

COMMUNITY NEWS

No. 865 Ph: 4374 1039 Mo: 0412 669 649 Email: cnews@k3s.com.au Web: www.k3s.com.au/cnews.htm 20th November 2020

Community Bushfire Feedback Workshop

A workshop, organised and hosted by Central Coast Council, was held at Mangrove Mountain Hall on Wednesday 11th November, 2020 to gather information about individual and community experiences of those impacted by the severe bushfires of the last season.

The workshop was well attended by residents from areas including Mangrove Mountain, Kulnura and Spencer. There was heated discussion and comment about how Council is using funding to assist fire-affected communities.

David Lemcke (Senior Planner Emergency Protection Natural Assets), Corey Shackelton (Blackash Bushfire Consultants), Anni Griffiths (Environmental Education Officer) and Brianna Pollock (Community Development Officer) fielded diverse questions and comments raising significant issues affecting our local community.

It was noted that some issues are outside Council jurisdiction including Communications (Individual Telecommunications companies), Hazard Reduction Regulations (State Govt) and Road Closures and property

access (RFS & Police). These issues can however be dealt with by the Emergency Planning Committee which can bring these authority representatives together as needed.

It was also noted that some of the largest landholders in our area are Parks and Wildlife, Crown Lands, Forestry and Council. They therefore have a duty of care to maintain the areas of bushland that fall within their responsibility.

David Lemcke was able to update the group on some of the initiatives Council is focused on currently. These include:

- identification, upgrade and maintenance of hundreds of kilometres of Fire Trails.
- Purchase and strategic placement of large water tanks on main access roads to be available to re-fill fire trucks during fire emergencies.
- Identification and upgrades to local Safe Places (eg Mangrove Mountain Hall) to be used by residents as a safe haven and point of updated information in emergencies.
- Mapping and identification of areas of risk and priority Hazard Reduction

requirements.

Corey Shackelton is working as a consultant to Council to guide Bushfire preparedness initiatives, create mapping and help with funding submissions. He is also available to run Community Preparation workshops to guide residents on effective ways to prepare for future events.

Anni Griffiths presented a handy brochure "Are you Bushfire Ready?" which can be made available to locals particularly those who do not have reliable internet access. Also a "Get Prepared" App by Red Cross was recommended. Anni announced the establishment of the Central Coast Community Dashboard which is a one stop website for all emergency information and contacts.

MDA will forward results of their online survey conducted earlier this year to assist with funding applications and indicate community involvement.

Perhaps the most important message to be taken from the evening was that Governments, Council, RFS and other Emergency Services can only provide a certain amount of support and that individuals need to ensure they have done everything to make their properties as safe as possible before the fire season begins. Individuals need to take responsibility for their own safety and we know that local residents are very capable and pro-active. We also need to make sure that we look after each other and maintain contact with our friends and neighbours especially those who are elderly or less active than ourselves.

If locals are interested in taking part in a workshop to help them get ready for the upcoming fire season contact: chair@mountaindistrictsassociation.com

Claire Podlich



CENTRAL MANGROVE PUBLIC SCHOOL

2021 KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS

- Providing quality education for all our students -

Central Mangrove Public School is currently accepting enrolments for their 2021 Kindergarten class. Planning is underway for a transition to school program to be held later this term over four weeks on a Tuesday.

The program has been specifically designed to develop self confidence for our pre-schoolers by building on foundation skills necessary for a successful and smooth transition into our school environment.

All parents and caregivers of children starting Kindergarten next year are invited to bring their child to the transition program on Tuesday 10, 17, 24 November and 1 December from 9:30am-11:00am.

Please contact the school to let us know if your child will be attending and to get further information about these sessions.

**Central Mangrove Public School 4373 1156 or
email: centmangro-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
1708 Wisemans Ferry Road, Central Mangrove 2250**

STOP !

Next issue Published
4th December 2020
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**** 27th November '20 ****

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Service Class ZERO

“Service Class Zero”, a term we got acquainted with at the recent NBN meeting held on 14/11/20 at Mangrove hall.

The meeting, convened by Deborah O’Neill, Federal Senator and Liesl Tesch, State Member for Gosford, was well attended, the audience was given a brief history of the NBN and problems being generally encountered and attendees were able to relate the problems they have been facing.

The audience learnt that the term “Service Class Zero” is the internet equivalent of the “too hard basket” and it seems that a lot of local internet issues are put into this category with no answer or solution being provided, forcing some residents to privately engage internet and communications experts to install special systems to ensure a basic reliable internet service is available.

Unfortunately this also comes at a cost, with additional equipment required as well as installation fees.

Some local residents have installed multiple internet connections just to be sure that at least one is available, and in many cases use the 4G phone network and not the NBN.

There were stories:

- a local business based at Kulnura



and involved in developing internet based services and using the internet to link team members is affected by slow and unreliable internet connections, hampering business growth and ability to employ locals,

- a family living about 3 km south of Mangrove Mountain Village have to struggle with their son’s education as study material and collaboration with educators and fellow students is all on-line,

- another family was split, with some members having to move to Sydney to get a suitable internet service required for their job.

It’s unbelievable to think that at a location about 80km from the Sydney, CBD, a state capital city, a decent internet service cannot be provided at

an affordable cost.

The only long term solution is to get a proper implementation of the NBN and we were advised that the best way is to work as a group, trying to establish a critical mass of requests and complaints. Senator O’Neill and Ms Tesch asked residents to write to them about internet problems and committed to then follow up on them with NBN Co.

George Azoury, from the MDA, had previously conducted a data collection exercise on internet performance and problems and will now pass the findings to Senator O’Neill for action as these have up to now been ignored by the NBN.

Currently our area’s NBN services are provided only via satellite or fixed wireless. NBN Co had advised Senator

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Somersby Public School KINDERGARTEN 2021 TRANSITION TO SCHOOL

Somersby Public School offers quality educational opportunities. A dedicated team of teachers enthusiastically plan a range of exciting and individualised learning experiences for students. Our school has a strong focus on success, connections and belonging and enjoys the benefits of a friendly rural environment.

Enrolments are now being accepted for students starting Kindergarten in 2021.

Transition program for 2021 Kindergarten students:

Monday 2 November
Monday 9 November
Monday 16 November

Children will spend each morning getting to know each other and participating in a variety of activities including literacy, numeracy, art and play.

Parent Information session:

Monday 16 November via video link

We will share detailed information about education at Somersby Public School, including the Kindergarten curriculum, our approach to student wellbeing and preparing your child for school.

To enquire about enrolling, please phone the school office on 4372 1233.

“Worthy Daily Living”

O’Neill that the fixed mobile tower at Maroney Rd was working well and providing speeds up to 50Mbps.

Senator O’Neill said “I spoke to over 50 concerned Mountain Community locals about their lack of connectivity and political representation from the Liberal Party.

Liesl Tesch MP and I heard horror stories from residents who pay thousands more than their city counterparts for defective and non-existent signals.

Lucy Wicks has ignored these communities for 7 years and doesn’t have the decency to return phone calls or letters from these residents who just

want digital justice.

This issue affects their jobs, their businesses, their studies, and their access to healthcare.

Liesl and I hear these locals and will continue to demand digital justice from the Morrison Government and from NBN Co.”

Keith Aranjó

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Mountain and Frontline Districts BUSHFIRE RESILIENCE ALLIANCE

The Bushfire Resilience Alliance (BRA) is the name adopted by the assembly of local residents that has been working on strategies for bushfire harm mitigation since last February.

Good progress has been made since we began compiling reports of bushfire experience in the community. From these reports we have formulated a log of claims, an overall strategy and a pilot "proof of concept" plan of action.

We are now seeking ways to implement it in conjunction with the relevant public land managers and private property owners. We have been encouraged by expressions of support from Mangrove Mountain RFS (Rob Carraro), Dave Lemcke (Central Coast Council) and Cory Shackelton (Black Ash - consultants to Council), Jeff Betteridge (NPWS) Viki Campbell (RFS Superintendant, Central Coast and Lake Macquarie District and Chair of the Bushfire Management Committee) and Anumitra Mirti (Manager, Environmental Strategies CCC). A meeting is currently being scheduled with Shane Geerin (Inspector, RFS).

In particular we are asking for your

support and your endorsement of our objectives. It is only with the backing of local individuals, groups, associations and businesses that we will have the weight of opinion necessary to persuade those with control of resources to help the community act effectively using its local knowledge and experience.

The overall plan, which is consistent with the 2020 NSW Bushfire Inquiry Recommendations, has as its core establishment of a fire resilience barrier zone along the western perimeter of the Mountain Districts, and ipso facto the wider Central Coast region.

A designated strip of land, stretching from Spencer to Bucketty, has been identified and preliminarily mapped so that hazard reduction burning can be done in mosaic patches. These, where possible, being delineated by existing roads and fire trails, with additional trails as required being investigated.

It is proposed that the first pilot section will be from Mangrove Creek eastward to the Peats Ridge Road, taking in Bedlam, Ironbark and Popran Creeks, from Greengrove in the south

to Waratah Road in the north.

We believe our proof of concept pilot program, being a small-scale method, utilizing local knowledge, community engagement and strategic mosaic management will provide the best balance for protection of lives and property, and ecological benefit.

Fire has always been, and will always be, an integral part of living with nature in Australia. As such it must be managed to make it work with us. Its role in regeneration and maintenance of bio-diversity needs to be promoted in partnership with risk mitigation and hazard reduction.

Whether from natural or man-made causes, fire in the environment has led to catastrophic bushfires triggering social and economical disruption, and personal tragedy. Our response has been to fight, control and extinguish the fire once the crisis is at hand – followed by enormous costs of recovery. Current practices of fire abatement have become highly mechanised, industrially scaled, centrally controlled and administratively complex, and in recent times inadequate.

A better plan of preparation and hazard reduction is required.

An essential component to the proposed program is to strengthen the community and prioritise the protection of people's well-being and property. Safe refuges need to

be established, along with education about preparedness together with information about emergency resources. We will seek assistance in producing and distributing this to all households.

Following is the Log of Claims that has been approved by the Bushfire Resilience Alliance.

LOG OF CLAIMS

1. Fire Trails

a. All fire trails must be made passable immediately by the relevant landholder.

b. Wherever possible, a second parallel fire trail should be installed in the area burned in 2019 so that routine, mosaic and ongoing hazard reduction can occur between the two trails and be conducted by co-operation between local RFS brigades providing a form of barrier along the Western edge of the district.

2. Safe Havens and Community

a. A network of safe havens should be established and publicised.

b. A document providing each resident with a reference of emergency contacts and procedures should be produced and distributed in hard copy and electronically.

3. Hazard reduction

a. Popran National Park must be burned as soon as possible with priority to places where it abuts private

commercial farms or residential landholdings. The areas of concern are between Wiseman's Ferry Road and Mangrove Creek Road, along Bedlam Creek, along Ironbark Creek and along Popran Creek.

b. Fire authorities need to ease the assessment criteria for hazard reduction applications so that private landholders are encouraged to burn or otherwise to remove accumulated fuel loads in bushland on their properties.

c. Mangrove Mountain, Spencer, Kulnura, Bucketty, Calga and Somersby RFS Brigades should identify and conduct a mosaic of Hazard Reduction burns to mitigate wildfire.

d. The local community must be constantly in conversation about the importance of hazard reduction and encouraged to support it on their properties and elsewhere.

4. Infrastructure

a. The owners of all mobile phone towers must maintain a 20 metre cleared buffer around all local towers and provide an uninterruptable power supply at each.

b. Wiseman's Ferry Road and George Downes Drive should be cleared of overhanging trees by Central Coast Council and be kept passable in the event of an emergency.

c. Local residents should be able to move along local roads without undue restriction by authorities if the resident is able to prove local land ownership

or rental by producing either a local Government Rate notice or a utilities invoice.

d. Water for firefighting should be accessible at regular points on the pipelines that run between Mangrove Creek Weir and Mooney Mooney Dam and between Mangrove Creek Dam and Mardi Dam. Water should also be placed and replenished by Central Coast Council in dedicated tanks at every public facility in the district (eg: schools, halls, ovals, reserves)

5. Alliance

a. Utmost priority should be given to embedding this log of claims in the brief of every local community group and among local public landholders.

You can help by confirming support and endorsement of the Bushfire Resilience Alliance strategy.

Many individuals, groups and associations have given verbal endorsement, but written confirmation would give greater weight.

So if you belong to a group or association, could you make sure the members are aware of what we are doing, and ask if the group could send to us an official letter of support. Letters from individuals would also be greatly appreciated.

Contact: neilbrown2@me.com



Neil Berecny-Brown
for the Bushfire Resilience
Alliance

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Tocal Australian Stock Horse Sale continues a proud tradition

This year's Annual Australian Stock Horse Sale at Tocal College was different, but still resulted in an excellent outcome for staff and students. 12 horses were offered through an online sale on AuctionsPlus starting Friday the 31st of October and concluding on the 1st of November. The average price received was \$15,671.00 across the 12 lots, with top price going to a three-year old gelding 'Tocal Remember Me' at \$26,000. The results were a strong endorsement of Tocal's breeding and training program, particularly in light of COVID-19 restrictions across Australia.

Tocal College Principal Mr Darren



Above: Tocal Remember Me - highest bid Below: Students with two of the horses



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Bayley said the online sale brought even greater interest in the horses on offer this year and still provided students with the opportunity to showcase both the horses and their skills through the online auction videos. Potential buyers still had the opportunity to inspect the horses they were interested in pre-sale. Mr Bayley said students were thrilled at the sale result and were highly involved in every aspect of the sale process.

This sale was the latest in thirteen years of horse sales for Tocal, but the first to go online. The twelve horses offered for sale resulted in a gross sale value of \$188,050. While three horses were sold above the \$20,000 mark, there was great value on offer across the 12 lots. Buyers this year were from across NSW and Queensland.

Tocal College Principal Mr Darren Bayley was particularly impressed with the strength of the offering and bidding. He said that the sale continues to grow and provide great feedback and encouragement to all the staff and students at Tocal College. He paid tribute to staff members Luke Collard, Chantelle Vella and Simone Harvey who lead the horse course program and were the reason for the successful sale outcome.

Centre Manager Michael Ison also acknowledged the work of staff right across education and Tocal farms for the day to day attention to managing the horses. "The horses have been

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presented at the sale today in great condition but it must be noted that managing the health and welfare of around 100 Australian Stock Horses at Tocal is a 365 day responsibility and all staff contribute, ensuring that the horses are always in great shape" he said.

The Tocal Australian Stock Horse sale is an Annual event at Tocal and will remain one of the most important parts of the Horse Course calendar. The sale is an opportunity for students to experience preparing horse for sale in a big event and is an invaluable

Further Update On The Optus Spencer Mobile Tower

The co-location with Optus and Telstra is still dragging on like tight knickers!

More excuses such as COVID has caused delays, poor communication between Optus and Telstra which meant a re-design of a critical transmission component the ramifications of that being Optus missed a critical deadline.

Optus are now pushing to have ready live testing during week commencing 7th December. I have been assured that the Optus are *scrambling* to ensure that everything else on site will go to plan despite all the challenges they have had to face at every turn!

With regards to Marlow all is going well and it won't be too long before Optus will start work on that solution.

Robyn Downham
President, River Cares

experience setting them up for a career in agriculture.

Tocal College are now preparing for and looking forward to next sale in November 2021 and thank industry for their support.

Media Release
Tocal College

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HALL FUNDRAISER A GREAT SUCCESS!

A great day was had by all on Sunday the 15th of November the historic Mangrove Mountain Hall open day and fundraiser. The plant stall was popular all day, as was the great local fruit and veg on offer and many a sweet tooth went home happy with some yummy homemade jams and cakes from the CWA cake stall. Local musicians, Georgie Fahey and Michelle Murrel sounded fantastic on the hall stage, and drew warm applause. Local resident, Laurel

Arnott, was excited to win the hall raffle, congratulations Laurel! And we have had fantastic feedback from the day, with so many saying how much they enjoyed the event. Together we raised just over \$1,174 and we would like to thank all the wonderful local businesses and individuals who supported the day and the hall.

Thank you to:

Andreasens Green, Colourwise Nursery, Dominello's, Gale's Citrus, Kariong Neighbourhood Centre, Georgie Fahey, Michelle Murrel Music, Mangrove Produce and Hardware, New Leaves, both Peats Ridge and Mangrove Mountain CWA groups, Scott's Tubes and Sparacino farms.

Ryan Howard



FIRST FALL ARMYWORM DETECTED IN HUNTER

Landholders and producers have been urged to be on the lookout for signs of damage and the presence of fall armyworm larvae in crops following the first detection of the pest in the Hunter.

Hunter Local Land Services (LLS) Pastures Officer David Deane said fall armyworm larvae was found at a property near East Maitland.

"This is the first detection of fall armyworm in the Hunter and we need all growers throughout the region to be vigilant, and keep an eye out for signs of fall armyworm," Mr Deane said.

"The best thing landholders can do to reduce the spread and impact of this pest is to identify the signs and symptoms early, and report any suspect cases as quickly as possible – that's how this detection came about.

"Landholders should be looking for windowing of leaves where larvae have hatched and small shot holes as leaves expand, caused by larvae feeding in the developing leaf whorl."

"While this pest is known to feed on more than 350 plant species, particularly sorghum and maize, it has



the potential to impact any crop where food choice is limited."

Fall armyworm moths have been found at various locations across NSW, including the Liverpool Plains and Central West, as a result of the early warning trapping network established by NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and LLS.

Anyone who suspects the presence of fall armyworm should immediately call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.

In most cases, DPI will be able to identify larvae from clear photographs which can be sent via an online form or to biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au with your contact details.

For small larvae, DPI and LLS recommend retaining samples with food, such as host crop leaves,

and allow them to grow to enable photographs to be taken.

More information on identification, treatment options and resistance management is available on DPI and LLS websites. Farmers should contact their LLS staff or regular agronomist for advice on fall armyworm management.

Landholders can also register for a free fall armyworm webinar hosted by the Grain Research and Development Corporation on November 12, to hear from QLD experts who have been dealing with the pest for months. Register here: <https://grdc.com.au/events/list/submitted/2020/grdc-grains-research-update,-online-fall-armyworm>

Penny Evans
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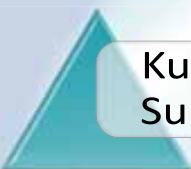
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PEATS RIDGE CUBS GET CREATIVE

Cub Scouts are being very creative as we 'keep up with the times' as we move forward into brand new adventures, adjusting activities as we go to stay within COVID- safe guidelines; regardless of which we can still have fun and learn some new games and skills.

Examples of such activities are 'noodle British bull dog' which is a COVID version of the tag game. And another recent activity was some campfire cooking, on which occasion the Cubs prepared a brownie mixture which was placed inside an orange, wrapped up in foil and placed on the camp fire until cooked through. Delicious!!!

On our latest Cub meeting night, we had the wonderful privilege of investing our newest Cub Scout, Tully, who can be seen standing in front of the flags in the accompanying photo, just after her investment. Tully has been welcomed into the group on the new Scouting system.

In this COVID world, it can be a strain on our mental health due to the many changes in our routines, however, in the Scouting family we



continue to strive forward always with a positive attitude. One question that drives us forward is, what can we do to make our world better place?

In the meetings it is great to see what the Cub Scouts can do when they run the activities. As Leaders we are there supervising, but we really encourage the youth to plan and implement their own ideas for the meetings. This is all towards them becoming great leaders and taking control of their own lives in a positive way.

If you think your child would enjoy

being involved in the fun-loving, dynamic group that we are, why not come and try us out? Section meeting times for Cubs (8-10yr boys & girls), Scouts (11-14yr boys & girls) and Venturers (15-18yr youths) can be found in the back-page listings of the Community News.

For all enquiries please contact our Group Leader, James Lutwyche on 0438 476 562, or by email to jameslutwyche@gmail.com

Sharyn Unitt
Publicity Officer
Peats Ridge Scout Group

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Situated at the end of a long driveway, this 2.5 acre property distances you from the main Wisemans Ferry Road. Two neighbouring large acreage properties create an open rural and private setting.

This property includes a 4-bedroom, 2 bathroom home of solid brick construction. The newly renovated house has multiple separate internal and external living areas offering great separation for all the family. This home has beautiful vaulted and Huon pine lined ceilings in the living areas and enjoys great light and rural views from most locations.

A split-level area offers a 2nd and 3rd bedroom with a dedicated living area, a bathroom and opens to a covered external large entertainment area. Also included is a council approved selfcontained unit and a double lock up garage of solid brick construction. The property further includes a skillion shed, perfect for big toys or the pony. Two water tanks provide the family with plentiful free water year-round. The grounds include a spectacular paved barbeque area to complete the feeling of acreage tranquillity, privacy and space.



Central Coast Select Properties
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Shop 9, 482 Pacific Highway
North Gosford NSW 2250

Council marks NAIDOC Week with a celebration of local talent

Central Coast Council is marking NAIDOC Week with a series of public art installations throughout Toukley Town Centre.

The artworks will showcase an adaptation of the story of Tiddalick the Frog, written by resident Reegan Peterson who was in primary school when he first heard the story of Tiddalick. Through the guidance of Elders, the story has come to life in a local context.

Kamillori descendent and local emerging First Nations artist, Kyle Waters has created a series of site-specific illustrations that tell the interpretation of the well-known story.

Council Director Connected Communities Julie Vaughan said selected pieces of Kyle's work have been reproduced for NAIDOC Week and will be displayed as murals at Toukley Library and along Main Road, Toukley.

"Council is honoured to celebrate NAIDOC Week with this unique showcase of local talent, which shares an important piece of local First Nations culture," said Mrs Vaughan.

"Kyle is a graduate and past winner of Central Coast Council's arts and culture showcase, Maliga, meaning Shine in Darkinjung language.

"Maliga is a cultural platform for First Nations children and young people to share contemporary and traditional stories through visual, performance and literary arts.

"Council is excited to recognise Kyle



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and other talented artists who have come through Maliga through projects such as this," added Ms Vaughan.

Council Interim Administrator Mr Dick Persson AM said NAIDOC Week is an important opportunity for the community to come together to recognise and celebrate the history, cultures and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

"Supporting young artists such as Kyle is an opportunity for Council to acknowledge our First Nations peoples

and celebrate the significant cultural and community contribution they provide across the Central Coast," said Mr Persson.

National NAIDOC Week took place from 8-15 November 2020. This year's theme 'Always Was, Always Will Be.' recognises that First Nations people have occupied and cared for this continent for over 65,000 years.

Rebecca Ius
Senior Communication Officer
Communication and Engagement
Central Coast Council



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- Buyer Enquiries: 125
- Buyer Inspections: 33



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What's on at The Wollombi Cultural Centre

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The Old Fireshed Gallery

Katrina Rose - Painting

Cessnock resident, artist and retiree from Cessnock Regional Gallery, Katrina presents a wonderfully diverse range of pictures formulated and executed from a year like no other, in which artistic mood swings, elation and depression competed for daily importance.

Beautiful landscapes, modern abstracts, traditional still life, lino cuts and hand painted greeting cards showcase Katrina's ability to cross from canvas and paper artworks in oil to watercolour and ink and print techniques. Indeed, something for everyone.

Susan Myerson - Ceramics

"Working with clay is both challenging and exciting. My history with the art form has been an enjoyable journey. Part of that journey took me to Newcastle University, where in 2015 I completed my Bachelor of Fine

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James Morgan - 0405 178 197

Arts majoring in ceramics.

My work often reflects my love of storytelling, creating characters inspired by literature, lyrics, or a whimsy of imaginings.

The porcelain pieces have been created from my love of nature and organic abstraction, along with the silken purity and qualities of porcelain, which often dictate the outcome."

EMERGING ARTIST AWARDS

2020 - Les Elvin People's Choice

Awards

Winner of People's Choice Awards
Nathan Mussan 'Wanting to be on



the other side'

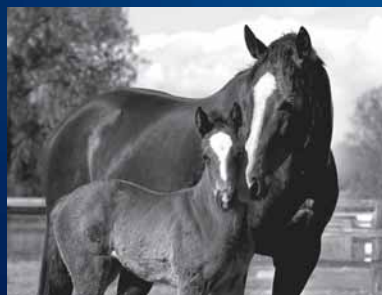
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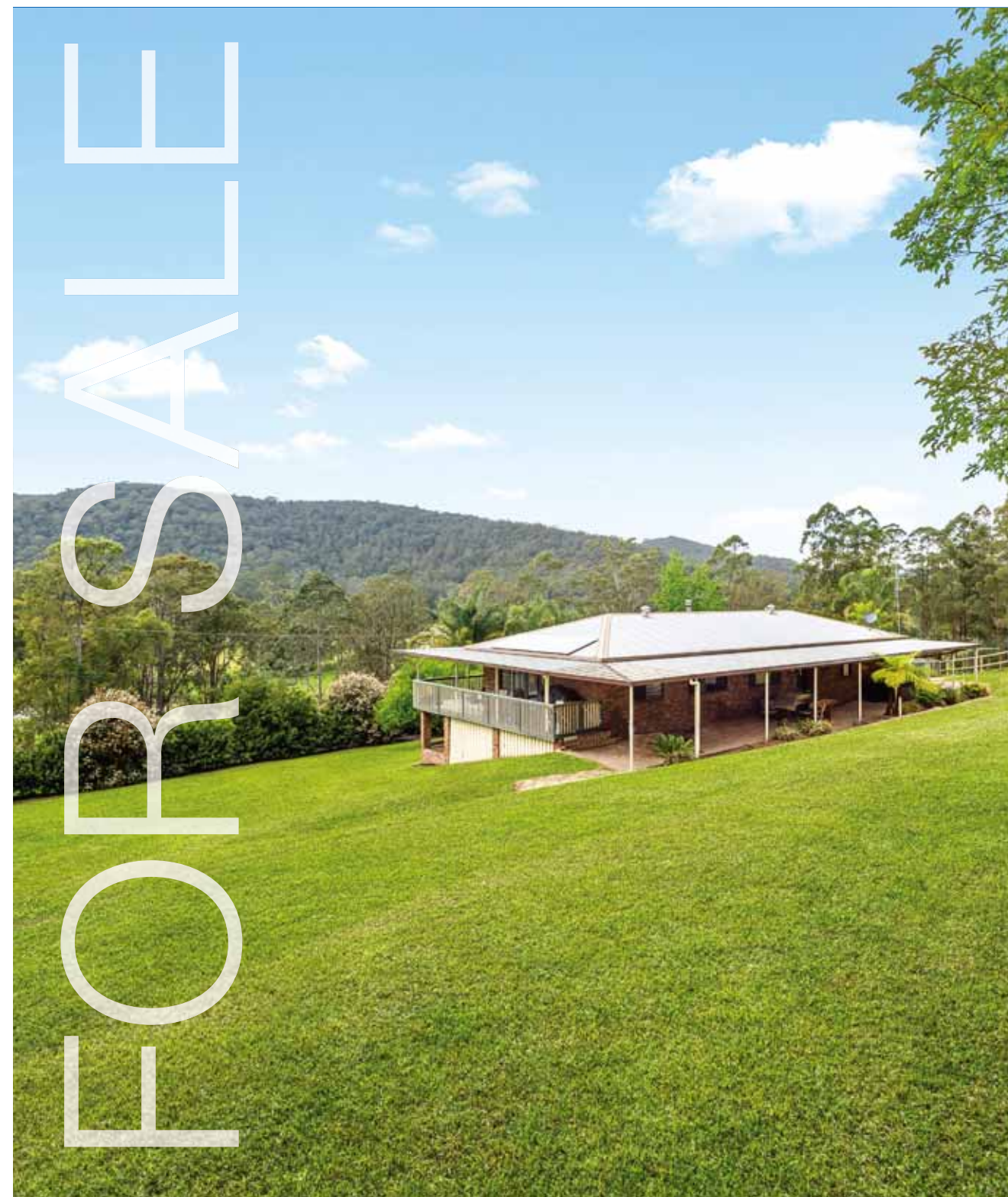


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Mountain RFB Life Members Recognised



Above: Life Members, Left to Right, Claire Podilch representing Ed Morris (dec), Eddie Grant, Bill Bennett, Reg Bennett, Jimmy Greentree. (Phil Williams absent)

On 15th September, the contribution of Mangrove Mountain Rural Fire Brigade Life Members and the receipt of citations by other members who were engaged in fighting fires during last summer was celebrated at a BBQ held at the firestation.

The brigade has seven Life Members:

Right: Far left - Viki Campbell, Superintendent, FCO; Andrew Lynch Deputy Officer Group 7; Far Right - Ian Bartholomew, Inspector; along with with some of the MMtn Brigade members and residents



Bill Wood (dec), Ed Morris (dec), Reg Bennett, Bill Bennett, Eddie Grant, Phil Williams and Jimmy Greentree.

There are over 300 years combined experience between the Life Members.

The following is an article published around 1997:

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

In 1962 the need for an organised Fire Brigade on the mountain was discussed at an Agricultural Bureau meeting, and it was decided to convene a public meeting to establish one.

This meeting took place in Mangrove Mountain Hall and Harold Hitchcock, the captain to Kulnura Brigade, was invited to attend and assist in the formation procedure.

From this inaugural meeting, Mangrove Mountain Bushfire Brigade was formed and the

following were elected to office: President, Ed Morris; Sec./Treas., Bob Warden; Captain, Bill Wood.

At about this time, Mr. Leo Brown was employed as Gosford Council's first Fire Control Officer, and he was to be of great help and assistance in the establishment of the brigade.

The first call out for the brigade was by the police who reported a car on fire on Peats Ridge Road, but by the time Bill and John Wood and yours truly arrived, it was under control. This was to be the first of many calls on this particular road in ensuing years.

During those early years our equipment was very basic, consisting of a few hand tools, a couple of back packs and a fire extinguisher, borrowed farm equipment, especially sprayers, were frequently used. Our first tanker arrived in the mid-sixties, it was an ex-Army Chev Blitz which served us faithfully until 1968, although it was painfully slow on the open road, this old war horse was great in the bush or in the rough going around farms.

Bill Wood's perseverance in having a new Fire Station built paid dividends when he made a deal with Gosford Council involving Mangrove Creek hall and members of our brigade dismantled the old hall. Some of the timber and roof trusses on and

under the supervision of Ken West, our station came to life [A new Station was opened in Bloodtree Rd in 1998 and the original one in Waratah Rd is now used by the CTC and the Mangrove Mountain Computer Club].

In the early part of 1968 fire ravaged Bucketty and much of the Kulnura area and as we were the only mountain brigade with a tanker at that time, we were heavily involved and our old Chev helped to keep damage to a minimum.

Leo Brown soon recognised that a much more efficient tanker to service the mountain and Mangrove Creek areas was needed, so in the latter part of 1968 we became the proud owners of a new Bedford unit.

An official ceremony to open the new station and hand over the keys of the new Bedford took place that year.

Bill Wood's work and enthusiasm in the brigade saw him become our first Life Member and he held the position of Captain till ill-health forced him to stand down.

After Jim Saunders took over as F.C.O. from Leo Brown. He felt a second tanker would be beneficial for our brigade so he obtained a 6 x 6 ex-Army Studebaker (left hand drive) tanker in poor condition. A young member of the brigade at that

time, Phil Williams spent a great amount of time and effort getting this machine into good working order. Phil served the brigade in many capacities and eventually became Group Captain.

Mangrove Mountain Brigade has served the local community over the last 35 years [as at 1997, now 58 years] with great distinction and has the proud record of not having lost a house from a bush fire during that time.

Reg Bennett,
Foundation and Life Member

The following members were awarded citations for service during the fires of last summer. They not only worked on the Central Coast but some were also deployed to several other areas in the state:

Rob Carraro, Jimmy Greentree, Andy Schneider, Jodi Swan, Neil Hockings, Veronica Hockings, Charlie Waterman, Martin Waterman, Chris George, John Kennedy, Mike Wheeler, Peter Comensoli, Ellen Stuart, Steve Raines, Damian Harvey, Chris Mackay, Billy Mackay.

The certificates and badges were presented by Viki Campbell, Superintendent, Fire Control Officer, District Manager, Central Coast.

The Mangrove Mountain Brigade currently has twenty seven operational members and six reserve members.

Keith Aranjo

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3. Once you have created your account, find our local group. For location type in:
Central Mangrove

4. For the group **Mountain Districts** click on:
Request To Join This Group



What is Neighbourhood Watch?

Neighbourhood Watch is a community led safety and awareness program that aims to prevent crime, stop social isolation and increase the safety, security and quality of life for everyone in your community.

A Neighbourhood Watch program helps people feel more connected to each other in their community. Community participation and a shared responsibility for what is happening in your local neighbourhood can be vital to your safety.

By communicating with your neighbours you can share important information that will help make your community a safer place. You and your neighbours are in the best position to notice when something unusual is happening in your area and to report any suspicious activity to police.

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Information from
Neighbourhood Watch Australasia



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BY INDIVIDUAL ASSESSMENT



THE AUSTRALIAN & NSW GOVERNMENTS PROVIDE FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY

A team of Emergency Relief Workers and Financial Counsellors will be visiting the communities of Mangrove Mountain, Spencer & Kulnura (and surrounding areas) to talk to those who have been disadvantaged by the fires & offer financial/material support where needed.

We will continue at Mangrove Mountain fortnightly on Thursdays from 1st of October and will be at Spencer on alternate Thursdays, fortnightly from 22nd October, from 10am-2pm. We close for Christmas after 10th Dec, resuming 4th Feb at Mangrove Hall
Call 4353 1750 for more information

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REGULAR ACTIVITIES & MEETINGS

RURAL FIRE SERVICES

Bucketty RFS	Weekend Training Station Maintenance General Meeting	3rd Sat, 9am-12 pm, breakfast 8.30am Every Thurs as required, generally 10am-1pm 3rd Sat in even months, at 1pm, All welcome buckettyrfs@gmail.com (02) 4998 8130
Calga-Mt. White RFS	General meeting	3rd Monday of the month, 7.30pm at Pacific Hwy Fire Station Mt. White
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 Junior Training	2nd Monday of the month Meeting 6.30pm 3rd Monday Maintenance 6:30pm 4th Monday Training 6:30pm E: captain.spencer@ccrfs.org.au Alison Wade 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	Training: Nights: Morning: Maintenance/Training : General Meeting (GM): Contact:	First Wednesday of month 7pm start Last Saturday of month 8.30am start 3rd Sunday of month 8.30am start 2nd Wed of even months 7.30pm start Ph: 0409 915060 or 0418 280 764 Email: yarramalongrfs@bigpond.com

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL

Country Women's Association (Somersby)		Second Wed of each month, at Somersby Hall Wiseman's Ferry Road, Somersby, contact Leslye 0417411335
Country Women's Association (Peats Ridge & District)		First Monday of the month at Community Hall, Peats Ridge School. Any enquiries please contact Christine 0419 400163.
Country Women's Association (Mangrove Mountain Evening Branch)		2nd Tues of the month at Mangrove Mountain Hall 2-4 Waratah Rd Mangrove Mtn. Start 5pm, meeting 7pm. Ph Judy 43771728
Gosford North Inner Wheel club		2nd Wed each month 7pm at Phillip House in Karingong. Contact: Glenis Ph: 0400 486 760
Gosford World Vision Community Group		4th Tues 11am in Presbyterian Church, West Gosford Contact: Glenis Ph: 0400 586 760.
Permaculture Central Coast		Third Tuesday (except Jan.) at Tuggerah CommunityHall, ANZAC Rd, 6.30pm - 9pm
Kulnura & District Garden Club		Second Monday of the month. 9.30 for 10.00 am start. Phone Cynthia Tomkins 43561586
Kulnura Hall		Hall bookings contact Annette Stackman 43561196 Committee mtg 3rd Thurs 7:00pm at Hall- Open to all from community.
Mangrove Mountain & Districts Community Group Meeting		First Thursday of the Month, 8pm, Mangrove Mountain Hall. No meeting in January. Hon. Sec Danny Willmott 0407275653
Mangrove Mountain Hall		Hall bookings Ryan Howard 0405416289
Mangrove Emergency Planning Committee		Third Wednesday bi-monthly, Mangrove Hall
Mangrove Mountain Country Fair Committee Meeting		2nd Thur of month except Jan, 7:30pm, Union Church Hall. Pres- Shane 0417 436 529
Mangrove Mountain RSL Women's Auxiliary		Third Tuesday of the month, 2pm Mangrove Mountain Memorial Club New Members welcome. Secretary Keitha Coty 43771773
Mangrove Mountain Singing Group		1st & 3rd Tue, 7-9pm, Mangrove Mtn Union Church. All welcome. Contact 0425313433.
Mountain District Football Club Meeting		First Tuesday of the Month 7.30pm at the Mangrove Memorial Club
River Cares for the Lower Hawkesbury River District		President Robyn Downham 0414248224 Email rivercaresinc@gmail.com
Rotary Club Meeting		Friday 7.15am at Phillip House. 43404529
Somersby Hall and Mountain Districts Culture and Heritage Centre		Hall Bookings: 0413 359 655 or AH 4373 1488
Spencer Community Progress Group Inc		President Brad Maisey, Community Meetings, 4377 1167, spencercpg2@gmail.com
Spencer Community Ladies Social Club		Last Fri of month. 12.00 noon Spencer Community Centre, Jennifer Dayes 4377 1364 Articles to: spencercpg2@gmail.com
	Newsletter	Tue 9.30am-12.30pm, Kulnura Tennis Courts. Ph Glenys Palmer on 4374 1441 for enquiries.
The Mountain Tuesday Social Tennis Group		Every 2nd month. Check website for further details. www.somersbyequestrianclub.org.au
Somersby Equestrian Club Club & Committee Meeting		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
	- Wollombi	2nd & 4th Sun 10am; Holy Eucharist at St John the Evangelist, Wollombi. 0481269 653
SerbianOrthodox		2nd & 4th Sun. of the month. 10 am, followed by luncheon, tea, coffee, cakes (cost \$15).

(cont'd next page)

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REGULAR ACTIVITIES & MEETINGS (cont'd)	
Kariong Community Baptist Church	Sun @9.30am, Church & Kid's Program, Kariong Public School Hall, Jonathan Houston 0427 731277
Catholic Service -Spencer	Holy Trinity Church, 2nd Sat of the month 4pm, Contact 43771374 or 43771168 as times may change each month.
- Wollombi	2nd & 5th Sunday of the month, 4.30pm Mass at St Michael the Archangel, Wollombi.
- Somersby	Every Sat. evening vigil – 5.30pm St. Francis of Assisi Centre, 30 Lutana Rd, Somersby.
- Yarramalong	1st Sunday each month, 11.15am St. Barnabas Catholic Mass All welcome. Enq 4356 1321
Divine Retreat Centre (Ph 04 6848 6782) 160 Hensons Road, Somersby www.divineretreatcentre.org.au	1st Fri, 5:30pm-8:30pm Divine Mercy Friday 3rd Sat, 8:00pm to 12:00am, Night Vigil
Uniting Service	Last Sun, 9am to 4:30pm, One Day Retreat Union Church 9.00am second, fourth and fifth Sundays. Mangrove Mountain
St Barnabas Non-denominational Service Yarramalong	3rd Sunday each month, 11.00am. (Easter & (Christmas Carols dates to be advised)
YOUTH	
Junior Girl Guides 5-10	Kooree Guide Cabin, every Monday in school term, 5.00pm – 6.30pm
Girl Guides 10-15	Kooree Guide Cabin, every Monday in school term, 6.00pm-7.30pm
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 0438 476 562
Mangrove Mountain Playgroup	Every Tues (except school holidays) 9am to 11.30am, Kooree Guide Cabin. Bec G, PH: 0421 996 029 Anne, PH: 0412 526 557 Email: becilmour@gmail.com
HISTORICAL	
Brisbane Waters Historical Society	25-27 Henry Kendall St., West Gosford, Ph: 4325 2270. www.henrykendallcottage.org.au
Dharug & Lower Hawkesbury Historical Society Inc.	Last Sat of month. All welcome, contact Jan Kofron 0405321478 jankofron@optusnet.com.au
First Fleeters Central Coast Chapter	2nd Sat of the month, 10.00am for 10.30, Point Clare Hall (except Jan & Dec). Contact John 43921926 or Jon 43116254.
The Pearl Beach Aboriginal History Group	3rd Fri each month 7.30pm Pearl Beach. Peggy 0411754577 pbaboriginalhistory@gmail.com
Wyong District Museum & Historical Society	Open Sun to Thurs, 10am-2pm, other times by appt. Contact 43521886 email info@alisonhomestead.com.au website: www.alisonhomestead.com.au
ACTIVITY/HOBBY	
Central Coast GNU/Linux Users Group	Meets first Wednesday of the month www.cclug.org.au - all most welcome
Coastal Communicators Toastmasters	1st & 3rd Thurs of month, 6:45pm to 8:45pm at Doyalson-Wyee RSL. Debbie 0421216952
Craft/scrapbooking	Yarramalong Hall 4th Sat of the month 10am to 5.00pm cost \$12per person ph 43561196
REMINDERS FOR YOUR DIARY	
Bushfire Recovery Assistance Wyong Neighbourhood Centre	Mangrove Mountain Hall fortnightly on Thursdays from 1st of October and will be at Spencer on alternate Thursdays, fortnightly from 22nd October, from 10am-2pm Call 4353 1750 for more information

*Central Coast Council
Media Release*



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- Export Trend - Firm
- Best Vealers - 420 to 470c/kg
- Medium Vealers 420 - 450c/kg
- Light Vealers 460 - 560c/kg
- Restocker Steers 438 - 584c/kg
- Restocker Heifers 440 - 500c/kg
- Export Steers 325 - 365c/kg
- Cows 250 - 310c/kg
- Bulls 278 - 320c/kg

Previous sale 2/11/20 - 394 total yarding, market generally stronger.

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AUSSIE STARS TO REOPEN LAYCOCK

Live performance and theatre is returning to the Coast this November with Laycock Street Community Theatre (Laycock Street Theatre) reopening with shows from three of Australia's biggest stars.

Kate Ceberano, Shane Nicholson and Johnny Manuel (The Voice) will

REAL ESTATE / FOR RENT / LEASE

FOR LEASE. 4 bedroom, 1 bathroom cottage on property in Somersby. Renovated in 2019 with new kitchen, polished floor boards freshly painted. Has reverse cycle air conditioning, open fireplace and garden included. Situated 5 mins from Somersby school and looks over horse property. Pets are welcome \$790/week. Available immediately 0403581114.

COTTAGE TO LET - Private, quiet, new spacious two-bedroom farm cottage on level land within the Somersby area. Ideal for semi-retired person or couple. Not attached to main house, north facing with views. Vehicular access to internal garage. Must be prepared to occasionally look after semi-retired owners' two friendly pets. Must have own transport. Photos can be provided. References essential. Contact owner on 0427622204

COTTAGE FOR RENT - 1 bedroom cottage, fully self-contained. Private setting in the Yarramalong Valley (Cedar Brush Creek). No pets. Available from 9th November 2020. \$190 per week. Enquiries to 0414593169.

reopen Laycock Street Theatre as part of the NSW Government's 'Great Southern Nights' initiative, which will see established and emerging Australian artists perform at 1,000 gigs across the State.

Central Coast Council Director Connected Communities, Julie Vaughan said "Council welcomes this fantastic NSW Government initiative, which will be delivered through Destination NSW and in partnership with the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA)."

To secure tickets to any of the

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Central Coast Council Media Release

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

These columns will be set aside each issue for residents to advertise inexpensively and effectively in their own local paper. If you have anything you wish to sell, buy, swap, etc., ring 4374 1039 or 0412 669 649 during office hours. Rates start at \$4.00.

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