COMMUNITY NEWS

No. 965 Ph: 4374 1039 Mo: 0412 669 649 Email: enquiries@cnews1.com.au Web: cnews1.com.au 16th May 2025

Kulnura Public School - Harvest Festival







Enjoy an authentic "Farm to Plate" experience from a range of market stalls including locally grown eggs, fruit, vegetables, honey, seedlings, flowers and plants.

Bring the whole family and wander through our produce and Bric a Brac stalls. Sit in the shade of the old gum trees with a barista brewed coffee and a tasty treat from our P&C cake stall, while the children enjoy the play equipment, have



their faces painted and create something special at our painting station.

Mouthwatering egg and bacon rolls and sausage sandwiches available from 9am.

Free entry, pay for what you purchase.

Eftpos is limited, please ensure you have cash available.

Please visit Harvest Festival | Love Central Coast https://www.lovecentralcoast.com/harvestfestival for more information on the Harvest Festival

9 Williams Road, Kulnura NSW, Australia Opening Times: 9am-4pm Sunday 8th of June 2025

PEATS RIDGE & DISTRICT CWA

Anzac Day held at the Cenotaph at Calga was attended by many community people, about 25 of us, and the ladies from CWA from our branch Margaret, Kaye, Margie and myself.

The weather was kind to us except towards the finish when there was a light shower blessing us.

Attending was Ian Betteridge, a returned Vietnam Veteran and also Sheldon, Petty Officer retired RAN.

Judy Betteridge (also a CWA member) read out the Ode of Remembrance. Margie wrote a beautiful poem on Mates Across the Sea and it was heartfelt. The Last Post was played. Lest We Forget.

A big thank you to Jason Tripoussis, a resident of Calga Village, whose

kind and generous community spirit shone through offering the use of taps/water from his property. Also Jason and neighbour Maddie took turns to mow the surrounding area around the Cenotaph Stone throughout the year. Thank you.

Also acknowledgement to the Peats Ridge Public School for their contribution of a small Rosemary Wreath, from their garden, to commemorate ANZAC DAY (and the donation of lemons which everyone appreciated and also from their garden).

A big apology from me as I did not take any photos.

Till next time,

Christine Sanfilippo Publicity Officer





Biodiversity grants

Landholders who are members of Land for Wildlife can apply at any time for a Landholder Biodiversity Grant.

As a Land for Wildlife Member, you can apply for \$2,000/year. Land for Wildlife members can apply for up to three years with each year being a new application. If demand for the program is high, you may only be successful in one year. Years two and three applications will be considered after successful acquittal of previous year.

Grants will be allocated at five grants per month or until all available funds are used.

The following activities are eligible:

- Assisted regeneration and weed control,
- Fencing to secure conservation area or to enable restoration of native vegetation,
- Introduced pest animal control,
- Revegetation (including supplementary planting with local species),
- Improvement in Habitat Structure through additional ground cover layers
- Repairs to existing habitat, soil or waterways to maintain biodiversity values.
- Other work needed to maintain biodiversity values.

In some cases, we may arrange to visit you on your property to assess eligibility or the success of outcomes.

More info and to apply: https://cen.org.au/bct-grants/

"The price good men pay for indifference to public affairs is to be ruled by evil men"

Plato

STOP!

Next issue Published 6th June 2025

** DEADLINE **

** 30th May '25 **

Send adverts & copy by email, website or post. Email, website, FB or phone for enquiries

The Importance of Annual **Hearing Tests** for People Aged 55 and Over

Hearing is a vital part of staying connected to the world around us. As we age, however, gradual hearing loss becomes increasingly common. For people aged 55 and over, getting an annual hearing test is just as important as regular check-ups for vision, blood pressure, or cholesterol.

Hearing loss often develops slowly, making it difficult to notice day-to-day changes. Left unchecked, it can lead to communication difficulties, social isolation, and even cognitive decline. Studies have shown a strong link between untreated hearing loss and an increased risk of dementia, depression, and balance issues.

Annual hearing tests help detect changes early, often before major problems arise. Early detection means that interventions—such as hearing aids, assistive listening devices, or communication strategies—can be introduced to help maintain quality of life, independence, and social engagement.

A hearing test is quick, painless, and non-invasive. For those over 55, making it part of their regular health care routine can have a major positive impact on their well-being now and into the future.

In short, looking after your hearing health is essential. An annual hearing test is a small step that can make a big difference.

For more information or to book a hearing test contact Jithin at Welfast Hearing Pty Ltd on 43115511 or by email on admin@welfasthearing.com. au. Book on-line at welfasthearing. com au

Citrus Grafting Workshop - May 28

Join experienced grafter and orchardist Eddie Gale on his citrus nursery for a hands-on workshop focused on grafting citrus trees. This workshop is ideal for beginner and intermediate growers, hobbyists, or anyone keen to learn the age-old art of grafting fruit trees. You'll also get to take home your own citrus tree that you have grafted!

You'll learn:

- why we graft citrus fruit trees
- what rootstocks to use
- how to perform a successful graft
- aftercare and long-term plant health.

Registration is essential. workshop is only for participants 16+. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Further information: contact Hugh Littlefield at hugh.littlefield@ lls.nsw.gov.au or 0457 818 593.

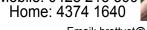


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FAIRVIEW NEWS

Fairview's connection with Queen Elizabeth II

It's well known that we are all connected, the only question is how far back. Family history research into the families who settled on Mangrove Creek has recently confirmed the connection between the late Queen Elizabeth II and Amanda Green, wife of Alfred Andrews who built Fairview in 1922.

How close is your family connection to the late Queen Elizabeth II?

Are you a member of the Andrews, Arnott, Atkins, Bailey, Barr, Black, Brownlee, Bruce, Clark, Cook, Brownlee, Douglass, Daniels, Ferguson, Fernance, Goddard, Gould, Harris, Hill, Ingle, MacPherson, McTaggart, Morris, Newman, O'Neill, Paull, Pemberton, Penzoe, Place, Prothero, Smith, Sparrow, Starkey, Taylor, Tregent, Walker, Ward, Woodbury or Wright families with a connection to Mangrove Creek? Then you may well also share a connection to royalty not a direct bloodline, of course.

If your family can trace its origins to Mangrove Creek and you are curious about your family's heritage and

- Elizabeth II Windsor (*21 Apr 1926, London, England)
- Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon (*4 Aug 1900, St Paul's Walden, Herts)
- Claude Bowes-Lyon (*14 Mar 1855, Chelsea, London)
- Claude Bowes-Lyon (*21 Jul 1824, Redbourn, Herts)
- Frances Bowes-Lyon (*8 Feb 1832, Edinburgh, Scotland)
- Hugh Trevanion (*14 May 1859, Tywardreath, Cornwall)
- Florence Cooper (*1856, Sydney, NSW)
- Elizabeth Hill (*23 Oct 1815, Sydney, NSW)
- Charles Hill (*28 Jun 1824, Sydney, NSW)
- 10. Sarah Pye (*22 Sep 1824, Bathurst, NSW)
- 11. Joseph Pye (*19 Jul 1796, Baulkham Hills, NSW)
- 12. Elizabeth Pye (*1805, Parramatta, NSW)
- 13. Mary Thorn (*1831, Parramatta, NSW)
- 14. Henry Douglass (*7 Dec 1831, Parramatta, NSW)
- 15. Sarah Douglass (*22 Aug 1810, Windsor, NSW)
- 16. Thomas Green (*15 Jan 1833 Mangrove Creek, NSW)
- 17. Amanda Green (*23 Aug 1862, Mangrove Creek, NSW)

Amanda married Alfred Andrews and their 11 children grew up at Fairview Homestead.

connections, we'd like to hear from you.



If you are connected to Mangrove Creek and care about the preservation of history and heritage, please sign our petition to save Fairview Homestead from demolition by neglect: go to

www.surveymonkey.com/r/

→ her mother

→ her father

→ his father

→ his sister

→ her son

→ his wife

→ his wife

→ his sister

→ his sister

→ her son

→ her mother

→ her brother

→ her father

→ her daughter

→ her husband

→ his daughter

SaveFairview

or scan the QR code on the left.

The more people show that they care about Fairview, the harder it becomes for Council not to care.

Dr. Matt Lohmeyer President Fairview Homestead Association Inc. president@fairviewhomestead.com.au

Dr. S. ANANDASIVAM

(ANAND)

MBBS, FRACGP, AMCC

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"Get the heads up on tech neck!"

National Spinal Health Week is 26 May to 1 June 2025

With over 5.3 million Australians suffering from neck pain including Tension Neck Syndrome, a musculoskeletal disorder (MSD) commonly known as 'tech neck' or 'text neck', national Spinal Health Week (26 May to 1 June 2025) is dedicated to promoting spinal health and preventing the incidences of tech neck in Australians of all ages.

Tech neck is the informal term used to describe Tension Neck Syndrome (TNS), a spine related musculoskeletal disorder (MSD) also referred to as 'text neck' that's common in students.

MSDs affect the joints, bones, muscles and multiple body areas (including the neck) and cost the Australian economy over \$55 billion annually through direct health costs, lost productivity and reduced quality of life.

What is tech neck?

Tech neck is a worldwide public



health problem. Studies show that tech neck is often caused by incorrect or overuse of mobile phones and other electronic devices including tablets and computers. When students spend too much time with their head bent forward reading from phones or tablets, and the longer they spend in this position, the greater the impact on their spine. Incorrect, non-ergonomic postural habits and poor setup of laptops or desktop computers can also lead to students developing tech neck.

Movements such as bending the head, neck, and shoulders when using smartphones and portable devices, and distorting the neck position while sitting, studying, gaming or watching television, can progressively increase stress on the cervical spine.

Too much screen time can cause tech neck in students of all ages.

Students should understand and be aware of how to correctly use smartphones and other electronic devices including tablets, laptops and computers.

Tech neck symptoms include headaches, neck, shoulder and upper

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back pain. Tech neck can also lead to postural problems and may cause changes to the natural curve of the spine. Data has shown a worldwide increase in tech neck among young people who spend a lot of time with their heads bent over devices putting stress on their cervical spine which can result in various complications, such as poor posture, premature wear, lacerations, degeneration, possible surgery, medical, psychological and social complications.

What is the impact of tech neck on students?

Students should minimise the risk of tech neck to maximise long-term spinal health. Students who use smartphones for studying are more likely to suffer neck and shoulder pain than those who use smartphones for other purposes. It is recommended that students limit the use of smartphones especially during leisure time.

Multiple academic studies show prolonged, non-ergonomic use of mobile phones, tablets and computers can increase pressure on the cervical spine leading to tech neck. Awareness



Providing the local community with a collaborative approach to multidisciplinary healthcare.

Dr Christine Wade

B.Med (Hons) FRACGP

Dr Sepali de Silva

Dr Rohan Dissanayake

MBBS

Dr Anisa Rouhipour MBBS

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of how to correctly use these devices and the importance of minimising the frequency and duration of use plays a major role in preventing tech neck.

Students should avoid incorrect, nonergonomic posture when using smart devices and computers and maintain a straight upright posture, take frequent breaks at regular intervals and do stretching exercises.

How to prevent tech neck in students.

Good posture, taking regular breaks to move and stretch, combined with exercise can help minimise tech neck caused from injuring the cervical spine when using mobile phones, tablets or computers incorrectly.

Get the heads up on tech neck!

Studies show that 92% of students did not seek treatment for tech neck which can lead to long-term complications. Students who suffer from tech neck should consult an ACA chiropractor. Chiropractic healthcare is an effective drug-free and low-risk treatment and is one of the most preferred treatment options for neck and back pain caused by tech neck.

ACA's top tips for tech neck prevention among students when using technology devices.

- 1. SIT WITH COMFORTABLE UPRIGHT POSTURE with shoulders relaxed and feet flat on the floor.
- 2. BE AWARE OF TIME SPENT USING TECHNOLOGY by monitoring device use and taking regular breaks.
- 3. STOP BENDING YOUR NECK to look down at a phone or tablet. Hold the device at eye level.
- 4. USE BOTH HANDS or alternate between left and right when typing on a smart phone.
- 5. DON'T WALK LOOKING DOWN at a phone. Hold your head up straight and engage with the world.

- 6. TAKE REGULAR MOVEMENT BREAKS to look away from your device, move your neck from side to side and stretch every 10 minutes if using mobile devices and every 30 minutes if using computers.
- 7. ENSURE COMPUTERS are ergonomically set up so the monitor is at eye level and arm's length away.
- 8. USE AN ADJUSTABLE ergonomic office chair so the knees are slightly lower than the hips.
- 9. EXERCISE REGULARLY to maintain a healthy spine and overall health and wellbeing.
- 10. CONSULT AN ACA CHIROPRACTOR to limit and treat spinal health problems including tech neck.

ACA provides a range of free helpful resources to help minimise tech neck, including the Ergonomic Checklist, Using Mobile Device Checklist and the Stand Corrected Stretching Poster.

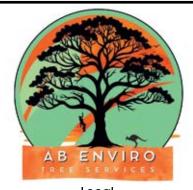
https://www.chiro.org.au/campaigns/spinal-health-week/#factsheets

Should students who suffer from tech neck use medication to treat neck and back pain?

While pain medications may offer adults temporary relief of pain caused by tech neck, academic studies including a study by Sydney University, show that opioids commonly prescribed for this purpose, do not relieve acute neck pain (lasting up to 12 weeks), and may exacerbate the condition causing increased pain.

How do ACA chiropractors treat tech neck?

Using specialised non-surgical techniques including gentle spinal adjustments, various manual therapies and soft tissue techniques, ACA chiropractors can reduce tech neck pain, improve joint mobility, and reduce stiffness without the use of medication. An ACA chiropractor can



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offer advice on exercise and lifestyle choices to reduce the risk of tech neck and improve overall health and wellbeing.

Consulting an ACA Chiropractor can help!

ACA chiropractors are five-year university educated healthcare professionals who treat a range of musculoskeletal disorders including tech neck. They play a vital role in managing the spinal health of Australians by providing holistic healthcare that treats the cause of tech neck and not just the symptoms.

Spinal Health Week is the Australian Chiropractors Association's flagship campaign aimed at educating Australians about the importance of maintaining positive spinal health.

Get the heads up on tech neck and download ACA's FREE Avoiding Tech Neck Factsheets and Electronic Device Checklists for Adults, Parents and Students, the Ergonomic Checklist, and the Stand Corrected Stretching Poster available to download from www.spinalhealthweek.org.au.

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Have your say - Improving camping in NSW national parks

Share your feedback on fairer camping fees, simpler bookings, and tackling campground issues in national parks.

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is seeking community feedback on proposed changes to camping in NSW national parks and reserves.

Proposed changes include:

- the introduction of consistent statewide camping fees
- simplified bookings to deliver fairer camping experiences for national park visitors
- improved management of persistent campground issues such as people booking space and not cancelling or turning up.

More than 200,000 campers and national park visitors were consulted to develop the proposal. Further community feedback will help the



NSW Government to decide on next steps and whether proposed changes are adopted and implemented.

Tell us what you think

Please read the consultation paper outlining details of the proposal and share your feedback by 11.59pm on Sunday 25 May 2025.

All submissions to this consultation, including online written submissions, online survey responses and postal submissions, may be published on the Environment and Heritage website after the closing date unless you request otherwise. When lodging your submission (either online, by post or through the online survey) you can request that your submission remains confidential.

There may be circumstances where the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service may be required by law to release the information in your submission. For example, in accordance with requirements of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009

Complete the survey:

https://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/camping/camping-survey

Upload a submission:

https://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/camping/camping-submission

Post your submission:

Director of Visitor Engagement, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

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Clever canines join the fight to save critically endangered local orchids

The critically endangered Wyong Sun Orchid (Thelymitra adorata) may be elusive, but a collaboration between Central Coast Council and the NSW Government's Saving Our Species Program is aiming to change that.

An Australian first trial for this species has successfully trained scent detection dogs to locate these rare orchids by detecting underground tubers in a minimally invasive way.

Using their remarkable sense of smell, three talented Spaniels, Paddy, Sully and Vera, are leading this innovative conservation effort. In collaboration with On The Scent and The Good Dog, these clever canines were specially trained to detect orchid tubers without relying on the short flowering period when the plants are usually visible. This enables Council to monitor the population of orchids and detect new locations not previously known to be important habitats.

Central Coast Council Mayor, Lawrie McKinna is supportive of the project and says it plays a crucial role in threat monitoring and biodiversity conservation.

"The Central Coast is internationally recognised as a biodiversity hotspot, particularly for this unique orchid species which has been recorded in the region," Mayor McKinna said.

Senior Regional Biodiversity Conservation Officer for the Saving our Species program, Paul Hillier, highlighted the transformative potential of this project.

"Detection dogs could revolutionise how we monitor threatened species. This method will allow year-round surveys and help us better plan conservation efforts, such as targeted burns to encourage orchid growth."

Central Coast Council Media Release

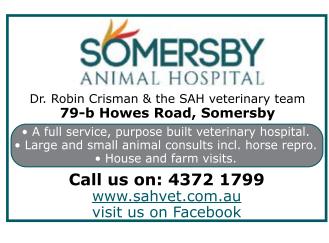
Kulnura and Districts Garden Club

Our meeting in April was a treat! We visited the Community Environment Network (CEN cen.org.au) Nursery at the University of Newcastle's Ourimbah campus, and learnt a lot about this very active and impactful community group.

Sam W the CEO of CEN was

wonderful in supporting our visit, and she spoke about CEN and their projects. Other CEN staff/volunteers gave presentations including nursery manager Xamina who talked about the nursery and gave us hope that the younger people on 'the Coast' have their priorities well set, Rachael talked







about Waterwatch (such an important part of our Central Coast Hinterland environment), and Jackie talked about CEN volunteers/campaigns. We spent wisely and came home with lots of local indigenous plants, and a thirst to learn more.

Our competition entries this month included lots of interesting natives, exotics (tibouchina was my favourite), and fruit/vegetables (including cucamelons: olive-sized cucumbers with a slight watermelon taste, which grow really well in our area and are very YUM in a salad).

Back at home in our garden during April we had a bit of a break from planting; while the dahlias and zinnias are coming to the end of their season, and the resplendent purple tiboucina flowers flourish, and raspberries, tomato, okra, basil, pumpkins, sweet potatoes, cucamelons and some very early oranges are being harvested. The weather keeps us guessing – it seems to rain as soon as we put our boots on to work on the garden! The mower is having a break so we avoid getting bogged in the soaked soil.

One local activity we really enjoyed recently was the Central Coast Edible Garden Trail which was on 3-4 May, organized by Permaculture Central Coast. Right across the Central Coast, gardens were open to browse and learn, and we met lots of great people and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Keep an eye out for the event next year!



In the spirit of 'world naked gardening day (first Saturday in May), Sabrina Hahn's very suggestive "How to Do it in The Garden" is providing many chuckles and lots of very detailed and well-researched garden advice. We will refrain from providing the Community New's Editor with any related photos, but let's just say that we've had some fun on our Club's group chat!

Being enjoyed with the morning coffee is @jamesprigioni YouTube channel The Gardening Channel With James Prigioni. James hails from New Jersey and has attitude to match, but it is clear he has a heart of gold and shares with us all an immense love of all things in the garden – and it is interesting to see what those Americans have to deal with in addition to their politics!

Our next meetings will be on Monday 12th May then 9th June. We welcome new members and visitors to Kulnura and Districts Garden Club.

Please email kulnuradgc@gmail. com for information about meetings, membership, or any other questions.

Getoutintothegardenandenjoy!

Dooralong Dave









Hello from Central Mangrove's New Principal!

Hello Mangrove Mountain Community! My name is Amy Ball. I am excited to be joining the Central Mangrove Public School team as the new principal. I feel incredibly privileged to be joining such a close-knit and vibrant school community, where every child is known, valued, and supported. I am passionate about working in positive partnership with families to support each child's growth — academically, socially, and emotionally. I value positive community partnerships and look forward to engaging with the wider community over the coming year.

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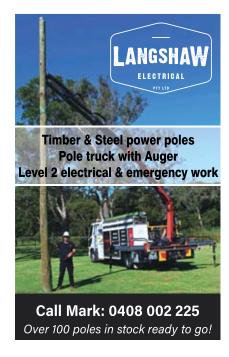
- * Fungus Forage with local fungus enthusiast - celebrating the diversity of Australian fungi
- * Techniques of watercolour and shading and how to create finished fungi watercolours
- * Fun workshop with morning tea, lunch and afternoon reviver included



Spend a day by the beautiful Hawkesbury River celebrating the fascinating world of Australian mushrooms and fungi.

The day starts with a mini foraging adventure led by a fungi expert, where you'll discover local species and learn about the strange and fascinating histories of fungi—how towering fungal giants once dominated the landscape and the eerie behaviour of zombie ants.

Central Coast artist and designer





Leonie Loewe introduces our first watercolour painting session, guiding you through simple techniques to capture the textures and forms of fungi followed by a beautiful morning tea. Learn modern watercolour methods, colour tonality and brushwork under Leonie's expert guidance. By the end of the day, you'll leave with your own stunning piece of artwork and new watercolour painting skills.

No prior experience is necessary—watercolours and all materials will be provided. The day also includes morning tea, lunch, and an afternoon refreshment and take-home gift.

Cost: \$145 including all materials, morning tea and lunch

Location: The Hawkesbury Duck in Spencer

Date: Saturday 24th May Bookings Essential - v

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Mother's Day Celebrations at Central Mangrove PS

Students, families, and staff gathered for a special Mother's Day celebration this week, to recognise and thank the special people who support and nurture the children in our school community.

It was wonderful to welcome mums, dads, carers, grandparents, aunties, and family friends to our school, recognising that love and guidance come in many forms.

The morning was filled with laughter, heartfelt conversations, and some yummy food, reminding everyone of the importance of connection and appreciation.

Thank you for everything you do!







Brackets & Jam -Sunday Sessions of Music, Creativity & Community

The Central Coast's iconic grassroots arts event Brackets & Jam kicks off a vibrant new chapter — a monthly residency at Fun Haus Factory in Gosford, happening on the first Sunday

of every month.

Come and settle in for a lively Sunday afternoon filled with live performances, creativity, and connection. Grab a delicious burger, sip on a bevy, and soak up an eclectic mix of music, rhythms, storytelling, and vibrant performances — all set in the warm, welcoming space of Fun Haus Factory.

For over 25 years, Brackets & Jam Central Coast has been a beating heart of the region's creative scene,

celebrating local talent, and the power of expression.

Now, that legendary spirit is finding a new home in Gosford. Whether you're an artist looking to road-test new work, a storyteller ready to share your voice, or someone who simply loves good vibes and great company, Brackets & Jam Sunday Sessions at Fun Haus Factory are for you.

Online bookings https://funhausfactory.org.au/whats-on/brackets/2025-05-04/







Mountain **Anglican News**

It's hard to believe that we are in May already.

ANZAC day and Easter have come and gone and as a church we are now looking forward to Mother's Day and the feast of Pentecost in June.

As usual, the Memorial club held its special community memorial ANZAC service on a Sunday before the actual ANZAC day. But this year, since the Sunday before ANZAC day was Easter, the normal service was held 2 weeks earlier, on Sunday the 13th.

The Rev. Jim led the prayers and later took his turn to lay a wreath on behalf of the Anglican Church.

It was great to see so many different community groups and other people coming together attending important ceremony to remember and pay their respects to all those who joined our armed forces to preserve the wonderful freedom that we enjoy in this country.

The Easter season was celebrated on Good Friday with a special church service followed by the usual cuppa afterwards with plenty of hot cross buns. On Easter Sunday we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus and chocolate Easter eggs were shared after the service to everyone.

Just a reminder that we meet at



8am on every Sunday morning at the Scout Hall 153 George Downes Drive Central Mangrove, to worship God. For enquiries about this, our Bible

discussion or prayer groups, etc., the Rev Jim can be contacted on 0407 210 861. God bless,

Mountain Anglicans





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The beat goes on

Somersby Public School nurtures many talented young musicians who have crashed and thrashed their way through the grades on two well-loved drum kits. These kits were played with so much enthusiasm throughout the years, the cymbals had become dented and bent and were well overdue for a refresh.

Mangrove Mountain & Districts Country Fair is made up of groups, associations and individuals from our community – including the Somersby Public School P&C Association. These local organisations all work together to host a fantastic event and help raise funds which are then given to the participating groups to benefit the broader mountains community.

In 2024, the Mangrove Mountain & Districts Country Fair was able to assist Somersby Public School by providing a grant to its P&C Association who then purchased cymbals for the students to enjoy. Now when it is time for the students to show off their musicianship during performances for family and the community, they can proudly play the drum kits with brand new shiny cymbals. Thank you Mangrove Mountain & Districts Country Fair – your generosity and ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

Mikala Spark Publicity Officer Somersby PS P&C



Sam Zouroudis, Year 4, Somersby Public School

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COSS: A **LEGACY WORTH EXPANDING ACROSS THE** CENTRAL COAST

The Coastal Open Space System (COSS) is one of the Central Coast's greatest assets, a visionary network of natural bushland reserves that has protected over 2,700 hectares of ridgelines and green spaces across the former Gosford City.

COSS was born in the 1970s, not out of environmental passion, but through a simple, practical decision by former Gosford City Council Chief Planner and Chief Engineer, working from the Rural Land Study.

Back then, they realised it was too expensive to connect the steep ridgelines around Gosford to the city's water supply, so they decided to leave them green.

That decision gifted our region something incredibly rare: an expansive network of natural bushland reserves, protecting biodiversity and offering green spaces that have defined the character of the former Gosford City for decades.

Yet, despite promises made in 2016 when Gosford and Wyong councils merged, COSS has not been expanded across the entire Central Coast.

This is even more surprising given that Wyong has already acquired over 3,300 hectares of land classified as "Natural Assets", an even larger area than Gosford's COSS, through the same planning provisions applied in Gosford.

Both former councils had the same planning provisions, so why hasn't COSS been extended into Wyong?

Even more disappointing, Council recently rejected the chance to purchase a vital "missing link" property at Mount Elliot, despite staff recommending it and money being available.

What is even more illogical is the available money comes from a reserved account where the funds can only be spent on the purchase of land to expand COSS. Eight councillors, including former Gosford Mayor Lawrie McKinna, voted against it. The land has now been sold.

If you care about protecting green corridors, supporting eco-tourism, and building climate resilience, now's the time to ask your local councillor:



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- Do you support expanding COSS across the whole Central Coast?
- What is your commitment to protecting our region's natural future?

CEN is committed to making sure COSS grows — but we need your voice too. Use this list of Councillor contacts to make your voice heard: https://www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/ about-council/mayor-and-councillors

Gary Chestnut, Chair, CEN

UPCOMING CATTLE AUCTIONS

Maitland Regional Saleyards

- Weekly Monday Liveweight Cattle Sales 9am, followed by Calves, Pigs & Sheep from 12 noon.
- Monthly Store Cattle Sales May 17, 11am

Gloucester Saleyards

• Fortnightly Thursday Store Cattle Sales -May 22, 11am

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

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Council Community Strategic Plans on Exhibition for Comment

Central Coast Council's draft Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program, Operational Plan and resourcing strategies will be placed on exhibition for community feedback from 1 May to 2 June 2025.

The plans have been developed following extensive community consultation and respond to the community's vision for the future.

We encourage the community to view the draft plans, understand what's happening in your area, and have your say.

Following consideration of all submissions, the updated plans will be referred to Council before adoption in June.

Integrated Planning & Reporting Framework

Councils IP&R document suite includes the following important planning documents that detail the programs and services that will achieve our community's goals and how these will be resourced and delivered.

- Community Strategic Plan: A tenyear vision developed through extensive community engagement, focusing on community and belonging, vibrant public spaces, environmental sustainability, economic growth, and strong leadership.
- Delivery Program and Operational Plan: Detailed plans outlining our principal activities, budget, finances, and fees and charges. The Delivery Program is a four-year plan, while the Operational Plan sets out annual actions and budgets.
- Long Term Financial Plan: Ensures sufficient funding for our commitments and strategic goals.
- Asset Management Strategy: Guides the management, renewal, and planning of infrastructure to maintain sustainable facilities and public spaces.
- Workforce Management Strategy: Focuses on recruitment, retention, and professional development to build a skilled workforce.
- Fees and Charges: Includes a breakdown of user fees and charges proposed to be charged in the 2025-26 financial year. The fees include those that are set in line with the cost of providing the service, benchmarking with the market, or

as stipulated by legislation.

What is the Community Strategic Plan (CSP)?

The CSP is a ten-year plan that outlines the community's priorities, vision, and aspirations for the future of the Central Coast. It guides the development of other strategies and plans, ensuring all progress and development align with the community's needs and values.

Why is the CSP important?

The CSP is crucial because it ensures that Council actions align with the community's needs and expectations.

It promotes transparency, accountability, and collaboration, enabling effective work with state and federal governments, local organisations, and stakeholders

How was the CSP developed?

The CSP was developed through extensive community engagement, including surveys, workshops, and interviews conducted between 2021 and 2024. This process ensured that the plan reflects the community's lived experiences, values, and aspirations.

What are the key themes of the CSP?

The CSP is organised around five key themes:

• Our People: Focusing on community spirit, safety, and opportunities for

engagement.

- Our Environment: Protecting and celebrating natural landscapes and heritage sites.
- Our Place: Ensuring sustainable infrastructure and amenities.
- Our Economy: Promoting local business, employment, and tourism.
- Our Leadership: Ensuring good governance, transparency, and community participation.

How will the Council measure the success of the CSP?

Success will be measured through regular monitoring and reporting on progress. This includes annual reports, quarterly reports on the Delivery Program, the Operational Plan, and the End of Term Report, which evaluates the Council's performance against the CSP.

Delivery Program and Operational Plan

What is the purpose of the Delivery Program and Operational Plan?

The Delivery Program and Operational Plan outline the Central Coast Council's priorities, actions, and budget for the next four years, aligning with the Community Strategic Plan to achieve the community's long-term vision.

How often is the Delivery Program and Operational Plan updated?

The Delivery Program is updated every four years, while the Operational Plan is updated annually.

Community Services

- What community services are provided by the Council?
- Council provides a wide range



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of services, including libraries, community centres, sport and recreation facilities, arts and cultural programs, and community development initiatives.

Major Infrastructure and Development

- What major infrastructure projects are planned for 2025/26?
- Major projects include the upgrade of the Wyong South Sewage Treatment Plant, construction of the Gosford Regional Library and Innovation Hub, and various road and drainage improvements.

What is the Council's budget for 2025/26?

Council's operating budget for 2025/26 is \$776.5 million, with significant investments in infrastructure, community services, and environmental management.

How does Council ensure financial sustainability?

Council follows a Financial Sustainability Strategy, which includes prudent financial management, regular service reviews, and strategic investment in infrastructure to ensure long-term financial stability.

Rates and Charges

• How are rates determined for properties?

- Rates are based on the unimproved land value provided by the NSW Valuer General and are categorised as residential, farmland, business, or mining.
- The rates include ordinary rates, special rates, and annual charges for services like waste management and water supply.

What is the rate peg for 2025/26?

The rate peg for 2025/26 is 4.3%, which is the maximum increase in Council's permissible rates income as determined by IPART.

Resourcing Strategy

In order to meet service levels and deliver the projects and actions outlined in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan, Council needs to allocate its resources - finances, people and assets. The Resourcing Strategy includes the following three elements:

- Long Term Financial Plan a 10-year plan that details financial projections and scenario modelling based on assumptions and other economic factors.
- Workforce Management Strategy

 a four-year strategy that details the workforce challenges and opportunities and the actions that will be undertaken to ensure continued service delivery.
- Asset Management Strategy a 10-year strategy that details Council's asset portfolio and guides the planning,

acquisition, operation, maintenance, renewal and disposal of assets.

Monitoring and Reporting

Council monitors its progress of performance through varying reports at varied points, including:

- Monthly Finance Reports
- Quarterly Budget and Operational Plan Progress Reviews
- Annual Report, including annual Audited Financial Statements
- End of Council Term Report, evaluating progress in achieving the CSP

You can find out more about the Community Strategic Plans and make a submission at:

https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/planning-our-future-2025-2035

Who's listening

Have questions or want to learn more about this project? Contact us below.

Sharon McLaren - Section Manager, Corporate Planning and Reporting

Sharon.McLaren@centralcoast.nsw. gov.au

Renae Green - Senior Engagement Officer

Renae.Green@centralcoast.nsw. gov.au

David Farmer - CEO

In writing - PO Box 20, Wyong NSW 2259



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REGULAR ACTIVITIES & MEETINGS

RURAL FIRE SERVICES

Bucketty RFS Weekend Training

Station Maintenance General Meeting

Calga-Mt. White RFS General meeting

Contact

Kulnura VBFB at Greta Rd Station General meeting Training

Mangrove Mountain RFS General Meeting Training / Maintenance Bloodtree Rd

Spencer RFS General Meeting Training Maintenance

Somersby RFS General Meeting Training/Maintenance

Yarramalong RFS

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL

Central Coast Plateau Chamber of Commerce First Tuesday each month 7.00PM MMMC Coastlink Friendship Group

Country Women's Association (Somersby)

Country Women's Association (Peats Ridge & District)

Country Women's Association (Mangrove Mountain Evening Branch)

Gosford North Inner Wheel club

Kulnura & District Garden Club

Kulnura Tuesday Tennis

Ladies of the Valley Afternoon Tea

Mangrove Singers

Mangrove Mountain & Districts Community Group

Mangrove Emergency Planning & Communications Committee

Mangrove Mountain Country Fair Committee Meeting

Mountain Districts Association (MDA)

Mountain District Football Club Meeting

Probus - West Gosford

River Cares for the Lower Hawkesbury River District

Rotary Club Meeting

Spencer Community Progress Group Inc

Spencer Community Ladies Social Club

Newsletter

Wisemans Ferry Community Men's Shed

Anglican Service - Mountain Districts

Mangrove Mountain Union Church Trust

Mangrove Mountain Christian Service

St Barnabas Christian Service Yarramalong

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@lowerhunterrfs.com.au 4998 8130

3rd Mon of the month, 7.30pm all welcome Training Every Monday 6.30 except public holidays Information & updates Facebook.com/calga/mtwhiteruralfirebrigade/ Captain.calgamtwhite@ccrfs.org.au - Zack Winslade.

> 1st Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm 3rd Wednesday of the month 7.00pm

Last Wednesday of the month, 7 pm, All Wednesday's except last of month, 7 pm

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

First Wed of the month 7.30pm at the Station Every Wed night 7.30 at the Station (except before Wed general meeting)

Information: www.facebook.com/ YarramalongRuralFireBrigade/ Phone contact: 0494 344 030

Email: volunteer@yarramalongrfs.org.au

Wed 9.30am-2pm at the Health Centre, Nurses Rd, Central Mangrove

Second Wed of each month, at Somersby Hall Wiseman's Ferry Road, Somersby, contact Sue, 43721280 or 0407768000.

Third Monday of the month at Community Hall, Peats Ridge School. Any enquiries please contact Christine 0419 400163.

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 2nd Wed each month 11am at Phillip House in Kariong. Contact: Glenis Ph: 0400 486 760 Second Monday, 9.30 for 10am start. Jacqui Maxwell 0455364262 kulnuradgc@gmail.com Tue 9.30am-12.30pm, Kulnura Tennis Courts. Enquiries: Alison Palmer 0427731548.

1st Tues, 1pm to 2.30 at Angels Sussurri Cafe Yarramalong. Margaret Dale 0411104770 1st & 3rd Tue, 6.00 7.30pm at Mangrove Golf Club, enquiries - Kim 0401516501

1st Thurs of the Month, excl Jan. 7.30pm, Mangrove Mtn Hall.

Contact: mepccinc@gmail.com, 0412669649

3rd Thu of mth except Jan, 7pm, at The Hub of Mangrove Mtn. Pres- Shane 0417 436 529 www.mountaindistrictsassociation.com.au secretary@mountaindistrictsassociation.com.au Second Tuesday of the Month 6.30pm at the

Mangrove Memorial Club 2nd Thu. Ph Elaine Burrows 0412988353

President Marlee Maxwell Email rivercaresinc@gmail.com

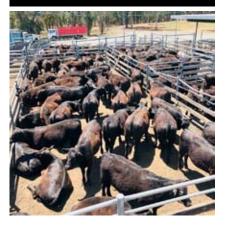
Friday 7.15am at Phillip House. 43404529 President Brad Maisey, Community Meetings, 0436482201, spencercpg2@gmail.com Last Fri of month. 12.00 noon Spencer Community Centre, Jennifer Dayes 4377 1364 Articles to: spencercpg2@gmail.com Tues & Sat, 9am-5pm. Contact: Alan Hunt 4566 4626 or Adrian Acheson 0448 833 781

Every Sun 8am at Peats Ridge Scout Hall, Sunday School during school terms Committee Meeting 3rd Monday, 7.30pm at the Mangrove Mountain Union Church Hall 9.30am second and fourth Sundays. Mangrove Mountain Union Church

Every Sunday, 9.30am. (Easter & (Christmas Carols dates to be advised)

(cont'd next page)

LIVESTOCK



Maitland Liveweight Cattle Sale 5th May 2025

500 cattle yarded today at Maitland. 450 Trade/Yearling cattle and 50 export.

Trade job remained firm. Export job was firm to dearer.

- Restocker steers up to 250kg made 350c/kg to 440c/kg
- 250kg-300kg made 350c/kg to 440c/
- 300kg to 380kg made 340c/kg to 432c/kg
- Restocker Heifers up to 250kg made 290c/kg to 340c/kg
- 250kg-300kg made 280c/kg to 330c/ kg
- 300kg-380kg made 260c/kg to 360c/
- Butcher Vealers made 320c/kg to 370c/kg
- Yearling Steers to Feed made 340c/ kg to 420c/kg
- Yearling Heifers to Feed made 300c/ kg to 350c/kg
- Cows Made 240c/kg to 296c/kg
- Bulls made 220c/kg to 225c/kg

Maitland Liveweight Cattle Sale 28th April 2025

250 cattle yarded today at maitland. 230 Trade/yearling cattle and 20 export.

Trade job was firm to dearer, export job remained firm.

- Restocker steers up to 250kg made 360c/kg to 450c/kg
- 250kg-300kg made 360c/kg to 425c/
- 300kg to 380kg made 335c/kg to 430c/kg

- Restocker Heifers up to 250kg made 290c/kg to 335c/kg
- 250kg-300kg made 280c/kg to 335c/
- 300kg-380kg made 270c/kg to 360c/
- Butcher Vealers made 320c/kg to 390c/kg
- Yearling Steers to Feed made 340c/ kg to 410c/kg
- Yearling Heifers to Feed made 300c/ kg to 360c/kg
- Butcher Vealers made 340c/kg to 410c/kg
- Cows Made 200c/kg to 290c/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)

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- Spencer
- Wollombi
- Yarramalong

Divine Retreat Centre

Serbian Orthodox

Kariong Community Baptist Church

Restitution Ministries Independent SDA Church

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 Trinty 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

ContactCentral Coast Council. Hall bookings Ryan Howard 0405416289 Church & Hall bookings 0412669649 mmucsecretary@outlook.com Hall bookings: 0413 359 655 or AH 4373 1488

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'Every K counts' - especially on local roads, says NSW Police and Council

Drivers across the Central Coast are being reminded to slow down this May, as Central Coast Council and NSW Police step up efforts to tackle speeding on local roads and increase safety in residential areas.

The focus is on improving safety in 50km/h and 60km/h zones – areas where children, older adults, pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists are often present.

Unfortunately, speeding continues to be the primary contributing factor in fatal crashes across the Central Coast.

Our goal is to reduce the risk and severity of speed-related crashes and protect the most vulnerable members of the community.

NSW Police Acting Inspector, Brendan Gregory said that while local streets may feel safer and familiar, they are no place for complacency behind the wheel. "We want to remind the Central Coast community and visitors to slow down and take care on local roads," Inspector Gregory said.

"Even a few kilometres over the limit can be the difference between a near miss and a serious crash."

"Police will be out in full force across the Central Coast throughout May, targeting speeding motorists and encouraging safer driving behaviour – especially in areas where people walk, ride and live."

'Every K Counts' and 'Stop it... or cop it!' – that's the clear message from Police and Council, reminding drivers that slowing down can save lives.

Council Mayor, Lawrie McKinna said Council is taking a targeted approach and reinforcing safe driving habits to help drivers make better choices.

"Council is working in partnership with NSW Police and Transport for NSW, under the Local Government Road Safety Program, to improve safety on Central Coast roads," Mayor McKinna said.

"Every kilometre over the limit increases both your stopping distance and your risk of a crash.

"We want to see everyone in our community make it home safely – every trip, every time."

This initiative includes heightened

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Police presence on local roads and the delivery of educational messages to residents and visitors across the Central Coast.

For more information on Council's road safety initiatives and projects, search 'road safety' at *centralcoast. nsw.gov.au*

Central Coast Council Media Release





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