

COMMUNITY NEWS

No. 979 Ph: 4374 1039 Mo: 0412 669 649 Email: enquiries@cnews1.com.au Web: cnews1.com.au 19th December 2025

ONE EMBER CAN END IT.

DISCUSS PREPARE KNOW KEEP

**GET READY FOR A BUSH FIRE
FOUR SIMPLE STEPS TO MAKING
YOUR BUSH FIRE SURVIVAL PLAN**

Getting ready for a bush fire is easier than you think. By taking 20 minutes with your family to discuss what you'll do during a fire, you could save their lives, as well as your home.

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

RFS FIRE + RESCUE NSW GOVERNMENT

BUSH FIRE SURVIVAL PLAN - FOUR SIMPLE STEPS

There are four simple steps to get ready for a bush fire:

Step 1 Discuss

DISCUSS WHAT TO DO IF A BUSH FIRE THREATENS YOUR HOME

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

Step 2 Prepare

PREPARE YOUR HOME AND GET IT READY FOR BUSH FIRE SEASON

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

Step 3 Know

KNOW THE BUSH FIRE ALERT LEVELS

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

Step 4 Keep

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH ALL BUSH FIRE INFORMATION NUMBERS, WEBSITES AND APPS

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

It's a fact. If you and your home are well prepared, you stand a better chance of surviving a bush fire. Download the four simple steps today at: <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/bush-fire-survival-plan>

The recent spate of bushfires and the devastation we have seen at Koolewong are a grim reminder to prepare because there is no second chance.

Information from the NSW RFS



UPDATE

COUNTRY FAIR AGM POSTPONED

Dear Community Groups, Volunteers and Community Members, The Mangrove Mountain & Districts Country Fair Annual General Meeting has been postponed to

**Thursday 15th January
2026 7pm at The Union
Church Hall.**

We look forward to seeing you in the new year.

All welcome.

Louisa Foxford, Secretary

"Self-importance
requires spending most
of one's life offended by
something or someone."
Carlos Castaneda

STOP!

Next issue Published
6th February 2025

**** DEADLINE ****

**** 30th January '25 ****

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- \$20 non-members
- \$15 members

*capped at 50 people

Included in price:

Recipe card, sourdough starter, afternoon tea and taste testers

Demonstrated by a local chef

ALICE Health Connections Kiosks - summer holiday dates

ALICE is going to have a summer holiday, and the Health Connections Kiosks will return every 1st and 3rd Monday of the month from Monday 19 January, open hours are 9am to 12 pm. It is recommended that people make a prior booking for appointments and this can be done using the QR code (see below) by email to Fiona.morrison1@health.nsw.gov.au or by phone on 0477 752 365.



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Caring for Kariong & the Mountain District for over 20yrs.

I'd like to thank the Mountains community for their warm welcome this year, and for the support they have provided to assist me to find my feet and get involved in community activities to find out how the ALICE program can help older people in the area to remain healthy, happy and independent living in their homes.

Thank you especially for all the support you have shown me personally, and the project through the frequent articles on ALICE in the Community News. It is such a vital source of information for all those who live in the area, and for those seeking to support residents and work in the area. I had a call from Newcastle the other day, from the son of Mangrove Mountain resident seeking my support for his mother, who had seen an article on ALICE in the Community News.

All the best to you and your family for a Happy Christmas time and a great New Year.

See you in 2026!

Kind regards,

Fiona Morrison

*ALICE Community Engagement Officer
Health Quality, Strategy and
Improvement Unit
Central Coast Local Health District*



Celebrate Christmas

With Mountain Anglicans
Traditional Christmas Day service
8am

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January Vacation Care at Mountain BASC

Get ready for an action-packed January holiday! Mountain Before and After School Care Inc. is thrilled to offer fun, safe, and engaging vacation care where children can explore, create, and make new friends.

Children starting Kindergarten in 2026 are also welcome to join in the fun!



Week 1:

Category	Tue 13 Jan	Wed 14 Jan	Thu 15 Jan	Fri 16 Jan
Day Name	Obstacle Tuesday	Bracelet Wednesday	Soccer Thursday	Water Fun Friday
Morning Activity	Morning Active Play: Obstacle Course	Craft – Friendship Bracelets (bright summery colours, sun/beach beads optional)	Active – Soccer	Craft – Recycled Box Creations (summer huts, ice cream shops, or boats)
Afternoon Activity	Afternoon Craft: Nature Collage (sun shapes, flowers, palm trees)	Active – Team Relays	Craft – Sand Art (beach/wave patterns in jars)	Active – Water play Day

Week 2:

Category	Mon 19 Jan	Tue 20 Jan	Wed 21 Jan	Thu 22 Jan	Fri 23 Jan
Day Name	Handball Monday	Sun Catcher Tuesday	Painting Wednesday	Dance Party Thursday	Water fun Friday
Morning Activity	Active – Handball	Craft – Sun Catchers (sun/tropical shapes, hang in windows)	Active – Capture the Flag	Craft – Cooking: Fruit Skewers (rainbow fruit kebabs)	Active – Water Play Day
Afternoon Activity	Craft – Summer Collage (beach scene, sun, sand, water)	Active – Yoga	Craft – Painting on Cardboard (summer scenes: ocean, sunset, tropical fruits)	Active – Dance Party	Craft – Card Making

Week 3:

Category	Mon 26 Jan	Tue 27 Jan	Wed 28 Jan	Thu 29 Jan	Fri 30 Jan
Day Name		Salt Dough Tuesday	Scavenger Wednesday	Boomwacker Thursday	Party Friday
Morning Activity		Craft – Salt Dough Creations (sun shapes, seashells, summer animals)	Active – Scavenger Hunt	Craft – Paper Craft	Active – End of Holidays Party & Games
Afternoon Activity		Active – Soccer	Craft – Cooking: Mini Cupcakes	Active – Boomwackers \$10 1pm	Craft – Memory Booklets (“Summer Memories” theme)

🕒 Operating Hours: Starting Tuesday 13th January

Full Day: 7:00am – 6:00pm

Half Day Options:

- Morning 7:00am – 12:30pm (includes breakfast and morning tea)
- Afternoon 12:30pm – 6:00pm (includes lunch and afternoon tea)

💰 Fees: Full Day: \$110 per day (less your eligible Child Care Subsidy)
Half Day: \$60 per session

🎨 What we provide:

- All meals and snacks
- Creative, summer-themed activities, games, and outdoor fun

📧 How to book:

Message our Facebook page, Email: mountainbasc@gmail.com

Don't miss out – spaces fill fast!
Onsite: Kulnura Public School

Mountain Before and After School Care Inc. is a community based not for profit registered charity.
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Mountain Before & After School Care Inc.
at Kulnura Public School

9 Williams Road,
KULNURA NSW 2250
E: mountainbasc@gmail.com
P: 0412 280 675





Mangrove Mountain & Districts Community Group

December Meeting

We held our last community group meeting on 4th December. It was good to discuss the agenda and also have a cheer to celebrate Christmas and the holiday season.

Our next meeting will be on 6th February.

Items we discussed:

- Some of our playground equipment at the Hall has been damaged and we are looking at replacing them.

- The December Christmas Markets had a record number of stalls attending This is great news to finish off the year.
- We are studying the group's Constitution with the aim of amending it early next year.
- Two of our committee members, Claire and Poppe, have been chosen to represent the community on Council's newly formed Mangrove Mountain Advisory Sub Committee (Water Catchment). Our first meeting is on 18th December. Stay tuned!
- The Mangrove Emergency Planning and Communications Committee (MEPCC) is having two tests nights on 11th and 16th December to see who can be heard on the CB radio system.
- We are constantly in contact with Council to get our fair share of funding and maintenance.
- Our Councillors would like to come to Mangrove Mountain to meet us. It would be great to have as many people as possible to represent our community.

We look forward to many of you joining this community group in 2026.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you all.

Poppe



**Come and celebrate
with us**

*"The reason for the season.
God's gift to the World
Jesus' birth"*

**Christmas Service
25th of December
at 9.30 am.**

**28th of December at
9.30am a message for the
NEW YEAR**

**at the Mangrove Mountain
Union Church**

Every One is welcome,
see you there.

God Bless,
Georgia Sidiropoulos

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Future of emergency services recognised at RFS Youth Awards

The achievements of young members of the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) have been recognised at the 2025 RFS Youth Awards, held on 18th November at the RFS Headquarters in Sydney Olympic Park.

RFS Commissioner Trent Curtin said the award program is an opportunity to acknowledge the invaluable role young people play in the Service.

"Our young members are the future of the RFS and seeing their passion and capability gives me great confidence in the generations of volunteers to come," Commissioner Curtin said.

"Their willingness to step forward, learn and contribute at a young age is truly inspiring.

"I congratulate this year's winners, thank them for their contribution to the NSW community and wish them all well in their future endeavours."

The Cadet of the Year Award was established in 2009, to recognise the efforts of a participant in the Secondary School Cadet Programs.

The award, open to all school students who completed the RFS-run program, was designed to promote

learning, leadership and the values of volunteering and community service.

Since then, additional award programs for members under 25 years have been included to acknowledge the achievements of young members who contribute by volunteering with their local brigade.

The 2025 RFS Youth Award winners are:

- Secondary School Cadet Program 'Cadet of the Year' – Lauren Wiggett
- Young Volunteer of the Year '12-15 years' – Patrick O'Hanlon
- Young Volunteer of the Year '16-25 years' – Elliott Simpson

Minister for Emergency Services Jihad Dib said the recipients embody the spirit of service that keeps communities safe.

"These awards highlight the dedication of young people who volunteer their time to protect and support their communities, at the same time learning valuable life skills that will also benefit them," Minister Dib said.

"Their stories are a powerful example of what can be achieved when we support the next generation to step up and lead and I commend each of the award recipients for their commitment.

"Our emergency service volunteers have been tested by extreme weather and fires this year and RFS members have been at the forefront protecting

communities. If people are considering volunteering, I encourage them to follow in the footsteps of these young leaders and join the RFS where there is a role for everybody."

Secondary School Cadet Program

'Cadet of the Year' – Lauren Wiggett

Lauren participated in the Secondary School Cadet Program at Colo High School, in Sydney's Hawkesbury region.

Throughout the program, Lauren has demonstrated a high degree of leadership and was elected Captain by the group due to her strong organisation and motivation skills. She helped to develop a highly functional team environment by supporting and encouraging other students to participate actively in the cadets. She sets an outstanding example with her consistently enthusiastic attitude.

She has demonstrated maturity by stepping forward frequently to deliver thank you speeches to visiting RFS instructors and coordinators and has grown in her ability to include and mentor the large cohort of 22 cadets, who she regularly assists to demonstrate and develop their skills.

Young Volunteer of the Year 12 – 15 years – Patrick O'Hanlon

Patrick joined the Narrabri Rural Fire Brigade the day he turned 12 years old and has been a consistent and reliable member from the very beginning.

Narrabri has had a strong juniors program and Patrick has been a

UPCOMING CATTLE AUCTIONS

Maitland Regional Saleyards

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

Gloucester Saleyards

- Fortnightly Thursday Store Cattle Sales - December 4th & 18th

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Merry Christmas from Central Mangrove Public School

On behalf of all our staff and students, we'd like to wish everyone in the Mountains community a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. We appreciate being part of this great community and look forward to another year of learning, growth and increased community connection.

If you are considering enrolling your children at our school, please get in touch—we'd be happy to answer any questions and show you all the great things our small school has to offer.

Have a safe, happy and relaxing holiday season!

CMPS staff and students



fundamental part of this success, representing the brigade at the RFS state Championships in 2024 and the Australian Fire Cadet Championships in October 2025.

Patrick assists new members by helping them find the right equipment and master the skills required for competing. He steps up into crew leader roles and leads the team through

scenarios at training and competitions.

Young Volunteer of the Year 16 - 25 years – Elliott Simpson

Elliott joined Green Point Brigade at 16 and has made a significant impact. He participates in not only Brigade Operations and the twice-weekly training sessions, but also numerous extra training courses and events which make him an asset to the brigade and

the RFS.

Elliott has attended over 160 callouts in his RFS volunteer career, including participating in the 2025 Cyclone Alfred and Taree flood recovery efforts.

Elliott aspires to a career in the RFS and has been identified as a future leader in the brigade.

NSW RFS Media Release





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The Deadliest Season in Australia Has Begun

As Australia heads into peak bites and stings season, the Australian Reptile Park joined forces with CSL Seqirus and St John Ambulance to remind Australians just how important awareness and first aid are when it comes to snake and spider encounters.

In November 2025, an event hosted at the Park, marked the start of the country's high-risk season for venomous bites and stings, a time when being prepared and knowing how to respond can be the difference between life and death.

To further support public safety, CSL Seqirus launched its new Bites & Stings app, a free, interactive resource that offers step-by-step first aid instructions, safety tips, and information about Australia's venomous creatures.

To have a safe and enjoyable time outdoors, Australians should:

- Download the free Australian Bites and Stings App to have up-to-date first aid information on hand if bites or stings do occur.
- Dress and pack a bag for the bush or the beach with an in-date first aid kit, snake bite kit, mobile phone, and food and water.
- Wear long pants, enclosed shoes and stay on the trails.
- Never touch wild animals, get too close or put your limbs in places where you can't see.
- Wear heavy duty gloves and be careful when lifting logs, rocks, or debris, which may be home to snakes and spiders.



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Left: FunnelWeb Venom Dripping Right: Bandaging procedure
Photos courtesy of the Australian Reptile Park



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The seller is satisfied with the sale, as a young family will now make new memories at his former family home.

His parents purchased the property in the late 1960's and it has been the centre of the family ever since. He is not just happy to have a sale, it's that a young family are the purchasers and this is where they will grow their family and build their memories.

The Seller's Perspective A Cherished Family Home.

The seller expresses immense satisfaction with the sale of the property, as this residence holds significant sentimental value. It is the family home where he spent his formative years, with his parents having purchased it in the late 1960s. Over the decades, the property has served as the heart of family life, acting as a central gathering place and a source of lasting memories.

Passing the Torch to a New Generation.

The seller's happiness is not solely due to the successful sale, but also because the property will become the new home for a young family. He takes particular comfort and pride in knowing that another family will now have the opportunity to grow, thrive, and create their own memories in the same place that meant so much to his own family.



31 years - 1994 to 2025

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Wishing ALL in our Community A Very Happy, Healthy & Safe Christmas.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported Michael Kidd Property Sales, not only throughout 2025, but over the past 31 years. This unwavering support from our community has been invaluable and allowed me to provide support to our local Soccer Club and the Country Fair and many other local organisations.

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CB Radio Training And Community Dinner at Spencer Community Hall

A Strong Turnout Despite the Heat

River Cares hosted its third CB Radio Training session on Saturday, 6th December, and we warmly thank everyone who braved the searing heat to attend. As we move deeper into the bushfire season, it was wonderful to see so many residents committed to strengthening our community's emergency readiness.

Why the CB Radio Network Matters

The strong attendance highlighted the importance the community places in having a reliable back-up communication system. During prolonged power outages or extreme weather, we can quickly lose all three levels of telecommunications.

The Emergency Communications CB Radio Network was implemented by the Mangrove Emergency Planning & Communications Committee (MEPCC) and incorporates over 300 CB radios, including a series of base stations, hand held and vehicle mounted units. These are ordinary UHF CB's and channel 57 selected as the standard.

The River Cares Committee actively joined forces with the MEPCC program and provided additional handheld CBs for Spencer and the River communities as part of the local Community Led Emergency Response Plan (CLERP).

The Emergency Communications CB network now extends essentially from Gunderman to Wollombi and out to Marlow, Somersby and Jilliby.

The River Cares Committee has provided some assistance to Wisemans Ferry in joining and extending this CB Network.

The CB network creates an

interconnected communication system that helps to ensure neighbours can still reach one another and critical information can be shared or forwarded on when it matters most. During times of isolation caused by floods, bushfires or major power outages etc, isolated people can still relay messages to contact "Triple0" [000] for help or get local assistance from neighbours etc.

The long range plan is to have links to communication networks in adjacent areas such as St. Albans.

Whilst the CB network operates on Channel 57 for initial contact and during emergencies, for general chitchat members must move to another free channel as agreed, and then return their radios to 57 on completion of that conversation.

Special thanks to our guest speakers and trainers.

River Cares extends sincere thanks to our guest speakers and trainers:-

- Tracey Ann Cook – Spencer RFS. Who spoke about how important communication is for our isolated areas and also noted that RFS can't monitor our CB Network, so it is important for the members on the CB Network to pass on information to the 1st person that can actually contact 000 via a phone. This is because a RFS Unit cannot be dispatched unless instructed by the RFS Headquarters.

- Sebastian Southern – Wisemans Ferry RFS. He did an excellent job in demonstrating and training our members in CB Radio "on air protocols" of communication so as to be more effective in passing on critical information.

- Ian Milne – Mapping contacts for the CB Radio Network. Ian provided a detailed live map and MEPCC based spreadsheet on a laptop showing the communication links that have been established and confirmed between various members using their base stations and handhelds.

Grant Funding Supporting Local Households

Funding from the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Program and FRRR (Flood) enabled River Cares to



Sebastian Southern addresses the attendees



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George serving the masses



Ian Milne displays the comms links

purchase nearly 100 CB radio handsets, now distributed across Greengrove, Gunderman, Lower Mangrove, Lower Mount White, Marlow, Spencer and Wendoree Park.

These grants also funded the River Cares Go Bags, which include a first

aid kit, emergency blanket, USB stick, document pouch, glow sticks, and a '4-in-1' device with siren, torch, wind-up radio and mobile charger.

A Delicious Dinner to End the Day

After training, the community

enjoyed a beautiful shared dinner. A heartfelt thank you to George and Lee-Ann Vassilimis, who spent the entire day slaving over a hot oven to prepare mouth-watering lamb for everyone to enjoy. Also a thanks to both Robyn and Marlee for Greek based salads to compliment George's extraordinary tender flavorsome lamb.

Music to Complete the Night

River Cares would also like to thank musicians Mark Hudson, Karl Mackie and Shane Clarke for their warm and melodic performances that created a joyful atmosphere throughout the evening and apparently into the early morning.

A Night of Community Spirit and Learning

The event was a wonderful blend of practical learning, connection and community pride — a true reflection of what River Cares is all about.

Robyn Downham

Publicity Officer,

Community Liaison Officer



Enjoying the dinner with friends

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CALLING Central Coast Performing Artists

Funhaus Factory, in partnership with Central Coast Council, is calling on local performers to step into the spotlight with From Gosford With Love: Tour Ready Program — a bold artist development opportunity designed to take Central Coast talent from local stages to the wider world.

Now open for applications, From Gosford With Love will see 12 Central Coast based artists or groups featured across the year in Funhaus Factory's 2026 programming. The program

supports artists to level up through a paid performance, full production support, and the professional tools needed to become tour-ready. Whether you work in live music, theatre, dance, cabaret, storytelling, performance art or multidisciplinary practice, this opportunity is for performers with proven or emerging work ready for its next chapter.

Across the year, selected artists will present their work in a fully equipped professional venue, supported by the Funhaus Factory team across technical production and event creation. Artists are also supported through the usually boring side of artist admin - turning bios, event descriptions and media releases into sharp tools they can use for future gigs across Australia.

Participants work closely with a Funhaus Factory producer to develop marketing and communications skills, learning how to promote their work across digital and traditional platforms. Every artist receives a professional promo pack including live performance photography, a video sizzle reel, and printed and digital collateral - essential

tools for pitching to venues, festivals and promoters nationally.

The program also includes targeted advertising, audience development support, and full production costs covered, removing the financial and logistical barriers that often prevent regional artists from progressing. By leveraging Funhaus Factory's strong regional profile, From Gosford With Love introduces new audiences to each artist's work, helping grow fanbases and strengthen presence within the local creative ecosystem.

Creative Director of Funhaus Factory, Glitta Supernova, said the program is about backing local artists with real-world support. "From Gosford With Love is about giving Central Coast performers a genuine launchpad. We're not just putting artists on stage - we're paying them, supporting them, and equipping them with the tools they need to take their work beyond the region."

From Gosford With Love directly advances Central Coast Council's cultural and community development goals by building skills, confidence and capacity among local creatives, expanding access to professional arts experiences, and strengthening community identity through homegrown talent.

Applications are now open.

- Round One closes Thursday 15 January 2026
- Round Two closes Thursday 9 April 2026

Local performers are encouraged to apply now and show the Coast - and beyond - what they've got.

For full program details and submissions, visit:

<https://funhausfactory.org.au/opportunities/>

Funhaus Factory
Media Release



Photo courtesy of Lisa Haymes Photography

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CALLING FOR NOMINATIONS FOR CENTRAL COAST YOUTH WEEK AWARDS 2026

Help celebrate the incredible young people of the Central Coast by nominating someone for Central Coast Council's 2026 Youth Week Awards!

Central Coast Council Director Community and Recreation Services, Melanie Smith encourages nominations so Council can honour local youth for their efforts.

"These annual awards recognise outstanding contributions made by youth aged 12 to 24 across a wide range of areas - including the arts, sports, culture, social services, education, business, entrepreneurship, volunteering, and community building.

"Whether they're inspiring others, driving change or making a difference behind the scenes, now is the time to nominate a young person who deserves to be acknowledged and celebrated."

Nominations are now open until 5pm, Sunday 1 March 2026 online at

centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

Award categories

1. Arts and Entertainment Award
2. Community Service and Activity Award
3. Environment and Ethical Sustainability Award
4. First Nations Cultural Award
5. Social Impact in Education / Community Award
6. Youth Sportsperson Award
7. Youth Entrepreneur Award
8. Youth Leadership (Individual) Award
9. Youth Leadership (Group) Award
10. Youth Volunteer Award
11. Nominator Award

Central Coast Council Mayor, Lawrie McKinna said these awards provide an opportunity to spotlight some of the positive ways that youth on the Central Coast contribute to our region.

"These Youth Week Awards reflect our Youth Strategy and the priorities in the Community Strategic Plan, helping young people feel empowered, supported and celebrated," Mayor McKinna said.

"Let's come together to recognise their achievements and thank them for the positive impact they're making in our region. Jump on Council's website to nominate a young person making a difference."

The winners will be announced at a



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special celebration during Youth Week on 16 April 2026. Read about last year's Youth Week winners

Expressions of interest are also open for local young people to join Council's youth leadership program 'Youth-for-Youth' (Y4Y) Action Team. Submit interest online by 15 December.

For more information, search 'Youth Week Awards 2026' at centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

Central Coast Council
Media Release



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WHAT'S ON WEEKLY

MONDAY

HAPPY HOUR 4-6pm

TUESDAY

BINGO from 11am - \$18 Pizza night
HAPPY HOUR 4-6pm

WEDNESDAY

MEAT RAFFLE drawn at 730pm
\$20 schnitzels (kids eat free)

THURSDAY

POKER 630pm - \$24 steak night
MEMBERS BADGE DRAW 730pm

FRIDAY

HAPPY HOUR 4-6pm, COCKTAIL HOUR 6-7pm
MUSICAL BINGO 630pm every fortnight
MEAT RAFFLE drawn at 730pm
New restaurant specials weekly from 530pm

SATURDAY

POOL COMP from 630pm. Entry fee \$5

SUNDAY

Kids eat free



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



ARTS NEWS

The Wollombi Valley Arts Council encourages and fosters all kinds of artistic and cultural expression within the Wollombi Valley in order to support and promote artists and our community.

Our next exhibition...
'DAY & NIGHT' - An exhibition by Peter and Katie Williams

13th January - 15th February 2026
Open DAILY 10am - 9pm
You are warmly invited to the exhibition opening on 13th January from 6pm, there will be traditional dancing and light refreshments.

Wollombi Valley Arts Council Inc
c/o General Store, Wollombi 2325
Email: artscouncil@wollombi.org
Web: www.wollombi.org



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**Yarramalong
Community Church**
CHRISTMAS SERVICE 10:00AM
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1669 Yarramalong Road. Yarramalong

All denominations are welcome to
join us at 10am for our Christmas Service.
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Margaret 0411104770

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Council celebrates local groups at community grants afternoon tea

Central Coast Council hosted an afternoon tea on Tuesday 9 December to recognise 53 local groups recently awarded funding through the annual Community Grants Program.

The program plays a vital role in building a stronger, more connected community by enabling local organisations to bring meaningful projects and events to life.

Council's Community Grants Program comprises three key streams:

- Community Development Grant Program
- Community Events and Place Activation Grant Program
- Community Support Grant Program

The 53 local groups recognised at the event received funding through the 2025-26 Community Development and Community Events and Place Activation streams. The Community Support Grant Program remains open all year, with applications assessed monthly and successful recipients acknowledged throughout the year.

Council Mayor, Lawrie McKinna said the Community Grants Program plays an important role in fostering inclusion, celebrating local identity and encouraging collaboration across the region.

"These grants give local organisations the support they need to deliver

valuable programs and initiatives," Mayor McKinna said.

"By investing in their work, we are improving the quality of life for our community today and helping to build a stronger, more resilient Central Coast for the future."


Council Director Community and Recreation Services, Melanie Smith said Council provided support to local groups in the grant application process through two grant writing workshops and four grant information sessions.

"A total of 115 applications were received and assessed, with 53 recommended for funding," Ms Smith said.

"These successful projects stood out for their ability to deliver broad community benefits across the entire Central Coast, from fostering social connection to creating vibrant public spaces."

Applications for the Community Development and Community Events and Place Activation programs will open again in June 2026.

Applicants are advised to look out for workshops in April, May and June to support the development of their application and discuss their proposal with Council's grants officers prior to



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submission.

The Trustee for the Mangrove Mountain Union Church 1914 Trust Incorporated was one of the recipients under the Community Development Grant Program.

*Central Coast Council
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2025-26 recipients of the Community Events & Place Activation Grant Program and Community Development Grant Program

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REGULAR ACTIVITIES & MEETINGS

RURAL FIRE SERVICES

Bucketty RFS	Weekend Training General Meeting Contact	3rd Sat, 9am-12 pm 4 meetings per year 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.calgamwhite@ccrfs.org.au - Zack Winslade.
Kulnura VBFB at Greta Rd Station	General meeting Training	1st Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm 3rd Wednesday of the month 7.00pm
Mangrove Mountain RFS Bloodtree Rd	General Meeting Training / Maintenance	Last Wednesday of the month, 7 pm, All Wednesday's except last of month, 7 pm
Spencer RFS	General Meeting Training 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)
Yarramalong RFS		Information: www.facebook.com/YarramalongRuralFireBrigade/ Phone contact: 0494 344 030 Email: volunteer@yarramalongrfs.org.au

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL

Central Coast Plateau Chamber of Commerce	First Tuesday each month 7.00PM MMMC
Coastlink Friendship Group	Wed 9.30am-2pm at the Health Centre, Nurses Rd, Central Mangrove
Country Women's Association (Somersby)	Second Wed of each month, at Somersby Hall Wiseman's Ferry Road, Somersby, contact Sue, 43721280 or 0407768000.
Country Women's Association (Peats Ridge & District)	Third Monday of the month at the Kulnura Hall. Any enquiries please contact Christine 0419 400 163.
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 Kariong. Contact: Glenis Ph: 0400 486 760
Kulnura & District Garden Club	Second Monday, 9.30 for 10am start. Jacqui Maxwell 0455364262 kulnuradge@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 Yarramalong. Margaret Dale 0411104770
Mangrove Mountain & Districts Community Group	1st Thurs of the Month, excl Jan. 7.30pm, Mangrove Mtn Hall.
Mangrove Emergency Planning & Communications Committee	Contact: mepccinc@gmail.com, 0412669649
Mangrove Mountain Country Fair Committee Meeting	3rd Thu of mth except Jan, 7pm, at Union Church Hall. Pres - Steve 0455 155 075
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 Maisey, 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
Newsletter	Articles to: spencercpg2@gmail.com
Wisemans Ferry Community Men's Shed	Tues & Sat, 9am-5pm. Contact: Alan Hunt 4566 4626 or Adrian Acheson 0448 833 781

SPIRITUAL

Anglican Service - Mountain Districts	Every Sun 8am at Peats Ridge Scout Hall, Sunday School during school terms
Mangrove Mountain Union Church Trust	Committee Meeting 3rd Monday, 7.30pm at the Mangrove Mountain Union Church Hall
Mountain Districts Christian Church	Services 9.30am 2nd & 4th Sundays. Bible Study 4.30pm 1st & 3rd Mondays. Mangrove Mountain Union Church
St Barnabas Christian Service Yarramalong	Every Sunday, 9.30am. (Easter & Christmas Carols dates to be advised)

(cont'd next page)

LIVESTOCK MARKET REPORT



Maitland Liveweight Cattle Sale 8th December 2025

1080 cattle yarded this week at Maitland. 963 Trade/117 export.

Trade job firm on heifers 15 cents dearer on steers . Export Job 10 cents cheaper.

- Restocker Heifers up to 250kg made 380c/kg to 440 c/kg
- 250kg-300kg made 373/kg to 504 c/kg
- 300kg to 380kg made 334 c/kg to 480c/kg
- Restocker steers up to 250kg made 468c/kg to 555 c/kg
- 250kg-300kg made 497 c/kg to 565 c/kg
- 300kg-380kg made 424 c/kg to 525 c/kg
- Yearling Steers to Feed made 403 c/kg to 460 c/kg
- Yearling Heifers to Feed made 365 c/kg to 385 c/kg
- Vealers from 440 c/kg to 565 c/kg
- Bullocks made to 370 c/kg
- Cows made 301 c/kg to 370 c/kg
- Bulls 271/kg to 310 c/kg

Maitland Liveweight Cattle Sale 24th November 2025

620 cattle yarded this week at Maitland. 530 Trade/90 export.

Trade job stronger . Export Job firm to slightly easier.

- Restocker Heifers up to 250kg made 254 c/kg to 425 c/kg
- 250kg-300kg made 367/kg to 430 c/kg
- 300kg to 380kg made 321 c/kg to 430c/kg
- Restocker steers up to 250kg made 440c/kg to 590 c/kg


- 250kg-300kg made 457c/kg to 588 c/kg
- 300kg-380kg made 434 c/kg to 530c/kg
- Yearling Steers to Feed made 378 c/kg to 458 c/kg
- Yearling Heifers to Feed made 374 c/kg to 420 c/kg
- Vealers from 440 c/kg to 565 c/kg
- Bullocks made to 380 c/kg
- Cows made 325c/kg to 380 c/kg
- Bulls 265/kg to 380c/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

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

Carnival Glass Club

Central Coast Junior Motorcycle Club Inc.

Coastal Communicators Toastmasters

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 4pm, Phone
0412 201 851 as times may change.
2nd & 5th Sunday of the month, 4.30pm Mass
at St Michael the Archangel, Wollombi.
1st Sunday each month, 11.00am 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 pastorkcbbc@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 0406645842.
3rd Fri of month 7.30pm Pearl Beach. Peggy
0411754577 pbaboriginalhistory@gmail.com
Sun to Thurs, 10am-2pm, other times by appt.
43521886 or info@alisonhomestead.com.au.
website: www.alisonhomestead.com.au

Meetings held every three months. Central
Coast, Newcastle, Sydney. Ring 0447723956
or 0448390077 for details.

Meeting dates: ccjuniormotorcycleclub.org.au,
FB: "Central Coast Junior Motorcycle Club
Official". David Smith 0412 506 503

1st & 3rd Thurs of month, 6:45pm to 8:45pm
at Doyalson-Wyee RSL. Debbie 0421216952
2nd Sat of the month Somersby Hall (10am to
2pm) cost \$5 per person Carmen 0434071305
Third Sun 2pm, Angels Sussurri Yarramalong.
Contact Kerry Watson 0404059167

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
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