

COMMUNITY NEWS

No. 980 Ph: 4374 1039 Mo: 0412 669 649 Email: enquiries@cnews1.com.auWeb: cnews1.com.au 6th February 2026

Community Meals Delivered with Heart

For nearly three decades, local volunteers Jim and Wendy Innes have been quietly making a lasting difference in the lives of their neighbours, delivering more than just meals across Mangrove Mountain and surrounding districts. For the past 28 years, the couple has volunteered with Meals on Wheels Central Coast, dedicating every Thursday to delivering nutritious, affordable meals and friendly conversation to local residents who rely on the service to remain healthy and independent at home.

Each month, Jim and Wendy travel close to 600 kilometres on their delivery route, ensuring clients receive not only a warm meal but also regular social connection, something many recipients value just as highly as the food itself. Their deliveries are made possible with the generous support of the Mangrove Mountain Memorial Club, which donates freezer space and facilities to store and distribute community meals, enabling this vital

service to operate locally.

Each delivery also provides an important point of face-to-face contact, with volunteers offering friendly conversation, help with putting meals away, and a general check-in on clients' wellbeing. This regular contact means volunteers like Jim and Wendy are often an extra set of eyes on the ground, supporting clients socially and reporting any concerns back through appropriate channels when needed.

"It's so enjoyable to help, meet, and talk to the people who need healthy meals delivered in the Mangrove Mountain region," said Jim and Wendy Innes. "Every drive is enjoyable. The landscape is beautiful, and so is the smile on the client's face."

Meals on Wheels Central Coast CEO Neridah McLeod praised the couple's long-standing commitment to the community, highlighting the essential role volunteers play in supporting people at home.

"Volunteers like Jim and Wendy are the heart of Meals on Wheels Central Coast," Ms McLeod said. "Their 28 years of service is an incredible contribution to the Mangrove Mountain community and a wonderful example of the care, connection, and

commitment our volunteers bring to every delivery."

As one of the largest Meals on Wheels services in New South Wales, the organisation supports more than 1,000 clients with the help of around 180 dedicated volunteers, delivering approximately 20,000 meals each month. Through this work, Meals on Wheels Central Coast provides essential nutrition, regular contact, and ongoing support to older people and people living with disability across the region.

The service is available to eligible residents across the breadth of the Central Coast and is designed to support people who may be finding it difficult to prepare meals at home.

Anyonewishingtofindoutmoreabout the service, eligibility, or volunteering opportunities is encouraged to visit www.ccmow.com.au or call 02 4357 8444.

Meals on Wheels Central Coast

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED (CENTRAL COAST)

AGM (planned for Tuesday 17th March from 6pm at our Centre in Kangoo Rd Somersby)



(Left to right) – Michael Ekert (CEO, Mangrove Mountain Memorial Club), Wendy & Jim Innes (Volunteers, Meals on Wheels Central Coast), Jason Millers (Relationship Manager, Meals on Wheels Central Coast)

"It's amazing how much good you can do if you don't care who gets the credit"

Harry S. Truman

STOP !
Next issue Published
20th February 2025
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**** 13th February '25 ****
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Central Coast Veteran & Family Hub

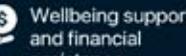
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Friday 10:00AM	Exercise Move your body in a beginner friendly class	
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Supporting bushfire preparedness with fire trail upgrades

Central Coast Council has completed a program of upgrades to fire trails across the region, improving access to bushland reserves and supporting community safety this summer.

Council manages 223 fire trails as part of its ongoing support for the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS).

These trails are a vital part of the Central Coast fire access network, which also includes other fire trails located on land owned by other authorities: NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service, NSW Forestry and NSW Crown Lands.

Upgrading and maintaining fire trails is essential for firefighting operations, hazard reduction and emergency response.

Council Mayor, Lawrie McKenna said the annual fire trail program is a key part of preparing for bushfires.

“Every minute matters when we’re trying to protect people and their homes. Improving fire trails helps emergency services get to where they need to go more quickly,” Mayor McKenna said.

“I encourage everyone to make a bushfire survival plan and ensure their property is ready during bush fire season.”

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Over 42,000m² of trail works and 18km of vegetation management across 18 fire trails have been completed in the past year.

Major upgrades include Marana Fire Trail at Springfield, MacMasters Ridge Fire Trail at Bensville, Edye Fire Trail at Ourimbah, the Kangy Kangy Fire Trail Complex at Kangy Kangy, the Brushwood Fire Trail Complex at Kincumber and Andrew's Point Fire Trail in the Mangrove Creek Dam catchment.

The average upgrade includes:

- Vegetation clearance within a 6m wide and 4m high corridor
- Reshaping and importation of trail surface material
- Construction of passing bays and turnaround areas
- Installation of drainage features and signage

All works meet the NSW RFS Fire Trails Standards.

Residents are encouraged to plan and prepare for bushfires by:

- Understanding your risk
- Making a bushfire emergency plan
- Preparing your home
- Preparing yourself and your family
- Paying attention to fire danger ratings and alert levels
- Downloading key emergency apps
- Search 'bushfire preparedness' at centralcoast.nsw.gov.au for more information.

*Central Coast Council
Media Release*

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AGM NOTICE

Mangrove Mountain and Districts Community Group

The MMDCG Inc AGM is to be held at

8.00pm
5th March 2026

at Mangrove Mountain Hall.

Many Thanks
Kaye Pointer
Secretary MMDCG Inc.

Strengthening our regional economy – have your say on three major strategies

Central Coast Council is calling on the community to help shape the future of the region, with three major strategies now open for public feedback.

The Draft Economic Development

Strategy 2026-2030, Draft Destination Management Plan 2026-2029 and Draft Events Strategy 2026-2030 outline a long term vision to create more opportunities for locals and enhance the Coast as a great place to live, work and visit.

Council Mayor, Lawrie McKenna said the three strategies are designed to work together to guide the region's long-term direction.

"These strategies set the direction for economic growth, tourism and events. They show how we can create more local jobs, support lively town centres and build a region that visitors want to explore," Mayor McKenna said.

"We want to ensure we're future focused, creating a region that the



DIGITAL CONNECT WORKSHOPS FOR SENIORS

Digital Connect Central Coast provides workshops for seniors (50+) and a chance to learn and ask questions about using mobile devices like smartphones and tablets in daily life.

What to expect: There is no cost to attend. Our workshops are supported by the federal government initiative, Be Connected.

Workshops focus on mobile devices and what you need to know to make the best use of your device.

Over the year, a range of topics will be covered including choosing the right phone and plan for you, customising your smartphone, using apps, cloud storage, security and password management.

The workshop format includes discussions and activities in small groups catered to Apple and Android devices. Small groups, guided by Digital Mentors, will allow you to ask questions, get support and practise as you learn new concepts and digital skills.

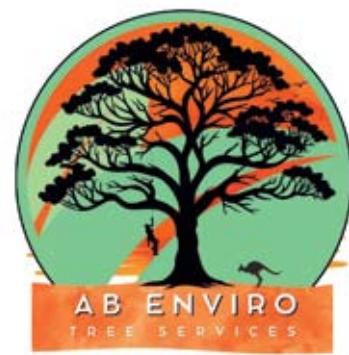
There is an opportunity for 1-1 support following the workshop for any individual issues you may need help with. This includes support for laptops.

No need to register! Simply turn up with your charged device and a can-do attitude!

Sessions are held around the Central Coast and here on the Mountain, they are held at Mangrove Mountain Computer Club, 6 Waratah Road, Mangrove Mountain.

Our first session at the Computer Club for the year will be held on:- Thursday, February 26, 2026, 9.30am - 11.30am.

Enquiries:- Suzanne - 0412 705 604



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next generation is proud to call home. Have your say and help shape our community's future."

About the draft strategies

Economic Development Strategy

– Outlines priority actions to grow sustainable jobs, strengthen local industries and build resilient, thriving communities across the Central Coast.

Destination Management Plan – A blueprint for growing the visitor economy – focusing on enhancing visitor experiences, increasing visitation from key markets, supporting business growth and helping industry adapt and thrive.

Events Strategy – Sets out a plan for the Central Coast to be a leading event destination. It provides a roadmap for how Council, event promoters and the community will work together to grow a diverse, inclusive, and sustainable calendar of events that reflect who we are and where we are going.

Acting Director Community and Recreation Services, Brett Sherar said having these strategies in place will support Council's ability to secure grants and funding that benefit the region.

"These strategies will guide Council's investment, partnerships and future decision making," Mr Sherar said.

"Together, they aim to grow investment and prosperity across the region over the next four years – creating more local jobs, activating our town centres, building a thriving visitor economy and delivering events that celebrate the Coast's unique identity."

The three draft strategies will be on public exhibition until 4 March 2026.

Council staff will also be available at various community events across



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21 January
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18 March

Mangrove Hub
2 Waratah Rd
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About the Mobile Library service

The Mobile Library service is an outreach branch of Central Coast Library Service. It is a branch on wheels and offers many of the services that you will find in our branches.

Borrow and return library items

Browse books, magazines, audiobooks and DVDs for all ages. Stock is regularly rotated so there is always something new.

Manage reservations

Library staff can reserve library items for collection at any branch. Alternatively reserve your items online, select Bookmobile as the pick-up location and we will let you know when it is on board for collection.

Technology on the move

The Mobile Library is fitted out with essential technology to help keep you connected. Access free wi-fi, scan to email or download eBooks and eAudiobooks from the eLibrary.

Like to know more?

Contact any library branch or send an email to library@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

Membership

Library membership is free. If you have a Central Coast Library card it will work on the Mobile Library.

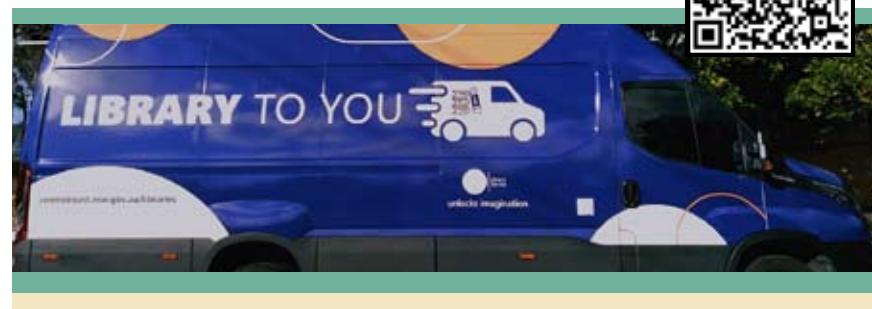
Don't have a card?

Ask library staff about joining the library, they can sign you up on the spot. There is also the option to join online for instant access to online resources.

Where does the Mobile Library visit?

All stops are listed on the Mobile Library timetable. Copies are available on board or can be downloaded from the library website at libraries.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/services/mobile-library

Scan the QR code to find out more about the service.



January and February for those who prefer to share feedback face to face. Times and locations are available on yourvoiceourcoast.com, where you can also lodge an online submission.

and join the conversation, search 'strengthening our regional economy' at yourvoiceourcoast.com

*Central Coast Council
Media Release*

To read the draft strategies

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PEATS RIDGE & DISTRICTS COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (CWA)

Why Joining CWA Can Be So Rewarding for Women of All Ages

The Country Women's Association (CWA) has long been known as a place of friendship, community spirit and practical support – but today's CWA is about so much more than many people realise. At the Peats Ridge and Districts Branch, we are proudly welcoming new members of all ages, backgrounds and interest, and discovering just how much women benefit from being part of this vibrant local group.

One of the greatest benefits of joining CWA is connection. In an increasingly busy and digital world, it can be hard to find time and space to build genuine friendships. CWA offers a warm, welcoming environment where women can meet regularly, enjoy conversation, share experiences and feel part of a supportive local network. Many members say the friendships they form through CWA quickly become one of the most meaningful parts of their lives.

Our Peats Ridge and Districts Branch holds a monthly meeting, giving members a chance to catch up, learn about local and statewide initiatives, and have a say in matters that affect women and communities. These meetings are friendly, relaxed and inclusive – there's no pressure to speak up unless you want to, and new members are always supported.

In addition to meetings, we also enjoy monthly group activities such as markets, workshops and social outings. These activities are a great way to try something new, learn a skill, or simply enjoy a fun day out with like-minded women. You don't need to know how to cook, bake, sew or craft to join – those skills are not a requirement. What matters most is a willingness to connect, laugh and be part of a community.

CWA also provides opportunities for personal growth. Members often discover new interests, build confidence, develop leadership skills, or get involved in volunteering and fundraising that makes a real difference. Whether you want to be actively involved or just attend when you can, there is room for everyone.

Women of all ages are welcome at Peats Ridge and Districts CWA. Younger women bring fresh ideas and energy, while long – time members offer wisdom, experience and a strong sense of tradition. This mix creates a dynamic and supportive group where everyone has something to contribute.

If you're looking to meet some lovely local ladies, enjoy new experiences, and have a bit of fun along the way, CWA could be just what you're looking for. We'd love to welcome you.

To find out more or to join, please contact the Peats Ridge and Districts Branch - we can't wait to meet you! cwaofnswpeatsridge@gmail.com or Facebook messenger

Donna Hobday

President

Peats Ridge & Districts CWA



FAIRHAVEN AWARDED WOMEN'S WEEK GRANT

An art exhibition by Central Coast women with disability has been awarded \$19,400 by the State Government to celebrate women's achievements and empower them to seize new opportunities during 2026 Women's Week.

Fairhaven Services received the grant for "Voices Unheard: Celebrating Female Artists with Disability", a week-long art exhibition running 2-8 March 2026 at its Op Shopping Village in Point Clare.

Fairhaven's retail manager Hannah Atkin said the concept for the exhibition grew from recognising a persistent challenge in the art world: "That women artists, particularly those with disability, face significant barriers to market access despite their talent and creativity."

Ms Atkin said the exhibition will feature paintings, photography, sculpture, textiles, and mixed media, with each artwork displayed alongside artist statements that share personal stories.

"All works will be available for purchase, giving the artists

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- Knowledge of local native plants
- Certs in Horticulture, Conservation, White Card, ChemCert, First Aid

Why join us:

- Be part of a supportive, fun team
- Learn and develop propagation skills
- Make a real difference for local ecology 🌱
- Based in Mangrove Mountain – Central Coast preferred
- Opportunities for growth for the right person

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<https://apunga.com.au/native-nursery/>

opportunities to generate income and professional recognition," Ms Atkin said.

"This exhibition powerfully amplifies the voices of women with disability by showcasing their artistic talents as professional contributors and creating direct economic opportunities."

Member for Gosford, Liesl Tesch MP said Women's Week Grants have been running since 2018 to fund innovative events that empower women and girls to participate in our communities, to advance gender equality in the longer term.

"There are sure to be some powerful and poignant works on display as these artists raise their voices to be heard."

It's not only artistic endeavour that is being realised in the exhibition but also skills learned through professional development workshops on aspects such as pricing, marketing, and customer engagement.

"By presenting women with disability as creative leaders and skilled professionals in a high-traffic retail space, we're challenging intersectional stereotypes about disability and gender," Ms Atkin said.

"We anticipate reaching 700-plus visitors across the week, demonstrating to the broader community that gender and disability doesn't limit creativity, professional capability, or economic contribution."

NSW Women's Week, which runs from Monday 2 March 2026

Celebrating older residents at Seniors Festival 2026

Central Coast Council's Seniors Festival 2026 is set to be a vibrant celebration of our senior community and the invaluable contributions older residents make every day.

The theme for 2026, 'Live Life in Colour', reflects the diversity, creativity and energy that seniors bring to the Central Coast. The program features a wide range of free or affordable events designed to inspire connection, wellbeing, learning and fun.

Key festival details:

Seniors Festival: 2-15 March 2026, featuring over 80 events across the Central Coast

• The Seniors Festival program includes activities and events across libraries, theatres, leisure centres and the Regional Gallery. Seniors can enjoy free health and fitness classes, dancing

to International Women's Day on Sunday 8 March 2026, is an annual showcase of the stories and remarkable achievements of women in our state.

The NSW Government's Women of the Year Awards will be held in Sydney on Thursday 5 March 2026.

Media Release from the Office of Liesl Tesch Member for Gosford

and entertainment, library programs, educational seminars and workshops, art activities, author talks, discounted show tickets and much more.

Seniors Expo: Thursday 5 March 2026, 10am-1pm, Wyong Race Club

• A highlight of the festival each year, the Seniors Expo is an opportunity for seniors to connect with local services, businesses, groups and organisations, providing valuable information and resources from a range of stallholders. Attendees can explore services and activities designed to support wellbeing, social connection and lifelong learning — and even discover a new passion.

Council Mayor, Lawrie McKenna said the Seniors Festival is our way of saying thank you and is an important celebration of the positive impact seniors have across our region.

"The Seniors Festival celebrates the incredible contributions of older Central Coast residents, as volunteers, mentors, carers, community leaders, neighbours, parents and grandparents. It invites them to connect, explore new activities, and embrace lifelong learning as they 'Live Life in Colour' this March," Mayor McKenna said.

"I encourage all seniors to get involved and try something new."

View the Seniors Festival 2026 program at centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/seniorsfestival

*Central Coast Council
Media Release*

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Flying High - Dreams and Hard Work Pay Off

Abbey Willcox will get to realise her Olympic dream at Milano Cortina 2026. Four years ago, after making a strong recovery from a serious injury, she went agonisingly close to getting a start at the Beijing Games, but Australia didn't qualify enough spots. She would have another four years of hard work. But in that time she has continued to improve and has achieved two World Cup podiums.

At the world championship event in Quebec on Jan 26 Abbey placed 8th and in the Dec 25 event in China she placed 5th, ending the season with a 10th place world ranking.

Raised in Somersby on the New South Wales Central Coast, Abbey attended Somersby Primary School and Henry Kendall High School.

Abbey came to aerial skiing with a foundation in gymnastics and sports acrobatics, skills that would later underpin her take-off power, body control and in-air awareness.

After time on the water ramps in Melbourne and Park City, she stepped onto snow and made her international

debut in 2016 on the Europa Cup in Ruka. By 2019 she was on the World Cup tour, with an early personal best of 13th in Minsk that season, narrowly missing the 12-woman final.

Her breakthrough arrived in 2019–20, highlighted by a bronze medal at the Deer Valley World Cup under lights, and a season-ending ranking inside the world's top 10. The podium confirmed her as a true contender on the world aerial skiing scene.

The following year brought a setback. After a strong qualifying run in Yaroslavl, Abbey crashed in finals training, required surgery and she returned home to rehabilitate, curtailing her 2020–2021 campaign.

Back on tour during the next season, she posted multiple top-15 finishes but, crucially, Australia just missed an additional Olympic quota place in women's aerials, and Abbey was unable to attend the Beijing Games.

She then opted to step away from on-snow competition in 2023 while maintaining skill work at Brisbane's Geoff Henke Olympic Winter Training Centre. A springboard back to competition followed that September with second place at the Brisbane Water Jump Grand Prix behind teammate Airleigh Frigo.

The 2023–24 season was a real breakout season for Abbey. She returned to the Deer Valley podium with another bronze, sharing the

celebrations with silver medallist and teammate Danielle Scott, and then reached the top-six super final on both days in Lac-Beauport, finishing fifth each time.

In January 2025 she helped deliver Australia's first aerial skiing mixed-team World Cup medal since 2017, combining with Laura Peel and Reilly Flanagan to secure bronze in Lake Placid.

A week later came a moment of team history at Deer Valley. On a night of heavy snow and high pressure, Australians swept the women's podium for the first time in any FIS Freestyle World Cup event, with Peel winning, Scott second and Abbey taking bronze as Australians filled the top four places. It was Abbey's third individual World Cup podium and a landmark for the Flying Kangaroos.

Away from competition, Abbey is based in Brisbane and holds a Bachelor of Business, balancing training with work at the Brisbane Broncos. The blend of elite sport and professional life speaks to the persistence behind her late-blooming rise in aerials. With a gymnast's precision and a jumper's courage, she continues to build her degree of difficulty and consistency.

Here's how to watch the 2026 Winter Olympics:

Coverage begins on 4 February with the Let The Games Begin! preview

UPCOMING CATTLE AUCTIONS

Maitland Regional Saleyards

- Weekly Monday Liveweight Cattle Sales 9am, followed by Calves, Pigs & Sheep from 12 noon.
- Monthly Store Cattle Sales - Feb 21st, Mar 16th

Gloucester Saleyards

- Fortnightly Thursday Store Cattle Sales - Feb 12th & 26th

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Above: At the 2025 event in China
Right: Wearing the 2026 Australian Olympic uniform



show, before the Opening Ceremony on 7 February (AEDT) signals the start of 16 days of competition.

Events are televised on Nine (free-to-air), 9Now and Stan Sport. Check the schedules for broadcast times.

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Discover how to become a volunteer at our Riding for the Disabled Central Coast Centre Volunteer Information Morning on
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Presidents Report 2025

I would like to acknowledge what a pleasure it was to lead an extraordinary group of hard-working community members at the 2025 Mangrove Mountain Country Fair. First year as president showed me



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just how important a good team is. Without Louisa, Neil and Peter, I don't think I'd be standing here speaking about our success in 2025. Thank you all for what you brought to the table. No matter how small you think your contribution is, it makes a big difference to those who make large contributions. Everyone gives what they can; and they do it in the spirit of community service.

Like committees in the past, we're

committed to continuous improvement and are always reviewing and testing our practices to ensure we are meeting the needs and expectations of our community organisations and the visitors. It's important that we provide a fun day for families, while ensuring our volunteer organisations receive what they require to provide the services our community needs.

Improvements for 2025

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thank the volunteers who kept turning up till we got it right.

We also, received 200 chairs from the Mangrove Mountain and Districts Community Group and we were glad to be able to provide extra seating for our visitors on the day. The line-up of entertainment was exceptional. We had a new remote-control truck for the Chicken Races and they were a big hit with the visitors.

Ryan, volunteers in so many of the organisations that make up the Country Fair collective and a thank you seems inadequate for his personal contribution. Thank you, Ryan.

The signage provided by the newly formed Mountain Districts Men's Shed was a welcomed addition to our fair ground and I was grateful for all the other help provided by them.

Acquiring the extra Zeller EFTPOS outlets saved the need for a heavy

ATM on the grounds and I thank Neil for bringing us this option as well as advocating and agitating for the DEFIB project at Mangrove Mountain.

The display of Arts, Crafts and Produce was a wonderful showcase of our Region and it takes a lot of volunteers to organise this aspect of our Show and I would like to thank Jodie and her team.

Sponsorship makes up a large portion of the revenue for our Country Fair and ensures that the Volunteers receive funds for the items required to keep their organisation running and providing services vital to our community. Thank you, Shane, for this work... engaging with the businesses in our region and getting the sponsorship funds vital to our bottom line.

We will be scrutinising the Fair result prior to our next one and ensuring we consider the valuable feedback

received, and making sure we improve incrementally in line with how the fair has developed over 60 years. Please put some thought to how we can improve. I look forward to hearing your ideas.

One of our important issues ...that of parking, has already been addressed by Tony Bennett generously offering his land, close to the Fair Ground. Adding to the existing parking at Eddie Grants and Reg Bennett's. I can't thank them enough for making the land available to us.

The President's award this year is going to Jodie Swan. Her quiet contribution has grown year on year and I don't like to think about how we would manage without her. Thank you Jodie and I look forward to working with you for many years to come.

Steve Raines

President

Mangrove Mountain Country Fair

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**Advance booking required for
 this event as there is limited seating**

Details to be advised

National Health Reform Deal Finalised – Rural Australians Need to be Prioritised

The National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA) welcomes the agreement between the Commonwealth and States and Territories for the next five-year National Health Reform Agreement Addendum.

The Agreement determines how public hospitals and key health services are funded across Australia. Today's announcement includes an additional \$25 billion nationally from the Commonwealth for public hospitals, including one-off support for the Northern Territory, and signals stronger use of prevention, digital health and workforce support. The National Cabinet has also agreed to an additional \$2 billion to deliver Thriving Kids to be matched by States, a significant win for disability care.

NRHA Chief Executive Ms Susi Tegen said the agreement matters because it directly affects whether people in rural areas can access care close to home.

"Rural Australians are sicker, die younger and rely more on hospitals, yet they consistently receive less

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SUNDAY NOONTIME PIANO BARS IN GOSFORD

FunHaus Factory has launched a new monthly Sunday Noontime Piano Bar series, transforming the venue into an intimate daytime piano lounge celebrating live music, long lunches and unhurried afternoons. Running across February and beyond, the series features two distinct piano bar experiences: a Classical Piano Bar on the second Sunday of each month, and

health funding than people in cities," Ms Tegen said.

"Rural people will judge this agreement on whether it actually changes access on the ground."

NRHA analysis shows rural Australians miss out on \$8.35 billion in health funding every year, with underspend across hospitals, disability services, aged care and community health.

Ms Tegen said rural people with disability and older Australians are particularly affected.

"The system is designed for cities. In rural areas that means fewer services, higher costs and hospitals becoming the default option when other care simply isn't available," she said.

The NRHA welcomes the finalisation of the agreement but said transparency and accountability are critical.

"Until we see exactly how states and territories are required to fix rural underspend, the gap will remain," Ms Tegen said.

"Rural Australians are being left behind. This agreement must be the start of fair funding, not another delay."

National Rural Health Alliance

a Jazz & Blues Piano Bar on the third Sunday.

This Sunday 8 February, audiences are invited to slow their weekend right down with the Classical Piano Bar, an elegant and easy-going afternoon of live piano performed by accomplished Central Coast pianist Mary-Ellen Wallace. The space transforms into a relaxed pop-up piano bar anchored by FunHaus Factory's baby grand, filled with some of the most beautiful piano music ever written.

The Classical Piano Bar offers a thoughtfully curated journey through classical and romantic masterpieces, impressionist works and modern favourites — from Chopin, Debussy, Ravel, Liszt, Brahms and Rachmaninoff through to Satie, Einaudi and contemporary composers. This is not a hushed concert hall or formal recital, but a warm, welcoming room where conversation is encouraged, drinks are flowing and the afternoon unfolds at its own pace.

Importantly, the Noontime Piano Bar series operates on a pay-what-you-want model, making live music accessible for any budget and inviting the community to support the artists in a way that feels right for them.

Guests can enjoy two generous live piano sets alongside a full lunch menu,

quality drinks and the unmistakable FunHaus atmosphere — social, unpretentious and full of heart. It's designed for friends catching up, lingering over lunch, and letting the piano do the heavy lifting.

Creative Director Glitta Supernova says the series is about opening the doors wider to music, connection and community. "Thanks to the support of ABC Classic and Pianos for the People, we now have this gorgeous baby grand at FunHaus Factory. Launching our piano bar series felt like a natural way to invite people in, slow things down, and experience live piano in a relaxed, welcoming space."

Following the Classical Piano Bar, FunHaus Factory will present the Jazz & Blues Piano Bar on Sunday 15 February, featuring internationally acclaimed jazz and blues vocalist Zoe K, bringing smoky soul, New Orleans spirit and timeless piano classics to the baby grand.

FunHaus Factory's Sunday Noontime Piano Bars run from 12pm–5pm, with live music from 1pm–3pm, with food and drinks available throughout the afternoon.

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*Glitta Supernova
Funhaus Factory*



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Notes from Clr Jane Smith

Central Coast Council Meeting take-aways - 27 January 2026

Some take aways from the Ordinary Council meeting held on 27 January..

- Uni of Newcastle in Gosford - a great initiative - but did we need to sell a community asset?
- Umina toilets - finally, Councillors support the reconstruction of toilets in high demand by disability groups
- Is this leadership? - Mayor uses his casting vote to stop himself from meeting with Councillors
- Heritage or potholes - Council should be able to do both

Uni of Newcastle in Gosford - a great initiative - but did we need to sell a community asset?

The good news is that the University of Newcastle is planning to increase their presence in the Gosford CBD - and have indicated that they would like to convert the former Gosford Council building into student accommodation.

Although universities operate very differently to the way that many of us would have experienced 20 or 30 years ago (with a lot of online teaching now) - I am hopeful that this initiative will increase activity in the CBD. This goal, together with recent announcements about a revitalisation of TAFE and the new Gosford Regional Library, is great for the town centre.

But there is a question about Council selling off community assets.

Some might believe that selling off assets is a great way to get a cash injection into Council coffers and more potholes can be filled.

For others, including myself, selling off community assets is short-sighted and unsustainable. Once it's gone -

then it's gone.

A better way is to work on arrangements where Council retains ownership - whether it be joint management, leases or some other option that brings a long term return to our community. Of course, it will not be the sugar hit of a sale - but it would be long term and a more sustainable income stream.

I voted against the sale of the former Gosford Council Building - not because I oppose the University of Newcastle in Gosford - but because I oppose a sale of community assets rather than exploring other options.

Umina toilets - finally, Councillors support the reconstruction of toilets that are in high demand by disability groups

One of the strategies that had a lot of engagement in 2024/2025 was the Public Toilet Strategy. This was a long term plan for renewals, new builds and demolition / rationalisations of facilities.

Staff did a lot of good work on this strategy, there was strong community engagement and Councillors spent time working through the proposals.

So, it is understandable that Council staff didn't want to make changes now after the strategy was adopted.

However, the Umina toilets have deserved special consideration. What came to light in 2025, through the advocacy of local community groups - was that this facility was highly utilised by the Disabled Surfers Association (DSA) - and that facilities are inadequate for that sector and that purpose.

DSA is a truly amazing organisation. Its mission is to put "Smiles on Dials" by taking people of all disabilities surfing in a fun, friendly and safe environment. Being able to do that involves vast numbers of volunteers, policies, procedures and logistics. Council has also previously identified opportunities to promote the Central Coast for accessible tourism - where

we cater to diverse needs including disability.

In raising these issues with staff, it was acknowledged that there had been a lack of awareness of the high usage of the Umina toilet block by the Disabled Surfers Association.

I believe that there was a strong case to bring forward the plans to improve the facilities and have been pleased to support Clr Neal in advocating this through motions to Council meetings.

It took three attempts (at 3 different Council meetings) to get this motion supported. Although Clr McWaide previously opposed this initiative, I am pleased that at the meeting on 27 January he changed his vote and supported the motion put forward by Clr Neal and myself.

Is this leadership? - Mayor refuses to meet with Councillors to discuss improving committee structure

At the January meeting I put forward a Notice of Motion to change the Committee structure. The current structure involves a number of "Standing Committees" which only have a sub-set of Councillors as members.

- Environment & Planning - monthly
- Economic Development - monthly
- Community & Culture - bi-monthly
- Governance & Finance - quarterly
- Infrastructure & Assets - bi-monthly

What has been demonstrated again and again is the inefficiency of this structure. The Standing Committees receive reports and presentations from staff - and then make recommendations to the full Council for adoption. Inevitably, the debate that is held in the Committee meeting is often repeated at the Council meeting.

Many of the Councillors voting on these items have not received the presentations provided by staff and often may not have read the background information provided to the Committee. This raises issues around governance

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and the responsibility of individual Councillors in decision making. Staff service these Standing Committees - which is inefficient and duplication of effort.

One of the initial perceived benefits of Standing Committees was being able to discuss issues more thoroughly - however, this has not eventuated with meetings time limited and full agendas.

So - it would be appropriate for this structure to be reviewed. Motions similar to this have been put to Council before and failed - however, after 12 months of the Committee structure there was hope that Councillors might be willing to reflect on those processes.

At the meeting, it became clear that the motion was likely to fail. In listening to the debate, Cllr Neal suggested that there be further discussions amongst Councillors - and so I changed the motion to allow time for further consultation.

I requested that the Mayor - in his leadership role - facilitate those discussions. That is, that the Mayor invite interested Councillors to be part of a discussion about the Committee structure, including options and alternatives that might improve the processes.

Initially the Mayor agreed. This was a welcome response. As the elected leader, he was willing to bring together his fellow Councillors to have a conversation and consider how this process might be improved.

Disappointingly, it appears that after receiving a text message and reading his phone the Mayor flipped his position. Even with prompting, he refused to entertain the idea of having a discussion with other Councillors and used his casting vote to reject the motion - effectively using his vote to avoid meeting with his colleagues to discuss options of how to do it better!

Is it really a choice between heritage and potholes?

During 2025, Councillors have advocated for heritage - this has included a workshop with heritage organisations to identify priorities for Council to consider. As a result, a report came to the November meeting of the Environment & Planning Committee (E&P) with a number of recommendations.

Establishment of a Heritage and Culture Subcommittee

The first item was the establishment of a Heritage and Culture Subcommittee. Cllr Eaton nominated himself to chair that committee, and Cllrs Neal, MacGregor and myself were nominated to also be on the Committee. There will now be a call for Expressions of Interest from community groups and individuals to participate in the committee.

Outcomes of Heritage Workshop - and a heritage event?

The next item related to the outcomes of the workshop - and was deferred to allow participants a chance to review. Even with the deferral, I tried to add a recommendation that Council allocate funds to run an event as part of Australian Heritage Week (18 April - 18 May 2026). This is a national period of celebration of heritage across Australia. If left to the February Council meeting then there would be less than 2 months to organise anything.

Unfortunately, the debate was about the allocation of funds for that purpose. I suggested an allocation of \$10,000-\$20,000 should be considered. Cllr Wright, who moved the deferral, would only consider a maximum of \$5,000 towards an event because, in his words, the community expectation of Council is to "fill potholes, build footpaths and maintain verges and parklands" - perhaps implying that the community would not want Council to also organise a heritage event.

Cllr Wright and Cllr Eaton declined to support this addition - so I moved an

amendment to proceed. Unfortunately this was not supported in the vote - with the Liberal / Team Central Coast Councillors voting against it and the Mayor using his casting vote to make the vote fail.

Review of Heritage Conservation Development Controls

The last heritage item was about the Review of Heritage Conservation Development Controls in the Central Coast Development Control Plan 2022 - to go out on exhibition.

This had been debated at the E&P Committee with Cllr Eaton, Cllr McNamara and Cllr Moulund voting to change the staff recommendation to weaken and reduce the need for proper assessment of aboriginal heritage on a broad category of sites.

There was significant objection to this from a number of Committee members. Staff also highlighted that under the National Parks & Wildlife Act there was still a legal requirement to do the assessment. Unfortunately, Cllr Eaton used his casting vote to push through this change.

This is deeply concerning as it has the potential to facilitate the destruction of heritage on sites. The proposed change to the DCP does not remove the obligation under other legislation, and in fact, could be seen as adding red tape due to the inconsistency.

I moved an amendment which was the original staff recommendation to go out on exhibition. Once again, the Liberal / Team Central Coast Councillors voted to block the staff recommendation and instead, support the motion from Cllr Eaton and Cllr Wright - with the Mayor using his casting vote on both occasions.



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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 Kariang. Contact: Glenis Ph: 0400 486 760
Kulnura & District Garden Club	Second Monday, 9.30 for 10am start. Jacqui Maxwell 0455364262 kulnuradgc@gmail.com
Kulnura Tuesday Tennis	Tue 9.30am-12.30pm, Kulnura Tennis Courts. Enquiries: Alison Palmer 0427731548.
Ladies of the Valley Afternoon Tea	1st Tues, 1pm to 2.30 at Angels Sussurri Cafe Yarramalong. Margaret Dale 0411104770
Mangrove Mountain & Districts Community Group	1st Thurs of the Month, excl Jan. 7.30pm, Mangrove Mtn Hall. Contact: mepccinc@gmail.com, 0412669649
Mangrove Emergency Planning & Communications Committee	3rd Thu of mth except Jan, 7pm, at Union Church Hall. Pres - Steve 0455 155 075 www.mountaindistrictsassociation.com.au secretary@mountaindistrictsassociation.com.au
Mangrove Mountain Country Fair Committee Meeting	Second Tuesday of the Month 6.30pm at the Mangrove Memorial Club
Mountain Districts Association (MDA)	2nd Thu. Ph Elaine Burrows 0412988353
Mountain District Football Club Meeting	President Marlee Maxwell Email rivercaresinc@gmail.com
Probus - West Gosford	Friday 7.15am at Phillip House. 43404529
River Cares for the Lower Hawkesbury River District	President Brad Maisey, Community Meetings, 0436482201, spencercpg2@gmail.com Articles to: spencercpg2@gmail.com
Rotary Club Meeting	Last Friday of the month. Eve Leeming - 4377 1116 and/or cedriceeve@bigpond.com
Spencer Community Progress Group Inc	Tues & Sat, 9am-5pm. Contact: Alan Hunt 4566 4626 or Adrian Acheson 0448 833 781
Newsletter	Every Sun 8am at Peats Ridge Scout Hall, Sunday School during school terms
Spencer Sheilas Community Social Club	Committee Meeting 3rd Monday, 7.30pm at the Mangrove Mountain Union Church Hall Services 9.30am 2nd & 4th Sundays. Bible Study 4.30pm 1st & 3rd Mondays. Mangrove Mountain Union Church
Wisemans Ferry Community Men's Shed	Every Sunday, 9.30am. (Easter & (Christmas Carols dates to be advised)

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 Services 9.30am 2nd & 4th Sundays. Bible Study 4.30pm 1st & 3rd Mondays. Mangrove Mountain Union Church
Mountain Districts Christian Church	Every Sunday, 9.30am. (Easter & (Christmas Carols dates to be advised)
St Barnabas Christian Service Yarramalong	

(cont'd next page)

LIVESTOCK MARKET REPORT



Maitland Liveweight Cattle Sale

19th January 2026

400 cattle yarded this week at Maitland. 331 Trade/69 export.

- Restocker Heifers up to 250kg made 241c/kg to 396 c/kg
- 250kg-300kg made 391/kg to 420 c/kg
- 300kg to 380kg made 393 c/kg to 440c/kg
- Restocker steers up to 250kg made 471/kg to 485c/kg
- 250kg-300kg made 476c/kg to 520c/kg
- 300kg-380kg made 463 c/kg to 520c/kg
- Yearling Steers to Feed made 436c/kg to 490c/kg
- Yearling Heifers to Feed made 384 c/kg to 435 c/kg
- Cows made 368 c/kg to 396 c/kg
- Bulls 350/kg to 360c/kg

Maitland Store Cattle Sale

17th January 2026

- 120 steers weaners 5mths to 12 months \$850 to \$1450 and average \$1200
- 50 yearling steers 13mths to 20 months \$1400 to \$2000 and average \$1600
- 10 yearling steers 2yrs to 3yrs \$2100 to \$2800 and average \$2800
- 150 heifers 5 months to 15 months \$600 to \$1800 and averaged \$995
- 100 cows and calves 2yrs to 10yrs \$800 to \$2550 and averaged \$2000
- 30 PTIC 5yrs to 10yrs \$1350 to \$2375 and averaged \$1850

Maitland Liveweight Cattle Sale

12th January 2026

600 cattle yarded this week at Maitland. 483 Trade/117 export.

Market felt better with buyers all present from QLD and all over NSW marked showed a positive result of this throughout.

- Restocker Heifers up to 250kg made 261c/kg to 436 c/kg
- 250kg-300kg made 386/kg to 426 c/kg
- 300kg to 380kg made 386 c/kg to 445c/kg

- Restocker steers up to 250kg made 409/kg to 475 c/kg
- 250kg-300kg made 480c/kg to 544c/kg
- 300kg-380kg made 469 c/kg to 435 c/kg
- Yearling Steers to Feed made 432c/kg to 450c/kg
- Yearling Heifers to Feed made 383 c/kg to 415 c/kg
- Cows made 359 c/kg to 392 c/kg
- Bulls 306/kg to 334c/kg

Maitland Liveweight Cattle Sale 5th January 2026

400 cattle yarded this week at Maitland. 376 Trade/24 export.

Started the year well with the trade job punching 15c dearer then last month.

- Restocker Heifers up to 250kg made 363c/kg to 405 c/kg
- 250kg-300kg made 368/kg to 400 c/kg
- 300kg to 380kg made 376 c/kg to 435c/kg
- Restocker steers up to 250kg made 360/kg to 530 c/kg
- 250kg-300kg made 468c/kg to 535 c/kg
- 300kg-380kg made 422 c/kg to 495 c/kg
- Yearling Steers to Feed made 438c/kg to 470c/kg
- Yearling Heifers to Feed made 347 c/kg to 390 c/kg
- Cows made 346 c/kg to 370 c/kg
- Bulls 325/kg to 354c/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)	
Catholic Service - Central Mangrove	Saturdays 5pm St. Dionysios Greek Orthodox Church, 21 Nurses Rd, Central Mangrove, Contact Nai Hereford 0405 558 669
- Spencer	Holy Trinity Church, 2nd Sat 4pm, Phone 0412 201 851 as times may change.
- Wollombi	2nd & 5th Sunday of the month, 4.30pm Mass at St Michael the Archangel, Wollombi.
- Yarramalong	1st Sunday each month, 11.00am St. Barnabas All welcome. Enq 0428 438577
Divine Retreat Centre	Daily Holy Mass 8.00am to 8.30 am Last Sun, 9am-4pm, One Day Retreat.
Serbian Orthodox	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
Kariong Community Baptist Church	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.
Restitution Ministries Independent SDA Church	YOUTH Junior Girl Guides 5-10 Girl Guides 10-15
Scouts, Cubs & Venturers Peats Ridge Scout Hall	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
HISTORICAL	Brisbane Waters Historical Society Dharug & Lower Hawkesbury Historical Society Inc. First Fleeters Central Coast Chapter
The Pearl Beach Aboriginal History Group	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
Wyong District Museum & Historical Society	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
ACTIVITY/HOBBY	Carnival Glass Club
Central Coast Junior Motorcycle Club Inc.	Meetings held every three months. Central Coast, Newcastle, Sydney. Ring 0447723956 or 0448390077 for details.
Coastal Communicators Toastmasters	Meeting dates: ccjuniormotorcycleclub.org.au , FB: "Central Coast Junior Motorcycle Club Official" David Smith 0412 506 503
Saturday Craft Group/Spining and bobbin lace	1st & 3rd Thurs of month, 6:45pm to 8:45pm at Doyalson-Wyee RSL. Debbie 0421216952
Yarn group (knit, crochet etc)	2nd Sat of the month Somersby Hall (10am to 2pm) cost \$5 per person Carmen 0434071305
HALL BOOKINGS	Third Sun 2pm, Angels Sussurri Yarramalong. Contact Kerry Watson 0404059167
Kulnura Hall	Contact Central Coast Council.
Mangrove Mountain Hall	Hall bookings Ryan Howard 0405416289
Mangrove Mountain Union Church & Hall	Church & Hall bookings 0412669649 mmucsecretary@outlook.com
Somersby Hall and Mountain Districts Culture and Heritage Centre	Hall bookings: 0413 359 655 or AH 4373 1488
Yarramalong school of Arts / Hall	enquiries@yarramalonghall.org.au https://yarramalonghall.org.au

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Design unveiled for new ambulance station at Lisarow

The new Lisarow ambulance station to be located at 60 Railway Crescent, Lisarow, is part of the NSW Government's \$615.5 million NSW Ambulance Infrastructure Program.

The new ambulance station will significantly enhance emergency care capacity, and support paramedics to deliver timely and high-quality emergency and mobile medical care to local communities.

The purpose-built ambulance station will include internal parking for up to 10 emergency ambulance vehicles, a dedicated vehicle wash bay, a multipurpose area for paramedics, a gym, meeting and training rooms, administration areas, logistics and storage facilities, and on-site parking.

With excellent access to the major road network, the site is ideally situated to complement existing ambulance stations in the network and will help meet the growing health needs of the region.

The planning and design stage for the new Lisarow ambulance station is nearing completion and construction is expected to begin this year.

For more information visit: www.nsw.gov.au/ambulance-infrastructure-program

*Ryan Park & David Harris
Media Release*



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