

COMMUNITY NEWS

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Re-Dedication of the Memorial Plaque at the Mangrove Mountain Union Church

On Sunday, October 17, 1920, a Gynea Lily provided a touch of the land the soldiers on the memorial plaque ploughed and tilled. The Union Jack Flag draped over the memorial was raised to proudly unveil the memorial tablet dedicated to the memory of First World War soldiers, Bombardier William Jamieson and Private Richard Hubert Le Gray.

Both men lived and worked their mountain land holdings prior to leaving Australia, their names on this memorial the only remaining evidence of their connection to Mangrove Mountain.

I am honoured to share a little about the life and service of both young service men of the Great War who called Mangrove Mountain home.

Private Charles Richard Hubert Le GRAY was born in Cootamundra, NSW, however, his Christian name 'Charles' is missing from his military papers. People around the district knew 'Dick' Le Gray as a most industrious young farmer.

Young men had been attracted to this district, several having relocated from Cootamundra, NSW, for example,

surnames like the Pinkstone brothers, Solling, Gates, Kelynack, and Le Gray to name a few. Since the early 1900s, news about farming at Mangrove Mountain spread through the Cootamundra newspaper articles; for example, 'ON OUR SELECTION'.

At Mangrove Mountain, Le Gray's 90-acre property consisted of 6 acres of citrus trees, a small dwelling that he and his mother, Edith Esme Lenore Le Gray shared until her death in June 1915, aged 51 years.

After his mother's death, Dick Le Gray aged 21 years 4 months, applied to enlist to fight for King and Country on October 17, 1916.

Dick's date of enlistment was only eight days before fellow farmer, William Jamieson, also enlisted; William being the other soldier named on the memorial plaque.

Dick was an unmarried farmer who was actively establishing his farm at Central Mangrove. With his mother deceased, 'Dick' noted his sister, Edith Ruby O'Neill of Unanderra, near Wollongong, NSW, as his next of kin. His physical height was 5 foot 11 inches, and he had a fair complexion with dark blue eyes and fair hair.

After enlisting Private Le Gray No. 6330 was posted to the 17th Battalion and trained at the Liverpool Military Camp before boarding A29 HMAT (His Majesty Australian Transport) 'SUEVIC' on November 10, 1916.

It is during the sea voyage that Dick Le Gray took ill with the measles, only a week into the voyage which lasted 2-3 weeks. Once the ship reached Cape Town, South Africa on 11 December 1916, Le Gray was transferred to the No. 2 General Hospital, and he died only 5

FEDERAL ELECTION POLLING PLACE

Please note that the Mangrove Mountain voting place is located at the Mountain Community Children's Centre, 2829 Wisemans Ferry Road, Mangrove Mountain.

Anna Arnott

days later from bronchopneumonia.

Le Gray's burial in the Maitland Cemetery in Cape Town was on the same day as he had died - 16 December 1916.

Dick Le Gray's war medals were forwarded to his sister, Ruby, who had to prove that she was the closest living relative before she could receive the medals. Both Dick and Ruby's parents were deceased, and the only other brother, Louis Bertram Le Gray had lost touch with his siblings. Louis Bertram Le Gray was also a soldier in the 8th Infantry Battalion.

Ruby also received her brother's personal effects, which included a Leather purse, some cash, a chain, pipe, holdall, a Prayer Book, Safety Razor, one case, a letter case containing knife, fork and spoon, a box of cigarettes, one shell mirror, one wristlet watch, one money belt and some other personal belongings.

After his death, Dick Le Gray's 90-acre Mangrove Mountain property was sold by public auction at the Gosford Courthouse on Wednesday May 15, 1918, to Alfred Ingram CHAPMAN,

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Lots of people know what to do, but few actually do what they know.

Anon

STOP!

Next issue Published
16th May 2025

**** DEADLINE ****

**** 9th May '25 ****

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Council's role in an emergency

Central Coast Council's role during a local emergency is to:

- Serve as a conduit for key information on the emergency event from the Emergency Service Providers for example; State Emergency Service, Fire and Rescue, Rural Fire Service, Police Force, Health, etc.
- Support the lead Emergency Service Provider with the resources, people and equipment they need to manage the emergency and any follow-up recovery actions (as per legislative requirements of the Central Coast Local Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN 2023))
- Continue our constant and close monitoring of Council managed open spaces, reserves, facilities and roads for any impacts.
- Mobilise our own resources, people and equipment to respond to any identified impacts.
- Provide key information to the community and relevant stakeholders about how Council's services or facilities are impacted such as Water and Sewer Services, Waste Collection and availability of Child Care Centres, Libraries and Community Halls.
- Drive community-led approaches to coping with the emergency.

Council works closely with the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) to ensure that all aspects of Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery are well supported and resourced.

Following a natural disaster, a Local Recovery Committee is led by Council, working with NSW Government and other state agencies to provide cohesive support in the recovery and clean up phase. This includes offering face-to-face recovery support and information to impacted residents at recovery assistance points (recovery hubs) and through various other channels.

Central Coast Council's priority during an emergency:

Emergency events are a quick changing situation and Council's focus is on community safety and distributing key information as quickly as possible.

Council works closely with the

NSW Rural Fire Service throughout the bush fire season and during period of increased bush fire activity and emergency situations, NSW SES and other emergency service providers during storm and flood events, and emergency events.

During an emergency event, Council constantly monitors Council managed reserves and open spaces, facilities, and roads for any impacts, whilst mobilising crews on the ground as required.

Council's communication channels during an emergency:

During an emergency event, Council will regularly post on Council's Facebook and Twitter social media pages with important news on the impacts to Council facilities, services, assets and managed public spaces, and shares key information on the emergency event from the leading Emergency Service Providers (for example the SES and RFS).

Key information is also posted on Council's website and included in our weekly eNewsletter (sign up to eNews), in addition to other communication channels such as print advertising, community brochures, and through local media such as ABC Central Coast (as the local emergency broadcaster).

Emergency Operations Centre (EOC):

The Central Coast Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) may be activated (or stood up) during an emergency event at the discretion of the Local Emergency Operations Controller (LEOCON) who is the local Commander of the NSW Police Force.

If the EOC is activated during an Emergency event, Council will:

- Ensure that the EOC is functional and adequately resourced to support an emergency response.
- Provide a Local Emergency Management Officer (LEMO) to support coordination of the emergency response, a Liaison Officer (LO) to act as a conduit between the EOC and Council's Incident Management Team (IMT), and provide other support staff such as communications officers, technicians, administration staff, and subject matter experts.

The Central Coast Emergency Management Plan can be downloaded from the Council website at:

<https://cdn.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-10/>

continued from page 1

William Arthur CHAPMAN and their father, William John CHAPMAN.

Private William James Jamieson was born on the Shetland Islands, the youngest son of Fraser and Catherine Jamieson, (nee Bryden Dalziel). He was a brother to five siblings (two sisters and three brothers). William's mother died in 1908.

William emigrated to Australia and settled at Mangrove Mountain. His brother John was also in the country, living with extended Jamieson family members in Eidsvold, Queensland.

William was an orchardist, his property known as 'Trenton', Mangrove Mountain.

Just shy of his 31st birthday, William applied to enlist on 24 October 1916, joining the ranks of the 1st Australian Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements, Light Trench Mortar Battery, his Service No. 1969.

William records his next-of-kin details as his father, Fraser of Shetland, Scotland and notes please advise his surrogate mother in Australia, Mrs Emma White of Forest View, Mangrove Mountain.

Boarding the 'Osterley' at Sydney on February 10, 1917, the journey would take two-months until reaching Plymouth, England. At the Windmill Hill Camp, Perham Downs, Wiltshire, William received instruction in the 16th Brigade Signalling School.

After a short period with the 62nd Battalion and prior to his deployment to Northern France and Flanders, William was transferred for the further instruction with the 1st Tunnelling Battalion, later returning to the 1st Australian Infantry Battalion.

On January 8, 1918, William proceeded overseas to rejoin the 1st Australian Battalion, where the soldiers over the next couple of months

[central coast local emergency management plan 2023.pdf](#)

Other useful links:

NSW Reconstruction Authority:
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/emergency/nsw-reconstruction-authority>

Plan and prepare for an emergency:
<https://www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare-emergency>

Flooding on the Central Coast:
<https://www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/environment/flooding-central-coast>

Bush fires on the Central Coast:
<https://www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/environment/bushfires-central-coast>

would experience a mix of light to heavy snow, overcast, at times sunny conditions, and mostly very cold and wet weather patterns.

The Battle of Lys commenced on April 9, 1918, and was part of the offensive known as the Spring Offensive.

On April 13, 1918, the First Australian Division played a key role in halting the German advance towards Hazebrouck, during the Battle of the Lys, (Lee-se), and it was during this Flanders battle that William was wounded in action receiving gunshot wounds to the back of his legs and lower back region.

William was evacuated from the field and transported to the No. 7 Stationary Hospital at Boulogne, a port town on the French coastline.

Four days after his hospitalisation, on 17 October 1918, at the age of 32 years, the Scottish born, blue-eyed, brown-haired farmer, who had made Mangrove Mountain his home, died from the wounds he had received in action. William was buried at the Boulogne Eastern Cemetery.

William Jamieson's military documents provide evidence to suggest why this memorial was placed here at the Mangrove Mountain Union Church.

George Martin White and his mother, Emma White of 'Forest View', Mangrove Mountain, were very close



L to R: Danny Wilmott, Ian Betteridge, David Ferry

friends of William's; in fact, George looked after William's orchard and property 'Trenton' while he was on active service.

On behalf of his mother, Emma, George wrote to the military department requesting information about his friend's death, and if they could provide further details about the battle he fought.

A passage of the letter reads:

I am desirous of placing something to his (William's) memory in the Church, and although he was not my kin, I loved him as a son and was as a mother to him since he had been in the

colonies - his own mother being dead.

It is wonderful to see the same caring and compassionate community, now one hundred and five years later, honouring these two men of the First World War and the community of people for whom these men meant a great deal for their selfless service.

William's last will and Testament lists his father, Fraser, his siblings Jemima, Robina, James, and Fraser jnr. of Shetland, Scotland, and his brother John who was living with extended family at Eidsvold, in Queensland as beneficiaries of his estate.

LEST WE FORGET.

Merril Jackson

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Wyong takes part in Heritage Festival

Central Coast Council is encouraging the community to step into the shoes of Wyong locals from the 19th century by joining one of four Wyong Heritage Guided Walks, available this April and May.

These tours are run by the Wyong Family History Group as part of an annual celebration of the National Trust Australian Heritage Festival to celebrate local history, community and the evolution of local businesses.

Central Coast Council Director Community and Recreation Services, Melanie Smith said the Wyong Heritage Walk showcases local buildings and highlights their longstanding historic significance.

"The immersive \$5 guided tours are a great way to discover how Wyong developed as a town," Ms Smith said.

"The tours have an array of



photographs showing how the town looked in its earliest days and how it looks today.

"Plus, there are plenty of historic locations to visit nearby including The Chapman Building, Alison Homestead Museum, Wyong Milk Factory, Central Coast Wetlands Pioneer Dairy, The Royal Hotel and Turton's Corner.

"After the tour, why not stay and grab a bite to eat at one of the many local businesses in Wyong town centre?"

"Those who are unable to book a guided tour don't have to miss out on learning the history of Wyong – free self-guided audio tours and virtual reality experiences are also available."

Council Mayor, Lawrie McKinna

said the Wyong Heritage Tour is a great activity for locals and visitors to rediscover a much-loved town centre.

"I encourage all to take part and rediscover Wyong and embrace the rich history, connect with your community and support our incredible local businesses."

The tours are hosted by the Wyong Family History Group for a fee of \$5 (plus service fee and tax) and is redeemable for a hot drink at one of the participating Wyong cafes.

To find more information, search 'wyong heritage walk' at lovecentralcoast.com

Central Coast Council Media Release



Mountain Medicine

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B.Med (Hons) FRACGP

Dr Sepali de Silva

MBBS

Dr Rohan Dissanayake

MBBS

Dr Anisa Rouhipour

MBBS

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ESCAPED BURNS SPARK WARNING ON SAFE BURNING PRACTICES

The RFS is reminding landholders to follow safe burning practices and ensure they notify their local fire authority and neighbours, after 30 escaped burns were reported across NSW in April - including a dozen over the Easter long weekend.

Although the Bush Fire Danger Period has ended, landholders are still required to notify their intent to burn and ensure they check local weather conditions before undertaking any burning activity. The RFS provides an online notification portal, enabling residents to easily inform fire authorities of planned hazard reduction or pile burns at any time, via mobile device or desktop computer.

Commissioner of the RFS Rob Rogers said using the notification tool at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/notify plays a key role in preventing unnecessary emergency responses.

"Over the coming months, many landholders will take the opportunity to reduce fuel loads through burning. It's critical they burn safely and notify

both the RFS and their neighbours," Commissioner Rogers said.

"Even when the official Bush Fire Danger Period has ended, landholders must ensure they've obtained any required permits and permissions and provide at least 24 hours' notice before lighting up."

"If fire authorities are aware of your burn, it helps prevent unnecessary emergency calls and the deployment of firefighting resources."

The online notification tool also provides notifications about any Total Fire Bans, helping landholders make informed decisions about whether to proceed with their planned burn.

Commissioner of the RFS Rob Rogers stressed that while reducing fuel on private properties is encouraged, it must always be done safely and legally.


"Before lighting any fire, landholders should check local conditions and ensure they have cleared adequate fire breaks and have firefighting

equipment on hand to prevent the fire from escaping," Commissioner Rogers said.

"Every landholder has a responsibility to prevent fire spreading from their property. There are serious consequences for those who light fires and fail to manage them properly."



To notify your intent to burn, visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/notify or contact your local Fire Control Centre.

NSW RFS Media Release



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**NSW NATIONAL PARKS
& WILDLIFE SERVICE**

Notice of 1080 Baiting

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is conducting an aerial baiting program in Popran, Brisbane Water and Watagans National Park.

Aerial baiting is scheduled for **11th to 18th May 2025**.

The operation will use 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) poison for the control of wild dogs and foxes.


The program is designed to minimise predator impacts on wildlife, especially threatened species, and to minimise the impact of wild dogs on neighbouring stock.

Signs will be placed at the entry to the baiting location.

Domestic pets are not permitted in National Parks and Wildlife managed lands. Pets and working dogs may be affected (1080 is lethal to cats and dogs). Pets and working dogs must be restrained or muzzled in the vicinity and must not enter the baiting location. In the event of accidental poisoning seek immediate veterinary assistance.

Landlords, please notify tenants or visitors to your property of the proposed operation.

Please contact the NPWS Central Coast Area Office on (02) 4320 4200 for more information or check the NPWS web page alerts.



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All NSW public schools on a path to full and fair funding

The Albanese and Minns Labor Governments have reached an Agreement to fully and fairly fund New South Wales public schools.

As part of the Heads of Agreements signed this week, the Commonwealth will provide an additional 5 per cent of the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) to New South Wales.

This will lift the Commonwealth contribution from 20 per cent to 25 per cent of the SRS by 2034 and follows New South Wales delivering its election commitment to reach 75 per cent of the SRS in 2025, two years ahead of the former Liberal National Government.

This will see an estimated \$4.8 billion in additional Commonwealth funding to New South Wales public schools over the next 10 years.

This represents the biggest ever

new investment in New South Wales public schools by the Australian Government.

New South Wales has also committed to removing the 4 per cent provision of indirect school costs such as capital depreciation so that New South Wales schools will be fully funded over the life of the Agreement.

Commonwealth funding will be tied to the reforms needed to lift education standards across the country, including more individualised support for students, continuing evidence-based teaching practices, and more mental health and wellbeing support for schools.

This is not a blank cheque. The Agreement will be accompanied by a New South Wales Bilateral Agreement, which ties funding to reforms that will help students catch up, keep up and finish school, such as:

- Year 1 phonics and early years of schooling numeracy checks to identify students who need additional help;
- evidence-based teaching and targeted and intensive supports such as small-group or catch-up tutoring to help students who fall behind;
- initiatives that support wellbeing for learning – including greater access to mental health professionals;
- access to high-quality and evidence-

based professional learning, and

- initiatives that improve the attraction and retention of teachers.

In addition to these reforms, the Agreements have national targets that complement the New South Wales Government's own public school targets released last week.

National targets include:

- Improving NAPLAN proficiency levels for reading and numeracy across all year levels;
- Increasing the outcomes for priority equity cohorts in NAPLAN results;
- Increasing the Student Attendance Rate;
- Increasing the engagement rate (completed or still enrolled) of initial teacher education students; and
- Increasing the proportion of students leaving school with a Year 12 certificate.

This means more help for students and more support for teachers.

Federal Member for Robertson, Dr Gordon Reid MP said "Quality public education changes is life changing and opens doors to marvellous opportunities.

"The Australian Government has reached an outstanding agreement with the NSW Government to fully

Dr. S. ANANDASIVAM

(ANAND)

MBBS, FRACGP, AMCC

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fund NSW public schools.

“The Australian Government will provide an additional \$4.8 billion over the next 10 years, strengthening public education in our state and giving our younger generations the best possible start in life.

“These sorts of outcomes only occur when you have strong Labor Governments at a state and federal level”, Dr Reid said.

State Member for Gosford, Liesl Tesch MP said “As a teacher for over 20 years in our public education system, investing in public education is one of the most important investments that any government can make.

“This partnership between the NSW and Federal Governments is an investment in every child’s future.

“The NSW Government has delivered for our community, reaching the full 75 per cent NSW contribution of the School Resource Standard two years ahead of schedule. The Federal Government’s commitment will now contribute \$4.8 billion of additional funds over the next ten years, which will mean that every public school student will have every opportunity to thrive.

“Together with the NSW Minns Labor Government’s 64% reduction of teacher vacancies in the Gosford electorate, Labor has reaffirmed our



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ongoing and staunch commitment to strengthening Australian public education.

Media Release from the offices of

Dr Gordon Reid
Member for Robertson
Liesl Tesch MP
Member for Gosford

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MARY LUCI

29th June 1955 – 9th April 2025

On behalf of Dad, Paul, and the entire Luci Family, we would like to thank the Mountain Community for their outpouring of love, support and words of condolences, after the recent passing of our Mother, Mary.

We celebrated Mums' life with many of you at a Holy Mass on Monday 14th April, at St Patrick's Catholic Church, East Gosford. We were overwhelmed to find the church full of people keen to be a part of celebrating the life of our Mum. A true testament to the wonderful legacy of a life, so well lived, and thoroughly enjoyed.

Mum was born on 29th June 1955 at St George Hospital in Kogarah. Mary was the eldest Daughter of Rafaele and Teresa Spano. Mum leaves behind her Mother, Teresa, and four Siblings, Lena, Michael, John and Anthony.

Her family grew up in Miranda in the Sutherland Shire. They lived in a share house for a short period with her Uncle Joe and his wife and Children until they moved to their own house in Miranda. Their Nonna Concetta looked after all the Grandchildren from both families while all the parents went to work.

Mum went to school at the age of 5 not being able to speak English, only Italian. She spoke about the challenges of school and how she spent many days crying in kindergarten. She spoke fondly of the year 6 girls who took her under their care and looked after her. Mum quickly learnt English and would translate letters, bills and correspondence for her parents and family members.

Mum spoke about her happy childhood in a big family, going to the movies with her dad on the back of the push bike or driving around in her mini with Nonna Concetta in the passenger seat. She had saved up her own money to buy this first car so they could cruise out to Cronulla Beach.

Our Mum and Dad met on her Aunt and Uncles Farm at Kulnura at the end of 1974. They married in January 1976. They began their married life chicken farming at Kulnura opposite what is now Hanson Quarry. Mum often spoke about being a city girl and moving to Country. Mum would help Dad out on the farm with the chickens as well as fitting in her other duties as newly married couple. This then followed on

with her love and connections to the local Mountain Community.

In 1978 they had their first child, Louisa. In 1979, Charlene, came along and then, Anthony in 1981. Alyce, was then born 5 years later in 1986. Mum was a very dedicated Mother and friend to all. Her love for her children was immeasurable and she was our biggest advocate.

Mum was very welcoming to everyone. No doubt, there are many in the community who have fond memories of Mum welcoming them into our home. We had many parties in our family home with lots of delicious food and a welcoming place to stay for a short time, or a long time. Our love of food and cooking was inspired by Mum and her traditions from her Italian heritage.

Mum was very involved in the Mountain Community throughout her life. She was very passionate about the Preschool (Mountain Community Children's Centre) and was instrumental in setting up the Centre. Mum was very dedicated to the Centre both volunteering on the Management Committee and attended every event in the past 42 years.

Mum volunteered on the Management Committee with the Mangrove Mountain and Districts Country Fair and helped raising funds to support the Mountain Community groups.

Mum was also involved in the local Physical Culture Club, Playgroup and Mountain Districts Football Club (formerly PMK) volunteering her time, enthusiasm and commitment to the community.

As many of you know Mum had a deep faith and love of God. Mum was instrumental in keeping the Mountain Community involved in all aspects of St Patrick's Parish life. This included Sacramental Program, Children's Liturgy, prayer group and Scripture. Mum volunteered as a Catechist for over 35 years both on the Mountain and in Kariong. She was instrumental in keeping scripture in the local Mountain schools and was very passionate about spreading the word of God to the children.

In recent years, she has further enriched her faith life by being involved in the local, Divine Retreat Centre, at Somersby. Mum would

attend their weekday 8am mass service, most mornings, bringing along her grandchildren, and children, whenever she could. The spiritual nourishment Mum received from the Priests, both past and present, has been so fulfilling to witness. We would like to thank them for their care, witness and unending support of our Mum.

In her final days, Ingrid (a fellow Catechist) on the Mountain, came to visit and asked Mum what message she would like to tell the children in our Schools. Mum replied, "Tell them God loves them, just as much as I love them!" This was Mum, she showed her love for everyone.

As a family, we witnessed this by welcoming the many people that came to visit Mum at home in what turned out to be her final days. Thank you for your kind words, expressions of love and memories that you shared with her. She heard each of you and it truly touched us as a family to hear your love for our Mum.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Christine Wade, Dr Sepali De Silva, Melissa and the team, both past and present, at Mountain Medicine. Their love, care and professionalism has been limitless. There is no doubt that their support of mum during her 16 year cancer journey, was prolonged due to their attention to detail in all aspects of Mum's health and wellbeing.

We would also like to thank her personal nurse, Sue, for her care and friendship of Mum over her cancer journey. Sue visited Mum once a month for over 15 years to give her an injection for her cancer symptoms. Mum shared a special bond with Sue and they would confide in each other. Thank you Sue, for your friendship with our mother.

We would also like to thank Palliative Care Nurse, Kim, and all the Team at Central Coast Local Health District Palliative Care, as well as Community Nurse, Sandy, for all your support and guidance to enable us as a family to honour Mums wishes and care for her at home. Mum was surrounded by all her family talking to her with loving words, laughing as we shared fond memories with her right until the end.

Thank you to the Dominello family for the beautiful flowers that adorned mum's coffin and family wreaths. Our wonderful daughter in-law, Shelley,



and her Mother, Suzanne, created such colourful arrangements that truly reflected the bright nature of our mum.

Thank you to the Lentini Family and Eastcoast Beverages for providing our guests with refreshing juice and water after her funeral service. And to everyone that baked and helped serve refreshments to all the guests. We thank you for your time and care in doing this. We were so thankful to hear that many of you stayed around to eat, drink and exchange memories

of our wonderful mum. Apologies, that we as a family had to follow Mum on to Woronra Memorial Park for burial.

All of her 4 children are married, and Mums love for her 11 Grandchildren: Antoinette, Natalia, Matthew, Harmony, Charlie, Mia, Matilda, Isabella, Valentina, Luca and Giulietta, is truly boundless. They were her whole world. Mum had the pleasure of looking after each of them, sometime multiples at one time, while we all went to work.

Thank you all for your continued support and prayers during this time. There have been many meals prepared and delivered, phone calls and messages, memories shared, cards and wishes sent, and we are finding much comfort from all these gestures. Our Mum will be sadly missed but never forgotten.

All our best wishes from Paul Luci, Louisa and AJ Foxford, Charlene and John Xuereb, Anthony and Shelley Luci and Alyce and Peter Chin.



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Time: 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

When: Monday nights during the school term (starting 5th May)

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Mountain community children's centre inc.

Mountain Community Children's Centre News

Vale Mary Luci – A Cherished Member of Our Community

The centre management committee and staff would like to express our deepest sadness of the passing of Mary Luci.

Mary was a highly respected and beloved member of our community and was instrumental in the establishment of the Mountain Community Children's Centre. Her drive and dedication to her community has ensured that local families can now access the inclusive and exceptional childcare since 1983 up until this day. Our centre stands as one of the enduring legacies of Mary's extraordinary commitment and passion. Mary was able to attend our recent Harmony Day lunch as her final event at the centre.

The centre was closed so that many of the management committee, staff



and families could attend the funeral to celebrate her life.

Harmony Day Celebrations

The centre celebrated Harmony Day in March with a beautiful multicultural lunch. The families brought in food from home from Italy, Australia, Germany and The Netherlands. We

also cooked some Taiwanese noodles with Eva and Fried Rice. Thank you to all our families who contributed to the day or just came along to share lunch with us.

Biggest Morning Tea

We will be hosting the Biggest Morning Tea here at the centre on

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WHAT'S ON *at The Springs*

MOTHER'S DAY LONG LUNCH
Set Menu - 2 course or 3 course
Sunday 11th May 2025
Bookings Essential - More details on our website

MONTHLY DINNER
Saturday 24th May 2025
From 5.30pm

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Tuesday 20th May from 7.30am – 12pm. All funds raised will be donated to the Cancer Council. All the community is invited and welcome to join us. If you are unable to attend, we will share QR codes for donations or you are welcome to drop off donations from the Monday 19th May – Friday 23rd May here at the centre. Please find link below for donations online.
<https://www.biggestmornningtea.com.au/fundraisers/MountainChildren>



Enrolments

If you would like to join our waiting list or have a look around the centre, please feel free to give us a call on 43741239. Noni our very friendly administration officer would be more than happy to post out an enrolment pack or organise a tour of the centre. We look forward to welcoming you to our centre.

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

Louisa Foxford
 Director

Mountain Community Children's Centre
 2829 Wisemans Ferry Road
 Mangrove Mountain
 NSW 2250
 Ph: 43741239
 Email: mountainchildren@bigpond.com
www.mountainchildren.com.au



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WHAT'S ON WEEKLY

TUESDAY

BINGO from 11am
 \$15 Pizza night

WEDNESDAY

MEAT RAFFLE drawn at 730pm
 \$18 schnitzels (kids eat free)

THURSDAY

MEMBERS BADGE DRAW 730pm
 \$22 steak night

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
 entry fee \$5

SUNDAY

Sunday Roast - available all day (kids eat free)

Find Us On Facebook & Instagram - 18 Hallards Road, Central Mangrove, 2250 - 02 4373 1129 - www.mmmclub.com.au



WYONG WRITES

Wyong Writes is a celebration of local stories and homegrown talent, presented by Red Tree Theatre and Wyong Drama Group. This weekend of theatre shines a spotlight on Central Coast playwrights, with a special focus on the award-winning work of Sally Bartley. Audiences will be treated to two of her acclaimed one-act plays: Walk A Mile, directed by Ron Baker, a finalist in Scene Theatre Sydney's

Sage to Stage Festival, and One Crowded Hour, directed by Sancia West and winner of Best Ensemble at the 2023 Port Macquarie One Act Play Festival.

With a string of accolades from festivals across Norfolk Island, Way Way Little Theatre, Short & Sweet, and the Central Coast Theatre Festival—where her play It's Complicated swept the major awards—Sally Bartley is a true gem of the local playwriting scene. Don't miss this unique theatrical weekend that champions local voices and compelling storytelling.

ONE CROWDED HOUR - Director Sancia West.

The one-act festival is fast approaching, but Martyn's cast of divas and wannabes just can't seem to bring his seventy-minute-plus play in under the required hour. What tricks does he have up his sleeve? Will he bring home the trophy or fall miserably? When all is said and done, the show must go on.

WALK A MILE - Director Ron Baker.

Alex and Fiona are hosting dinner with their friends Ray and Fiona. Sophia is getting hot flashes and is really not fond of the younger Fiona. Alex can't seem to put a step right. When the guests arrive, the arguments begin, and it looks as though the women

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Performances:

Friday 23rd May 7:30pm
Saturday 24th May 2pm
Saturday 24th May 7:30pm
Sunday 25th May 2pm

Tickets:

Adults \$38
Concessions/Students \$35

Venue:

Red Tree Theatre
160 - 162 Pacific Highway,
Tuggerah, 2259

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Weeds of Concern

Montbretia

Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora

How does this weed affect you? Montbretia grows in dense clumps and is capable of adapting to a variety of conditions. It out-competes native plants, particularly in native bushland and riparian areas. The biodiversity of ecosystems can be significantly affected by an infestation of montbretia. Dense growth of this plant along riparian areas can lead to creek bank erosion and sedimentation.

Montbretia can sometimes still be found for sale at local fetes, nurseries and markets.

Habit: Erect deciduous perennial herb to 0.9 m.

Leaves: Basal linear strap-like flat leaves around 30-80 cm long and 1-2 cm wide die down in Autumn after producing its seeds, and reappear in Spring.



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Flowers: Orange yellow tubular flowers are formed solitary in spike inflorescences on short wispy



unbranched stems during Summer.

Fruit: Produces large amounts of seed.

Roots: Globular corms live and produce plants for 2 years or more, and new corms are formed annually. Long rhizomes are also produced, each of which grows into a new plant.

Dispersal: Roots, rhizomes, corms and seeds spread by humans, contaminated soil (earth moving equipment, car tyres etc) and garden refuse dumping.

Control: Difficult to control. Hand dig, ensuring all corms are removed.

Extensive follow-up required. Foliar spray with penetrant when flowering.

For more information go to:

<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Montbretia>

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Recognition of Service of Local Residents

Karen and Peter Boskos were presented the Long Service Award Certificate in recognition of 20 years of active service as members of VRA Rescue NSW. The awards were presented by Kile the VRA East Regional Operations Manager.

The people in this photo represent over 480 collective years of experience and service to the communities of

New South Wales. They are members of WICEN NSW Inc., a specialist support squad of VRA Rescue NSW. Their speciality is tactical radio communications.

For over 65 years, WICEN (formerly the Wireless Institute Civil Emergency Network) have used the technology and communications skills that come with being Amateur Radio operators, or “radio hams”, under emergency conditions.

WICEN is VRA Rescue NSW’s

Right: Karen receiving her award from VRA East Regional Operations Manager

Below: Peter (centre with cap) and other award recipients



Dying to Know Day

8 August




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Have you discussed your final arrangements?


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Dying to Know Day is a national campaign that supports Australians to improve death literacy and plan for end-of-life.

Help create a world where we all know what to do when someone is dying, caring or grieving.

Talking about death can be daunting, but it's better to do when we're well rather than wait until it's too late!

We invite you to attend an information session. Guest speaker topics include:

- Financial Planner
- Wills and Estate Planning
- Probate
- Palliative Care
- Funeral Plans

8 August 2025 – Commencing 2pm to 4pm

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largest single squad, with members all over the state, who can communicate with each other, and their counterparts in other states or countries, via radio of course!

These days we take the Internet and modern mobile communications for granted. But when disaster strikes, communications infrastructure is often the first thing to fail. That's when VRA's WICEN squad steps into the breach and keeps communications going until normal services can be restored. Through bush fires, floods

and more, emergency radio operators get vital messages through. WICEN uses commercial frequencies and portable repeaters as well as any suitable amateur radio frequencies.

You can find WICEN on the web at nsw.wicen.org.au, and on social media at <https://www.facebook.com/WICENNSW> and <https://x.com/wicenNSW>.

VRA Rescue NSW is an Australian volunteer organisation that provides

rescue services to the communities across New South Wales. The first rescue squads formed the Volunteer Rescue Association with the assistance of the New South Wales Police Force. The service is now called VRA Rescue NSW. Groups with common charters can become an affiliate of the Association. In times of need, whether it be in the emergency or recovery phase, VRA can bring affiliated squads together to provide assistance to other services or to assist one of its own affiliates



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Thoughts, ideas and lived experiences called on to help improve accessibility and inclusion

Central Coast Council is calling on locals with lived experience of disability to share their ideas to improve access and inclusion for people with disability who live, work and play on the Central Coast. Feedback from a range of in-person and online engagement activities will be used by Council to develop the next Disability Inclusion Action Plan for 2026-30.

Council Director of Community and Recreation Services, Melanie Smith said the Disability Inclusion Action Plan sets out achievable and practical steps to make our community more accessible and inclusive.

"The action plan aims to create positive community attitudes and behaviours, more liveable communities, meaningful employment opportunities, and accessible systems and processes for those living with disabilities," Ms Smith said.

"Community input is an integral part of developing a Disability Inclusion Action Plan and helps us understand what's working well and what can be improved.

"We encourage people living with disability, their family, carers and advocacy groups to join the conversation, share their knowledge and experiences by participating in one of our online forums, community workshops or pop-ups, or by completing our online survey."

"All feedback and ideas will play a crucial role in helping us to draft our new Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

"This will ensure the Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of people with lived experience of disability in our community. We will come back to the community to present the draft for further feedback before being adopted by Council later this year."

Community consultation

- Online survey – learn more and provide feedback by Friday 9 May at yourvoiceourcoast.com



- Community workshop - Thursday 8 May, 5pm to 7pm - Council Administration Building, 2 Hely St, Wyong.
- Shopping centre pop-up - Wednesday 7 May, 10am to 12:30 pm – Tuggerah Westfield

Council Mayor Lawrie McKinna said there are approximately 24,000 people living with a disability on the

Central Coast.

"This diverse group of people with varying types and levels of disability, needs and circumstances are an integral part of our community and contribute to the social, cultural, and economic life of the region," Mayor McKinna said.

"Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan details the strategies and actions that Council is implementing

SATURDAY CRAFT GROUP

**Meeting on the 2nd Saturday of
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to create positive outcomes for people in our community.

“The delivery of the Plan, in collaboration with our community, local disability advocacy groups and organisations, and other levels of Government, helps people with disability to have improved access to mainstream services, information, facilities, and open spaces.

“Council is committed to making meaningful progress in creating a more accessible and inclusive Central Coast.”

Highlights of some delivered actions from the current Disability Inclusion Action Plan (2021-25)

Attitudes and behaviours

- Virtual Reality experiences to promote understanding and awareness.
- Council launched the Sunflower Campaign on International Day of People with Disability.
- Invisible Disabilities Awareness campaign.
- Shared Pathways are for Everyone wayfinding project.
- Accessible Brochures developed on nature and beach destinations and playspaces.

Liveable Communities

- Accessible and Inclusive pottery program.
- Accessible adult changing facilities installed at The Entrance Visitor Centre, Gosford Olympic Pool and

one in the new Regional Library currently under construction.

- Accessible playspaces – new and upgraded outdoor playspaces across the Coast
- Accessible bus stops constructed, with 41 completed in the last financial year.
- Improvement to Council facilities, pools and leisure centres. For example, Niagara Park Stadium, Visitor Information Centre at The Entrance.
- Events and Activities at Libraries (sensory glow room, AUSLAN interpreted storytime and Plot Play).

Employment

- Flexible Work Arrangements in place for staff who disclosed they require reasonable adjustments due to disability.
- Work experience opportunities for people with disability, including in libraries, administration and mechanics.
- Specialised training to Council supervisors on neurodiversity.
- Mental health webinar for staff hosted by Headspace.

Systems and Processes

- Convened quarterly Access & Inclusion Reference Group Meetings.
- Adapted Council’s Outdoor Trading Guidelines.

LOSS OF HEARING COMES OFTEN WITH AGE

People in our local suburbs often have to travel to a main centre for assistance, sometimes with great problem.

Good news!

We now have a service in the Mangrove Mountain area, Welfast Hearing. Specialist is Mr Jithin Jacob, 4311-5511.

I found this man most courteous and effective and I did not have to travel to consult. Thank you Jithin Jacob.

John Wells
Spencer

- Implemented Speech to text technology at our customer service centres.
- Emergency preparedness AUSLAN interpreted sessions.

Find out more and have your say by 9 May 2025 at yourvoiceourcoast.com

Central Coast Council Media Release



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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@lowerhunterffs.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.calgamtwhite@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 Maintenance	2nd Monday of the month Meeting 6.30pm 3rd Monday 6.30pm 4th Monday 6.30pm E: captain-Spencer-vol@rfs.nsw.gov.au 0415 668953. 4778 Wisemans Ferry Rd
Somersby RFS	General Meeting Training/Maintenance	First Wed of the month 7.30pm at the Station Every Wed night 7.30 at the Station (except before Wed general meeting)
Yarralong RFS		Information: www.facebook.com/ YarralongRuralFireBrigade/ Phone contact: 0494 344 030 Email: volunteer@yarralongrfs.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 11am at Phillip House in Kariiong. Contact: Glenis Ph: 0400 486 760
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 Afternoon Tea	1st Tues, 1pm to 2.30 at Angels Sussurri Cafe Yarralong. Margaret Dale 0411104770
Mangrove Singers	1st & 3rd Tue, 6.00 7.30pm at Mangrove Golf Club, enquiries - Kim 0401516501
Mangrove Mountain & Districts Community Group	1st Thurs of the Month, excl Jan. 7.30pm, Mangrove Mtn Hall.
Mangrove Emergency Planning & Communications Committee	Contact: mepeccinc@gmail.com, 0412669649
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)	www.mountaindistrictsassociation.com.au secretary@mountaindistrictsassociation.com.au
Mountain District Football Club Meeting	Second Tuesday of the Month 6.30pm at the Mangrove Memorial Club
Probus - West Gosford	2nd Thu. Ph Elaine Burrows 0412988353
River Cares for the Lower Hawkesbury River District	President Marlee Maxwell Email rivercaresinc@gmail.com
Rotary Club Meeting	Friday 7.15am at Phillip House. 43404529
Spencer Community Progress Group Inc	President Brad Maissey, Community Meetings, 0436482201, spencercpg2@gmail.com
Spencer Community Ladies Social Club	Last Fri of month. 12.00 noon Spencer Community Centre, Jennifer Dayes 4377 1364 Articles to: spencercpg2@gmail.com
Newsletter	Tues & Sat, 9am-5pm. Contact: Alan Hunt 4566 4626 or Adrian Acheson 0448 833 781
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	Committee 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
St Barnabas Christian Service Yarralong	Every Sunday, 9.30am. (Easter & (Christmas Carols dates to be advised)

(cont'd next page)

The Donkey, the Tiger, and the Lion

Once, in a jungle far, far away, there lived a donkey and a tiger.

One day, while they were having a conversation, the donkey told the tiger, "The grass is blue."

The tiger disagreed. This cannot be. No, the grass is green.", scoffed the tiger.



The argument became so heated that they decided to approach the king of the jungle, the lion, for arbitration.

As they approached the lion's throne, the donkey cried out, "Your Highness, isn't it true that the grass is blue?" To which the lion replied, "If you believe it is true, the grass is blue."

The donkey continued, "The tiger disagrees with me, contradicts me, annoys me...please punish him!"



The lion agreed. He declared that the tiger would be punished with three days of silence.

The donkey was overjoyed and went on his way, repeating, "The grass is blue! The grass is blue!"

The tiger asked the lion why he was punished, "After all, the grass is green."

The lion replied, "You've known and seen that the grass is green. The

punishment is not for the colour of the grass but for wasting your time arguing with a donkey and bothering me with such a petty issue."

And from that day on, the tiger learned to avoid useless arguments, and the donkey continued to believe that the grass was blue.

The key message of this story lies in its simple yet powerful moral: it is pointless to argue with someone who is uninterested in truth or reality, but only in the righteousness of their beliefs or illusions. When faced with such obstinance, intelligence is best demonstrated by moving on, not by engaging in futile debates.

The biggest waste of time is arguing with the fool and fanatic who doesn't care about truth or reality, but only the victory of his beliefs and illusions.

Never waste time on discussions that make no sense. There are people who, for all the evidence presented to them, do not have the ability to understand.

Others are blinded by ego, hatred and resentment and the only thing that they want is to be right even if they aren't.

When IGNORANCE SCREAMS, intelligence moves on.

Embrace the wisdom of the lion.



Ancient Fable

REGULAR ACTIVITIES & MEETINGS (cont'd)

Catholic Service - Central Mangrove

- Spencer

- Wollombi

- Yarramalong

Divine Retreat Centre

Serbian Orthodox

Kariong Community Baptist Church

Restitution Ministries
Independent SDA Church

YOUTH

Junior Girl Guides 5-10

Girl Guides 10-15

Scouts, Cubs & Venturers
Peats Ridge Scout Hall

HISTORICAL

Brisbane Waters Historical Society

Dharug & Lower Hawkesbury
Historical Society Inc.

First Fleeters Central Coast Chapter

The Pearl Beach Aboriginal History Group

Wyong District Museum &
Historical Society

ACTIVITY/HOBBY

Coastal Communicators Toastmasters

Craft/scrapbooking

Saturday Craft Group/Spining
and bobbin lace

Yarn group (knit, crochet etc)

HALL BOOKINGS

Kulnura Hall

Mangrove Mountain Hall

Mangrove Mountain Union Church & Hall

Somersby Hall and Mountain Districts
Culture and Heritage Centre

Yarramalong school of Arts / Hall

Saturdays 5pm St. Dionysios Greek Orthodox
Church, 21 Nurses Rd, Central Mangrove,
Contact Nai Hereford 0405 558 669

Holy Trinity Church, 2nd Sat of the month
4pm, Contact 0412 201 851 as times may
change each month.

2nd & 5th Sunday of the month, 4.30pm Mass
at St Michael the Archangel, Wollombi.

1st Sunday each month, 11.15am St. Barnabas
All welcome. Enq 0428 438577

Daily Holy Mass 8.00am to 8.30 am
Last Sun, 9am-4pm, One Day Retreat.
160 Hensons Road, Somersby Ph 0243721598

2nd & 4th Sun. of the month. 10 am, followed
by luncheon, tea, coffee, cakes (cost \$20).
1184 Peats Ridge Rd, Peats Ridge

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

10am every Saturday, Mangrove Mountain
Union Church.

Kooree Guide Cabin, 5.00pm - 6.30pm

Mondays in school term,

Kooree Guide Cabin, 6.00pm-7.30pm

Mondays in school term, Contact 0417451764
for further information

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

25-27 Henry Kendall St., West Gosford, Ph:
4325 2270. www.henrykendallcottage.org.au

Last Sat of month. All welcome, contact Jan
Kofron 0405321478 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

Open Sun to Thurs, 10am-2pm, other times
by appt. Contact 43521886 email info@
alisonhomestead.com.au. website: www.
alisonhomestead.com.au

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 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

Contact Central Coast Council.

Hall bookings Ryan Howard 0405416289

Church & Hall bookings 0412669649

mmucsecretary@outlook.com

Hall bookings: 0413 359 655

or AH 4373 1488

enquiries@yarramalonghall.org.au

https://yarramalonghall.org.au

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Council to strengthen community connection and engagement

CCC Australia Day event - woman and child holding hands while child plays with adults and children in background

Central Coast Council's newly adopted Engagement Strategy reinforces its commitment to strengthening communication and collaboration with the community.

Adopted at Council's Ordinary Meeting on 25 March 2025, the strategy sets out clear principles and guidelines for engaging with residents, ensuring they understand their rights and have meaningful opportunities to shape plans and projects for the Central Coast.

Council Executive Officer Performance and Communications, Nicole Jenkins emphasised the importance of open and genuine dialogue between Council and residents to ensure decisions truly

reflect community needs.

"It's essential that the community has an opportunity to have their say on the strategies, plans and decisions that affect them," Ms Jenkins said.

"Through this process, our community told us they wanted greater transparency, more inclusive spaces for youth, stronger accessibility for people with disabilities, diverse representation in decision making and a greater focus on place-based engagement – ensuring local voices shape local decisions.

"After gathering community feedback in 2024, we worked with Councillors to refine the strategy even further, making sure the voices of the communities they represent were heard.

"Over the next four years, we are committed to making our communication clearer and easier to understand, increasing face-to-face engagement, developing a First Nations Engagement Strategy and where possible, adopting a place-based engagement approach."

Council Mayor, Lawrie McKinna highlighted the importance of enabling everyone in the community to have a fair opportunity to genuinely participate in Council's engagement activities and help influence the decisions that affect our region now and in the future.

"Our community wants to be actively involved in helping to shape local decision-making and the Engagement

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Strategy provides the framework to make that happen," Mayor McKinna said.

"Council understands the importance of building relationships with the community and embraces ongoing dialogue to improve decision making processes through timely, transparent, honest, inclusive, accessible and responsive community participation.

"With a strong focus on inclusivity, particularly for First Nations people and equity-deserving groups, this strategy helps improve the experience of all participants involved in community engagement to achieve the highest quality of process and results."

To read the Community Engagement Strategy, visit <https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/draft-community-engagement-strategy>

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