

COMMUNITY NEWS

No. 985 Ph: 4374 1039 Mo: 0412 669 649 Email: enquiries@cnews1.com.au Web: cnews1.com.au 17th April 2026

Farm recovery event – Central Coast

NSW Central Coast farmers have access to practical recovery support through Rural Aid, with a farm recovery event scheduled **26 April to 1 May 2026**.

Assisting the community still rebuilding after the 2022 floods, farmers across the Central Coast are invited to access support or learn more about available services by calling **1300 327 624**, emailing farmrescue@ruralaid.org.au or visiting the Rural Aid website <https://www.ruralaid.org.au/>.

RuralAid is Australia's leading charity supporting farmers, their families and rural communities. Across the country, we provide practical, timely and meaningful assistance through a team of passionate, committed professionals who understand the unique pressures of rural life.

Life on the land is shaped by ongoing challenges, droughts, fires, floods and the daily pressures of farming and rural life. We're on farm and in communities, ready to support when it matters most, helping farmers and their families stay on the land, protect their livelihoods and remain connected to their communities.

Through disaster assistance, community development and mental health programs, Rural Aid works alongside supporters, partners and volunteers to deliver practical support that helps farmers, their families and rural communities become stronger, more connected and hopeful for the future.



ANZAC COMMEMORATION SERVICE

**Sunday 19th April 2025
2pm**

Light refreshments to be served afterwards



All welcome

**Held at the
Mangrove Mountain
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**MANGROVE MOUNTAIN
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**Annual General
Meeting**

to be held at the Fireshed,
156 Bloodtree Rd, MMtn
Wed 27 May, 7pm

All welcome.
Come along and
support your local Brigade

Lots of people know what to do, but few actually do what they know. Knowing is not enough! You must take action

Tony Robbins

STOP!
Next issue Published
1st May 2026
**** DEADLINE ****
**** 24th April '26 ****
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Email, website, FB or
phone for enquiries

Stories of Kariong - Celebrating 80 Years

An excerpt of some memories of early Kariong written for Kariong Progress Association by long-time local Robert 'Bob' Pankhurst.

Bob's mum, Dorothy Pankhurst, was one of the founding members of Kariong Progress Association in 1946.

How residents got around in 1942.

My mother Dorothy Pankhurst getting ready to go to Gosford in 1942.

Petrol was rationed and you could be arrested for driving without good reason.

Hawkins bus service ran to Gosford mainly at school times, they would pick up orders from shops in Gosford if needed.

To go to town at any other time it was necessary to go by bike push bike or horse and sulky or walk. Many people did walk to Gosford from Kariong.

I was born on 29 September 1940, so I probably came to Kariong in early October 1940, it was not called Kariong then, it really had no name. Penang Mountain had been used but some of the mail was going to Malaysia.



Kendall Heights was suggested but never taken up and in 1946 the names board gave it the name Kariong which is the name of the mountain a couple of miles to the southwest of the settlement. The name was said to mean 'place of cold winds' in the local Aboriginal language.

Back in the early 1940s there was only a few families or people living in Kariong.

Coming up from Gosford on the right side of the road were Eddie Jeffs another family of Jeffs was next door. Harry Weston, The Spencer family, we were the next house then Stan Hudson

lived in a 'humpy' just built on the rock platform. That was all the families on the right side of the road.

On the left side of the ride coming up from Gosford was Zenas Norman Vaisey and next door was Norman Vaisey and behind them was Victor Vaisey. Next house was my Grandfather Ernest Foster and next place was George Hanson then Basil Toppel was the last house on the Pacific Highway.

Opposite Woy Woy Road on the other side of the highway was Old Mount Penang Road, which was once the main road, but was now not much more than a cart track and down this road there was one house where a man



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Central Coast Heritage Month

Central Coast Council invites the community to celebrate Heritage Month from 18 April to 18 May as part of the Australian Heritage Festival, with this year's theme being 'Change'.

The theme encourages communities across Australia to reflect on how our history has shaped the places we live today, and how we continue to contribute to the stories that will shape our future.

Council's Heritage Month program builds on this theme by exploring how people, places and moments across the Central Coast have evolved over time,



through a series of activities taking place in Gosford and Wyong.

Council Mayor, Lawrie McKinna said Central Coast Heritage Month is a wonderful reminder of what makes the region such a special place to call home.

"By bringing heritage stories to life in our town centres, we're celebrating our past and recognising how change continues to shape our region," Mayor McKinna said.

One of the highlights of Heritage Month is a ticketed guided walking tour of Wyong town centre, led by the Wyong Family History Group. The 90 minute tour starts at Railway Square and follows the town's development through the historic buildings, stories and photographs that reveal Wyong's

early years.

Council Director Community and Recreation Services, Melanie Smith said "There is a self guided heritage tour also available year round for those who prefer to explore at their own pace."

Gosford's expanded Heritage Month offering will introduce a temporary historical timeline artwork in Kibble Park, and storytelling sessions in Gosford Regional Library.

A number of other local libraries will host talks throughout Heritage Month, including Tuggerah Library on 21 April and Kincumber Library on 12 May, with bookings essential.

For more information or to book a guided tour search "Heritage Month" at lovecentralcoast.com

named Bill Holmes lived.....TBC

Bob's memories will be included in the commemorative booklet KPA are putting together for the 80th Anniversary. Do you have any photos or stories you would like to share?

If you would like to contribute a story, photo or piece of local history, please send it in by 1 May to kariongpa@gmail.com. Help us celebrate Kariong's past and present at the event on 24 May and be part of this special commemorative project.

*Lisa Bellamy, President
Kariong Progress Association*

Dr. S. ANANDASIVAM

(ANAND)

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- ◆ And, many more topics. Your questions are valuable to all attending so don't be afraid to ask.

NEXT MANGROVE MOUNTAIN DIGITAL CONNECT SESSION **THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026**

9.30am - 11.30am

Mangrove Mountain Computer Club

6 Waratah Road, Mangrove Mountain

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New RFS Fleet Strengthens NSW Fire Preparedness

Following the end of the NSW bush fire season, work continues to equip firefighters with the infrastructure, trucks and technology needed to respond to future emergencies.

On Wednesday 11 March, the NSW Government officially opened the NSW Rural Fire Service’s (RFS) new State Logistics Warehouse at Marsden Park, strengthening emergency response capability and frontline support across the state.

The 17,000sqm facility in western Sydney will serve as the central logistics hub for the RFS, with capacity to support other emergency services during major incidents.

The warehouse stores and distributes essential supplies including basecamp infrastructure, personal protective equipment and critical logistics resources used during bush fires, storms and floods. It will play a key role in sustaining large-scale, multi-agency operations across NSW.

The opening comes as the RFS continues to modernise its fleet and technology capability across the state.

Over the past year, 136 new and 53 refurbished firefighting tankers have been delivered to brigades. Most new trucks have been deployed to regional areas, including 4 new trucks across the Central Coast, including at Mooney Mooney RFS.

The rollout of Starlink satellite

communication units to RFS fire trucks is also continuing at pace, with more than 600 vehicles fitted with the Vehicle as a Node solution to date. This technology significantly improves connectivity for crews operating in remote or disaster-affected areas.

These investments continue the NSW Government’s implementation of key recommendations from the 2020 NSW Bush Fire Inquiry, including modernising the RFS fleet and investing in infrastructure that enhances operational readiness and firefighter safety.

In the months ahead, planned hazard reduction burns will be undertaken with land managers and partner agencies, subject to suitable weather conditions.

These works form part of a year-round approach to community safety, recognising there is no true off-season when it comes to bush fire risk.

Emergency Services Minister Jihad Dib said:

“As we approach the end of the bush fire season, our focus immediately shifts to preparation for the next.

“This new facility ensures our volunteers and partner agencies have rapid access to the equipment and supplies they need to respond to emergencies across NSW.

“We are committed to strengthening frontline capability through modern vehicles, improved technology and fit-for-purpose infrastructure.”

Member for Gosford Liesl Tesch said:

“During the devastating Koolewong bush fires of December 2025, we saw the importance of having a well-equipped RFS fleet across the state,

A SPECIAL FORUM FOR FARMERS AND LAND MANAGERS

If you want to learn more about natural capital, sustainable agriculture, carbon farming, environmental markets, soil health and/or direct selling of local healthy produce, don’t miss this event.

The “Farming on the Fringe – Healthy Landscapes, Food and Communities” is a special one-day forum for farmers, land managers and anyone interested in sustainable rural landscapes.

The forum will be held at Hawkesbury Race Club, Clarendon, on Friday 15 May, starting at 8.30 am. Our MC is Chris Bath, journalist, radio and TV host, beekeeper and sustainable small farmer (in training).

Information and booking at: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/local-land-services/events/farming-on-fringe>

with crews coming from near and far to provide support to our community.

“With 136 new trucks across the state in the past year, 4 on the Central Coast, the Minns Labor Government is committed to strengthening and supporting our fantastic RFS crews with the equipment they need to protect our community when they need it most.”

Media Release from the Office of Liesl Tesch MP, Member for Gosford Parliamentary Secretary for Families and Communities Minister for Disability Inclusion



Liesl Tesch, Premier Chris Minns, NSW Minister for Emergency Services, Jihad Dib, Minister Kristy McBain, Central Coast RFS members outside Kariiong RFB shed



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Mountain Districts Christian Church

Presidents Report 2026

Hello everyone.

According to the Bendigo Bank paperwork, I am the President of the Mountain Districts Christian Church (we are their customer).

This report for 2025-26 is my second as President.

We have had nineteen speakers over the years. We know some of them for years. They are committed Christians. A few of the speakers are volunteering their time to preach to us.

We have been holding Services twice a month with extra services for Christmas and Easter.

We supported overseas missions, \$6000 and \$3000 for Vanuatu Earthquake, Red Cross. \$2000 to medical missions and \$1000 to a local family. That was before Alex and Julia came.

I would like to thank Sandra, our secretary, for the great work she is doing. Thanks you to Fred who was our treasurer for a few years. Thank you to Robert for his involvement from the beginning and leading the bible study twice a month or so. Thank you to Ron who is taking care of the projector and AV for all the hymns. Thank you

to Kaye for her delicious sweets and preparation for morning tea. Thank you to Julia, our pianist, who keeps us in tune. Thank you to Melanie for your involvement in the service with your guitar.

Thank you to all for attending our service and your financial support.

Our desire is to bring the good news of the Bible and it's teachings to the Community and help them in their spiritual journey with God.

Thank you to Alex who lately joined forces with the committee to support our work.

God will bless us if we walk in his way.

Thank you all.

*Submitted by Georgia Sidiropoulos,
President,
Serving God*

Mountain Districts Christian Church

AGM 2026 8/3/26

The new committee members are:

President: Alex Kostalas

Vice President: Georgia Sidiropoulos

Secretary: Sandra De Marchi

Treasurer: Thomas Johnson

Member: Julia Kostalas

Georgia Sidiropoulos

Feed and water testing available

Pre-paid feed and water testing kits are ready and available at your Local Land Services office.

If you're planning on feeding livestock or have any concerns about water quality or pathogen levels, getting a test done is a smart move.

Testing can help you calculate accurate rations, understand livestock requirements, and take action early if something's not quite right.

Drop into your nearest LLS office to collect a kit or give the team a call on 1300 799 295 if you have questions.

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KARIONG MARKS 80 YEARS WITH COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

The Kariong Progress Association is inviting the community to celebrate its 80th anniversary on 24 May, marking eight decades of local history, connection and community spirit.

The event will focus on “Kariong then and now”, bringing together stories, photographs and memories that reflect how the suburb has grown and changed over time.

Kariong’s history stretches back well before the Progress Association was formed in 1946. In 1901, early settler Henry Parry selected land in the area, on what is now Woy Woy Rd, for a native plant nursery, which became the famous Floralands.

By the mid-1940s, Kariong was a much smaller place, with only around 11 homes. Residents often walked or rode horses to Tascott or Gosford train stations to get to work. Many were employed at what was then known as the Gosford Farm for Boys at Mount Penang, while others worked on local orchards and flower farms.

Long-time locals recall a very

DUMPED VEHICLES

For quite some years I have observed a pattern, cars left on roadside in the vicinity of the M1 let off at Somersby, when a red and white ribbon is attached they are soon broken into, stripped, often burnt.

Was it some sort of insurance fraud, the ribbon the ok sign? It certainly seemed to trigger the crime.

Sadly I have learnt that the ribbon is placed by emergency services, apparently to let the authorities know that the driver is too ill to remove their

different landscape, with parts of Mount Penang once covered in Christmas bells grazed on by the emus roaming the area.

Despite its small size, the community was strong and close-knit. Residents worked together to build the original Kariong Hall, raising funds through cake stalls, card nights and local events. The women of the Progress Association played a key role, balancing family life with community work, organising dances and welcoming newcomers with scones and flowers.

Kariong experienced significant growth during the 1980s and 1990s, including improvements to Woy Woy Road with photos now emerging of its upgrade during the early 1990s.

As part of the anniversary

car. Otherwise they wouldn’t likely be involved?

So the low life is taking advantage (that the owner can’t turn up) to strip, destroy and steal.

The best solution, if anyone sees anyone near a vehicle left on the roadside:

1. Take number of their vehicle
2. Take note of any person present and give it to police if subsequently damaged.

If they are innocent I’m sure they wouldn’t mind but if not, a pattern will soon be apparent.

Seedy

celebrations, the Progress Association is inviting residents to contribute to a “Kariong Then and Now” commemorative booklet.

“Do you have a photo or a story about Kariong? We’d love to hear from you and include it in this special project,” says Lisa Bellamy, on the committee of Progress Association event.

Contributions close on 1 May and can be sent to kariongpa@gmail.com.

The community is warmly invited to attend the celebration on 24 May and be part of recognising Kariong’s unique history and community spirit.

Media Release

Kariong Progress Association April 2026

Contact Lisa Bellamy 0414 171 675

or Judy Betteridge 0458 655 850

or email kariongpa@gmail.com

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SHEEP AND GOAT WORKSHOP - TUGGERAH

Sat, 2 May, 10am - 2:30pm AEST
Central Coast Wetlands - Pioneer Dairy, 1897 Sth Tacoma Rd, Tuggerah NSW.

Got sheep or goats? Please come along to our free workshop for simple, practical tips to keep them thriving – covering identification, worm control, and more!

Event details:

Are you a small producer, hobby farmer, or proud owner of pet sheep and goats? Join Greater Sydney Local Land Services for this free practical workshop designed to help you get the most from your animals. This friendly and hands-on session will cover key management topics, including:

- identification requirements and how to stay compliant
- internal parasite (worm) control and prevention



Improved Strength & Balance Reduces Risk of Falls & Trips

5 things you can do to help improve your strength and balance this April Falls

Having good strength and balance reduces risk of trips and falls and helps us to live independently as we get older. Here are five things you can do to improve your strength and balance this April Falls awareness month and beyond.

1. Include strength training as part of your weekly activity plan. Strength training is any exercise that involves using weights or resistance to build strength in your muscles. This can involve you using equipment or your own body weight. For example,

push-ups, pull-ups, squats, lunges, lifting weights or resistance bands. Household or work tasks can also involve muscle strengthening. Activities such as lifting and moving boxes, digging in the garden, or carrying groceries are forms of strength training and are often called 'incidental exercise'.

2. Practise simple exercises in the home like sitting and standing up from a chair repeatedly, raising your legs from side to side or lifting your toes or heels, holding on to benches for support if necessary.
3. Join an exercise group or program. Activities like tai chi, yoga,

- the NLIS database and its role in traceability
- seasonal challenges, and more!

Whether you're new to small livestock or looking to brush up on your skills, this workshop offers valuable insights to improve animal health, welfare, and productivity. Plus, it's a great chance to connect with other local producers and share experiences!

Additional details:

- Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

- While we will make every effort to accommodate dietary requirements, registrations received after Friday, 24 April may not allow sufficient time to cater for special dietary requirements.

Contact: Katherine Mann, Livestock Officer on 0437 164 091 or via email at: katherine.mann@lls.nsw.gov.au

Register at: <https://events.humanitix.com/sheep-and-goat-workshop-tuggerah-may-2026/tickets>

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NSW NATIONAL PARKS & WILDLIFE SERVICE

Notice of 1080 Baiting

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

Aerial baiting is scheduled for 2nd May 2026 to 16th May 2026.

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

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

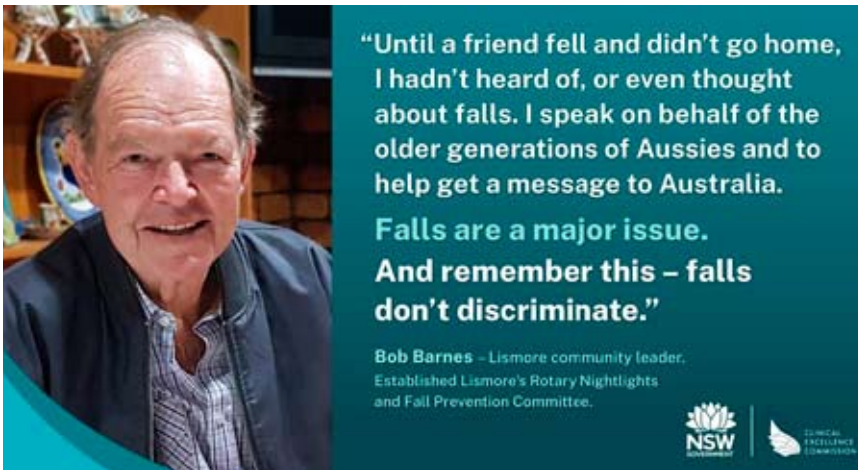
Signs will be placed at all authorised entry points to the baiting location.



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

Land managers and landlords, please notify tenants or visitors to properties adjoining the proposed baiting location.

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



dancing and bowls will all help with your flexibility. Visit www.activeandhealthy.nsw.gov.au to find a program near you.

activeandhealthy.nsw.gov.au to find a program near you.



4. Look for opportunities to increase incidental physical activity in your daily routine, such as walking up the stairs, doing housework like vacuuming or mopping, gardening and walking to the shops.
5. Make sure you are getting enough calcium and vitamin D to support bone strength. Check the recommendations at www.activeandhealthy.nsw.gov.au/active-living/healthy-eating.

Remember: To avoid injury while strength training, talk to your doctor, physiotherapist or exercise physiologist. They can advise you on the best exercises that suit your personal situation and if a movement or health screen is necessary before you begin.

Looking to level up? Try the Stable and Able Challenge - a four-week program encouraging older adults to complete a set of evidence-based strength and balance exercises either as a group or individually. To receive a challenge pack, or for more information, contact Central Coast Health Promotion Service via:

Phone **02 4320 9700** or email: CCLHD-HealthPromotion@health.nsw.gov.au

For more on strength training for beginners, visit www.healthdirect.gov.au/strength-training-for-beginners.



MANGROVE MOUNTAIN

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WHAT'S ON WEEKLY

MONDAY

HAPPY HOUR 4-6pm

TUESDAY

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HAPPY HOUR 4-6pm

WEDNESDAY

Schnitzel Night

THURSDAY

POKER 630pm Steak night

MEMBERS BADGE DRAW 730pm

FRIDAY

HAPPY HOUR 4-6pm, COCKTAIL HOUR 6-7pm

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Wisemans Ferry Roadworks Nearing Completion

Central Coast Council advised: We've completed repairs and betterment works at more than 40 sites along Wisemans Ferry Road at Spencer and Gunderman. Works started in 2024 following multiple severe storms which triggered landslides, rockfalls and ongoing lane closures.

Thanks to \$28.3 million in Australian and NSW Government disaster recovery funding, we've been able to not only restore this vital connection for our community but build stronger infrastructure to better withstand future natural disasters. Two traffic lanes are now back in operation, improving traffic flow and safety. And the 15-tonne load limit has been lifted.

We know these works have taken time and we thank the community for their patience.

To continue strengthening the road for the long-term, we've secured an additional \$8.99 million for further stabilisation works at Greengrove. These works began in February and are expected to be completed by the end of 2026.



Above: Down the divvy at Greengrove - Soil nails used to stabilise the slope with reinforcing mesh & concrete to come

Left: Landslide repaired and retaining wall in place

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Above: Restoration at Gunderman - Back to two lanes after almost 20 years! The embankment rebuilt and stabilised

Below: The same section in 2022 after further deterioration & temporary repairs



Most of the stabilisation has been achieved by “Soil Nailing”. Soil nailing is a method where steel reinforcing bars are inserted into horizontally drilled holes and anchored to the soil by grouting. Later, reinforcing mesh

is fixed over the protruding nails and sprayed with concrete to seal the embankment surface.

Hopefully these works are a long term solution designed to cope with the increased pressures of climate change.



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Laycock Presents:

LOSE TO WIN

Thursday 30 April 7.30pm
 Laycock Street Community Theatre
 A Belvoir St Theatre Production

One young man's border-crossing, autobiographical odyssey, from South Sudan to the theatre's stage.

When war ravages everything you know, imagination becomes a tool of survival. Lose to Win is Mandela Mathia's autobiographical telling of his journey as a refugee from the Sudanese civil war, through Egypt and onto Australia.

Mathia's voyage is one of ingenuity and resilience. Two parents lost and a birth country fled; a new home, family and friends slowly established.

Lose to Win is about how with distance, support and the agency to create your own story, even seemingly insurmountable trauma can be a foundation for strength. It shows how joy can flourish when creativity is given the space, tools and peace to thrive.

Mandela Mathia: "In this country, you think it's your right to have three meals a day. Me, where I come from? I think it's a miracle."

From South Sudan to Egypt to our stage, this is the extraordinary journey of Mandela Mathia. Fleeing war-torn home as a child, Mandela spent many years journeying, searching, and eventually finding his way to our stage. This is a joyful, poignant solo show, straight from the man who lived it.

A celebration of South Sudanese

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Instagram: @golden_beauty_bar_au

community, of resilience and the power or imagination, Lose to Win is an astonishing modern Australian story.

Warning – references to death and violence, the use of strobe lighting, haze and loud sounds

Ages – 15+

Tickets and details at:

<https://ccclaycock.sales.ticketsearch.com/sales/salesevent/155772>

Laycock Street Community Theatre
 5 Laycock St Wyoming NSW 2250
 02 4323 3233

laycockstreettheatre@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

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DEGUSTATION DINNER: EAT YOUR HISTORY

Saturday 6th June
4.30pm-9pm

Heritage Ventures launches the inaugural 'Eat Your History' degustation feast on 6th June in Spencer.

Join us for a special seven-course menu featuring historically themed dishes. Enjoy a culinary journey on the history of food production, farming and harvesting around the Lower Hawkesbury River. Expert talks, storytelling and live music accompany each mouth watering course.

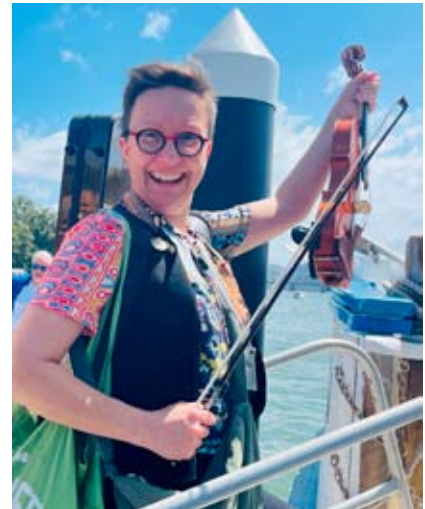
Tickets now open \$120 <https://www.heritageventures.com.au/eathistory>

From freshly shucked oysters with finger lime to savoury damper with macadamia and sea celery pesto; from colonial curries to slow-cooked corned beef; from baked hominy and traditional puddings to myrtle teas and shortbread—enjoy a thoughtfully curated menu inspired by heritage cookbooks and historic bush kitchen recipes.

We're bringing together the best from the land of the Central Coast hinterland and the waterways of the Hawkesbury River. 'Eat Your History' invites you to a long table dining experience in mid-winter, lit by candles with a fire in the courtyard. Catering for specialist diets by request.

In Spencer on the Hawkesbury River
A Central Coast Harvest Nights Event

Heritage Ventures
web: heritageventures.com.au
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THANK YOU

The family of Brian Harris would like to sincerely thank everyone who sent cards, flowers, and messages of sympathy following Brian's recent passing.

Your kindness, support, and thoughtful gestures have brought great comfort during this difficult time, and are deeply appreciated by us all.

Jan and Family



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Sun 10 May *Restaurant* - Mothers Day Lunch

Sat 16 May *Restaurant* - Chefs Table: Carnivore

Fri 22 May *Restaurant* - Dinner Service

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MY BRILLIANT DIVORCE BY GERALDINE ARON

My Brilliant Divorce, by Geraldine Aron, is a witty, warm and irresistibly funny one-woman comedy that sizzles with biting humour that will have you giggling throughout!

Angela Kennedy-Lipsky finds herself suddenly single when her husband Max dumps her for a younger model!

Follow Angela's tragically funny story as she navigates clumsy first dates, late night phone counselling, a bad case of hypochondria and the obligatory tub or three of ice cream as she staggers her way back to love and happiness.

This Bare Theatrical Production of My Brilliant Divorce stars seasoned actor Annette Rowilson who deftly slips in and out of 22 different characters as she tells Angela's tale!

It's "as irresistible as a chocolate truffle!"

Annette Rowilson is based in Wollombi and runs a very small one-person independent theatre company, Bare Theatrical Productions (BTP)

Having lived in the UK for many years working in London's West End and touring shows around the UK, Annette came back to Australia, semi retired and set up her own theatre company.

BTP have produced shows for the past 8 years firstly in Sydney and then in the Hunter Valley once Annette moved to Wollombi. Shows have included The Sum of Us, Bombshells and Shirley Valentine.

Dates

Friday 17 April 2026 to Sunday 19 April 2026 (UTC+10)

Location

Royal Exchange (REX) Theatre
34 Bolton Street, Newcastle NSW 2300

Bookings via www.trybooking.com/
DIYJO

Bare Theatrical Productions



HOW TO TURN WATERFRONT DREAMS INTO A NIGHTMARE

As Central Coast Council unveils yet another "blueprint" for the Gosford Waterfront, the community should stop and ask a serious question: what kind of city do we want Gosford to become?

Do we want a waterfront defined by liveability, character, sunlight, open views and a genuine connection to Brisbane Water? Or are we prepared to let it become a place dominated by oversized towers, overshadowed public spaces and planning rules bent to suit private profit?

That question is no longer theoretical. It is now before us in the Stage 2 proposal for the Central Coast Quarter on the former Gosford Public School site, prime waterfront land once spoken of as a community asset, including for a performing arts facility, but later rezoned and sold by the NSW Government for private development.

What is now proposed should alarm anyone who cares about Gosford's future. Urban Property Group is using the promise of just 98 affordable housing dwellings and only for 15 years to justify a massive increase in building height and floor space. The revised proposal includes a 36-storey southern tower and a 42-storey eastern tower and a major increase in density. This is not sensible growth. It

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is dramatic overreach that risks turning Gosford's waterfront dream into a permanent planning nightmare.

The site already contains the State Government office building facing Mann Street and an existing 25-storey northern tower with 136 apartments and ground-floor retail. This new scheme goes much further. Through the NSW Housing Delivery Authority, the developer is not asking to build what current rules allow but seeking to change the rules. The HDA is being used as a fast-track planning tool to unlock a much bigger and denser scheme than Gosford's planning framework was ever designed to support.

The numbers are staggering. Maximum building height would jump from about 48 metres (roughly 15 to 18 storeys) to 153 metres, or up to 42 storeys. Floor space ratio would leap from 3.5:1 to 9.5:1. Apartment numbers would rise from about 280 under the earlier concept to 394, plus a 152-key hotel. This is not a minor adjustment. It is a wholesale rewriting of the planning envelope for one of the most important and sensitive waterfront sites in the city.

To understand what that means visually, the two new towers would be about 1.4 times and 1.7 times taller than the existing tower. Even more startling, while Presidents Hill rises to AHD 114, the tallest proposed tower would reach AHD 153, which is 39 metres higher than the hill itself. That is the equivalent of roughly 10 to 12 extra storeys rising above the top of Presidents Hill. Once built, that scale cannot be undone. It would permanently change how Gosford looks, feels and relates to its waterfront.

The site's master plan was approved by the Independent Planning Commission in 2020 only after reductions were imposed to lessen visual impact and protect public amenity. The IPC required the proposed gross floor area in the northern and southern parts of the site to be reduced from 39,242 square metres to 34,861 square metres. Those reductions were not arbitrary but required to protect views to Rumbalara Reserve, reduce overshadowing of Leagues Club Field and limit impacts on Poppy Park and Memorial Park.

The current proposal heads in the opposite direction. Instead of respecting the planning logic behind the approved master plan, it seeks to overwhelm it. A site that was meant to provide a carefully managed transition between city and waterfront would become a wall of towers dominating the southern

Modern Ear Wax Removal: Why Microsuction Is Safer and More Effective

Ear wax is a natural substance that protects the ear canal from dust, bacteria, and irritation. In most people, the ear cleans itself naturally. However, for some—especially older adults—wax can build up and cause blockage, discomfort, ringing in the ears, dizziness, or hearing loss. When this happens, professional removal becomes important.

For many years, ear syringing was the common method used to remove wax. This technique uses water to flush wax out of the ear canal. While it can sometimes be effective, it also has limitations. Syringing may cause discomfort, dizziness, and in some cases infection or damage to the ear canal or eardrum. It is also not suitable for everyone, particularly people with sensitive ears, previous ear surgery, or certain medical conditions.

Today, a more modern and safer method called microsuction is widely recommended by hearing health professionals. Microsuction

uses a gentle medical suction device along with a special microscope or magnifying equipment to clearly see inside the ear. The wax is carefully removed without using water, making the procedure more controlled and precise.

One of the biggest advantages of microsuction is safety. Because the clinician can directly see the ear canal during the procedure, the risk of injury is significantly reduced. The process is usually quick, clean, and comfortable for most patients. It is also suitable for people who cannot undergo traditional ear syringing.

Microsuction is particularly beneficial for older adults. As people age, ear wax can become drier and harder, making natural removal more difficult. Hearing is already vital for communication, balance, and staying socially connected. A simple wax blockage can significantly reduce hearing ability and quality of life.

By using modern microsuction techniques, hearing professionals can safely restore hearing clarity and comfort. Regular ear checks and timely wax removal can help older adults maintain better hearing, confidence, and overall wellbeing.

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Wyee, Morisset, Central Mangrove,
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<http://welfasthearing.com.au>*



skyline and fundamentally changing the visual relationship between Mann Street, Leagues Club Field, Brisbane Water and the green ridgeline that has shaped Gosford's identity for decades.

The Gosford City Centre planning framework was never accidental. The Gosford City Centre SEPP 2018 imposed a three-storey street frontage limit along Mann Street, protected solar access to key public spaces and safeguarded important view corridors. Those controls were later carried into Chapter 5 of SEPP (Precincts—Regional) 2021 because they reflect sound urban design and the public interest.

The Community Environment Network and the Central Coast Community Better Planning Group have objected because this proposal is excessive, inconsistent with Gosford's retained planning controls, and

threatens to create an overbearing built edge that weakens the city's visual and physical connection to Brisbane Water.

Gosford does need growth, and redevelopment of urban land is preferable to destroying bushland. But growth must still respect place, scale and public interest.

Ninety-eight affordable dwellings for 15 years do not justify a 42-storey planning shock that could permanently damage Gosford's skyline, public spaces, liveability and character.

If the community stays silent now, the waterfront we value may be lost for good.

We achieve more when we work together — Join or renew your CEN membership today.

*Gary Chestnut
CEN Chair
Community Environment Network*

NSW Government Must Get to the Bottom of Landfill Disgrace

EPA'S own documents expose years of failure at Mangrove Mountain — the NSW Government must step in.

The NSW Environment Protection Authority's recent amendment of the Environment Protection Licence (EPL) covering the Mangrove Mountain Landfill does not close the book on the saga. The EPA's latest notice reinforces serious and unresolved questions about how the site was regulated over many years, and what responsibility the State Government must now accept.

On 6 November 2025, the EPA issued a formal notice varying the EPL. The notice records that in *Verde Terra Pty Ltd v Central Coast Council and EPA (No 9) [2022] NSWLEC 29*, the Land and Environment Court found that certain variations to the licence were invalid because there was no development consent for the works and activities the subject of those

variations.

Those amendments were not one-off errors. The EPA's 2025 notice confirms invalid variations were made to the licence on 13 May 2009, 29 June 2010, 9 July 2010, 30 August 2010 and 7 November 2011. This was not a single administrative slip up by the EPA, it was a pattern spanning consecutive years.

The conditions that have now been removed were not trivial. They included conditions relating to landfill cell construction, sediment and erosion controls, installation of leachate pond lining, installation of leachate barriers and collection systems, and construction quality assurance reporting. These are the very protections the public would expect to be properly authorised and rigorously enforced at a landfill.

The EPA's latest notice amounts to



a public admission that the regulator itself failed to stay within the law for years.

The EPA has now confirmed in black and white that key licence variations were invalid across multiple years. This is not just a paperwork issue. It is a systemic regulatory failure.

When the regulator charged with enforcing environmental law cannot lawfully vary its own licence, the public is entitled to ask: who was protecting the Central Coast's drinking water supply catchment, and who in government is accountable?

In 2017 the Mountain Districts Association (MDA) alleged that the EPA varied the EPL without consideration of sections 45(i) and 50 of the Protection Of the Environment Operations Act, and that the 13 May 2009 variation amongst others was invalid. The 13 May 2009 EPL change has been ruled invalid by the Land and Environment Court.

This vindicates the MDA and strengthens its recommendation for an independent inquiry into the EPA's administration of the licence. It supports closer examination of whether systemic shortcomings existed within the EPA's regulatory approach. Repeated breaches of the POEO Act may have occurred for extended period despite public protest and without any effective regulatory control.

The scale of what occurred is alarming. According to the MDA in 2017, a consent that was supposed to involve limited works in Area B escalated so that by September 2012, inspectors found a waste mound of 800,000 cubic metres, or 10 times the original approved volume, with an unapproved excavation pit of 149,149 cubic metres and a further 100,000 cubic metres of material deposited elsewhere on site.

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Up to 85% of the fill mound did not have an engineered leachate barrier and up to 3 million litres of leachate may be escaping annually into the Central Coast's drinking water catchment and local aquifer. Those are grave allegations from the community's documented case, and they demand a direct State response.

The State Government can no longer stand back and pretend this is only an EPA matter or hide behind the matter being before the Land and Environment Court. The court action has been resolved. It is now up to the state government to respond.

The EPA is a State authority. If the EPA got this wrong over consecutive years, then the responsibility sits with the State Government.

The Government cannot let the EPA quietly amend a licence in 2025 and hope the public forgets that invalid conditions operated for years while this landfill expanded and the risks escalated.

The NSW Government must stop hiding behind process. It must accept responsibility for the regulatory failure, for the consequences of that failure, and for ensuring the site is fully investigated, contained and remediated.

It is time for the Member for Gosford, Liesl Tesch, and the NSW Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Penny Sharpe, to pledge, perhaps before the state election next March, that the NSW Government will step up and clean up the landfill.

CEN is calling upon the NSW Government to:

- publicly acknowledge the significance of the EPA's 2025 notice and the Court findings it records;
- commission an independent review or inquiry into the administration of EPL 11395 over the relevant period;
- hold a public meeting to explain what safeguards are now in place to ensure similar failures do not occur again; and
- confirm that they will ensure that the EPA is committed to transparent monitoring, investigation and, where necessary, remediation to protect the catchment and downstream water users.


The EPA's 2025 EPL review sought to ensure consistency with updated guidelines and with the outcome of the legal proceedings concerning the

licence and development consent. That may be an important administrative step, but it is not the same as resolving the wider public concern.

The central issue remains straightforward for the community: where a State regulator's own records now confirm that multiple licence variations were invalid under section 50 of the POEO Act, there is a clear and legitimate expectation that the State Government will respond openly and decisively.

The community is entitled to answers, proper oversight, and a clear commitment that the protection of this catchment will come first. If you agree and would like to support our campaign email news@cen.org.au to find out more.

Community Environment Network



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**Stations of the Cross,
10am Good Friday 3rd April.**

**Monthly Mass for April
4pm Saturday 11th April.**

**After April, monthly
Mass is set for the first
Saturday each month at
4pm**

We would love the opportunity to meet you and
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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@lowerhunterffcs.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)
Yarralong RFS		Information: www.facebook.com/ YarralongRuralFireBrigade/ Phone contact: 0494 344 030 Email: volunteer@yarralongrfs.org.au

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL

Central Coast Plateau Chamber of Commerce	First Tuesday each month 7.00PM MMMC
Coastlink Friendship Group	Wed 9.30am-2pm at the Health Centre, Nurses Rd, Central Mangrove
Country Women's Association (Somersby)	Second Wed of each month, at Somersby Hall Wiseman's Ferry Road, Somersby, contact Sue, 43721280 or 0407768000.
Country Women's Association (Peats Ridge & District)	Third Monday of the month at 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 0458 655850
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 Yarralong. 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	
Mangrove Mountain Country Fair Committee Meeting	3rd Thu of mth except Jan, 7pm, at Union Church Hall. Pres - Steve 0455 155 075 www.mountaindistrictsassociation.com.au secretary@mountaindistrictsassociation.com.au
Mountain Districts Association (MDA)	Second Tuesday of the Month 6.30pm at the Mangrove Memorial Club
Mountain District Football Club Meeting	2nd Thu. Ph Elaine Burrows 0412988353
Probus - West Gosford	President Marlee Maxwell Email rivercaresinc@gmail.com
River Cares for the Lower Hawkesbury River District	Friday 7.15am at Phillip House. 43404529
Rotary Club Meeting	President Brad Maisey, Community Meetings, 0436482201, spencercpg2@gmail.com
Spencer Community Progress Group Inc	Articles to: spencercpg2@gmail.com
Newsletter	Last Friday of the month. Eve Leeming - 4377 1116 and/or cedriceve@bigpond.com
Spencer Sheilas Community Social Club	Tues & Sat, 9am-5pm. Contact: Alan Hunt 4566 4626 or Adrian Acheson 0448 833 781
Wisemans Ferry Community Men's Shed	

SPIRITUAL

Anglican Service - Mountain Districts	Every Sun 8am at Peats Ridge Scout Hall, Sunday School during school terms
Mangrove Mountain Union Church Trust	Committee Meeting 3rd Monday, 7.30pm at the Mangrove Mountain Union Church Hall
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 Yarralong	Every Sunday, 9.30am. (Easter & (Christmas Carols dates to be advised)

(cont'd next page)

LIVESTOCK MARKET REPORT



Maitland Liveweight Cattle Sale 30th MARCH 2026

650 cattle yarded this week at
Maitland. 548 Trade/ 102 export.

- Restocker Heifers up to 250kg made
242 c/kg to 415 c/kg
- 250kg-300kg made 331 c/kg to 410
c/kg
- 300kg to 380kg made 329 c/kg to
440 c/kg
- Restocker steers up to 250kg made
361 c/kg to 490 c/kg
- 250kg-300kg made 387 c/kg to 485
c/kg
- 300kg-380kg made 327 c/kg to 530
c/kg
- Yearling Steers to Feed made 375 c/
kg to 450 c/kg
- Yearling Heifers to Feed made 343
c/kg to 366 c/kg

Wild dog and fox control program

The NSW autumn wild dog and fox
control program, with coordinated
aerial and ground baiting, is now
underway.

Timed to coincide with the peak in
wild dog activity before the breeding
season, the campaign aims to limit
impacts on livestock.

The program is being delivered
through Local Land Services (LLS),
which is supporting landholders
with subsidised baits, training and
coordinated control efforts.

Autumn baiting plays a critical role
in broad-scale control, targeting wild
dogs as they actively forage, while
follow-up programs in spring help
suppress populations.

Participation in the program requires
landholders to be appropriately
trained, with more than 6,000 already

- Cows made 275 c/kg to 340 c/kg
- Bulls 283 c/kg to 310 c/kg

Maitland Liveweight Cattle Sale 23rd March 2026

580 cattle yarded this week at Maitland. 460 Trade/ 120 export.

- Restocker Heifers up to 250kg made 294 c/kg to 470 c/kg
- 250kg-300kg made 373 c/kg to 450 c/kg
- 300kg to 380kg made 407 c/kg to 445 c/kg
- Restocker steers up to 250kg made 429 c/kg to 490 c/kg
- 250kg-300kg made 441 c/kg to 485 c/kg
- 300kg-380kg made 422 c/kg to 475 c/kg
- Yearling Steers to Feed made 457 c/kg to 465 c/kg
- Yearling Heifers to Feed made 350 c/kg to 350 c/kg
- Cows made 331 c/kg to 380 c/kg
- Bulls 339 c/kg to 350 c/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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*Michael Easy & Rodney McDonald
Bowe & Lidbury*

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completing Vertebrate Pesticide Induction Training (VPIT) since mid-2023.

For more information, contact LLS via 1300 795 299, visit our wild dog control webpage:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/regional-and-primary-industries/biosecurity/pest-animals/vertebrate-pests/wild-dogs>

or view these wild dog management resources:

<https://wilddogplan.org.au/resources>.
Greater Sydney LLS

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, 1st 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. 160 Hensons Road, Somersby Ph 0243721598
Serbian Orthodox	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	Sundays @ 9.30am Church & Kid's Program, Kariong Neighbourhood Centre, 10 Langford Drive, Kariong. Email: pastor@kariongchurch.org; Web: kariongchurch.org
Restitution Ministries Independent SDA Church	10am every Saturday, Mangrove Mountain Union Church.
YOUTH Junior Girl Guides 5-10	Kooree Guide Cabin, 5.00pm – 6.30pm Mondays in school term,
Girl Guides 10-15	Kooree Guide Cabin, 6.00pm-7.30pm Mondays in school term, Contact 0417451764 for further information
Scouts, Cubs & Venturers Peats Ridge Scout Hall	Cubs meet 6.30pm – 8.30pm Wednesdays Scouts meet 7.00pm – 9.00pm Tuesdays Venturers meet 7.00pm – 9.00pm Mondays Contact 0460 696 941
HISTORICAL Brisbane Waters Historical Society	25-27 Henry Kendall St., West Gosford, Ph: 4325 2270. www.henrykendallcottage.org.au Last Sat of month. All welcome, contact Jan Kofron 0405321478. jankofron@optusnet.com.au
Dharug & Lower Hawkesbury Historical Society Inc.	2nd Sat of the month, 10.00am for 10.30, Point Clare Hall (except Jan & Dec). Contact Margaret 0409467710 or Gavin 0406645842.
First Fleeters Central Coast Chapter	3rd Fri of month 7.30pm Pearl Beach. Peggy 0411754577 pbaboriginalhistory@gmail.com
The Pearl Beach Aboriginal History Group	Sun to Thurs, 10am-2pm, other times by appt. 43521886 or info@alisonhomestead.com.au . website: www.alisonhomestead.com.au
Wyong District Museum & Historical Society	Meetings held every three months. Central Coast, Newcastle, Sydney. Ring 0447723956 or 0448390077 for details.
ACTIVITY/HOBBY Carnival Glass Club	Meeting dates: ccjuniormotorcycleclub.org.au , FB: "Central Coast Junior Motorcycle Club Official". David Smith 0412 506 503
Central Coast Junior Motorcycle Club Inc.	1st & 3rd Thurs of month, 6:45pm to 8:45pm at Doyalson-Wyee RSL. Debbie 0421216952
Coastal Communicators Toastmasters	2nd Sat of the month Somersby Hall (10am to 2pm) cost \$5 per person Carmen 0434071305
Saturday Craft Group/Spining and bobbin lace	Third Sun 2pm, Angels Sussurri Yarramalong. Contact Kerry Watson 0404059167
Yarn group (knit, crochet etc)	Contact Central Coast Council. Hall bookings Ryan Howard 0405416289
HALL BOOKINGS Kulnura Hall	Church & Hall bookings 0412669649 mmucsecretary@outlook.com
Mangrove Mountain Hall	Hall bookings: 0413 359 655 or AH 4373 1488
Mangrove Mountain Union Church & Hall	enquiries@yarramalonghall.org.au https://yarramalonghall.org.au
Somersby Hall and Mountain Districts Culture and Heritage Centre	
Yarramalong school of Arts / Hall	

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The Bondi's have consistently delivered the goods. They've been nominated for an ARIA Award, awarded Best Blues Album, been invited to perform at a plethora of festivals, including, The Melbourne International Music & Blues Festival, Great Southern Blues & Rockabilly Festival, Moomba Festival, Queenscliff Festival, The Byron Bay East Coast Festival, The Kangaroo Point Festival and many more. The band are also a regular guests at leading Australian venues.

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maintained their status as one of this country's most in-demand touring acts, with shows numbering over a hundred and fifty each year. The Bondi Cigars have built a solid reputation as one of the best live acts in the country.

Opening the night and supporting the Bondi Cigars will be Central Coast Blues and Roots artist, Woodie McClean, Woodie has built a loyal following with his warm vocals and solo guitar singer songwriter style reminiscent of James Taylor seeing him share the stage with some of Australia's top Blues and Roots artists.

Doors open at 6pm, with live music starting at 6.30pm. Great food will be available for purchase, BYO drinks and snacks welcome. Tickets to the show cost \$35 and are available via <https://events.humanitix.com/bondi-cigars-mangrove-mountain-hall>

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