

# COMMUNITY NEWS

No. 876 Ph: 4374 1039 Mo: 0412 669 649 Email: enquiries@cnews1.com.au Web: cnews1.com.au 21st May 2021

## MMUC COMMITTEE PRESS RELEASE

Mangrove Mountain Union Church belongs to the Christian Community of the Mangrove Mountain area and was designed and built to be used for regular worship by Christians of this community.

From its beginning in 1912, Christian people who attended the church have lovingly cared for both the church and its property.

In 1964 a Management Board which was called the Mangrove Mountain Union Church Association was formed by church attendees with the express purpose of managing, repairing, letting, improving, selling, mortgaging or otherwise dealing with control of the property. This Management Board is still commissioned through the MMUC Inc. Constitution with this same task as designated by each group of leaders since that date.

In order to be a member of the Association a person must be a representative of a group that meets and holds services in the building on a regular basis. That person must be nominated by a Minister of the Word, leaders, office bearers or members of the group that meets or holds services at the building on a regular basis. The church from which that person comes must have been in existence for at least one year on the Mangrove Mountain church site. The above criteria for membership is still the case in 2021.

The decision to sell the property was a very difficult and heart-breaking one to make. It was based on the following:

- the ageing and numerically-declining congregation
- lack of community support over the past few years especially community attendance at services
- rising costs to maintain the buildings and grounds
- the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic resulting in little or no income over the last twelve months
- a forecast of little income able to be generated.

The MMUC Inc. Committee understands that the Mangrove

## MMUC The Community Will Help

The Union Church is not in itself a religion, it is a property and church building that is shared by Christian denominations primarily for the conduct of Christian services with certain other community activities also permitted. It is established as an association of members by persons sharing the same aims and objectives.

The announcement by the MMUC management committee that they intended to sell the church left the community shocked, devastated and furious.

Residents of the district understand that with all community organisations in the district, the various management committees take on a significant workload and provide a great service to the community. This applies to groups such as the Kulnura Hall committee, Somersby Hall committee, several local Crown Land trusts, the Country Fair committee, the Community Group, the MDA, Spencer Progress Group, River Cares group, Scouts, Guides, Childrens Centre, the various local District Rural Fire Brigades, CWA etc etc.

Mountain Union Church facility has been part of the Mountain community for a very long time. However, the reality is that its ongoing operation is unsustainable. The current MMUC Inc. Committee would love to see the Church remain on the Mountain as it is part of our collective history. We would like to see it continue as a place of worship in accordance with over a hundred years of tradition. There have been enquiries from independent religious communities indicating strong interest.

Alternatively, a community group may purchase the property and care for it as the current and past committees have tried to do.

It is hoped that the present buildings can be reinvigorated by new owners and continue to be part of the history of Mangrove Mountain.

*Mangrove Mountain Union Church  
Committee*

Over time committee memberships change, persons leave, new persons join but the groups carry on, providing the services that help the community.

All groups have to raise funds to pay bills, purchase equipment, maintain assets, nothing new or unusual in this. All groups also have to put in labour to clean and maintain the assets and to do other works, again, nothing new or unusual.

The MMUC committee stated several reasons for wanting to sell the property and all have been addressed by the community.

Since the notice of sale, the community has rallied strongly and has suggested practical, reasonable and achievable proposals by which the church would not have to be sold and could continue for another 100 years, providing spiritual services to the residents of the district.

- The current committee could delay the sale and allow the community time to increase their engagement with the church and after the twelve months stipulated by the constitution, new members can join the committee.
- Alternatively, the committee has the authority under the Associations Incorporation Act to amend the constitution and can facilitate an increase in membership and the appointment of new committee members. The Church's own 2016 Constitution states:

*"34 Special resolution*

*A resolution of the Association is a special resolution:*

*(a) if it is passed by a majority which comprises at least three-quarters of such members of the Association as, being entitled under these rules so to do, vote in person or by proxy at a general meeting of which at least twenty-one (21) days written notice specifying the intention to*

*continued on pg 3*

**STOP !**

Next issue Published  
4th June 2021

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**\*\* 28th May '21 \*\***

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# The Sign

The sign outside the Union church informs us that “There is a time for everything in God’ Kingdom”. This seemed a bit vague and ambiguous to me, so in seeking a sign for the significance of the sign, I popped into Ken Duncan’s Gallery at Erina, as one does when omens and portents could be useful. Being budget week I expected I would have to push past a posse of psephologists pointlessly hovering around a photograph of an eagle, but they had gone to pore over the entrails elsewhere.

And then I saw it. A photograph titled “Outback Oasis”. It brought to mind how gardens have long been regarded as sacred places; places of refuge and renewal, sites of mythological significance such as Eden and Gethsemane. Or as Ken Duncan writes “They are havens where, if you can be still enough, you can feel the presence of God and hear his voice”.

I never seem to get enough time for the gardening. I realised that in God’s Kingdom it is a time for gardening, for nurturing and caring for what we have. It is not a time to desert the garden in our care. After all, you reap what you sow.

A garden is the more successful if it is created to benefit from the variety of colours, textures and forms in the



natural world, and the contrasts and harmonies in their juxtaposition. Many plants benefit their neighbours, perhaps this is also the case with people.

A garden which consists of a few daffodils and nothing else will soon lose its appeal. Just as it takes a village to raise a child, so an individual or group is part of a community, and needs that community to flourish. There is a shared responsibility. Can we really say: “I am not my brother’s keeper”?

But perhaps I am missing the point of the revelation. Could it be that now

is the time for the church committee members to put down their burden, attend to their own gardens and allow their neighbours in the community to carry on the mission?

Why “sell the farm” when there is no need to, and before there is time to listen to offers of help.

Then again the sign outside the church might just be a warning that there is no need to rush in God’s Kingdom, and that I should slow down and watch the road instead of reading signs when there is a tricky turn ahead.

Neil Berecry-Brown

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propose the resolution as a special resolution was given in accordance with these rules, or

(b) where it is made to appear to the Director-General that it is not practicable for the resolution to be passed in the manner specified in rule 34 (a) if the resolution is passed in a manner specified by the Director-General.”

- The committee has said that they find the workload too onerous and just don't want to do it any more, the community understands this and there are capable residents ready assist with or to take over these duties.
- The church is a focal point in the community for spiritual occasions (weddings, funerals etc) and it is ironic that after the sale announcement funerals for two residents were held there.
- The church is a shrine to the history of the district and those who have contributed to its advancement over the generations.
- COVID19 is not an excuse, there was government funding on offer and it is a one time event that is now being managed by government.
- There are many residents who are experienced in business, management and finance and who are able to assist with the management and financial planning and marketing of the church. Solutions can be found to deal with cost and income issues.
- The underlying requirement to be Christian faith based association can be maintained, services increased and the church not sold if all in the community just practice what they preach.

Some key points.

#### Membership

For 93 years membership of the Union Church was open to anyone in the district, not just Christians but with the proviso that the Church was to be used for Christian worship.

In 2005 the constitution was changed and membership was restricted to three persons from each of the Christian groups meeting at the church on a regular basis (and up to five if there were less than three groups)

In the 2016 constitution the maximum number of representatives of a group was increased to nine if only one group was involved.

#### Constitution Limitations

There are no requirements in the current constitution that explicitly require the property to be sold.

In fact, the original constitution stated that if for 12 months no religious service had been held, the property could be used “for the intellectual advancement of the residents of the Mangrove Mountain District as the Committee shall deem fit”

Under the Associations Incorporation Act, committees have the authority by which it could make a range of changes to their constitution. The MMUC constitution could be changed to address some of the problems the committee has identified.

#### Changes to the Constitution

Since the 1964 constitution, the constitution has been changed four times.

The last of these changes, in 2016, was made by the current committee, so it is not a new experience to them and there are legal experts in the community who could help, if required, with new amendments and others in the community who could cover any associated costs.

#### Community Support

Since being built in 1912 by the residents of the district, the church, grounds and associated buildings have been managed, maintained and funded by the residents.

Over the years there were a multitude of improvements, pulpit, altar, reading desk and font added, floors sanded and polished. The building was clad, airconditioning installed, pews

replaced, murals hand painted, the list goes on.

Over the years there has been loads of community support in cash and kind. Just the Country Fair alone has donated tens of thousands of dollars over the years for improvements that increased the value of the church. These funds could have gone to other local uses in schools, halls etc but could be lost to organisations outside the district.

Horticulturalists in the district have donated tens of thousands of dollars worth of plants for fundraising sales.

Local residents have carried out extensive plumbing works.

Currently, residents are prepared to volunteer to carry out regular maintenance. There is absolutely no shortage of community support.

#### Finances

There is ample scope for sufficient funds to be raised to support the operating and maintenance expenses. Up to 2018 there were many groups using the church and hall but for various reasons some moved to other venues and some disbanded.

At the time of the announcement of the sale the church had \$14,000 in the bank, a sizeable amount and much more than most of the other community groups.

#### The MMUC Committee

The residents of the district greatly appreciate the efforts of the current committee and sincerely thank them and understand that they now find the task too demanding. The residents of the district recognise the gravity of the situation and have stepped up and are ready to take the reins.

The committee is now in a position to set in place a plan to hand the baton to the next generation, another committee who can continue to manage the MMUC for the conduct of Christian Services and the benefit of all the residents of the district.

Keith Aranjó

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# Union Church - A Letter

I am a relative newcomer to the area and I am opposed to the proposed sale of the Union Church in the near future. However, I am even more concerned about what appears to be the current vilification of 4 senior community members in their unavoidable decision that they can no longer continue as the custodians of the church and its grounds. All these people are well over the age of retirement and several have major health issues. They have been valiantly fighting for years to try and keep the church and it's greatly hurting them now to have to admit their defeat and their inability to carry on. The COVID pandemic was the final issue which they could not battle and has forced their hand in making their decision.

I have been a regular member of the congregation and have not been in agreement with some of the previous decisions made by the committee members either. But these 4 people (and some others who have now passed on) have been the ones who have been entrusted with decisions for the church and grounds. For years, they have been cleaning, maintaining and repairing the buildings, looking after the grounds and raising the funds to pay the ongoing expenses for

the buildings and the site. The income they get for the occasional hall hire (and some people have complained about those fees), wedding and services for just a handful of people do not cover the costs of maintaining the site. The insurance alone for the old wooden church built in a bush fire rated area are enormous. The church itself is in desperate need of a major upgrade and the cost for that is the vicinity of \$100,000. It badly requires the replacement of the cladding, which needs removing and replacing, and the windows which are also in need of a repair.

Can I ask you to think about when you have offered to assist them with any of these management issues or even the maintenance of the grounds?

Now the committee members are no longer able to maintain the church grounds so contracted someone to maintain them. But I have heard that this person has, on social media, said he is now maintaining the yards without any payment being provided. This accusation is likely to be untrue and can be easily resolved in the examination of the church financial records.

As many are aware the major fund-raising effort is with the sale of plants which have been provided by local businesses. Funds raised in this way is usually aimed at providing the funds for the insurance of the property. The job of collecting the plants and then

selling them is arduous and tiring and, as the 2 major fund-raising events occur on the long weekends in June and October it also involves all of the committee members who need to spend the whole of the weekend manning their stalls. This is no weekend holiday for these senior citizens.

The idea of the upcoming plant sale, which was being proposed and planned, was for any funds raised to go as a donation to the Country Fair Committee, not the church or the church committee. Again, posts on social media have reported this incorrectly and as further persecution for the commit members.

Another difficulty the committee has faced has been to locate a minister who can come and run services. There is a lack of ministers and most have their own commitments.

Since the announcement of the proposed sale there has been increased interest and attendance at the church services. It seems the announcement of the sale has at last (and no doubt too late) raised an interest in the church. While this is commendable, many of these people arrive well after the service has commenced and their arrival is often noisy and appears to be aimed at disrupting the service. Then, if they decide to accept the invitation for morning tea, they enjoy the privilege of being waited upon while still showing their rudeness and not even allowing any friendly

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conversation with those people who have been waiting upon them. After a recent service, conducted by an elderly minister who travelled a long distance to deliver the service, a person who came to the service and didn't like the sermon was heard complaining to the minister's wife. The minister himself was not approached – rudeness in the extreme.

The committee members are bound by the constitution of the Union Church in their guidance of custodial ship of the church. They are also bound by the

same constitution for their decision to list the church buildings and site for sale. This constitution was not written by them. It was written by the people who founded the church 100 years ago. The committee have sought legal advice about this and they have been advised that, if they don't abide by that constitution, they could be held liable and prosecuted by the Department of Fair Trading.

The committee members are not happy about their decision but cannot see any other course of action which

is open to them. They should not be persecuted and are not villains. They were aware their decision would upset many in the community but could not see any other option they could take. Rather than condemnation these committee members should be thanked for all the years they have stepped up and cared for the site and then for the courageous decision they have been forced to make when they are no longer able to carry on.

*Dr Lorraine Dickson  
Mangrove Mountain*

## DENTAL ANNOUNCEMENT

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# PEATS RIDGE CWA

Our meeting held on 3rd May discussions were made on the upcoming events.

So, 15th May we are having a stall at the East Gosford markets (St Patricks school grounds) and then at the Harvest Festival at Somersby Gardens on the 12 th and 13 th where we will have Devonshire Teas, Soups and other delicious food - so come along and visit us if you can and support our great branch.

We are pleased to welcome our newest member Nicole and together with our other new members Tessa and Julie Anne we can have extra pairs of hands and they can share their talents with us.

Till next time take care,

*Christine Sanfilippo  
Publicity Officer*

## HELP KEEP OUR AREA CLEAN

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# Mangrove Mountain Union Church

What is the committee that manage the Mangrove Mountain Union Church up to? Selling the Union Church that has been part of the Mountain District since 1912 and until recent years available for all folk to use. With only a few individuals on the committee they push a line that due to falling revenues it has to be sold, yet on their own admission they have funds to cover the coming year?

With underlying secrecy and stone walling at every post, the question remains why sell in the first place and where do the proceeds of the sale end up?

If you consider the countless hours of individual volunteers and district businesses that have contributed to the betterment of the Church and grounds over the decades is it any wonder current and past residents are not happy.

Considering the Union Church was built by residents on the Mountain district for use by residents of the Mountain district if the sale was to happen it would only be fair that 100% of proceeds received must be used

# Somersby CWA

First I would like to report on our Friendship/craft Wednesday's. These mornings are going very well with as many as 10 enjoying the friendship. Every one is welcome.

On the 8th April our Northumberland Group held their Handicraft display along with Cooking competition, Somersby ladies were very happy with there efforts with 8 items going though to State level and very excited when Carmen's Bobbin lace was given Champion piece of Handicraft at Group. In the cooking ; Sue' s sultana cake, Leeanne's Sponge & Banana Bread and the young cook from Kariong/Mountains high school Butterfly cakes all gained first and off to State level. Unfortunately we didn't have any luck at State level, but our Branch was very happy with our members efforts. Well done ladies, we will try again next year.

The State Conference was held the first week of May in Bega, members Liz and Judy represented Somersby (numbers were limited due to Covid19)

within the Mountain district!

Whether your religious or not or maybe like me limited to weddings and funerals, once the Church is sold it is gone.

*Mark Townsend*

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Above: Carmen with her Champion trophies

Right: Liz, Cultural Officer (L) and Judy, Vice President (R)



and gave a full report to our May meeting. Thank you Liz and Judy.

Somersby Hall committee is opening the Hall on Saturday 12th June with a History display and CWA has agreed to help with Tea/ coffee, scones and slices, with a handicrafts.

So pop in have a chat/ coffee and you may even find some familiar faces in the History display.

Cheers, stay safe.

Sue Ward  
Publicity officer

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- Restocker Steers 200/300kg \$4.85 - \$6.10
- Restocker Heifer 250/300kg \$4.70

- \$5.50
- Yearling Steers 300/400kg \$4.50 - \$5.32
- No Yearling Heifer to realy quote
- Feeder Steers 400/530kg \$4.18 to \$4.78
- Bulls \$2.10 - \$2.50/kg
- Cows \$2.40 - \$2.84/kg
- Bullocks \$3.10 - \$3.30/kg

### Quotes

- Angus Steers \$5.90 - 298kg - \$1701
- Hereford Steers \$4.28 - 449kg - \$1914
- Angus x Limo Heifers \$5.94 - 192kg = \$1140
- Speckle Park Steers \$4.76 - 416kg - \$1980
- Angus Steers \$4.78 - 406kg - \$1943
- Limousin Steers \$5.28 - 277kg - \$1460
- 16 Angus Steers Milk tooth \$4.54 -

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**Meet Kate**

We are delighted to introduce our recently appointed Acreage Sales Agent, Kate Kerslake. Kate grew up and spent the better part of 25 years in the Mangrove Mountain area, and continues to have intimate knowledge of the Mountain Districts and rural properties. Kate brings with her 14 years of sales, marketing and business knowledge from running her own equine business, heading up equine and companion animal business pursuits, as well as targeted sales and marketing within the Tourism industry.

After a short stint in Sydney, Kate and her fiancé Matt have returned home to the Coast, with Kate looking forward to meeting with vendors in order to offer her assistance should they be considering selling or simply looking for a market appraisal.

Kate's addition to the *Central Coast SELECT Properties* team will add enormously to our premium service, whether it be vendors seeking the highest possible price for their property or buyers seeking professional service from an agency that really is focused on absolute integrity in all we do.

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# ARTS NEWS WHAT'S ON AT THE WOLLOMBI CULTURAL CENTRE

The Wollombi Valley Arts Council encourages and fosters all kinds of artistic and cultural expression within the Wollombi Valley in order to support and promote artists and our community.

Please visit our website [www.wollombi.org](http://www.wollombi.org)

## OUR CURRENT EXHIBITION:

'Laguna Collective'

8 - 23 May 2021, Daily 10am - 4pm  
Old Fireshed Gallery

Laguna Collective consists of five artists/craft people who have come together to present a wide range of their creations.

- Ross Zimmerman creates still life images of fruit and vegetables, framed photography on stone.

- Hannes van der Merwe combines his interests in carpentry and knitting and spinning and will demonstrate the use of his handmade wheel and wool combs.

- Kate Zimmerman knits felted baskets and tea cosies as well as wristwarmers, beanies and other winter warmers for young and young-at-heart.

- Jane Mowatt spins local fleeces

of sheep and alpacas into yarn and knits beanies, socks, wristwarmers and scarves.

- Linda Wilkinson will be exploring her love of printmaking, both on fabric and paper. Her aim is to bring beauty to functional linen items through her original designs and use of colour. She also continues to experiment with different printing techniques on paper.

## The Little Yengo Gallery

We are delighted to introduce a new artist, Lindsay Jane Rowcliff (aged 14), artwork shown at right.

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- ◆ 3 spacious bedrooms, light and airy master suite has ensuite and walk in robe, whilst the remaining bedrooms have plenty of natural light and bush views through large picture windows.
- ◆ Contemporary style, with NSW Spotted Gum flooring, raked ceilings and slow combustion heater in living area,
- ◆ Kitchen is designed for those that enjoy cooking.
- ◆ Large bathroom is finished to a high standard and features a large soaking bathtub.
- ◆ Solar-electric boosted hot water.
- ◆ 12m x 7.5m (including port) shed with sealed floor, some shelving, wash tub and toilet.
- ◆ Rainwater is supplied from a 105,000 Litre concrete tank.

The property has commutable access to Upper North Shore Sydney private schools and is situated around 35 mins from the M1 motorway, and just under 60 mins to Wahroonga and the NorthConnex motorway tunnel to M2/M7.

Please contact Michael Kidd on 0439 761 440 for more information.

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# SOMERSBY/MANGROVE GREENTEAM

Last weekend we worked at Anneliese's place at Somersby tackling mostly Whisky Grass followed by a scrumptious morning tea; and previously at Kaye's place at Mangrove Mtn, swept through a burnt area hand pulling a variety of weeds including Lantana. We also learnt more about the local birds as Kaye is an expert birder and visited her beautiful waterfall on the way back for a scrumptious morning tea.

Next Somersby/Mangrove Greenteam session is on at Kayes place - Sat 12th June (kids welcome) - Contact Nicole to join in and for more details.

Cheers,  
 Nicole Heta, Project Coordinator  
 Community Environment Network  
 P: 4349 4756, M: 0404135597  
 E: habitatforwildlife@cen.org.au



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# Blues on the Mountain with Ash Grunwald -A Review-

A regular event in the Mangrove Mountain hall in the past 8 years, thanks to the enthusiasm of promoter Ryan Howard, an evening of Blues / Folk / Roots music from a range of local and national artists, this weekend saw the multi-talented Ash Grunwald head the bill, and he agreed to do two shows to assist with the COVID-19 capacity restrictions.

The opening act for the early show is local guitar prodigy, Taj Farrant, who at 11 years old, rips into a number of very grown-up rock songs on backing tapes, and delivers an impressive lead guitar line over the top – showcasing instrumental versions of tracks from Gary Moore, Eric Johnson and Journey, he also produced a fiery rendition of Steve Vai's For The Love Of God, and then a solid vocal on Gary Moore's Moving On.

The late show saw Brandon Dodd open the set, also a member of local Blues band Grizzlee Train, and best known for being part of Kasey Chamber's band, deliver an emotive solo set, which included a couple of rip-snorting blues stompers, and some haunting ballads. Brandon was at his best when letting fly on the guitar, but also has a real feel for honest bluesy songwriting and atmospheric performance at times.

Ash Grunwald has been around for much longer than he looks, over 20 years now, and has just released a new album in partnership with Josh Teskey that was due to be launched at Bluesfest. Not to be dismayed by the



cancellation, Ash has loaded up the van with surfboards and guitars, and has started an extensive regional tour taking in all parts of the country. He is such an engaging personality, full of stories and banter while perched on the Stomp Box, and alternating from deep Delta Blues, from Howlin' Wolf, and a slow version of Crossroads, to his own tracks from the Mojo and Hot Mama Vibes albums, and the new collaboration with Josh Teskey, Push The Blues Away.

Tracks that went OK in the early set appeared to get more life and soul in the late show, and while there were a couple of technical glitches, the party never stopped for long.

Whether on the steel guitar, or one of the Gretsch beauties on show, or on the more eclectic guitars used to deliver a range of tones – the overall sense of joy in the delivery of a rootsy blues stomp was palpable. As we approached the official close of 11.30, Ash asked if he could do one more – and we got the cracking Walking followed by an energetic Shake That Thing, and then an encore of Crazy and a blistering Thinking 'Bout Myself from the recent Teskey collaboration to end the night. The next NSW show

is in Sydney on June 5th, with 1000's of km in between driving up to far North QLD, then over to WA, back to Brisbane and the Gold Coast doing all the small venues, before all the Capital City shows in early June. Don't miss him!

This is the sort of show that relies on the unwavering commitment of a small number of dedicated volunteers, and the willingness of artists like Ash Grunwald to venture out to off-the-grid venues to play for a hungry music-loving audience – and judging by the activity at the merch desk from start to finish, hopefully there is enough in the kitty to replace the radio-jack that got trashed when twirling the steel guitar mid-song!

BluesontheMountain – <https://www.facebook.com/BluesontheMountain>

Pete Coates  
 Inside Edge Photography  
<https://www.facebook.com/InsideEdgePhotography>  
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 Ash Blues on Mt-0703.jpg

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# Mountain District Football Club team review

## WAA4's

These girls have been together for a few years now with a couple of ring-ins joining every year and not wanting to leave (which proves just how amazing these ladies really are). The team went up 2 grades this year and are loving the new challenges.

The girls are sponsored by Mangrove Mountain Memorial Club and Golf Course

On Mother's Day the ladies played The Entrance and came away with a 2 all draw both teams wearing pink socks to raise funds for cancer council.

We scored half way through the first half with a great 1-2 between Georgia and Alara with Georgia slotting it (what a set up by her sister) they equaled just before the half.

The second half was back and forth till Wheels took a few girls on and

got us back in front unfortunately the scores were evened up pretty quickly and that's how it would stay. Great game of football played by all.

New Goalie this year (with Evelyn retiring) Andrea has slotted in perfectly with the girls and is making great saves every week keeping the girls in the game

The back line of Katie, Sarah, Emma and Erinn has been solid for years but is now being tested and standing up well with the faster paced game

Alara and Nicky have great speed on the wings and killer crosses, Eleni (played for the 16's last year) never gives up and Bernie (who is struggling with an ankle injury at the moment) is coming on in burst and giving other team members a break

Centre Mids Georgia and new Devil Kiara both have cracking shots from anywhere on the park and are strong in the middle

Forward Amelia (wheels) can run for days and is scoring goals regularly with Cass and Anna swapping in with each other and catching up to wheel's goal count

Nina and Maddi are never to be left out because they will fill in wherever they are needed and look like they

# THE FARM GATES ARE READY TO OPEN AS HARVEST FESTIVAL RETURNS

Foodies, families and fun-seekers will flock to the Central Coast hinterland over the June long weekend for the return of one of Central Coast Council's most anticipated annual events, Harvest Festival.

A celebration of the Central Coast's spectacular hinterland, Harvest Festival 2021 will offer a wide range of unique events and experiences across thirty event hubs over 12 and 13 June.

Council Director Community and Recreation Services, Julie Vaughan said the festival is an opportunity to recognise our region's outstanding local produce and producers.

"This is a rare chance to take a glimpse behind the farm gate as you explore eight rural farming communities and their picturesque heritage villages right here on the Central Coast," Ms Vaughan said.

"Follow the Harvest Festival event trail to visit local farms, sample local produce, soak up live music and entertainment or join in a range of family-friendly activities designed to show off the unique charm of our region's hinterland.

"From paddock to plate dining experiences and wine tastings to produce picking, hands-on workshops and much more, the two-day program truly offers something for every taste and interest.

"This year, a number of event hubs are offering the opportunity to pre-

should be playing that position no matter where it is on the field

Coach Paul and Manager Donna round out the team

Cheers,

Emma



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book experiences in advance, so be sure to check out the event program early to ensure you don't miss out."

As a special treat for music lovers, this year's event will include a special showcase of local musicians from the Wyong Creek, Yarramalong and Jilliby communities as part of Council's 'Harvest Songs' program.

Community members can tune in for a live online concert on Sunday 13 June and access a selection of home-grown songs via Spotify, with full details at [info.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/harvestsongs](http://info.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/harvestsongs).

Council Administrator, Dick Persson AM said Central Coast Council is proud to be delivering this much-loved event again in 2021, which attracts visitors from across the Coast



and beyond to the region's hinterland communities.

"One of the Coast's most popular events amongst locals and visitors alike, Harvest Festival builds local pride, celebrates sustainability and boosts the local economy," Mr Persson said.

"The 2019 event attracted over 32,000 visitors, providing the Central Coast economy with an \$8million boost and while the event format moved online last year due to COVID-19 restrictions, this year's event is anticipated to deliver similar returns to our community."

Harvest Festival 2021 will run from 12-13 June 2021. To see the full calendar of events and pre-book your Harvest Festival experience, visit [info.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/harvestfestival](http://info.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/harvestfestival). Visit [centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/council/news/helpful-information-on-covid-19](http://centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/council/news/helpful-information-on-covid-19) for the latest information on interruptions to Council events and services.

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## REGULAR ACTIVITIES & MEETINGS

### RURAL FIRE SERVICES

Bucketty RFS	Weekend Training Station Maintenance General Meeting	3rd Sat, 9am-12 pm, breakfast 8.30am Every Thurs as required, generally 10am-1pm 3rd Sat in even months, at 1pm, All welcome buckettyrfs@gmail.com (02) 4998 8130
Calga-Mt. White RFS	General meeting	3rd Monday of the month, 7.30pm at Pacific Hwy Fire Station Mt. White
Kulnura VBFB at Greta Rd Station	General meeting Training	1st Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm 3rd Wednesday of the month 7.00pm
Mangrove Mountain RFS Bloodtree Rd	General Meeting Training / Maintenance	Last Wednesday of the month, 7 pm, All Wednesday's except last of month, 7 pm
Spencer RFS	General Meeting Training Junior Training	2nd Monday of the month Meeting 6.30pm 3rd Monday Maintenance 6:30pm 4th Monday Training 6:30pm E: captain.spencer@ccrfs.org.au Alison Wade 0415 668953. 4778 Wisemans Ferry Rd
Somersby RFS	General Meeting Training/Maintenance	First Wed of the month 7.30pm at the Station Every Wed night 7.30 at the Station (except before Wed general meeting)
Yarramalong RFS	Training: Nights: Morning: Maintenance/Training : General Meeting (GM): Contact:	First Wednesday of month 7pm start Last Saturday of month 8.30am start 3rd Sunday of month 8.30am start 2nd Wed of even months 7.30pm start Ph: 0409 915060 or 0418 280 764 Email: yarramalongrfs@bigpond.com

### COMMUNITY & SOCIAL

Coastlink Friendship Group		Wed 9.30am-2pm at the Health Centre, Nurses Rd, Central Mangrove
Country Women's Association (Somersby)		Second Wed of each month, at Somersby Hall Wiseman's Ferry Road, Somersby, contact Sue, 43721280 or 0407768000.
Country Women's Association (Peats Ridge & District)		First Monday of the month at Community Hall, Peats Ridge School. Any enquiries please contact Christine 0419 400163.
Country Women's Association (Mangrove Mountain Evening Branch)		2nd Tues of the month at Mangrove Mountain Hall 2-4 Waratah Rd Mangrove Mtn. Start 5pm, meeting 7pm. Ph Judy 43771728
Gosford North Inner Wheel club		2nd Wed each month 7pm at Phillip House in Kariong. Contact: Glenis Ph: 0400 486 760
Gosford World Vision Community Group		4th Tues 11am in Presbyterian Church, West Gosford Contact: Glenis Ph: 0400 586 760.
Permaculture Central Coast		Third Tuesday (except Jan.) at Tuggerah Community Hall, ANZAC Rd, 6.30pm - 9pm
Kulnura & District Garden Club		Second Monday, 9.30 for 10am start. Jacqui Maxwell 0455364262 kulnuradgc@gmail.com
Mangrove Mountain & Districts Community Group Meeting		First Thursday of the Month, 8pm, Mangrove Mountain Hall. No meeting in January. Hon. Sec Danny Willmott 0407275653
Mangrove Emergency Planning Committee		Third Wednesday bi-monthly, Mangrove Hall
Mangrove Mountain Country Fair Committee Meeting		2nd Thur of month except Jan, 7:30pm, Union Church Hall. Pres- Shane 0417 436 529
Mangrove Mountain RSL Women's Auxiliary		Third Tuesday of the month, 2pm Mangrove Mountain Memorial Club New Members welcome. Secretary Keitha Coty 43771773
Mountain District Football Club Meeting		Second Tuesday of the Month 6.30pm at the Mangrove Memorial Club
River Cares for the Lower Hawkesbury River District		President Robyn Downham 0414248224 Email rivercaresinc@gmail.com
Rotary Club Meeting		Friday 7.15am at Phillip House. 43404529
Spencer Community Progress Group Inc		President Brad Maisey, Community Meetings, 4377 1167, spencercpg2@gmail.com
Spencer Community Ladies Social Club		Last Fri of month. 12.00 noon Spencer Community Centre, Jennifer Dayes 4377 1364 Articles to: spencercpg2@gmail.com
The Mountain Tuesday Social Tennis Group		Tue 9.30am-12.30pm, Kulnura Tennis Courts. Ph Glenys Palmer on 4374 1441 for enquiries.
Somersby Equestrian Club Club & Committee Meeting		Every 2nd month. Check website for further details. www.somersbyequestrianclub.org.au
Wisemans Ferry Community Men's Shed		Tues & Sat. 9am-5pm. Contact: Alan Hunt 4566 4626 or Adrian Acheson 0448 833 781
<b>SPIRITUAL</b>		
Anglican Service - Mountain Districts		Every Sun 8am at Peats Ridge Scout Hall, Sunday School during school terms
- Wollombi		2nd & 4th Sun 10am; Holy Eucharist at St John the Evangelist, Wollombi. 0481269 653
Uniting Service		Union Church 9.00am second, fourth and fifth Sundays. Mangrove Mountain
St Barnabas Non-denominational Service Yarramalong		3rd Sunday each month, 11.00am. (Easter & (Christmas Carols dates to be advised)
Divine Retreat Centre (Ph 04 6848 6782) 160 Hensons Road, Somersby www.divineretreatcentre.org.au		Daily Holy Mass 8.00am to 8.30 am 1st Fri, 5:30pm-8:30pm Divine Mercy Friday 1st Sat, 5.30pm-9:00pm, Divine Youth Ministry, Young Adults (18-35yrs) Last Sun, 9am-4pm, One Day Retreat

(cont'd next page)

# MARKET IN REVIEW

by Jay Talbot Licenced Real Estate, Stock & Station Agent and Auctioneer



Hi Jay Talbot here from TalbotPartners Real Estate - your local lifestyle property specialists. Housing values are still rising at a rapid pace, up 6.8% over the past three months to be 10.2% higher than the COVID low in September last year.

Australian housing values lifted by 1.8% in April according to CoreLogic's national home value index, with the monthly pace of capital gains easing from a 32-year high in March. Although growth conditions have slowed, housing values are still

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rising at a rapid pace, up 6.8% over the past three months to be 10.2% higher than the COVID low in September last year.

The slowdown in housing value appreciation is unsurprising given the rapid rate of growth seen over the past six months, especially in the context of subdued wages growth. With housing prices rising faster than incomes, it's likely price sensitive sectors of the market, such as first home buyers and lower income households, are finding it harder to save for a deposit and fund transactional costs.

There is already some evidence of fewer first time buyers in the market, with the Australian Bureau of Statistics reporting a 4.8% fall in the value of first home buyer home loans through February and March.

Despite the slowdown, positive housing market conditions remain geographically broad-based with every capital city and 'rest-of-state' region continuing to record a lift in dwelling values over the month. Darwin and Sydney recorded the largest month-on-month rise in dwelling values, while Perth values recorded the lowest rate of growth amongst the capital cities at 0.8%.

The four smallest capital cities recorded double digit annual growth, reflecting a smaller COVID-related disruption and an earlier start to the growth phase last year. Melbourne is recording the lowest level of annual growth due to a larger downturn, attributable to the extended lockdown period last year. (\*NAB group economics)

All these factors make it a great time to sell. If you would like to have a chat about your property, with a no obligation appraisal, please feel free to call me anytime on 0414 079 220 or email jay@talbotpartners.co

I look forward to the opportunity of catching up with you soon!  
See you next month,

Jay

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES & MEETINGS (cont'd)

Serbian Orthodox	2nd & 4th Sun. of the month. 10 am, followed by luncheon, tea, coffee, cakes (cost \$15). George Downes Drive, Peats Ridge
Kariong Community Baptist Church	Sun @9.30am, Church & Kid's Program, Kariong Public School Hall, Chris Clarke email revcrc@hotmail.com
Catholic Service -Spencer	Holy Trinity Church, 2nd Sat of the month 4pm, Contact 43771374 or 43771168 as times may change each month.
- Wollombi	2nd & 5th Sunday of the month, 4.30pm Mass at St Michael the Archangel, Wollombi.
- Somersby	Every Sat. evening vigil - 5.30pm St. Francis of Assisi Centre, 30 Lutana Rd, Somersby.
- Yarramalong	1st Sunday each month, 11.15am St. Barnabas Catholic Mass All welcome. Enq 4356 1321

### YOUTH

Junior Girl Guides 5-10	Kooree Guide Cabin, every Monday in school term, 5.00pm - 6.30pm
Girl Guides 10-15	Kooree Guide Cabin, every Monday in school term, 6.00pm-7.30pm
Scouts, Cubs & Venturers Peats Ridge Scout Hall	Cubs meet 6.30pm - 8.30pm Wednesdays Scouts meet 7.00pm - 9.00pm Tuesdays Venturers meet 7.00pm - 9.00pm Mondays Contact 0438 476 562
Mangrove Mountain Playgroup	Every Tues (except school holidays) 9am to 11.30am, Kooree Guide Cabin. Bec G, PH: 0421 996 029 Anne, PH: 0412 526 557 Email: becilmour@gmail.com

### HISTORICAL

Brisbane Waters Historical Society	25-27 Henry Kendall St., West Gosford, Ph: 4325 2270. www.henrykendallcottage.org.au
Dharug & Lower Hawkesbury Historical Society Inc.	Last Sat of month. All welcome, contact Jan Kofron 0405321478 jankofron@optusnet.com.au
First Fleeters Central Coast Chapter	2nd Sat of the month, 10.00am for 10.30, Point Clare Hall (except Jan & Dec). Contact John 43921926 or Jon 43116254.
The Pearl Beach Aboriginal History Group	3rd Fri each month 7.30pm Pearl Beach. Peggy 0411754577 pbaboriginalhistory@gmail.com
Wyong District Museum & Historical Society	Open Sun to Thurs, 10am-2pm, other times by appt. Contact 43521886 email info@alisonhomestead.com.au. website: www.alisonhomestead.com.au

### ACTIVITY/HOBBY

Central Coast GNU/Linux Users Group	www.cclug.org.au - all most welcome
Coastal Communicators Toastmasters	1st & 3rd Thurs of month, 6:45pm to 8:45pm at Doyalson-Wyee RSL. Debbie 0421216952
Craft/scrapbooking	Yarramalong Hall 4th Sat of the month 10am to 5.00pm cost \$12per person ph 43561196

### HALL BOOKINGS

Kulnura Hall	Hall bookings contact Annette Stackman 43561196 Committee mtg 3rd Thurs 7:00pm at Hall- Open to all from community.
Mangrove Mountain Hall	Hall bookings Ryan Howard 0405416289
Somersby Hall and Mountain Districts Culture and Heritage Centre	Hall Bookings: 0413 359 655 or AH 4373 1488
Yarramalong school of Arts / Hall	booking contact Fiona Mob 0422 865 041 ph 43561600

## REMINDERS FOR YOUR DIARY

Jeff Lang "Some Memories Never Die" Tour	Yarramalong School of Arts Hall on Saturday the 22nd of May. \$30pp Tickes on sale now via www.trybooking.com/BPCKV
Australia's Biggest Morning Tea	Thursday 27th May at 11 am. Mangrove Mountain Memorial Club



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**Australian  
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## June meeting The Bigger Picture



### Central Coast Native Trees Tips for Identification



There will be a short presentation on how to identify 12 local native trees using leaf shape, flowers, fruits, bark and habit.

Following that, members will work together in groups to identify three tree species using actual fruits, leaves and an outline of their habit.

#### When

1.30 for 2.00pm  
Saturday 12th June, 2021

#### Where

Phillip House  
21 Old Mount Penang Road  
Kariang

#### Cost

\$2 Members & visitors (includes cuppa)

#### Enquiries

Pat Carlton, 0458 300 922  
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These columns will be set aside each issue for residents to advertise inexpensively and effectively in their own local paper. If you have anything you wish to sell, buy, swap, etc., ring 4374 1039 or 0412 669 649 during office hours. Rates start at \$4.00.

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