask questions about their sporting endeavours and how they plan to use the support they have received from the Federal Government."

SOURCE:
Media release, 7 May 2026
Gordon Reid, Member for Robertson



Ettalong brings home the pennant

Ettalong Bowling Club's winning the region final Grade 4. The club was also runner-up in

SOURCE:
Social media, 4 May 2026
Ettalong Bowling Club

Scarlett qualifies for world champs

Woy Woy secondary student Scarlett Arthur-Sinderberry has qualified for the Cruiser Women 17-24 category at the BMX World Cup in Brisbane this July.

The 2026 BMX Racing World Championships will be held at the Brisbane SX International BMX Centre from July 17 to 25.

SOURCE:
Social media, 5 May 2026
BWSC Woy Woy



Firefighters win way to world fitness racing championships

Peninsula firefighters Kiera Pride and Hannah Veen have qualified for the world championships in a fitness racing sport, after winning the 35-39 year age group in the Women's Double in Brisbane.

They placed fourth overall in the women's double event. The world championships of hyrox will be held in Stockholm, Sweden, in June.

Kiera is a full-time fire fighter with Fire and Rescue NSW at Kariong, while Hannah is a "retained" firefighter at Umina fire station in Trafalgar Ave.

"The sport combines endurance running with functional fitness stations including rowing, sled push-pull, burpees and wall balls," said Kiera.

"As firefighters, balancing



shift work, training and family life has been a huge challenge, so qualifying for Worlds together is something we are incredibly proud of."

Hannah and Kiera are pictured on the winners' podium at the Brisbane event.

SOURCE:
Media release, 13 May 2026
Keira Pride, Umina



Triples championship

Umina Beach Men's Bowling Club held the final of its Triples Championship on Sunday, May 3.

Brian Butterworth, Roger Twells (substituting for Lindsay Hicks) and Kevin Bettridge 26 defeated

Steve Leon, Dan Doherty and Joel Austin 16.

This was Steve's and Dan's first final.

SOURCE:
Social media, 3 May 2026
Peter Springett, UBMBC

Second Big Pickle held at Pearl Beach

The Pearl Beach Tennis Bowls and Pickleball Club held its second Big Pickle earlier this month, joined by a team from Central Coast Pickleball Club Woy Woy.

Over three hours, they played "as many exhilarating matches as we could squeeze in".

They had a "gourmet afternoon tea" and "popped a few corks and raised some glasses".

Sponsored prizes went to Gold, Silver, Bronze and Highly Commended medallists.

These included a pickle paddle, a magnum of wine and three jars of exotic pickled vegetables.

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



Junior Touch seeks help

Peninsula Junior Touch Association is seeking a representative co-ordinator and a grounds officer.

"These roles play a huge part in helping our players, families and club thrive both on and off the field," according to the association. "The association is powered

by passionate people from our community, and we're looking for a few more great people to join the team."

For further information, email admin@peninsulajuniortouch.com.au.

SOURCE:
Social media, 13 May 2026
Peninsula Junior Touch