

# COMMUNITY NEWS

No. 921 Ph: 4374 1039 Mo: 0412 669 649 Email: enquiries@cnews1.com.au Web: cnews1.com.au 19th May 2023

## Growing Opposition to Feedlot

The extent of community opposition to the planned cattle feedlot at Mangrove Mountain was evident at a meeting held at Mangrove Hall on Friday, May 12.

The proposal would see a 400 head feedlot established alongside Ironbark Road, opposite the intersection with Kirks Road, in relatively close proximity to several homes on nearby farms and residential properties. The DA also reveals the potential to expand the capacity of the operation to 999 head of cattle.

Attendees at the meeting were able to draw on decades of accumulated

Assessment Regulation 2000.

Several points of objection have identified:

1. Impacts on the environment
2. Effect on existing properties, farms, businesses and residences
3. Social and economic impacts
4. The suitability of the site
5. The broader public interest
6. Noise, odours and dust
7. Water run off
8. Containment of animal waste including faeces and urine
9. Non-compliance with regulations relating to clearances to boundaries and specified zones



66 people attended the meeting at Mangrove Hall

knowledge of the local environment and weather, expertise in cattle and farming in general, road and traffic conditions and known effects of noise, dust and odours, all pointing to the complete unsuitability of the designated site for the proposed feedlot.

The DA was lodged on 17/02/2023 but initially only three people were advised. Subsequently, other residents found out by word of mouth and approached council to extend the deadline for submissions. However, even after extension to June 6 2023, other residents have only been notified in a slow and sporadic fashion. As knowledge of the DA spreads to the wider group of affected persons more requests are being sent to council to extend the deadline. There have also been complaints of difficulty in accessing the DA documents.

The DA process must follow section 4.15 of the NSW EP&A Act and NSW Environmental Planning and

10. Unsuitable roads and increased heavy vehicle traffic
11. Blind corners from proposed road access points
12. Health impact from potential diseases
13. No details on proposed additional buildings
14. Contamination of neighbours dams and nearby creeks
15. Effects on Popran National Park and Popran Creek
16. Downstream effects on communities along Mangrove creek
17. Reduction of value of neighbouring properties

### What you can do:

Sign and share the petition: <https://chn.g.it/ghXSKwvX>



QRcode for the Change.org petition

(Now over 1000 signatures collected)



**Bucketty & District Rural Fire Brigade will hold its AGM at 1400 hrs on Saturday 17 June 2023 at the Station at 5393 George Downes Drive, Bucketty.**

Join the Mangrove Mountain Feedlot Objectors on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/524111053270894> or scan the QR code.

QRCode for Facebook group



For those having difficulties, the available DA documents have been downloaded to Google Drive and the link is available on the website

Consider putting in your own individual submission at: <https://eservices.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/ePathway/Production/Web/GeneralEnquiry/EnquiryLists.aspx?ModuleCode=LAP>

and also email Liesl Tesch MP, David Harris MP - Minister for Central Coast, Gordon Reid - Federal MP

Next week a further action plan and submission guide will be provided.

To paraphrase Lieutenant Colonel Kilgore (Robert Duvall) from "Apocalypse Now",



**We DON'T love the Smell of Cowdung in the Morning**

**STOP !**

Next issue Published  
2nd June 2023

**\*\* DEADLINE \*\***

**\*\* 26th May '23 \*\***

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# Mothers Day Service in the Mangrove Mountain Union Church

The Mangrove Mountain Union Church was again open to the community and used to conduct a Mothers Day service.

We had let the Liquidator know that Mothers Day is particularly significant for many of our members because of the substantial contributions of time, effort and expense that their own mothers made over many years to support our Union Church.

We are grateful that he has generously permitted to us a further casual hire this Sunday. The service included scripture readings and a



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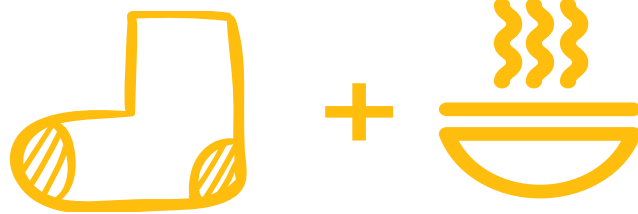
Above: Mothers Day morning day in the hall

Left: Sunday service in the Church

Liturgy that reflected on the faith and works of some Christian Mothers mentioned in the Bible.

The day is coming closer when the Church and hall will be returned to the community to be used for the celebration of Christian Worship services and for the conduct of community activities as declared in the Trust Deed.

Keith Aranja / Robert Meggs



**#SHOEBOXREVOLUTION**

## SOCKS + SOUP DRIVE

8th April - 31st May

Socks are one of the most needed and least donated items received by the homeless community.

Donate a pair of socks or a tin of soup this Winter to support people without homes on the Central Coast.

Contact Mountain Community Children's Centre  
Ph: 43741239 to make a donation

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# THE DHARUG AND LOWER HAWKESBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Re-scheduled the Annual General Meeting to be held on Saturday, 27th May, 1pm at the Chapel

Followed by an afternoon with our Special Guest Marilyn Wood, a previous DLHHS president and long-time member of the Royal Australian Historical Society and the Society of Australian Genealogists (S.A.G.)

We encourage our members to attend so we can elect a Committee to help the Society to function in 2023. We encourage any member who would like to get involved to nominate for committee or any other position.

An invitation extends to the general public to join us for the afternoon.

After the AGM Marilyn will be talking about her project with S.A.G. to research and write about the lives of women who lived during Australia's colonial period.

Cost: \$15 for members and \$20 for

## Explore and celebrate the Coast's hinterland at Harvest Festival 2023

- Harvest Festival 2023
- Saturday 10 June to Sunday 11 June
- Central Coast Hinterland
- [lovecentralcoast.com/harvestfestival](http://lovecentralcoast.com/harvestfestival)

non-members. Bookings essential: [enquiries@dlhhs.org.au](mailto:enquiries@dlhhs.org.au) or 0405 321 478 (leave a message) by Tuesday, 23rd May.

Address:- Wesleyan Chapel, 6445 Wisemans Ferry Road, Gunderman.

All welcome.

*Robyn Downham, Publicity Officer  
Dharug and Lower Hawkesbury  
Historical Society*

Celebrate the Central Coast's spectacular hinterland communities and choose your own adventure at this year's Harvest Festival over the 10 to 11 June weekend.

Central Coast Council Director Community and Recreation Services, Melanie Smith said the popular weekend long event attracts thousands of locals and tourists each year.

"There's something for everyone with a wide range of unique events and experiences with 32 event hubs to visit at this year's festival," Ms Smith said.

"This festival offers the rare chance to take a glimpse behind the farm gates as you explore eight rural farming communities and their picturesque heritage villages right on the Central Coast - including Dooralong, Jilliby, Yarramalong, Wyong Creek, Kulnura, Mangrove Mountain, Peats Ridge, Somersby and Calga."

From paddock to plate dining experiences and wine tastings to fruit picking, farm experiences, produce markets, hands-on workshops, live music and entertainment, a range of family friendly activities and much more, the two-day Harvest Festival program truly offers something for every taste and interest.

A number of event hubs provide the

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opportunity to pre-book experiences in advance, so be sure to check out the event program early, reserve your place to ensure you don't miss out.

Council is also reminding community members and visitors to drive carefully when heading to Harvest Festival event destinations over the long weekend, with increased traffic and some delays expected.

Council Administrator Rik Hart said the hinterland is a hidden jewel of the coast which shines during the festival bringing many benefits to the region.

"Over 30,000 locals and visitors from the Coast and beyond attended the 2022 event, injecting more than \$3 million into the local economy, building local pride and celebrating the diversity and sustainability of the Coast," Mr Hart said.

"I encourage residents to support our region's rural communities by exploring the hinterland and its offerings over the Harvest Festival weekend."

View the full event program and booking details at [www.lovecentralcoast.com/harvestfestival](http://www.lovecentralcoast.com/harvestfestival)

Keep up to date with Harvest Festival news on Facebook @harvestfestivalcc

Central Coast Council  
Media Release



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Mangrove Mountain  
Evening Branch**

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of each month**

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- Monthly Store Cattle Sale Saturday May 20th from 12 noon.

**Gloucester Saleyards**

- Fortnightly Thursday Store Cattle Sales 11am May 25th.

Feedlots - Abattoirs - Paddock to Paddock Sales Clearing Sales - Rural Property Sales

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# MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S CENTRE NEWS

## Rotary Club of Kariong Somersby Community Service Award

Thank you to Rotary Club of Kariong Somersby for the acknowledgement of Mountain Community Children's Centre in your recent Vocational and Community Service Awards. We had a wonderful dinner hosted by the club with Louisa Foxford (Centre Director), Charlene Xuereb and Alyce Chin both Committee Members attending to accept the award on behalf of the centre. We were grateful to receive a Community Service Award for the centre's work in the community after the centre fire in 2017 and subsequent rebuild. We are honoured and we would like to thank our management committee both past and present, staff, families, and the community for their support of the centre during this challenging time. The centre through the support of all was able to continue its service to the children and families of the Mangrove Mountain and surrounding districts community.

## Socks and Soup Drive

We will be supporting a Sock and



Left to Right: Alyce Chin (Committee member), Louisa Foxford (Centre Director), Charlene Xuereb (Committee member),



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## Important News For Small Business Regarding Cyber Security

The Attorney General's Department has released a report outlining proposed changes to The Privacy Act.

These changes, if accepted, will affect the way businesses protect their customers from hacks and the compliance required.

DSSN recommends that all stakeholders undertake a Cyber Security assessment to check that you are fully protected.

This review into The Privacy Act is recommended reading for all businesses.

These are just some of the horrifying statistics in the ACSC annual report.

DSSN's website has further information and useful links.

*Destination Sydney Surrounds North*  
<https://dssn.com.au>

Soup Drive up until 31st May for people without homes on the Central Coast. This cause needs socks and soup to warm the feet and bellies of our homeless community this winter. We will have a collection bin here at the centre so please feel to pop in and drop off some warm socks and or ring pull tin of soup. We are open Monday to Friday 7.30am – 5.30pm or give us a call and we are happy to collect any donated items if you are unable to get to the centre.

Until next time with news from the Children's Centre.

*Louisa Foxford, Director*  
 Mountain Community Children's Centre  
 2829 Wisemans Ferry Road, Mangrove Mountain, NSW 2250  
 Ph: 43741239  
[www.mountainchildren.com.au](http://www.mountainchildren.com.au)



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COMMUNITY VOICE AUSTRALIA  
CENTRAL COAST PRESENTS:

# Smart Cities & Land Use

Smart city developments will have a significant impact on the Central Coast. We encourage all members of the community to attend and participate in the discussion.

*Speaker 1: Kate Mason*  
*Smart Cities: What Are They & What Are The Implications?*  
Discover the implications of Smart city developments for the Central Coast under Public-Private Partnerships. Dedicated community advocate and member of Community Voice Australia. Kate Mason, highlights the importance of government transparency and informed decision-making.

*Speaker 2: Jessica Jurd*  
*Land Use: Exploring Zoning Changes That Effect Residents.*  
A passionate member of the Hunter Region, Jessica Jurd investigates the changes in zoning required for smart city planning, and explores the implications on the community.


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CENTRAL COAST

Saturday 20th May 2023  
3-4:30pm



## CELEBRATING WOMEN OVER 60

*An Instagram series by Sue Harris*

Laurina Holliday (née Fanelli)

The foundation of my life comes from being brought up at Mangrove Mountain, with my Nonna coming here in 1928, with my mother aged six, from Northern Italy to a farm which was already bought by my Grandfather father, Peter Comensoli (senior).

My mother came out with her

## LLS Animal health seasonal update

Over the past 6 months, we have seen the usual Mid Coast and Hunter animal health challenges such as pinkeye and worm burdens reducing production in young stock.

Barbers pole worm and Black scour worm, in particular, have caused production and stock losses. The warm wet weather has provided perfect conditions for survival of worm larvae on pasture and we encourage all producers to manage worm burdens in weaner and yearling stock now.

These same conditions have also seen stock and production losses from the virulent "Ikeda" variant of Theileria

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younger brother Ric Comensoli. (The farm remains working by his son Peter and his wife Jo).

They lived in a slab hut with a dirt floor and she cried and cried for the first three months!

Her name was actually Dominica but as it was an unknown name locally she called her self Angelina - known as Angie on the Mountain.

These days, the excitement of farming in a very beautiful community really makes me tick.

Even though the Mountain has changed we still have a sense of community and understand farming and keeping sustainability alive. I am passionate and want to retain that lifestyle that I have been brought up with and be able to pass it on.

As well, family and friends make my life what it is.

My Nonna Angelina had a wonderful saying; "be kind and giving and you will reap the benefits in the end".

I live by this saying. I truly believe in kindness and look at the good things in life, thinking about enjoying the day and accepting what it brings.

that arrived on the Mid Coast in early to mid-2000 and has since spread up and down the coast and to several other states. Cases started with a bang in September 2022 and, as per usual, have continued right through summer and into autumn.

NSW Local Land Services



I still love going to Gosford as I connect with it - it stemmed from visiting the Packing House with my brothers. When it moved to the Mountain I kept visiting. I loved the waterfront too.

I have strong memories. And even stronger as we lose people. I lost my three brothers recently and that changes your life but you have to step into the real world but I'm really better connected to my time capsule!

There is a message in this that grief is critical to our mindfulness. It's a strange thing. People say "get over it". We shouldn't advise that to others. Be

kind to those who are going through it or having to relive it.

Being brought up in an Italian family makes me live this - my mother said "you give everything for familia".

It's hard to get used to family and friends not being here.

Later in life you rely on your lifestyle. For me I love my farm and familia - especially my four grandchildren - they get me up in the morning even when I have work to do, so that is what makes me tick!

Go to:

[https://www.instagram.com/seo-ver60\\_women/](https://www.instagram.com/seo-ver60_women/) for more inspiration



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- ◆ The kitchen is equipped with Miele appliances (Liebherr fridge), electric stove with one gas burner, self-cleaning oven, large walk-in pantry
- ◆ The master suite is large enough to have as a parent's retreat and has walk in wardrobe. The ensuite bathroom has separate double shower and toilet with the ensuite outlook over the gardens and onto the paddocks even the birdlife comes to the bedroom door.
- ◆ The 4<sup>th</sup> bedroom is tucked away and could be used as guest suite or study/office and there is excellent WIFI broadband internet.
- ◆ Located at the front of the property away from the main home for privacy is the original cottage. With 4 bedrooms, 2 kitchens and bathrooms it is has been well maintained. There are many uses for this cottage/property under the RU1 Primary Production.
- ◆ A 90-meter-deep spring water bore is licensed for 5 megalitres pa. for irrigation.
- ◆ The 4 bay lock up machinery shed has a concrete floor (including 1 open bay).

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# Showcase



Come down to Walkabout Wildlife Park to see a showcase of the Creative Recovery workshops run for the local community where people gathered to talk, connect and make art—including projects by The Yarn Hub, an artistic collaboration by the Spencer community, plus short documentary films.

Share a yarn (and check out the native wildlife) while exploring the showcase.

**Walkabout Wildlife Park**  
1 Darkinjung Rd Calga

Saturday June 10  
10.30am onwards

**Free entry and morning tea**

For more information, call  
Breanna Pollock on 0419 014 446  
or email [breanna.pollock@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au](mailto:breanna.pollock@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au).

Presented by  
Central Coast Council



Jointly funded by the Commonwealth and  
NSW Governments under the  
Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements



## Mangrove Mountain Country Fair 2023

### CONTEMPORARY ART PRIZE

Our Country Fair will be held on Saturday, 21st October.

The Country Fair isn't for another eight months, but I know that good art needs time.....so I am letting you know what the theme is for this year. Think about it and enter!!

The theme for this year's Contemporary Art Prize is:-

### "Dynamic Living Systems"

Living systems are intrinsically dynamic as they develop, renew their components and adapt to their physiological environment.

I look forward to your various interpretations!!

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are always thrilled with the quality of the entries.

Entries can be any medium and we encourage diversity. Our sculptural entries have been very interesting. I look forward to our first digital or film responses!

We know that there are many local artists producing work of high standard and we encourage all of you to enter this prize to showcase our area!

Entry is free and the winner will receive a cash prize of \$200 in addition

to the honour of the award.

Entries from artists over 16 years of age can be delivered to the Mangrove Mountain hall on:

- Thursday, 19th October between 3pm and 5pm or
- Friday, 20th October between 8am and no later than 11am

Please include a brief description of your work explaining its link to the theme.

Please contact me for further information: Poppe 0400105653





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A large rural land holding, just 20 minutes from Central Coast beaches and under an hour from Sydney CBD. These all arable large acres are a stand out in respect of location, land quality and infrastructure.

Privately positioned with wonderful improvements;

World class equestrian facilities include an indoor area (42x24m), fenced outdoor dressage/jump arena (30x80m), two lots of wash bays, 4 stallion suites with loose boxes, yards and attached paddocks, 12 mare and foal stables with yards and post 'n' rail and diamond mesh fencing, 16 stables, including stallion & foaling stables, 3 turn out paddocks, 9 large paddocks, 10 small paddocks, hay and feed sheds, tack rooms, veterinary stations with lock up treatment rooms, stallion station with jump mare, rug laundry and a rubber lined round yard.

There are service lane-ways throughout the property and the paddocks are equipped shelter sheds.

60 plus acres, lush and fully irrigated with large grazing paddocks bordering Little Mooney Creek which offers a water licence (on separate title but included as part of the sale). Additional water sources include a number of spring fed dams and a bore which provides drinking quality water. A sophisticated irrigation system is in place delivering water to every corner of the property making it genuinely drought proof.

A stylish well-appointed country home is designed to maximise views over the property from every angle. A large contemporary kitchen with gas cooking and open plan dining / living space boasts a slow combustion fire place and is the perfect space for large gatherings. There is also a mud room, expansive office (with external entrance), air conditioning and lazy wrap around verandas perfect for entertaining.

A separate two bedroom cottage creates ideal accommodation for friends, clients or employees.

Conveniently perched between Sydney and Newcastle, this outstanding property has been cleverly designed and developed, and is fit for any equestrian discipline.

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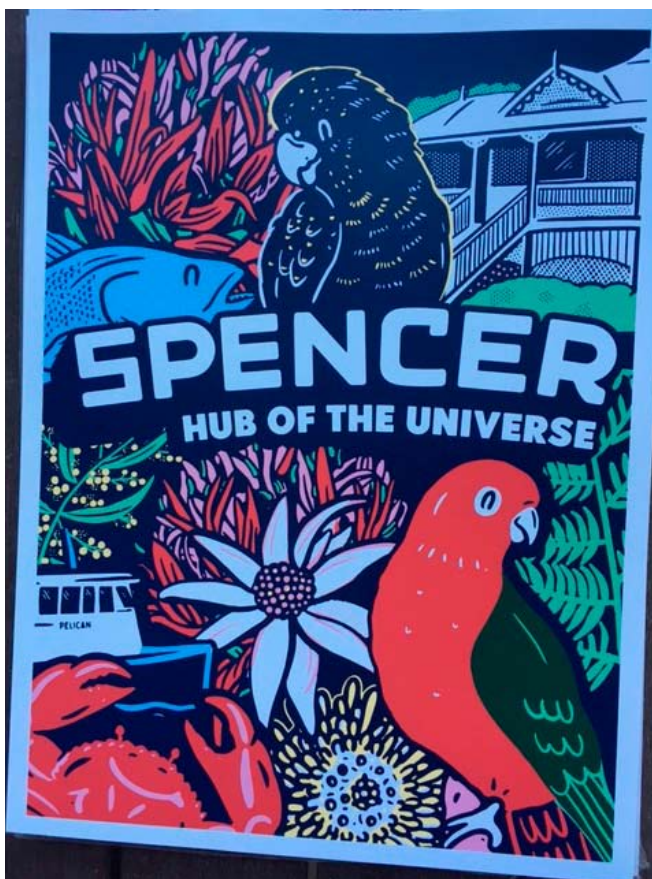
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## At long last Spencer is finally acknowledged as a tourist destination!

Located at the junction of Mangrove Creek and the mighty Hawkesbury River is a hamlet called Spencer the last frontier north of Sydney - which is the jewel of the Hawkesbury River with its pristine waterways and scenic beauty. In Spencer we have the Anchor the stunning new cafe which has replaced the old general store, a fantastic Thai restaurant, a caravan park, a museum called the Hawkesbury Duck and our pub is under a tree. The 'Tree' or as the locals fondly regard it as the 'Tree of Knowledge' is the identity of Spencer, the 'Hub of the Universe', the social infrastructure for this area and for all the other river Communities in the Lower Hawkesbury River District.

Since last year's weather events The Anchor and the Spencer Thai Restaurant have been a drawcard for many tourists visiting our area not only from the Central Coast, but from Greater Sydney, the Hunter, Newcastle and other areas. People come to Spencer to enjoy delicious food, friendly hospitality, whilst taking in the breathtaking views and soaking up the relaxed, peaceful and unique village atmosphere that Spencer has to offer.

Robyn Downham, President  
River Cares



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At 65 acres and with RU1 zoning, this is the first time a substantially sized, useable acreage has come on the market in Somersby in almost 4 years.

Somersby itself is highly sought after for its acreage lifestyle, close proximity to amenities, elevated position and famous loamy soil.

This property has stunning water availability, with 5 large dams fed from spring flow on the property.

Currently operated as a small scale Macadamia farm, this property is ready and waiting for you to move straight in and enjoy, or use as the ultimate canvas on which to develop your rural paradise.

There is a comfortable and beautifully maintained double brick residence, with views across the dams and to the distant west.

At the heart of the property is a three sided, north facing machinery and nut processing shed. At 17.5m x 12m, there is plenty of space for storage of farming equipment.

#### Office Address:

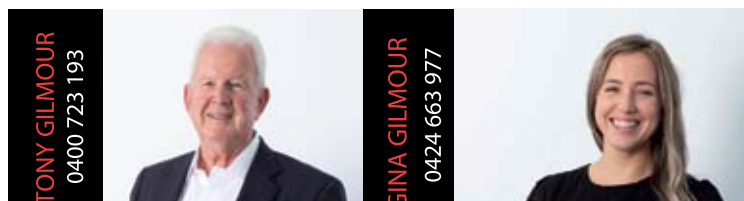
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0424 663 977



# Fig Jam and Fig Chutney

While we can still buy figs for cooking, we would like to demonstrate Fig Jam and Chutney on Tuesday the 23rd May at Mangrove Mountain Hall, starting at 4 and going until eight o'clock. Come along and we will help answer your questions on how to prepare your jars.

CWA Mangrove Mountain Evening will be at the Mangrove Mountain Hall for the Harvest Festival, over the June long weekend. We will be selling our jams and pickles, serving scones, jam and cream and of course our yummy sausage rolls.

We meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month and have regular ZOOM meetings during the month for chat and handicraft conversations.

*Judy Betteridge, President  
Mangrove Mountain Evening Branch of the CWA*



Picture: Fairhaven Trivia Night.

## TRIVIA NIGHT FOR WIRES CENTRAL COAST

On Thursday, September 21, 2023, Mitchell Gordon and Troy Dove will hold their fifth charity trivia night for WIRES Central Coast. The evening will be hosted by Rotary Brisbane Water at Ettalong Diggers.

Doors open at 6:00PM and four rounds of ten rock 'n' roll questions start at 7:00PM. Scores will be updated

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after each round.

The event will also include market stalls, live auctions, raffles, giveaways, entertainment and a photo booth

Light refreshments will be provided and there will be a cash bar.

Tickets are priced at \$20 each. To book your table, phone Troy Dove on 0424 602 290 or visit Central Coast Antiques & Collectables.

*Mitch Gordon  
Rotary Brisbane Water*

# SATURDAY CRAFT GROUP

**Meeting on the 2nd Saturday of each month (10am -2pm)**

Ladies from the CWA in conjunction with the Community Hall in SOMERSBY

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## LOCAL VOICE TO PARLIAMENT INFO SESSION MARKED A SUCCESS

A Central Coast Voice to Parliament information session has been marked a success, after the event saw over 100 Coasties in attendance to learn about what The Voice to Parliament is.

The info session, held at Club Umina last week, featured panellists Jacob Smeaton from Barang Regional Alliance, Aunty Dianne O'Brien and Aunty Robyn Reid from Mingaletta Aboriginal Corporation, and Local Members of Federal and State Parliament, Dr Gordon Reid MP and Liesl Tesch MP.

Central Coast local and proud Kerrupjmara man, Jacob Smeaton, discussed the Uluru Statement from the Hearts' origins and the consensus among the 250 Constitutional Convention delegates.

Dr Reid discussed the importance of establishing The Voice to Parliament and constitutionally recognising our First Nations people. Dr Reid also provided an outline of the Parliamentary process to update how referendums in Australia are held, and the need to ensure First Nations' voices in Parliament.

Dr Reid said The Voice to Parliament is about two things: recognition and consultation.

A Voice will provide advice to the Federal Parliament about laws and policies, through a consultative policy-making process that delivers meaningful change.

Barang Regional Alliance is also set to kick off its 'cuppa conversations' initiative in which local community groups can hold conversations and field questions about the Voice to Parliament.

Any community group wanting to gain further information is asked to

email [admin@barang.org.au](mailto:admin@barang.org.au).

Those wanting to gain further information or sign up to volunteer are encouraged to head to <https://yes23.com.au>.

Liesl Tesch said "With the question set to be asked to the Australian public later this year, it's fantastic to see the turn-out and openness of people to learn and engage.

"It's fantastic to see so many keen local residents come out to find out more information."

Dr Gordon Reid said "It was great to

meet with local community members and discuss details about the upcoming referendum to recognise First Nations Australians in the constitution and to establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament.

"I encourage the Central Coast community to visit the Yes Campaign website for further information and to register as a volunteer."

*Media Release from the offices of Liesl Tesch MP, Member for Gosford and Dr Gordon Reid MP Federal Member for Robertson*




**MANGROVE MOUNTAIN COMPUTER CLUB**

**Digital Connect - Free Technology Classes for 50 and Over's**

**Are you 50+ and would love some help with using digital technology? Mangrove Mountain Computer Club has partnered with Central Coast Digital Connect offering free classes for you to develop your skills and knowledge in the digital world!**

The digital connect program provides free workshops and a chance to learn and ask questions about using smart phones, tablets and computers in your daily life. Learn how to securely access and use the internet, use and make the most of your device and keep in touch with others online.

These classes will help you make the most of your devices and keep up to date with all the latest improvements and services

**What is Digital Connect?**

Digital Connect is funded through Be Connected, an Australia wide initiative empowering all Australians to thrive in a digital world. Be Connected provides online learning resources as well as a network of community partners - the Be Connected Network - who offer in-person support so you can develop your digital skills and confidence.

Students are asked to please bring along a device of their choice. This may include:

- Smartphones - iPhones & Androids
- Tablets - iPads & Androids
- Laptops - Apple & Windows

Each session will commence with a workshop followed by morning tea, and an opportunity for small group support with our team of volunteer digital mentors.

**When:** 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month – **NEXT SESSION MAY 25th**

**Time:** 9.30am – 11.30am

**Where:** Mangrove Mountain Computer Club  
6 Waratah Road, Mangrove Mountain

**Contact:** Suzanne - 0408 895 330



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# Scams Getting More Sophisticated

Scams being sent via email, encountered on website links, via txt message or direct phone calls are commonplace.

The latest scam mimics a Telstra bill, with some personal details obtained via the various leaks and corporate hacks that have been taking place. The scammer has a very persistent system and these bills get sent regularly, turning into warning and disconnection notices.

This year, Scams Awareness Week is about empowering people to learn how to spot a scam and encouraging them to take the time to check whether a communication or offer is real.

There are some simple ways to detect a scam. These are some things to look out for:

- A person or a message urging you to act quickly, whether it's a threat to make an urgent payment, a request for upfront payment or a limited opportunity too good to miss.
- A person or a message asking you to update or provide your personal details, such as identifying information, banking details or passwords, or asking to remotely access your device.
- Any payment request via unsecure or unusual methods such as cryptocurrency, gift cards or bank transfer.
- A person or suspicious message claiming they have new contact details or asking



for payment to a new bank account. Visit the <https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/> website for more information.

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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 Training Information & updates Contact	3rd Mon of the month, 7.30pm all welcome Every Monday 6.30 except public holidays Facebook.com/calga/mtwhiteruralfirebrigade/ Captain.calgamwhite@ccrfs.org.au - Zack Winslade.
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)
Yarralong RFS		Information: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/YarralongRuralFireBrigade/">www.facebook.com/ YarralongRuralFireBrigade/</a> Phone contacts: 0406 360588 or 0418 280764 Email: volunteer@yarralongrfs.org.au

### 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 & 4th Tues of the month, 4-8pm at Mangrove Mtn Hall, General meeting 6pm 2nd Tues. 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. <a href="https://permaculturecc.org.au/">https://permaculturecc.org.au/</a>
Permaculture Central Coast Kulnura & District Garden Club		Second Monday, 9.30 for 10am start. Jacqui Maxwell 0455364262 kulnuradge@gmail.com
Mangrove Mountain Singers		1st & 3rd Tue, Mangrove Mtn Hall, 6-8pm Contact Kim & Leila 0401516501
Mangrove Mountain & Districts Community Group Meeting		1st Thurs of the Month, 7pm, Mangrove Mtn Hall. Contact: mepccinc@gmail.com, 0412669649
Mangrove Emergency Planning & Communications Committee		
Mangrove Mountain Country Fair Committee Meeting		2nd Thur of month except Jan, 7:30pm, Mangrove Hall. Pres- Shane 0417 436 529
Mountain Districts Association (MDA)		<a href="http://www.mountaindistrictsassociation.com.au">www.mountaindistrictsassociation.com.au</a> secretary@mountaindistrictsassociation.com.au
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 info@rivercares.com.au
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	Newsletter	Tue 9.30am-12.30pm, Kulnura Tennis Courts. Enquiries: Alison Palmer 0427731548.
Somersby Equestrian Club Club & Committee Meeting		Every 2nd month. Check website for further details. <a href="http://www.somersbyequestrianclub.org.au">www.somersbyequestrianclub.org.au</a>
Wisemans Ferry Community Men's Shed		Tues & Sat, 9am-5pm. Contact: Alan Hunt 4566 4626 or Adrian Acheson 0448 833 781

### SPIRITUAL

Anglican Service - Mountain Districts		Every Sun 8am at Peats Ridge Scout Hall, Sunday School during school terms
Mangrove Mountain Christian Group		General Meeting 3rd Monday, 7.30pm at CTC (next door to Mangrove Hall)
Mangrove Mountain Union Church, Christian Service		9.30am second and fourth Sundays. cnr Bloodtree Rd & Wisemans Ferry Rd
St Barnabas Christian Service Yarralong		Every Sunday, 9.30am. (Easter & (Christmas Carols dates to be advised)
Serbian Orthodox		2nd & 4th Sun. of the month. 10 am, followed by luncheon, tea, coffee, cakes (cost \$20). 1184 Peats Ridge Rd, Peats Ridge

(cont'd next page)

## WRITING FOR PLEASURE

Australia Post makes a huge profit in delivering parcels which we order over the internet but makes a loss in delivering letters. That's because the only snail mail we generally get are bills and even now companies are encouraging people to get them electronically.

When was the last time you put pen to paper and actually wrote a letter? I wager that most people only write Christmas cards and birthday cards because it's far easier to e-mail, text or use some other form of social media to communicate. We even use digital signatures which are recognized as legally binding. What a boon that is to the hackers of the cyber world who are becoming more and more sophisticated.

Can you imagine having to pay for a mortgage or other high price item which you never applied for? And all because your signature was compromised. It could cost you a lot of time, not to mention the anxiety and small fortune to sort it out.

So where does that fit in? I recently saw an advert for a fountain pen which was cheaper than a cup of coffee so I decided to try it out. I ordered the pen, paid the postage and it duly arrived. I bought a small bottle of ink from Office Works, filled the pen, and started writing.

Initially it was like the proverbial hen scratching but with a bit of practice my scribbling became more legible. I found that I enjoyed it. After a bit more practice I started to research fountain pens and found a whole new world.

Fountain pens have come a long way. They vary in price from a few dollars to a few thousand, and more. Fountain pens, like other things have different brands. There are cheaper Chinese imports, (which tend to be copies of the European brands but at a more affordable price), European, mainly German and French, as well as Japanese and others. The main issue I have found with the Chinese imports is waiting for them to arrive in the post.

In general, most fountain pens come with either a Fine or Medium nib which fits the way most people write, but there's a variety of different nibs ranging from Extra Fine to Broad along with specialist nibs for drawing and calligraphy. There are even fountain pens which act like ballpoint pens in that you click on the end to expose the nib.



Handwriting is becoming a dying art. Research has shown that writing with a fountain pen can improve cognitive function and improve overall mental health. Physically writing forces the brain to think about what you want to say and how you want to say it.

There's no Spell Check, Grammar Check or any other conveniences of the computer and who doesn't remember how they felt when they received a letter in the post telling them all the latest family, or other gossip. It certainly wasn't called snail mail for nothing.

The more you write the better your handwriting becomes. Keep a journal, write your shopping list, start that novel you've always promised yourself or just write whatever comes into your head.

Which pen should you buy? Once again, I researched on YouTube. I looked at the different brands and was able to get comparisons on how they looked and performed. As pens and nibs have evolved so has ink. No longer do we have just black and blue but there's now a whole rainbow to choose from and just as many producers, again varying in size of the bottle and price.

I have purchased several small bottles in various colours online to sample how they perform. It can be fun to see a letter written in turquoise or violet. Ink is delivered to the nib by either a disposable cartridge or a refillable tube in the pen called a converter. This has the advantage of being able to choose which ink, and which colour you want to write with as cartridges generally only come in the basic colours.

Handwriting in general is becoming a dying art and will become so unless we keep it from doing so. Australia Post currently charges \$1.20 for a stamp, less for pensioners. They are already talking about reducing the number of letters delivered to our homes so let's get writing and at least keep your local postie in a job.

Stephen Versey

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES & MEETINGS (cont'd)

Kariong Community Baptist Church	Sun @9.30am, Church & Kid's Program, Philip House, Mt Penang Gardens, Chris Clarke email <a href="mailto:pastorkcbc@outlook.com">pastorkcbc@outlook.com</a>
Divine Retreat Centre (Ph 04 6848 6782) 160 Hensons Road, Somersby <a href="http://www.divineretreatcentre.org.au">www.divineretreatcentre.org.au</a>	Daily Holy Mass 8.00am to 8.30 am 1st Fri, 5:30pm-8:30pm Divine Mercy Friday 1st Sat, 5.30pm-9pm, Youth Ministry 18-35yr Last Sun, 9am-4pm, One Day Retreat
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 All welcome. Enq 0428 438577
<b>YOUTH</b>	
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 0460 696 941
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: <a href="mailto:becgilmour@gmail.com">becgilmour@gmail.com</a>
<b>HISTORICAL</b>	
Brisbane Waters Historical Society	25-27 Henry Kendall St., West Gosford, Ph: 4325 2270. <a href="http://www.henrykendallcottage.org.au">www.henrykendallcottage.org.au</a> Last Sat of month. All welcome, contact Jan Kofron 0405321478 <a href="mailto:jankofron@optusnet.com.au">jankofron@optusnet.com.au</a>
Dharug & Lower Hawkesbury Historical Society Inc.	2nd Sat of the month, 10.00am for 10.30, Point Clare Hall (except Jan & Dec). Contact Margaret 0409467710 or Gavin 43404435.
First Fleeters Central Coast Chapter	3rd Fri of month 7.30pm Pearl Beach. Peggy 0411754577 <a href="mailto:pbaboriginalhistory@gmail.com">pbaboriginalhistory@gmail.com</a> Open Sun to Thurs, 10am-2pm, other times by appt. Contact 43521886 email <a href="mailto:info@alisonhomestead.com.au">info@alisonhomestead.com.au</a> website: <a href="http://www.alisonhomestead.com.au">www.alisonhomestead.com.au</a>
The Pearl Beach Aboriginal History Group	
Wyong District Museum & Historical Society	
<b>ACTIVITY/HOBBY</b>	
Central Coast GNU/Linux Users Group	<a href="http://www.cclug.org.au">www.cclug.org.au</a> - 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 Sun. of the month 10am to 5.00pm cost \$12 per person ph 43561196
Saturday Craft Group/Spining and bobbin lace	2nd Sat of the month Somersby Hall (10am to 2pm) cost \$5 per person Carmen 0434071305
<b>HALL BOOKINGS</b>	
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	David Gillett 0416 097192 <a href="mailto:enquiries@yarramalonghall.org.au">enquiries@yarramalonghall.org.au</a> <a href="https://yarramalonghall.org.au">https://yarramalonghall.org.au</a>

## REMINDERS FOR YOUR DIARY

Central Coast Harvest Festival	June 10 & 11, various locations inc Mangrove Hall
Mangrove Mountain Country Fair	Saturday, 21st October

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# Bush Fire Season ends for NSW

The end of April marked the end of the 2022-2023 Bush Fire Season for New South Wales.

Commissioner of the RFS Rob Rogers said the Bush Fire Danger Period was extended for several weeks from the end of March in parts of the state due to high fuel loads and warmer than average temperatures.

“We saw an increase in activity late in the season, with significant fires in Narrabri, Mudgee and Upper Lachlan LGAs,” he said.

“Across the season, firefighters have worked on more than 24,800 bush and grass fires which burnt through over 116,000 hectares.

“March was our busiest month, with firefighters responding to over 2800 incidents, which accounted for almost 50% of the total hectares burnt across the whole fire season.

“We also sadly saw the loss of eight homes, 15 outbuildings and hundreds of livestock across firegrounds, however hundreds more homes and buildings were saved due to the actions of firefighters and landholders.

“Whilst the bush fire season has

ended, this doesn't mean the risk of fire has, with the shift from recent wet weather to drier conditions already being seen across much of NSW.”

Commissioner Rogers also reminded landholders and residents about the importance of maintaining their property throughout the year and to be vigilant when using fire on their property.

“With a warm and dry winter predicted, there is a real risk of fires occurring across the cooler months this year,” he said.

**“Landholders must know their obligations if conducting burns and know the costs if you do the wrong thing, but most importantly, if a fire does get out of hand, make sure you report it immediately to Triple Zero (000).”**

Commissioner Rogers noted that the 2022-2023 fire season has been the busiest period of fire activity since the 2019-2020 Black Summer fires.

“Over two very wet years, our members worked tirelessly alongside other agencies to assist the NSW State Emergency Service responding to flood and storm events,” he said.

“I would like to thank each and every RFS volunteer for their hard work and dedication to communities across New South Wales.”

“Our volunteers could also not do

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what they do without the support and encouragement of families, friends, colleagues and employers and so I thank them as well.”

NSW RFS Media Release

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## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

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.

### POSITIONS VACANT

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- Ability to build and maintain relationships with key stakeholders including colleagues, director, committee, families, and the community.
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Apply in writing via email with 2 current referees to the Management Committee - Mountain Community Children's Centre Inc [mountainchildren@bigpond.com](mailto:mountainchildren@bigpond.com)  
Attention Louisa Foxford

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