

COMMUNITY NEWS

No. 936 Ph: 4374 1039 Mo: 0412 669 649 Email: enquiries@cnews1.com.au Web: cnews1.com.au 2nd February 2023

Billion Dollar Project to Connect Properties to Sewerage and Town Water?

Recently, Council sent letters to property owners and residents to inform about the 'Connecting to our water and sewer network' project.

To say this stirred up a little controversy and concern would be an understatement.

The proposal is bewildering in its scope and as with a lot of Council proposals and surveys there is only a relatively short time in which to respond, especially considering we are just coming out of the holiday season.

Interestingly, the letter states "Unserviced properties have the potential to impact on the following community values:

- public health (infectious disease transmission and exposure to pathogens)
- environmental (odour, surface water and groundwater quality)
- land capability (soil characteristics) and
- amenity (aesthetic values)"

The installation of on-site sewerage management systems (OSSM's) require Council approval and the technical and environmental aspects are governed by Australian and State

standards.

Back in the day, residents paid an inspection fee when council inspected a septic system to ensure all was safe but this was changed to a fee added to the council rates whether or not an inspection was carried out. And, lo and behold, inspections stopped! A fee for no service.

OSSM is an acronym for "On-Site Sewerage Management System". This letter incorrectly refers to "Onsite Sewer System Management". A case of making up the term to suit the letters?

The letter claims "Connecting to our network can minimise problems and doing this can help keep your home, surrounding environment and our waterways clean and safe for everyone." However, during floods, extreme rain events and system failures, the council sewerage system has its share of problems including leaks.

This proposal and the badly thought out distribution zone of the letter has included inappropriate areas in the audience.

There are approximately 3,000 parcels of land zoned for Rural and Agriculture. Most of these would lie

west of the M1 and most would have On-Site Sewerage systems and either tank or bore water or both.

Does Council really propose that all these get connected to the Council sewerage and water systems?

The letter states: "Council would like to understand:

- What is most important to you
- How supportive you are of Council addressing the unserviced properties
- Unserviced properties willingness to make a financial contribution for the development of the scheme"

Didn't need an expensive LGA wide survey to answer those. Another waste of ratepayer money but the "temporary" rate rise has filled the coffers. The proposition of more contributions from ratepayers is a trifle troubling.

Note to Council: How about setting out a sensible scope of works for the 'Connecting to our water and sewer network' project.

Mangrove Mountain & Districts Community Group

The AGM for the MMDCG will be held on March 7th, 2024 at 7.30pm at Mangrove Hall.

Nominations must be received by the Secretary seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

The only people who are mad at you for speaking the truth are those people who are living a lie. Keep speaking the truth.

Anon

REMINDERS FOR YOUR DIARY

MMUC Trust - AGM & Special General Meeting 19th Feb, 7pm MMUC Hall

MMDCG AGM - 7th March, 7.30pm, Mangrove Hall

STOP!

Next issue Published

16th February 2024

** DEADLINE **

** 9th February '24 **

Send adverts & copy by

email, website or post.

Email, website, FB or

phone for enquiries

Mountain Before & After School Care seeking EOI for Educators



MBASC is a small, community-run OOSH service, providing an important link between working families and the Kulnura, Central Mangrove and Peats Ridge Primary Schools. Hours of operation are Monday- Friday, 7 to 8:50am and 3:10 to 6pm. The committee is seeking experienced, motivated educators in both a part-time and casual capacity to run this service.

Essential Criteria

1. Minimum two years' experience in the provision of childcare and demonstrated ability to work with children and fellow educators.
2. Current Working with Children's Check.
3. Current First Aid Certificate or willingness to obtain.
4. Completed Food Handling Certificate or be willing to obtain.

Desirable Criteria

1. Familiarity with the My Time, Our Place Framework and ability to demonstrate how this can be implemented in an OOSH service.
2. Knowledge and application of Qikkids software.
3. Previous experience with healthy menu planning and preparation, including consideration of possible food allergies.

All applicants are invited to please forward any questions or their resume, including two current referees, and their suitability to the criteria to mountainbasc@gmail.com.

FIRST USE OF CB RADIO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION NETWORK

In Bucketty recently there was occasion to put the CB Network to use.

Ann Harwood recounts: *"An elderly resident who lives alone and who I keep contact with contacted me that she wasn't feeling very well. After conversation with her I advised her to ring 000, get her medications and mobile together and then call me straight back that she had done this.*

Unfortunately, she did not call me back and I could not get back in contact with her, I believe she may not have put phone receiver back correctly. I then made a CB radio call to see if there was anybody near her that could go and check on her.

A resident who lives near her heard my call and responded that he could go immediately to her house to check on her and see if she was able to call the ambulance. Fortunately she had called the ambulance and she was then able to have someone check on her and be with her until the ambulance arrived.

The helpful resident later radioed that the lady had gone off in the

Community resilience plan for the Hawkesbury River, Spencer and Gunderman localities

Central Coast Council has partnered with the NSW Government and The Minderoo Foundation to develop community resilience plans for four areas in our region most recently impacted by disasters, including:

- Yarramalong Valley
- Hawkesbury River Cluster
- Northern Tuggerah Lakes
- Southern Tuggerah Lakes

Resilient communities tend to have strong community connections, helping them to prepare for and bounce back quicker from disasters.

This planning will:

- Help communities to understand

ambulance and I found out later from her she spent a couple of days in hospital due to dehydration."

If you would like more information or would like to be involved please email your details to mepccinc@gmail.com

Keith Aranja,
Secretary, MEPC

This project is an initiative of the Mangrove Emergency Planning and Communications Committee and is supported by the Australian Government

their vulnerabilities.

- Build and strengthen relationships – to prepare better for next time.
- Assist communities to develop plans with short, medium and long term goals.

We are asking community members to form a core group for each of the 4 target areas, which will work together with guidance and support from independent facilitators to develop plans by June 2024. You can express your interest in this group here: <https://www.research.net/r/CentralCoastResilienceEOI>

This core group will participate in 2 workshops, designed to gather local knowledge, organise community events and use their insights to develop a community plan.

We will contact you to advise if you have been selected or not, and provide you with all the details.

By expressing interest, you are giving approval for your contact details to be shared with Council's project partner, Cred Consulting. If you have any questions or would like assistance expressing your interest please email ariadne@credconsulting.com.au.

Expressions of interest close on Sunday 4 February 2024.

Ariadne Sofianidis
www.credconsulting.com.au

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Mangrove Mountain Farmers & Artisans Market 9am ~ 3pm

1st Sunday of every month
Grand Opening Sunday 3rd March
Mangrove Mountain Hall
Email mangrovemountainhall@gmail.com



Join us for the grand opening of the Mangrove Mountain Farmers and Artisans Markets on Sunday the 3rd of March! And then the first Sunday of every month at the historic Mangrove Mountain Hall. The market will feature a diverse range of local produce and artisan stalls, as well as live music, CWA

Devonshire tea, a workshop space and we'll be combining with a local farm experience held on the same day at a local farm too! We'll be featuring some of the wonderful stalls already booked in for the grand opening, plus exciting news on entertainment, featured farm experience of the month and more

in the coming weeks, so keep an eye out on the page. If you are interested in having a stall, or would like more information, send us an email at mangrovemountainhall@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/MangroveMountainHall

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MMUC - Notice of Special General Meeting and AGM

Mangrove Mountain Christian Group will hold a SGM followed by an AGM on Monday, February 19th, 2024, commencing 7.00pm at the MMUC Hall

The SGM will consider two resolutions:

1. *To change the name of the association from "Mangrove Mountain Christian Group Inc" to "Trustee for the Mangrove Mountain Union Church 1914 Trust Inc."*

2. *To accept a revised constitution that focuses on the terms of the 1914 Trust and elevates the primacy of this Trust under which the MMUC is governed and to separate the role of the trustee from the conduct of religious services.*

Note that the religious services currently being organised by the Mangrove Mountain Christian Group will continue but under the guidance of the Mountain Districts Christian Church

The AGM will follow the SGM. Nominations for the Committee are to be made in writing and delivered to the Secretary seven (7) days prior to the AGM. Nomination forms are available from the Secretary on request.

To participate in any vote a person must be a member and also be

financial. Fees are: joining fee \$1, annual membership \$2. Membership applications are available from the Secretary.

All persons from the community are encouraged to attend, join and participate. Your involvement will ensure the ongoing success of the MMUC and prevent it from falling into the hands of persons who do not have the interests of the MMUC or community at heart.

If you have previously attended the various meetings and services to oppose the sale and support the MMUC then please once again come forward - your support is still needed.

Keith Arango, Secretary, MMUC
MMUCsecretary@outlook.com
0412 669 649



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Gosford Regional Library Construction Commences

The sod was formally ‘turned’ today, to mark the commencement of the construction of the new Gosford Regional Library in Donnison Street, Gosford.

Council Administrator Rik Hart was joined by Dr Gordon Reid MP Member for Robertson and North Construction & Building (North) Managing Director Matthew Cook, to ceremonially ‘turn the first sod’ and celebrate this next stage in the construction of this significant project for the Central Coast.

Mr Hart said “This project will enormously contribute to Gosford, and ultimately the Central Coast, to be a first-class region for employment, education, health and tourism.” The new Gosford Regional Library still on track to be formally opened in early 2025. Mr Hart said.

The project is jointly funded with \$7 million from the Australian Government’s Community Development Grant Program and Council’s collection of developer contributions, special levies (collected by former Gosford City Council) and Council funds restricted to this project.

The Federal Member for Robertson Dr Gordon Reid MP said the Australian Government is proud to help support



**** Expression of Interest ****
Mountain District Football Club
2024 Canteen Manager

- Fully paid casual position (award rates)
- Must be available Fri evening, Sat & Sun from late March to end September
- Hours may differ week to week
- Must be aged over 18 and hold a current drivers licence

Duties include

- Opening / closing canteen
- Roster for canteen / BBQ
- Cleaning of canteen, toilets & changerooms
- Ordering stock
- Cash balancing
- Reporting to committee

Please send your expression of interest to Tom - presidentmdfc@gmail.com

Mountain District Football Club
2024 Registration Pricing

Non-Comp Pricing		Comp Pricing	
U5-U9	\$200	U12-U18	\$250
U10-U11	\$220	Seniors (19+)	\$400

*** Register at <https://ccf.mycompapp.com> ***
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the construction of the new Gosford Regional Library.

“The Australian Government understands that libraries provide a range of services and that they

are important places for learning, collaboration, and for community support.

Central Coast Council
 Media Release



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 \$15 A Class, Contact Jane For Enquiries **0425358621**

Funding for Central Coast Men's Sheds

Kincumber Men's Shed and St Joseph's Workshop in West Gosford on the Central Coast have received funding from the Federal Labor Government to continue supporting

the health and wellbeing of men in our community.

Kincumber Men's Shed will receive \$9,164 towards shed maintenance and equipment.

St Joseph's Workshop in West Gosford will receive \$4,939 towards equipment.

Federal Member for Robertson, Dr Gordon Reid MP said "I'm so pleased two men's sheds have received funding in the latest Men's Shed grant round from the Federal Labor Government.

"Men's Sheds plays a valuable role

in improving health and wellbeing but most importantly they play a part in countering the isolation which some men in our community experience."

There are approximately 1,300 Men's Sheds across Australia offering thousands of men of all ages a safe place to meet, socialise, connect, and engage in meaningful community work.

The Australian Men's Shed Association (AMSA) will open applications for Round 27 of the NSDP on 15 January 2024.

Sheds will be able to submit general applications until 23 February 2024, and applications for defibrillators until 22 March 2024.

Minister Butler said "Men's Sheds are helping men and boys find mateship and social support to help them stay mentally and physically healthy.

"These grants are going towards some fantastic projects that will enable Men's Sheds around the country continue to provide a supportive place where men can focus on their health and wellbeing.

For more information about the Australian Men's Shed Association visit <https://mensshed.org/nsdp/supporting-docs-faqs/>

Medial Release from the Offices of Mark Butler MP Minister for Health and Aged Care and Dr Gordon Reid MP Federal Member for Robertson



Dr Reid with members of the Kincumber Men's Shed



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DHARUG & LOWER HAWKESBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dharug & Lower Hawkesbury Historical Society invites you to join them on Saturday 24th February, for a trip along Singleton Road to explore its many historical sites.

We will be led by Robert McKenzie, who is a long term resident of Laughtondale, and who has an intimate knowledge of its history.

Where: We will meet at the parking area at Wisemans Ferry behind the kiosk.

When: Saturday 24 February at 10.00am. We will have morning tea and Robert will explain his itinerary. And we will carpool if required. We will begin the tour at the historic Courangra property, the land grant of First Fleeter Peter Hibbs, which is at the far end of Singleton Road, 20kms from the township. We will then drive back towards Wisemans Ferry, stopping at sites along the way including Francis Byrnes' house, Singleton's Mill at Laybury Creek and the Wisemans

Mangrove Mountain Landfill Excellent News!!

For those who are new to the area or are not aware of the issues with the Mangrove Mountain Landfill, here is a VERY brief history. The landfill site in Mangrove Mountain is on the site of the Mangrove Mountain Memorial Club and Golf Course.

This landfill site lies in a watercourse and in the catchment area for the Central Coast potable water supply.

Originally the 40 ha parcel of land was bequeathed to the community by a local returned serviceman in 1966 to provide a permanent home for the MM RSL Sub branch. In 1998 Council

Ferry cemetery.

We will have lunch along the way.

It is a BYO everything day. Please bring sunscreen and insect repellent and wear sturdy shoes.

Cost: \$15.00

Bookings: essential to secretary@dlhhs.org.au or 0405 321 478. We must be able to contact everyone coming along in case of either wet weather or a Fire danger.

Please book by 20th February.

All welcome.

Jan Kofron
Secretary

approved the remodelling of the golf course from 9 hole to 18 hole. From this point, the small amount of clean fill needed became tonnes and tonnes and mountain of rubbish including building material...remember that this is all on top of an aquifer and a water catchment area.

Unfortunately, the parcel of land was lost to the community in 2014. The golf course and landfill were sold to the landfill operator by the NSW RSL State Branch, without any reference to the local sub-branch.

MDA has been working to close it down since 2014 and it has not been operational since then. However, Verde Terra has been trying to restart the tipping, and expand it.

We are thrilled with the news that in November Verde Terra lost its appeal in the High Court to expand the Landfill at Mangrove Mountain.

This means that they would have to submit a new Development Application to Council, as well as an Environmental Impact Statement.

Central Coast Council has told us that they will continue to fight any remaining battles and they are also looking into ensuring ongoing remediation/protection measures.

What a great way to end 2023 !!!



**Mountain Districts
Association**

Working for our Rural Community and the Environment
www.mountaindistrictsassociation.com.au



Mangrove Mountain MEMORIAL CLUB & GOLF COURSE

WHATS ON WEEKLY

TUESDAY

BINGO from 11am
Pizza & Pasta specials starting from \$10

WEDNESDAY

MEAT RAFFLE drawn at 730pm
\$15 schnitzel night from 530pm

THURSDAY

MEMBERS BADGE DRAW drawn at 730pm
\$18 burger night from 530pm

FRIDAY

HAPPY HOUR 4-6pm
COCKTAIL HOUR 6-7pm
MEAT RAFFLE drawn at 730pm
New restaurant specials every week from 530pm

SATURDAY

POOL COMP from 630pm
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Little Big School @ Kariong Neighbourhood Centre

Little Big School is a play-based pre-school program for children aged 3 - 5 years, run by our experienced and qualified Early Childhood Teacher, Miss Lyn.

Guided by the Early Years Learning Framework, programming includes fun activities to promote learning and development. Children familiar with, or new to, early childhood education and care are welcomed into the Little Big School community.

With a focus on relationship building and self-help skills, our Little Big School community provides a safe and nurturing environment for young children in preparation for expectations of the first year of school. Children aged 3-5 are encouraged to attend.

Programming includes activities based on children's interests which encourage curiosity, problem solving, and creativity. Each child is

SATURDAY CRAFT GROUP

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supported to build social skills and confidence whilst group activities foster cooperation and encourage turn-taking.

When: Tuesdays - 9:30am – 11:30am
(School term only)

Where: Kariong Neighbourhood Centre, 10 Langford Drive, Kariong

Fees: \$12 enrolment fee, \$13.50 per session. Fees attract Child Care Subsidy.

For more information contact Kariong Neighbourhood Centre, P:4340 1724 | E: admin@knc.net.au

CWA Mangrove Mountain Evening Group

At our January meeting I had the privilege of taking part in our first judging for the year. As a new



member it was very exciting, a little nerve racking and an amazing learning experience. Our amazing judge Bev gave great feedback that will definitely help me improve and just watching the whole process taught me

so much. I was very lucky to have a 1st place which is an awesome confidence builder. I am looking forward to my CWA journey and meeting some of you at group.

Tracey



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'EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHY'

An exhibition by local photographers curated by Wayne Munce. Open 10am - 4pm weekends. 17 - 25 February

The exhibition provides the opportunity for local photographers to exhibit and offer for sale photographs that have been taken in the regional area and other locations.

Photographers are from localities including Cessnock, Ellalong, Pokolbin and Keinbah.

Many of the photographers are also award winning photographers in national and international exhibitions.

The photography includes scenes from local events, historical locations, residents of the area, nature, exhibits at the Hunter Valley Zoo. The participants are all amateur photographers with a long passion of searching for and recording static and dynamic subjects.

The photographers are influenced not only by recognised photographers from Ansell Adams to Annie Liebovitz, but also by their own personal interests in their preferred style of photography, reflected in their chosen subject matter from architecture to wild life and presented in classic mono and vivid colour.

Some photographers have had the opportunity to capture memorable images during travel in Antarctica and Africa strengthening their skills and passion.

The printed photographs are presented on various quality photographic papers from matt to gloss, metallic and archival museum grade papers and are presented as ready to frame photographs.



Life Drawing Sessions, 2024

Wednesdays, 1-4pm, \$20 to \$25
 Feb 7, 28, March 20, April 10, May 1, 2 continuing until Dec.
 Call Mandy to Register 4998 8686

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.

Wollombi Valley Arts Council Inc
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CENTRAL COAST





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Magnolia on Finns!

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	3
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This prime 21.5-acre property is located in arguably the best street in Kulnura and is just a 15-minute trip to the M1, or approximately 50 minutes to Wahrenonga.

Positioned with a lovely northerly aspect, this double brick single level home was completed in 2020. The east west layout provides good solar access for comfortable year-round living. The luxurious one-off design uses superior building materials and provides nearly 400 square metres of internal living space with as much again between the triple attached garage and covered two-metre-wide veranda on all sides.

- High ceilings, ducted reverse cycle air conditioning, Lopi slow combustion fireplace.
- Four huge bedrooms all with built in wardrobes.
- Large kitchen, vast butler's pantry, Falcon 'Nexus' oven with five gas burners plus an induction hot plate.
- The laundry is also spacious with ample bench space and a large linen cupboard.
- Raised flower/vegetable gardens in this area, provisions for chickens.
- Large cabana with heavy Australian hardwood outdoor furniture.
- 110,000 litre steel water tank, bore, large spring fed dam.

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E: info@ccselect.com.au

A more Accessible Summer

A range of accessibility infrastructure improvements at Central Coast beaches is making it easier for locals and visitors with disability to take advantage of the Coast's beachside hotspots.

Member for Gosford, Liesl Tesch MP says that becoming familiar with accessible infrastructure and improvements can make a big difference to beach trips for people with disability.

"Summer is such a wonderful time to get out and about on our stunning Central Coast. It's so pleasing to witness our accessible infrastructure improvements, to the benefit of both Central Coast residents and our visiting tourists this holiday season.

"Central Coast Council is doing a stellar job. Beach wheelchairs can be booked via QR code, via the Central Coast Council website, or, during patrol season, by asking a lifeguard on duty.

"Until April, beach matting is installed at Umina Beach, Ocean Beach and Terrigal. Beach wheelchairs are available for public use.

"A recent addition to the upgraded Visitor Information Centre at The Entrance is a 24/7 adult accessible change facility (AACF), accessible via MLAK. An MLAK is available at the customer service desk.

Further information is available on the Central Coast Council website under Accessibility and inclusion.

Media Release from the office of Liesl Tesch MP | Member for Gosford



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The Property Market

Watercolour Workshop in Spencer

Australian Butterflies and Moths

Coming up on March 10th @ The Hawkesbury Duck

Heritage Ventures are running a watercolour workshop in Spencer on Sunday 10th March.

Join us in a creative immersion into the beauty and expression of Moths and Butterflies inspired by local naturalists Harriet and Helena Scott who between

1846 to 1866 documented the colony's species of butterflies, moths and caterpillars from their home on Ash Island in the Hunter River.

From the tropics to the local sandstone heath and your own backyard gardens, there's a myriad of Australian fluttery creatures that are a delight waiting to be celebrated – from the flamboyant Ulysses Butterflies to

the common grass blue.

Your workshop tutor Leonie Loewe, Central Coast artist and designer introduces you to the loose, fluid style of watercolour painting - a perfect introduction to this gorgeous medium, even if you've never tried it before.

Learn the art of colour, shade, and texture to create your own beautiful artwork in the company of other enthusiasts. All watercolour paints and materials provided. Morning tea, lunch, and a special take home gift included.

Leonie Loewe is a fantastic inspiring



Watercolour group at the "Hawkesbury Duck"



Bent-wing-swift-moth Original watercolour by Helena-Scott



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HISTORICAL RECORDS MISSING

The Mangrove Mountain Union Church was built in 1912 and has served the community ever since (except for a recent short period).

Since the appointment of the new Trustee, attempts have been made to locate the historical and financial records of the MMUC but without success.

This is a great loss to the community, over 100 years of history seems lost.

Anyone with information about this please contact the Secretary on MMUCSecretary@outlook.com

tutor. With over 15 years' experience in teaching adults, she loves sharing her wealth of knowledge with one on one and group classes and has a passion for Australian native Flora ad Fauna.

With a focus on watercolour as her medium of choice, she loves painting what she sees around her. Her designs



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have been featured nationally, in magazines including Cleo and NW, and featured on advertising for native products.

Location: The Hawkesbury Duck, Spencer, Time: 9am - 3.30pm, Cost:

\$120

Further information: www.heritageventures.com.au/butterflies
Or phone 0447545271

Heritage Ventures
web: heritageventures.com.au

**Is your family tree missing ancestors?
Are you not sure where to start?**

Central Coast Family History Society
is conducting a genealogy course
on the following dates -

Friday, February 16th, 2024 - 9.30am-12.30pm
(Getting started)

Friday, February 23rd, 2024 - 9.30am-12.30pm
(Searching online)

Friday, March 1st, 2024 - 9.30am-12.30pm
(Understanding DNA)



**Let's start
filling your
tree!!**

**The course will be held at Mangrove Mountain Computer Club
6 Waratah Road, Mangrove Mountain**

To book (essential), contact CCFHS

Tuesday - Friday, 9.30am-2.00pm - 4324 5164

admin@centralcoastfhs.org.au (Accept card payment over phone)

Cost: \$25 per session - handouts/starter kit and morning tea provided

Bring your own laptop if you would like to work on that.

KULNURA AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB - DECEMBER 2023

Our club had a marvellous AGM and Christmas gathering at the beautiful property of Lesley and Mark Newton at Somersby.



We met in the wonderfully appointed shed/workshop/chill-out area and heard reports on some great garden-hunting trips. Our competition winners were announced and prizes given.

Re-elected President Louise remarked on a very successful year and hard-working Secretary Jacqui invited all to come to planning meetings, make suggestions and have a good time.

After a sumptuous lunch of ham, a wide array of salads and sweets and tasty tropical punch members wandered the peaceful gardens or sat

in the shade of well-established trees and enjoyed the day. The hydrangeas looked lovely and borders and veggie garden were inspiring.

There is no meeting in January and the next meeting will be on 12th February. Please contact us for more details.

We welcome all new members to Kulnura and Districts Garden Club. Please email kulnuradgc@gmail.com for information about meetings, membership, or any other questions, or feel free to call Jacqui on 0455 364 262.

Gail Taylor



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The result for the 2023 top selling Local Mountains and districts Real Estate agent is, Michael Kidd Property Sales -



Selling 21% of all properties sold by agents, followed by the next competitor based out of area at 21%, the remaining 6 agents which are also based out of area share the balance of 68% of sales.*

The current Real Estate market on the Mountain is the toughest I've experienced in 32 years as a (Class 1) Licensed Real Estate Stock & Station Agent.

Selling in this market requires a different approach from the normal Agent's way of thinking. It takes more than expensive glossy pamphlets, retouching photos (that don't honestly represent the property, making buyers lose trust) and expensive marketing packages YOU HAVE TO PAY FOR — what it requires is tenacity, endurance, a creative approach to selling, and above all working hard with buyers to get a sale and at the highest possible price.

If you are thinking of selling—call Michael now **4376 1440** or **0439 761 440** and discover the difference that over 32 years of selling Real Estate can bring.



**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: 4th Thursday of every month - Next Session - February 22, 2024

Time: 9.30am – 11.30am

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

Contact: Suzanne - 0412 298 126

Spencer is Getting a New Childrens Playground

It is confirmed that Spencer will be getting an exciting new children's playground/playspace!

Spencer has come into its own with a mobile tower (April 2019), an upgraded public wharf (completed end of October 2019) and a new public amenities block (opened on 26th January 2023) but there are very limited playground facilities for children visiting the area. And as Spencer has become a tourist destination and people are flocking to this tiny hamlet located at the junction of Mangrove Creek and the Hawkesbury River known as the 'Hub of the Universe' to enjoy delicious food, friendly hospitality, whilst taking in the breathtaking views and soaking up the relaxed, peaceful and unique village atmosphere there is nothing for the children.

River Cares has been in direct contact with the Central Coast Council and at the end of last year it was confirmed that an upgraded new children's playspace has been ear-marked for 2024. Dr Gordon Reid has also

provided \$50,000 towards this project as part of the Australian Government contribution funding. There is already a playspace being delivered at Kariong with construction works commencing late January 2024.

According to the Central Coast Council 'Playgrounds/playspaces are the heart of any neighbourhood and important community hubs'. To date the Central Coast Council have spent almost \$1.7 million on inclusive playspace upgrades recently completed

at Budgewoi, Berkeley Vale, Woy Woy Bay, Koolewong, Wyongah, Toukley, Killarney Vale, Tuggerah, Terrigal, Blue haven, Hamlyn Terrace and Woongarah. These playspaces offer multiple activities for a range of ages and abilities as well as attracting, connecting and helping children to play and socialise.

Watch this space (or playspace)!

Robyn Downham
Community Liaison Officer
Publicity Officer
River Cares



One set of swings for children visiting Spencer

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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 bucketty@lowerhunterffrs.com.au 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)
Yarramalong RFS		Information: www.facebook.com/ YarramalongRuralFireBrigade/ Phone contacts: 0406 360588 or 0418 280764 Email: volunteer@yarramalongrfs.org.au

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL

Central Coast Plateau Chamber of Commerce		First Tuesday each month 7.00PM MMMC
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 Union Church, 2154 Wisemans Ferry Rd, MMtn. 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. https://permaculturecc.org.au/
Permaculture Central Coast Kulnura & District Garden Club		Second Monday, 9.30 for 10am start. Jacqui Maxwell 0455364262 kulnuradge@gmail.com
Ladies of the Valley Morning Tea		1st Tues, 10am to 12 at Angels Sussurri Cafe Yarramalong. Margaret Dale 0411104770
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, 7.30pm, Mangrove Mtn Hall. Contact: mpeccinc@gmail.com , 0412669649
Mangrove Emergency Planning & Communications Committee		
Mangrove Mountain Country Fair Committee Meeting		3rd Thu of mth except Jan, 7pm, at The Hub of Mangrove Mtn. Pres- Shane 0417 436 529 www.mountaindistrictsassociation.com.au secretary@mountaindistrictsassociation.com.au
Mountain Districts Association (MDA)		Second Tuesday of the Month 6.30pm at the Mangrove Memorial Club President Marlee Maxwell Email info@rivercares.com.au
Mountain District Football Club Meeting		Friday 7.15am at Phillip House. 43404529
River Cares for the Lower Hawkesbury River District		President Brad Maisey, Community Meetings, 4377 1167, spencercpg2@gmail.com
Rotary Club Meeting		Last Fri of month. 12.00 noon Spencer Community Centre, Jennifer Dayes 4377 1364 Articles to: spencercpg2@gmail.com
Spencer Community Progress Group Inc		Tue 9.30am-12.30pm, Kulnura Tennis Courts. Enquiries: Alison Palmer 0427731548.
Spencer Community Ladies Social Club		Every 2nd month. Check website for further details. www.somersbyequestrianclub.org.au
Newsletter		Tues & Sat. 9am-5pm. Contact: Alan Hunt 4566 4626 or Adrian Acheson 0448 833 781
The Mountain Tuesday Social Tennis Group		Every Sun 8am at Peats Ridge Scout Hall, Sunday School during school terms
Somersby Equestrian Club Club & Committee Meeting		General Meeting 3rd Monday, 7.30pm at the Mangrove Mountain Union Church Hall
Wisemans Ferry Community Men's Shed		9.30am second and fourth Sundays. Mangrove Mountain Union Church, cnr Bloodtree Rd & Wisemans Ferry Rd

SPIRITUAL

Anglican Service - Mountain Districts		
Mangrove Mountain Union Church Trust		
Mangrove Mountain Christian Service		

(cont'd next page)

LIVESTOCK MARKET REPORT



Maitland Liveweight Cattle Sale 8th January 2024

A total yarding of 361 cattle, made up of 300 trade/yearling cattle and 60 export.

Market remained firm to dearer in places with all regular buyers in attendance.

- Restocker Angus Steers 200-300kgs made 270c/kg to 342c/kg
- Restocker Angus Steers 300 – 360kgs made 260c/kg to 305c/kg
- Restocker Angus Heifers made 210c/kg to 268c/kg
- Yearling Heifers made 210c/kg to 280c/kg
- Best butcher vealers made 305c/kg
- Grown Steers made 220c/kg
- Cows made 140c/kg to 210c/kg
- No bulls to quote

Maitland Liveweight Cattle Sale 11th December 2023

A total yarding this week of 920 cattle, made up of 880 trade/yearling cattle and 40 export.

Market overall firm to 25c/kg easier in places, with one exporter out of the market the cow job was up to 30c/kg easier for the top end prime cows as a result.

- Restocker Angus Steers 200-300kgs made 270c/kg to 325c/kg
- Restocker Angus Steers 300-360kgs made 265c/kg to 320c/kg
- Charolais + Other Breeds of Restocker Steers made 170c/kg to 310c/kg
- Restocker Angus heifers made 170c/kg to 256c/kg
- Milk and 2 Tooth Feeder Steers made 250c/kg to 326c/kg
- Butcher Vealers made 260c/kg to

290c/kg

- Plain Non-Descript Weaners made 70c/kg to 170c/kg
- Grown Steers/Bullocks 190c/kg to 250c/kg
- Cows made 110c/kg to 190c/kg

Upcoming Sales

5th & 12th Feb Maitland Liveweight Sale Commencing 9am

15th Feb Gloucester Store Cattle Sale Commencing 11am


17th Feb Maitland Store Cattle Sale Commencing 12pm

A friendly reminder that we are often in the area seeing clients and looking at their livestock and if you would like us to call in be sure to give us a call.

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REGULAR ACTIVITIES & MEETINGS (cont'd)

St Barnabas Christian Service
Yarramalong
Serbian Orthodox

Every Sunday, 9.30am. (Easter & Christmas Carols dates to be advised)
2nd & 4th Sun. of the month. 10 am, followed by luncheon, tea, coffee, cakes (cost \$20).
1184 Peats Ridge Rd, Peats Ridge

Kariong Community Baptist Church

Sun @9.30am, Church & Kid's Program, Philip House, Mt Penang Gardens, Chris Clarke email pastorkcbc@outlook.com

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-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.
Every Sat. evening vigil - 5.30pm St. Francis of Assisi Centre, 30 Lutana Rd, Somersby.
1st Sunday each month, 11.15am St. Barnabas
All welcome. Enq 0428 438577

- Somersby

- Yarramalong

YOUTH

Junior Girl Guides 5-10

Kooree Guide Cabin, 5.00pm - 6.30pm
Mondays in school term,

Girl Guides 10-15

Kooree Guide Cabin, 6.00pm-7.30pm
Mondays in school term, Contact 0417451764 for further information

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

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 Margaret 0409467710 or Gavin 43404435.

The Pearl Beach Aboriginal History Group

3rd Fri of 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
Coastal Communicators Toastmasters

www.cclug.org.au - all most welcome

Craft/scrapbooking

1st & 3rd Thurs of month, 6:45pm to 8:45pm at Doyalson-Wyee RSL. Debbie 0421216952

Saturday Craft Group/Spining
and bobbin lace

Yarramalong Hall 10am to 5pm, \$12/person. Bring along your projects. Dates & details: stackm@skymesh.com.au or ph 43561196

Yarn group (knit, crochet etc)

2nd Sat of the month Somersby Hall (10am to 2pm) cost \$5 per person Carmen 0434071305

Last Sunday of month 2pm at Angels Sussurri Cafe Yarramalong. Contact Margaret Dale 0411104770

HALL BOOKINGS

Kulnura Hall

Contact Central Coast Council.

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

enquiries@yarramalonghall.org.au

<https://yarramalonghall.org.au>



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Little Big School @ Kariong Neighbourhood Centre

Little Big School is a play-based pre-school program for children aged 3 - 5 years, run by our experienced and qualified Early Childhood Teacher, Miss Lyn.

Guided by the Early Years Learning Framework, programming includes fun activities to promote learning and development. Children familiar with, or new to, early childhood education and care are welcomed into the Little Big School community.

With a focus on relationship building and self-help skills, our Little Big School community provides a safe and nurturing environment for young children in preparation for expectations of the first year of school. Children aged 3-5 are encouraged to attend.

Programming includes activities based on children's interests which encourage curiosity, problem solving, and creativity. Each child is

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ROOM TO LET - Self contained area in shared house with own toilet etc. Mt White. Ph Lee 0447133354

WESTY'S PLACE has an opportunity for a hard-working all-rounder who would like to work locally. Westy's focus is pumps and irrigation however we also do metal work and general farm engineering. To start this will be 3 days a week (depending on experience) with an opportunity to increase this over time. Previous experience in pumps, general farm maintenance and/or welding would be beneficial.

If you are interested in the position please drop your resume into us at 1650 Wisemans Ferry Rd, Central Mangrove or email it to info@westysplace.com.au

supported to build social skills and confidence whilst group activities foster cooperation and encourage turn-taking.

When: Tuesdays - 9:30am – 11:30am (School term only)

Where: Kariong Neighbourhood Centre, 10 Langford Drive, Kariong

Fees: \$12 enrolment fee, \$13.50 per session. Fees attract Child Care Subsidy.

For more information contact Kariong Neighbourhood Centre, P:4340 1724 | E: admin@knc.net.au

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

FARM HELP REQUIRED

Farm help required for property in Yarramalong Valley. Experience with cattle, pasture management, maintenance of farm machinery and equipment essential.

Diverse role, minimum 4 days per week, salary negotiable. Email mngmt.jumjum@gmail.com with application and references.

HANDYMAN/GARDENER wanted in Cedar Brush Creek, 3 kms from Letter A. Someone with chainsaw skills, some gardening experience and carpentry skills. Two full days per week (8 hours) for approximately eight weeks from 22nd January. Text John [0458538265](tel:0458538265).

FARM CARETAKER

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