

# COMMUNITY NEWS

No. 939 Ph: 4374 1039 Mo: 0412 669 649 Email: enquiries@cnews1.com.au Web: cnews1.com.au 15th March 2024



## Planned Hazard Reduction Community Meeting

Discussion for land owners to give important information regarding a planned HR in the Mount White area



10am – 12pm  
Sunday 17th and Saturday 23rd March



Calga/ Mount White Rural Fire Brigade Station  
240 Pacific Hwy, Mount White NSW 2250



# RFS

## ASSISTANCE SOUGHT TO RECOVER MISSING ITEMS

After the Mangrove Mountain Union Church was returned to the community a stocktake was conducted and has confirmed that the following items are missing:

- 1 Engraved pewter vase (given in gratitude by parents at the christening of their daughter)
- 1 Original Bible (donated to church in 1912 by the Kelynack family)
- 1 Mini Lectern (for use during communion)
- 1 Lectern with plaque (unstained, unvarnished)
- Altar cloths (several)
- 1 Communion Cup, engraved
- 1 Communion Plate, engraved
- Communion glasses (many)
- 5 Communion trays

- Approx. 90 hymn books
- 3 Boxes of noticeboard letters for external church sign
- 1 Remote and manuals for Samsung Air-conditioners
- 1 Lenovo Laptop
- 1 Logitech Remote Control
- 10 Brown Stackable Chairs
- 1 Santoku Knife Set (5 items)
- 1 Straw broom
- 1 Wooden table
- Set of bunting
- Historical Records
- Financial Records

If anyone has any information about these items please let us know by email: [MMUCSecretary@outlook.com](mailto:MMUCSecretary@outlook.com)



MMUC Trustee



## ANZAC COMMEMORATION SERVICE

Sunday 21st April 2024  
2pm

Afternoon Tea served afterwards

All welcome

Held at the  
Mangrove Mountain  
Memorial Club Limited



Our next meeting will be on Thursday 21st March at 7pm at The Hub, cnr Waratah & Wisemans Ferry Rds, Mangrove Mountain.

Please note at least one member from each group will need to be in attendance at each meeting this year.

The Fair Committee always needs more helpers to plan, organise and run the event so please come along and help your community.

Funds raised by the Fair are put towards developing and improving local facilities and supporting local schools and community groups.

## STOP!

Next issue Published  
5th April 2024

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

**\*\* 29th March '24 \*\***

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email, website or post.  
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phone for enquiries

# Successful Volunteer Information Morning for RDA Central Coast

Despite the rainy weather, we saw an amazing number of visitors to our RDA Central Coast Centre on Saturday 24th February for our annual Volunteer Information Morning.

About 20 people enjoyed hearing about some of the varying roles that our volunteers undertake to provide weekly riding classes for our disabled riders and to maintain our Centre and horses. They then braved the weather to walk across the wet grass to view our paddocks - and were also able to meet some of our lovely geldings.

We will shortly be assessing applications from those who attended and integrating them into areas of our Centre's operations where they are most interested, suitable and where vacancies exist (we are very fortunate to already have so many wonderful

## FREE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Somersby Public School has 2 pianos and 1 drum kit FREE to anyone who could use them.

The pianos will need to be tuned and one requires some repairs to some keys but all instruments are in working order.

Please contact the school office: 4372 1233 for more information



volunteers for our organisation).

Thank you so much to everyone who made the effort to attend this Day. It was lovely to share what we do; as well as being able to meet some friendly potential volunteers.

Thanks also to the Mangrove Mountain and Districts Community News for advertising our events and for supporting all of the local organisations in our community.

Linda Bower

## Tocal Field Days

May 3, 4 & 5 2024

Established in 1984, Tocal Field Days is the premier agricultural event in the Hunter, Newcastle and Central Coast Regions.

Held every year on the first weekend in May, our visitors include people on the land who are looking for the latest innovations, hobby farmers

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# BE PART OF OUR STORY

Inviting children and young people (7-18yrs) from the mountains and valleys of the Central Coast to participate in a visual storytelling project alongside architect and visual designer team Studio Lu & Lu and Lead by Story to develop interpretative works in response to climatic impacts resulting in an immersive installation during Harvest Festival 2024.

## WORKSHOP DETAILS

**Venue:** Mangrove Mountain Hall

**Dates:** every Thursday between the weeks of 29 April 2024 – 20 May 2024

**Time:** 12.30pm – 2.30pm

For more information or to reserve a spot email:

[madalyn.trypas@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au](mailto:madalyn.trypas@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au)



and enthusiasts and people just looking for a great day out. Our 340+ exhibitors bring all the latest in farming techniques and technologies, machinery, remote devices, solar energy and award winning livestock. As well as local Good Food & Wine, demonstrations and a boat load of fun.

Total Field Days is a non profit incorporated association with three part-time staff members and

an enthusiastic band of volunteers.

“We work hard throughout the year to ensure that the event runs smoothly for both exhibitors and visitors. The Team is always looking for the unusual, the new and the unique to add to the event and make it engaging and fun year in and year out.”

*Charise Foulstone - Total Field Days Manage*



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# Mangrove Mountain and Districts Community Group Inc

On Thursday, 7th March we held our monthly General Meeting followed by our Annual General Meeting.

It was good to see nineteen people attend and our General Meeting covered many issues including: -

- Maintenance of the Mangrove Mountain Hall – follow up of grant application for air conditioning; Toilet upgrade and deck extension supported by a donation from the Country Fair.
- The success of the inaugural Mangrove Mountain Farmers and Artisans Markets and moving forward for continued success.
- Resilience planning and recovery – the need for a sub-committee to write a plan for our area (Lower Mangrove to Kulnura).
- The survey sent by Council re Water and Sewerage in our area- the importance for everyone to complete the survey.
- Problems with phones and internet
- Our four small schools have

historically low enrolments and need to advertise the innovative programs they are running to attract new students.

## AGM

The AGM followed, with Mr Peter Comensoli as returning officer.

The result was that the committee for 2024 consists of: -

- President – Ryan Howard
- Vice President – Anne Graham
- Secretary – Kaye Pointer
- Treasurer – Pam Howard
- Public Officer – Claire Podlich
- Committee members – Claire Podlich, Keith Aranjó, Poppe Zouroudis

Our committee meetings are the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm and are held at the Mangrove Mountain Hall. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come and join the group. Your input is needed to make this a welcoming, vibrant, safe and supportive rural community.

*Poppe Zouroudis*

## Presidents Report for 2023

Russell Pontifex - I would like to pay tribute to Russell Pontifex. As a long time member of this group and past President he contributed a great deal to the group and this community. A kind, humble person, he was a man of few words but when he spoke, it was always worth listening. Russell

was and remains a good role model and has set a standard of behaviour and commitment that we all should aspire to.

Our Community group has again reached a point of stability with members working together for the betterment of the community. The past years have seen several episodes of squabbling and fighting that led to upheavals that threatened to destroy the group and in the process dissuaded others from joining. Hopefully we have all learnt to put the interests of the group and the community first.

After the COVID lockdown years the Hall is now back in use and is well booked. Music events are drawing good audiences and the hall has been the venue for many family functions.

As important as the Hall is, this Community Group needs to advocate for the community on wider issues such as roads, phones, schools and many more.

The local schools are of particular concern. In the past the remaining four schools would each have a hundred or more students but now the numbers average in the thirties with one school having only twelve students. The schools were and are the heart of the community, students befriended each other forming bonds that continued into adulthood and whilst waiting at bus stops or doing school pickups parents got to know each other, these relationships formed the basis of a

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strong community.

The Community Group should, on a regular basis, engage with Federal & State politicians and the Central Coast Council to ensure that the needs of the community are clearly known and that suitable policies and actions are implemented. This requires persistence and diplomacy but with an appropriate level of forcefulness. Engaging with other community groups and combining forces would be a great way to get the attention of politicians and council.

As a group, we need to publicise our activities, become more relevant to a changing community and attract more members. A good example of what we can achieve was demonstrated by hosting the first markets for many years. Discussions on restarting the markets began a couple of years ago with momentum slowly building, resulting in a very successful event on the 3rd of March. Congratulations to Ryan and the group who helped, including some who are not currently members of the Community Group, including Justin Wood.

I must point out however, that for too long there has been reliance on a small number of members to carry the load. Other members need to step up to help, even if it is in a small way.

The Community Group can take up a strong role in contributing, supporting and promoting the community.

*Keith Aranjó*

## MANGROVE MOUNTAIN UNION CHURCH CELEBRATORY DINNER

Prior to the MMUC AGM on the 19th February community members gathered to celebrate the return of the Mangrove Mountain Union church to the community.

Elaine Raines had prepared a delicious feast for all to share and also provided the cake.

*Secretary, MMUC Trust*



## Mangrove Mountain MEMORIAL CLUB & GOLF COURSE

### WHATS ON WEEKLY

#### TUESDAY

BINGO from 11am

Taco Tuesday - available all day

#### WEDNESDAY

MEAT RAFFLE drawn at 7:30pm

\$15 schnitzels - available all day

#### THURSDAY

MEMBERS BADGE DRAW - 7:30pm

\$18 burgers - available all day

#### FRIDAY

HAPPY HOUR 4-6pm

COCKTAIL HOUR 6-7pm

MEAT RAFFLE drawn at 7:30pm

New restaurant specials every week from 5:30pm

#### SATURDAY

POOL COMP from 6:30pm

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# New exemption makes it easier for farmers to fight fires

Transport for NSW and the NSW Rural Fire Service have partnered to launch a trial registration exemption for farmers to help rural firefighting efforts this bushfire season.

Farmers can play a key role in protecting their own or neighbouring properties in the event of a bush or a grass fire, particularly before emergency response personnel are able to attend the fire.

Now, during a trial period that ends on 31 March, the NSW Government is allowing farmers to drive vehicles they use for firefighting purposes unregistered within a 100km radius of their home. Farm Fire Fighting Vehicles (FFFVs) tend to be vehicles used to move around farm properties and not on public roads, and therefore may not be registered. The legal use of these vehicles on public roads to attend nearby fires is an important change during the final few months of the bushfire season, and is something many farmers and rural advocates have been calling for.

The RFS has recognised the value of these vehicles and the important role farmers play in firefighting efforts in rural areas. As well as staying within a 100km radius of the storage address, the vehicle must be maintained in a safe operating condition and have fire-fighting equipment permanently attached to be eligible for the exemption. The trial will run until 31 March 2024 and will inform future options for FFFVs.

Find further information and nominate a vehicle for the trial go to <https://www.nsw.gov.au/driving-boating-and-transport/vehicle-registration/unregistered-vehicles/when-you-can-drive-an-unregistered-vehicle#to-cfarm-fire-fighting-vehicle-trial>.

Farmers can also contact Service NSW <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au> on 13 77 88 or visit their nearest Service NSW centre.

Minister for Roads John Graham said: “The Labor Government is committed to exploring innovative solutions to help out with rural firefighting efforts and this trial will do just that. “For the duration of the trial, farmers will see the removal of red tape that will allow them to ready vehicles for protecting land, property, stocks and crops.

“The mosquito fleet as it’s affectionately known, has been an incredible asset for regional, rural and remote areas and I am glad the Labor Government is supporting the farmers to continue their vital, life saving work.”

Minister for Emergency Services Jihad Dib said: “Landholders in rural areas can play a key firefighting role and this trial allows us to test an arrangement that rural advocates have been calling for. “February and March could be challenging months for bush and grass fires, and it is expected this



Above: vehicle based unit Right: trailer based unit

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## UPCOMING CATTLE AUCTIONS

### Maitland Regional Saleyards

- Weekly Monday Liveweight Cattle Sales 9am, followed by Calves, Pigs & Sheep from 12 noon.
- Monthly Store Cattle Sale Saturday March 16th from 12 noon.

### Gloucester Saleyards

- Fortnightly Thursday Store Cattle Sale March 14th & 28th 11am.

Mackas Beef Annual Female Sale March 21st 11am

Feedlots - Abattoirs - Paddock to Paddock Sales  
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exemption will make it easier for landholders to fight fires on or near their properties. "This trial reflects our commitment to strengthening community safety and resilience, particularly in rural bush and grass-fire-prone regions."

Commissioner of the RFS Rob Rogers said: "Landowners with these vehicles and equipment play a critical role as initial responders to grass fires. "This will lead to an even more integrated relationship between farmers and the RFS, leveraging all available resources and the expertise and dedication of farmers in safeguarding our communities."

NSW Farmers Rural Affairs committee member Garry Grant said: "Stopping fires as soon as we can

to minimise damage and loss is the ultimate goal. "The opportunity to take part in this trial will see the important relationship between the RFS and farmers develop even further."

For information on Farm fire safety, preparing a Farm Fire Plan and on Farm Fire Units go the NSW RFS website:

<https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/farm-fire-safety>

***It's a fact. If you and your home are well prepared, you stand a better chance of surviving a bush fire.***

#### FOUR SIMPLE STEPS

There are four simple steps to prepare for bush fires:



#### STEP 1 - DISCUSS



DISCUSS

Discuss what to do if a bush fire threatens your home

Many households find that having a discussion over dinner works best as everybody is together and focussed.

#### STEP 2 - PREPARE



PREPARE

Prepare your home and get it ready for bush fire season

There are simple things you can do around your home to prepare it for a bush fire, like keeping the grass low and having a cleared area around your home.

#### STEP 3 - KNOW



KNOW

Know the bush fire alert levels

If there is a fire in your area you will find its alert level on the NSW RFS website and in the 'Fires Near Me' app. You need to keep track of the alert level so you know what you should do.

#### STEP 4 - KEEP




KEEP

Keep all the bush fire information numbers, websites and the smartphone app

In a bush fire, it's important that you stay up to date on conditions in your area.

*Media release by NSW Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Roads Driving, boating and transport and information from the NSW RFS*




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# Mangrove Mountain Farmers and Artisans Market Grand Opening a great success

Locals and visitors to the area from all over the Central Coast as well as Sydney and Newcastle flocked to the historic Mangrove Mountain Hall and recreation reserve on Sunday the 3rd of March for the grand opening of the Mangrove Mountain Farmers and Artisans Market, with an attendance estimated at around 1,000 people throughout the day.

With 23 stalls selling everything from fresh local produce, honey, jams and preserves to hand made pottery, cards and soaps as well as award winning Cheese's, gourmet Chocolates, fruit trees and more there was something for everyone.

The Community Treasure stall raised over \$736 for this month's recipient being the family of Matt Hall. Thankyou to everyone who supported the table of give and take.

Thanks to Mike Wheeler for performing on our busking stage and entertaining the audience with his

country music on the day and a big thanks to local artist, Robert Berry, for the lovely art exhibition featuring a selection of his paintings that have been shown at some of Australia's best art galleries on the hall stage. We look forward to having another selection of Robert's work on display at our April market for you to enjoy. We are also looking forward to expanding our entertainment program throughout the day, so watch this space!

It was wonderful to see and catch up with so many locals attending the markets throughout the day, and the event also provided a welcome boost to visitation in the area with the Hub of Mangrove Mountain packed the entire day with market goers staying for a bite to eat and a cup of coffee along with roadside stalls reporting increased numbers to their stalls on the day.

With a number of new stalls joining us next month adding to the variety of stalls from our grand opening market and buoyed by the local support, we're

already looking forward to seeing you all at our next market on Sunday the 7th of April and growing the Mangrove Mountain Farmers and Artisans market into a vibrant monthly event on the first Sunday of the month for locals and visitors to the region to enjoy.

If you would like to have a stall, or have a suggestion of something you would like to see at the market, send us an email [mangrovemountainhall@gmail.com](mailto:mangrovemountainhall@gmail.com) or phone 0405426289

The Mangrove Mountain Farmers and Artisans Market is an event of the Mangrove Mountain and Districts Community Group Inc and is proudly organised and run by local volunteers.

As the market is growing rapidly we are also seeking more volunteers to assist with the market on the day and with set up on the Saturday. If you have an hour or two to spare and would like to join in the camaraderie of a working with a great group of local volunteers, we'd love to hear from you! Ph 0405416289

**Next Market:** Sunday the 7th of April, 9am till 3pm at the historic Mangrove Mountain Hall and recreation reserve.

Ryan Howard



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Top: visitors enjoying the variety of stalls in the hall  
 Right & Below: setting up the antique tank sprayer cart display



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# Blues on the Mountain: Nathan Beretta Band album launch

Blues on the Mountain is proud to announce the Nathan Beretta Band album launch.

Saturday 23rd of March.

Nathan performed at our very first event back in 2013 with the award winning band, "Blue Eyes Cry", one of the best Blues and Soul bands to come out of Melbourne, fast forward to 2019 and Nathan was blazing a new trail through the Blues festival scene with his new band, the Nathan Beretta Band, topping the charts with their debut album "Where I Belong".

Nathan Beretta is a real blues man, his guitar playing & vocals is authentic yet modern.

Nathan has shared the stage with many Australian Legends such as Ash Grunwald, Robert Susz (Dynamic Hepnotics) Shane Pacey (Bondi Cigars), Geoff Achison, Lloyd Spiegel, and Chris Wilson just to name a few.

When it comes to festivals Nathan has performed throughout Australia opening up for international acts such as Anne Popovich, Jon Cleary, and Joe Louis Walker.

Growing up with Blues jazz and soul in the household, Nathan has brought his own unique style to the table. Influenced by artists such as Ronnie Earl, Albert Collins, and Jimmie Vaughn, Nathan plays from the soul.

To celebrate the release of their second album, the Nathan Beretta Band will be performing at the historic Mangrove Mountain Hall on Saturday the 23rd of March along with a very special guest.

Doors open at 6pm. Great food available for purchase, BYO welcome. Tickets cost \$30 (Adults) children under 12 years of age, accompanied by a paying adult, free. To book visit [www.trybooking.com/CODOC](http://www.trybooking.com/CODOC)

Ryan Howard



*Blues on the Mountain*  
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# Introducing the next cohort of Y4Y Action Team

Council has announced ten new Y4Y (Youth for Youth) Action Team members, to represent young people on the coast.

To ensure the continued and meaningful engagement of young people in the region, Council is excited to introduce the 2024 Y4Y Action Team.

Director Community and Recreation Services Melanie Smith said the Y4Y Action Team aims to meaningfully engage young people on the Central Coast, drawing on their own skills, experience and networks and helping to further develop them.

“Through their position as representatives of Y4Y Action Team, members contribute to a community program, the development of a legacy item for young people and a community campaign based on a theme of the Central Coast Youth Strategy,” Ms Smith said.

“With members aged 14 to 24 years, the Y4Y Action Team has doubled this year due to an increase in applications during recruitment. The new team mirrors the diversity of the region including young people who live, work or study on the Central Coast.”

As part of the Y4Y Action Team, the new team will meet regularly and work on a range of initiatives and development opportunities – from running the annual Youth Week Awards and youth forum, to organising local youth-focused programs, advocating, and advising on local youth-related initiatives and issues.

This year’s team will deliver a community ‘Inclusion Day’ event in December 2024 to celebrate different cultures and activities that young people can participate in.

Administrator Rik Hart said now in its fifth year, the Y4Y Action Team has developed a thriving network in

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Back Row {L-R}: Malcolm Barlett, Lilia Olaru-Mohr, Maddison Elwine-Wilson, Lily Arendse, Jasper Blakely, Travis Pankhurst  
Front Row {L-R}: Anannya Bandaru, Simran Nathani, Janine Southwell, Isabelle Ince

the local youth sector committed to working with Council to continue to create positive change and shape a thriving, dynamic Central Coast community guided by the Central Coast Youth Strategy.

“Throughout 2023, the previous members of the Y4Y Action Team worked to actively promote the inclusion of young people’s voices through diverse strategies,” Mr Hart said.

“Members participated in youth-led initiatives and forums, contributed to social media campaigns, and used their experience to provide valuable feedback to Council programmes.

Meet the new members by exploring their journey via the social media hashtag #Y4YCC For further information about Council programmes for young people visit centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/youth

Central Coast Council Media Team

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**Shaun Coffey**  
0417 400 556



**Scott Wall**  
0413 965 616



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 Brad at Mabel on 0478 398 194  
 or Robyn at River Cares on 0414 248 224  
 or go to [mabel.com.au](http://mabel.com.au) to register



# Peats Ridge & District CWA

Our meeting was held at the Peats Ridge Community Hall on 19th February - yes our meetings are now being held on the 3rd Mondays.



Eight members attended with Bev who judged our entries of marble jaffa cakes and also almond bread. Also handcraft items were judged. On the 21st March will be the big day where cakes and handcraft items are in competition with other branches from Hornsby to Morisset.

Visitor Karen from Mangrove Mountain branch spoke about three branches coming together to be at the monthly markets and branches will take turns so devonshire teas will be there as well many stalls. Hope to see everyone support the branches.

And now some history:



19th February 1946 an inaugural meeting was held with Mrs K. Hoipo the instigator of the formation of the branch Peats Ridge and District Country Womens Association and this was suggested by Somersby branch which was formed in 1932. Branches were in the Nepean Group but in September 1946 the Northumberland Group was formed. Our branch's first meeting was held on the 6th March at 2pm.

The first President was Mrs D. Davidson, Secretary was Mrs R. Willings and Treasurer was Mrs W. Harrison.

History is important as it tells us when we started from and I hope to

# FROM THE SPENCER AREA

Our small town has many advantages for our residents.

We all seek ways to improve area.

The best idea recently was a meeting of local period organised by the Central Coast Council and Cred Consulting. They organised a pop-up-hub along the waterfront at Spencer on March 1st from 5pm.

This meeting of the above group was brilliant in many ways. It encouraged many people to put forward their own suggestions to improve our beautiful area. There were many very brilliant ideas put forward in written notes and compiled on data boards.

These data boards will be studied and the information used to develop action plans.

My very personal thanks to this group of people who worked very hard on setting this up and how effectively it was carried out.

Highest regards and affection to you all.

J.W.  
Spencer

write more on our branch.

Till next time, take care.

Christine Sanfilippo  
Publicity Officer

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# CLASH OF CULTURES!

## ISLANDERS VERSUS MAINLANDERS: PREPARE FOR THE EPIC CRICKET ENCOUNTER

It's all happening in Spencer on Easter Saturday from 11am at the grounds of the helipad near No Name Creek. There will be a shuttle service at the public wharf for those coming by boat. All the river communities and visitors to the area are welcome and encouraged to come along and join in on this mad, fun, hilarious day.

Come and make a statement by showing your support for breast cancer



awareness by wearing outrageous pink costumes while showing off your cricket prowess! There will be a prize for the most flamboyant outfit.

There will also be a sausage sizzle and lots of great raffle prizes to be won. So please make sure you bring cash only! All proceeds raised on the day will go to the McGarth Foundation promoting breast cancer awareness. Our target is to try and raise over \$1,000.

We are also bringing back the prestigious 'Golden Egg Beaters' trophy for the bake-off competition where anyone can bring along their home made cakes, slices, cup-cakes, desserts or whatever takes your fancy to create. There will be a selection of impartial judges to prevent corruption and cheating during the serious judging process.

The winning team will be presented with the 'Phil Woodbury' trophy in his honour.

You will also need to bring your own chairs, drinks and a happy disposition. Fingers-crossed the weather will be kind to us.

Come and join in on the excitement of this fun community cricket day!

*Robyn Downham  
Spencer*



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or [Olga@sustainablenatives.com.au](mailto:Olga@sustainablenatives.com.au)  
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## 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 - March 28, 2024**

**Time:** 9.30am – 11.30am

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

**Contact:** Suzanne - 0412 298 126

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# School Buses: Will Timely Action Be taken?

Recently the NSW Bus Industry Taskforce handed down its second report into NSW bus services.

The second report outlines a plan to fix the deterioration of bus services that carry 40 per cent of all public transport passengers but receive only 2 per cent of capital expenditure in transport.

Two of the recommendations are:

1. Immediately addressing more than a decade of neglect of investment in school and local bus services and additional frequent and local services to areas with no or very poor service levels

2. A renewed focus within Transport for NSW on better asset management, risk management and safety outcomes, and,

When will action be taken?

On the 8/3/24, my son was injured on the bus while on the way to school. This is the second school bus incident in our area where children have been injured.

I penned this email to our State & Federal MP's:

Dear Liesl & Gordon,

My son travels to and from school on a local bus. Today on the trip to school the bus driver braked hard to stop to pick up another student and my son, who had been seated on the seat at back of the bus, was thrown forward down the aisle. After completing the pickup and checking on my son, the bus driver then continued to the school where school staff took care of him. I later picked him up and took him to the local doctor for a checkup.

My son has suffered severe bruising and injuries to his leg, arms and head. Other children on the bus were also hurt.

After the spate of fatal bus accidents highlighted in the media there had been discussion about fitting seat belts to school buses. This seems to have all been forgotten.

Cars and trucks are mandated to have seat belts, air bags and other safety devices and drivers and passengers are obligated to wear seat belts and face hefty penalties for not complying.

It seems however that children, among the most vulnerable in our society are forgotten. The school buses in this district are travelling at speed and whilst bus drivers may take care, there will be the inevitable situation where emergency action is required or other vehicles collide with school buses.

There had been some comment that it would too expensive to fit all buses with seat belts and if only selected buses were fitted, too difficult to schedule those buses for school runs. Not a good enough excuse.

We need seat belts fitted to all school buses.

We need seat belts fitted ASAP.

We need seat belts fitted before there is serious injury.

We need seat belts fitted before there is a fatality.

Can you please do something!

Regards,

Keith Arango,

52 Meriki Road,

Mangrove Mountain, 2250

Ph 0412669649

The NSW Government Ministerial release states "The 204-page Bus Industry Taskforce report calls for modern, fit for purpose bus contracts in the regions. The outdated contract model has meant bus services in rural and regional NSW have not been given the same degree of attention as services in Sydney."

"Local Government also plays a critical role in how bus services are delivered which can be improved by identifying funding options and streamlining delegations to speed up decisions that improve local roads and footpaths for bus users, pedestrians, and cyclists."

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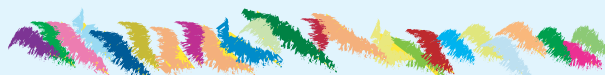
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“The report makes clear more work needs to be done to better plan and manage essential transport infrastructure, including depots, facilities, bus stops and supporting technology.”

**“Safety of bus services remains a top priority of the Taskforce, with a multi-year campaign to promote seatbelt use on buses already underway.”**

“Work is also continuing on options for safety improvements for standing passengers on buses, including consideration of whether an 80km/h rule for dedicated school bus services could be rolled out to all services.”

Transport Minister Jo Haylen said: “The Second Bus Taskforce report will deliver the biggest improvement to bus services that NSW has seen in

a generation.”

“For too long bus services have been the forgotten mode of Transport in NSW. They carry more than 40 per cent of passengers but are lucky to get more than 2 per cent of capital investment. This must change. Tens of thousands of passengers rely on the bus network and we need to do better.”

“Too many growing communities were neglected because the former government had no plan for what their future bus services would look like. We now have plan to make sure those communities get the bus services they need.”

Howard Collins has already been appointed as the Coordinator General, reporting directly to the Secretary of Transport for NSW, centralising responsibility for bus operations within one area.

Josh Murray is the Secretary, Transport for NSW where he leads a team of more than 29,000 people dedicated to running reliable, essential daily transport services and operations to connect people right across NSW.

Submissions and comments can be sent to the Minister for Transport on the NSW Govt website;

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/nsw-government/ministers/minister-for-transport>

or by email: [summerhill@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:summerhill@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Liesl Tesch can be emailed at: [goford@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:goford@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

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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: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/YarramalongRuralFireBrigade/">www.facebook.com/ YarramalongRuralFireBrigade/</a> 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)		Third 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.
Kulnura & District Garden Club		Second Monday, 9.30 for 10am start. Jacqui Maxwell 0455364262 kulnuradgc@gmail.com
Kulnura Tuesday Tennis		Tue 9.30am-12.30pm, Kulnura Tennis Courts. Enquiries: Alison Palmer 0427731548.
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: mepccinc@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
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 <a href="https://permaculturecc.org.au/">https://permaculturecc.org.au/</a>
Permaculture Central Coast		President Marlee Maxwell Email <a href="mailto:info@rivercares.com.au">info@rivercares.com.au</a>
River Cares for the Lower Hawkesbury River District		Friday 7.15am at Phillip House. 43404529
Rotary Club Meeting		President Brad Maisey, Community Meetings, 4377 1167, <a href="mailto:spencercpg2@gmail.com">spencercpg2@gmail.com</a>
Spencer Community Progress Group Inc		Last Fri of month. 12.00 noon Spencer Community Centre, Jennifer Dayes 4377 1364 Articles to: <a href="mailto:spencercpg2@gmail.com">spencercpg2@gmail.com</a>
Spencer Community Ladies Social Club		Every 2nd month. Check website for further details. <a href="http://www.somersbyequestrianclub.org.au">www.somersbyequestrianclub.org.au</a>
Newsletter		Tues & Sat. 9am-5pm. Contact: Alan Hunt 4566 4626 or Adrian Acheson 0448 833 781
Somersby Equestrian Club Club & Committee Meeting		
Wisemans Ferry Community Men's Shed		

### SPIRITUAL

Anglican Service - Mountain Districts		Every Sun 8am at Peats Ridge Scout Hall, Sunday School during school terms
Mangrove Mountain Union Church Trust		General Meeting 3rd Monday, 7.30pm at the Mangrove Mountain Union Church Hall
Mangrove Mountain Christian Service		9.30am second and fourth Sundays. Mangrove Mountain Union Church, cnr Bloodtree Rd & Wisemans Ferry Rd

(cont'd next page)

## LIVESTOCK MARKET REPORT



### Maitland Liveweight Cattle Sale 4th March 2024

A mixed yarding of 450 cattle yarded today with 400 trade/yearling cattle and 50 export cattle.

All regular buyers were in attendance.

- Restocking steers 180kg – 250kg made 250c/kg to 396c/kg
- 250kg – 350kg made 260c/kg to 382c/kg
- 350kg+ made 290c/kg to 370c/kg
- Restocking Heifers 180-250kg made 210c/kg to 194c/kg
- 250kg-350kg made 230c/kg to 346c/kg
- 350kg+ made 230c/kg to 336c/kg
- Yearling Steers made 250c/kg to 340c/kg
- Yearling Heifers made 210c/kg to 290c/kg
- Grown Heifers made 200c/kg to 230c/kg
- Cows made 160c/kg to 230c/kg
- Bulls made 200c/kg to 230c/kg

### Maitland Liveweight Cattle Sale 26th February 2024

A total of 550 cattle yarded today with 510 trade/yearling cattle and 40 export cattle.


- Trade restocking steers remained firm to 20c/kg dearer in places, meanwhile the restocker heifers were 20c/kg easier.
- Angus Restocker steers up to 280kg made 330c/kg to 435c/kg
- 280kgs to 350kgs made 310c/kg to 405c/kg
- Other breeds of restocker steers made 250c/kg to 400c/kg

- Angus restocker heifers up to 280kgs made 230c/kg to 280c/kg
- 280kgs to 350kgs made 220c/kg to 300c/kg
- Yearling steers made 270c/kg to 405c/kg
- Yearling heifers made 210c/kg to 310c/kg
- Grown steers made 230c/kg to 260c/kg
- Cows made 120c/kg to 235c/kg
- Bulls made 170c/kg to 180c/kg

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**  
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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](mailto:pastorkcbc@outlook.com)

**Restitution Ministries**  
Independent SDA Church  
10am every Saturday, Mangrove Mountain Union Church.

**Divine Retreat Centre** (Ph 04 6848 6782)  
160 Hensons Road, Somersby  
[www.divineretreatcentre.org.au](http://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.  
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

**Wollombi**  
**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](http://www.henrykendallcottage.org.au)  
Last Sat of month. All welcome, contact Jan Kofron 0405321478 [jankofron@optusnet.com.au](mailto:jankofron@optusnet.com.au)  
2nd Sat of the month, 10.00am for 10.30, Point Clare Hall (except Jan & Dec). Contact Margaret 0409467710 or Gavin 43404435.  
3rd Fri of month 7.30pm Pearl Beach. Peggy 0411754577 [pbaboriginalhistory@gmail.com](mailto:pbaboriginalhistory@gmail.com)  
Open Sun to Thurs, 10am-2pm, other times by appt. Contact 43521886 email [info@alisonhomestead.com.au](mailto:info@alisonhomestead.com.au) website: [www.alisonhomestead.com.au](http://www.alisonhomestead.com.au)

**The Pearl Beach Aboriginal History Group**  
3rd Fri of month 7.30pm Pearl Beach. Peggy 0411754577 [pbaboriginalhistory@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:info@alisonhomestead.com.au) website: [www.alisonhomestead.com.au](http://www.alisonhomestead.com.au)

**ACTIVITY/HOBBY**  
Central Coast GNU/Linux Users Group  
www.cclug.org.au - all most welcome  
Coastal Communicators Toastmasters  
1st & 3rd Thurs of month, 6:45pm to 8:45pm at Doyalson-Wyee RSL. Debbie 0421216952  
Yarramalong Hall 10am to 5pm, \$12/person. Bring along your projects. Dates & details: [stackm@skymesh.com.au](mailto:stackm@skymesh.com.au) or ph 43561196  
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

**Craft/scrapbooking**

**Saturday Craft Group/Spining and bobbin lace**  
Yarn group (knit, crochet etc)

**HALL BOOKINGS**  
Kulnura Hall  
Mangrove Mountain Hall  
Somersby Hall and Mountain Districts Culture and Heritage Centre  
Yarramalong school of Arts / Hall  
ContactCentral Coast Council.  
Hall bookings Ryan Howard 0405416289  
Hall bookings: 0413 359 655 or AH 4373 1488  
[enquiries@yarramalonghall.org.au](mailto:enquiries@yarramalonghall.org.au)  
<https://yarramalonghall.org.au>

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 email: [Ray.Hayward@gmail.com](mailto:Ray.Hayward@gmail.com)



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

Residents of Ironbark Rd, Mangrove Mountain have begun forming a Community Led Resilience Team with the aim of putting together a resilience and disaster action plan.

This will contribute to and be part of a resilience and disaster plan for the whole Mountain Districts.

By getting to know your neighbours and those on nearby properties you will have an idea of which people are vulnerable and may need help during emergencies. It will also be a way to find out what skills resources and experiences others have that would be useful during disaster scenarios.

Emergency planning is an iterative process and an emergency plan is not a static document but is regularly reviewed and updated with feedback from lessons learnt, actual life experiences, risk assessments and new data and technology. Because of the inherent uncertainty, plans need to be flexible and adaptive.

The emergency plan will deal with

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GARDENER WANTED for Kulnura garden 2 days per week, flexible hrs & days, pay negotiable 0413 868007

getting prepared, identifying actions to be implemented as an emergency event unfolds and steps to take once the emergency has passed.

To help, be involved or contribute please contact the MEPCC by email: [mepccinc@gmail.com](mailto:mepccinc@gmail.com) or phone: 0412 669 649

Any residents of Ironbark Rd wishing to speak to or be involved in the Ironbark Team can contact Anne on 0414 682 533

The Mountain Districts plan complements similar plans in adjacent districts, namely Spencer and Wollombi.

Don't wait until an emergency knocks on your door to take action

This effort is also supported by the NSW DPI, Carers NSW, Central Coast Council, Hunter JO, SES and RFS.

MEPCC

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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.

### FOR SALE

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FIREWOOD for sale 43741192 or 0497808759

YOUNG FEMALE GOATS from \$150.00 Dianne 0427 573 494

WATER LICENCE Kulnura Mangrove Mountain Ground water source 45 Megs, open to offers, call 0407761375

MULCH HAY \$5 per bale min 15 bales 0419412993

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