

COMMUNITY NEWS

No. 873 Ph: 4374 1039 Mo: 0412 669 649 Email: enquiries@cnews1.com.au Web: cnews1.com.au 2nd April 2021

EASTER CHURCH SERVICES UPDATE

Anglican Church

Peats Ridge Scout Hall – with Rev. Jim Innes

Friday 2nd April, Good Friday service, at 8am.

Sunday 4th April, Easter Sunday, traditional service, at 8am.

Please bring face masks to wear during singing of hymns.

Anglican St Albans

Friday 2nd April, Good Friday service, at 10am

Sunday 4th April, Easter Sunday service, at 10am

Please refer to website for further details: stalbanthemartyr.org

Baptist

Kariong Community Baptist Church at Kariong Public School Hall - Langford Drive, Kariong
TBA

Catholic

St Francis of Assisi Centre - Lutana Road, Somersby

Friday 2nd April, Good Friday: Stations of the Cross, at 9.30am; and Mass and celebration of the Lord's Passion, at 3pm.

Saturday 3rd April, Easter Saturday, Easter Vigil, Service of the Light, at 7.00pm.

Holy Trinity Church, Spencer

Sunday 28th March, Palm Sunday Memorial Mass, at 11am. Followed by Family Picnic.

There will be no Easter Sunday Mass. Next Mass on Saturday 10th April, at 4pm.

Greek Orthodox

St. Dionysios Church, Central Mangrove

Sunday 25th April, Palm Sunday, Matins, at 8am. Divine Liturgy, at 9.30am. Followed by a Procession with the palm trees after the service.

Friday 30th April, Good Friday, beginning at 6.30pm.

Saturday 1st May, Easter Sunday, beginning at 11pm. Easter Sunday will begin on Saturday night (at 11pm) and conclude on Sunday morning, at 2am.

St Barnabas Yarramalong

Sunday 4th April, Easter Sunday, at 11.15am. Catholic Service. All welcome.

Please call Cynthia (4356 1586) if you wish to attend as limited numbers are in place due to COVID restrictions.

The Uniting Church

Union Church, Mangrove Mountain
Friday 2nd April, Good Friday, Ecumenical service, at 9.00am – all welcome

Sunday 4th April, Easter Sunday, Ecumenical service, at 9.00am – all welcome

Information courtesy of Alyce Chin

The Future of Mangrove Mountain Union Church

It is with great regret and sadness that the committee managing Mangrove Mountain Union Church Inc. wishes to advise the community that the Mangrove Mountain Church and Hall will be closing in the near future and the entire property and its contents will be sold.

This is the result of a number of ongoing and insurmountable difficulties for the MMUC Inc. Committee. These difficulties include: the ageing and numerically-declining congregation, lack of community support over the past few years especially community attendance at services, rising costs to maintain the buildings and grounds, the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic resulting in little or no income over the last twelve months, and with a forecast of little income able to be generated. The committee has looked at a range of options to meet these challenges but, unfortunately, without success.

The MMUC Inc. Committee understands that the Mangrove Mountain Union Church facility has been part of the Mountain community for a very long time. However, the reality is that its ongoing operation is unsustainable and it is hoped that the present buildings can be reinvigorated by new owners and continue to be part of the history of Mangrove Mountain in some other form.

An Information Session will be held at Mangrove Mountain Union Church Hall on Friday 9th April, 2021 from 4pm to 5pm.

*Mangrove Mountain Union Church Inc.
Committee*

Blues on the Mountain Special Fundraiser

With our headline act Ali Penny, recently diagnosed with cancer and undergoing treatment, we have brought some of the Australian Blues scenes finest acts together for a special fundraiser "Concert for Ali" with all acts donating their time and talents to help us raise funds to help with Ali Penny's ongoing treatment costs in her battle against cancer.

The event features Blues on the Mountain favourites, The PJ O'Brien band and Tomcat Playground, plus Michelle Van der Meer & the Midnight Ramblers, Simon Kinny-Lewis and Blues pianist, Carolyn Packer.

100% of all ticket sales from the event go to Ali Penny to aid in her treatment costs in her battle against cancer.

Blues on the Mountain presents

Concert for Ali
Saturday the 17th of April
Mangrove Mountain Hall

Doors open at 4.30pm, with music starting at 5pm
Tickets via www.trybooking.com/BJAOZ

Ryan Howard

STOP !

Next issue Published
16th April 2021

**** DEADLINE ****
**** 9th April '21 ****

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

Mountain Community Children's Centre

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Monday 19th April 7pm for 7.30pm start at the centre.

Free child minding available for the duration of the meeting.

News from the centre

We have settled into the new year with lots of exciting activities and experiences with the children. Thank you to Candice at Scotts Tubes for the donations of vegetable (capsicums, spinach, cucumbers, and snow peas) plants for our garden. We cannot wait for them to grow so that we can eat them. Thank you to Soraya for the donations of Lilly Pilly trees to add to our new construction garden. The children helped Soraya plant the trees by digging holes in the hard ground. We appreciate all our community support and support from local businesses. We are so lucky to part of a fantastic supportive community.

Open Day for New Prospective Families

We are inviting prospective families to come along to the centre for our open day on Sunday 2nd May 10am-2pm. Please note this is not our Grand Opening for the whole community. This is planning on being held on

Sunday 26th September. This will be to share the centre with the whole community (please save the date).

Now taking enrolments

Please feel free to give us a call if you would like more information for enrolment now or for. Hannah our very friendly administration officer would be more than happy to post out an enrolment pack or organise a tour of the centre. We look forward to

welcoming you to our centre.

Until next time with news from the children's centre.

Louisa Foxford, Director
Mountain Community Children's Centre
2829 Wisemans Ferry Road
Mangrove Mountain, NSW 2250
Ph: 43741239
www.mountainchildren.com.au
mountainchildren@bigpond.com



Photo: The children watering the new vegetables that were planted in the garden. The children watering the new vegetables that were planted in the garden.

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FANTASTIC FUNDRAISER

To the tune of the late 70's disco hit "Working at the carwash" Central Mangrove Public School carwash and sausage sizzle fundraiser kicked off at 9am last Sunday.

With parents, students, teachers and the Mangrove Mountain RFS Brigade participating, the day turned out to be a great success with the weather just perfect after the recent deluge.

The students had a great time, turning the carpark into a Wet & Wild theme park, resulting in some soggy car seats on the trip home.

A big thankyou to the RFS for helping and for providing bush fire safety advice.

So stay tuned for the next carwash, as the song says...

Oooh...

You might not ever get rich

But let me tell you it's better than digging a ditch

There ain't no telling who you might meet

A moviestar or maybe even an Indian chief

Working at the car wash, yeah



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Saturday: 9am-2pm Sunday: Closed

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CONNECTING MULTICULTURAL PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES WITH THE NDIS

The Central Coast Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Community Connector supports families with children and people with disabilities from multicultural backgrounds. This program assists people access the National Disability Insurance Scheme or NDIS. The NDIS provides funding to eligible people based on their individual needs.

Some people from multicultural backgrounds who have a lot of difficulty in day-to-day activities such as going shopping on their own, taking public transport, communicating with others, learning new information and so on, due to their permanent disability may not be trying to access to the NDIS. "Some people who may benefit from the NDIS may not know about it because something like NDIS may not exist in the countries they have come from, or even if they have heard about it, they may not know where to start", said Keiko Clements, the CALD Community Connector for the Central Coast.

Keiko came to Australia as an adult. She understands that access

to information may be difficult in a new country, especially if English is their second or third language. "The connector program is funded across Australia because the National Disability Insurance Agency or NDIA understands that there are extra barriers for people from multicultural backgrounds", said Keiko.

"Currently, people need to gather evidence about their difficulties or disability from their GPs or specialists to make an access request to the NDIS. The Connectors can help in this process. I can assist people to connect with Local Area Coordinators, or with Early Childhood Early Intervention services for children with

developmental delays".

The Connectors do not just help with access! CALD Community Connectors can assist people from multicultural backgrounds who have a lot of difficulties because of their disability throughout the whole NDIS journey. We can also assist those people who are not eligible for the scheme to access community services and supports.

"We also have an easy access to interpreters over the phone. This often reduces the anxiety or worries of not being able to understand someone or being understood", said Keiko.

"This is a rare opportunity for the Central Coast to be allocated with



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a CALD specific program. I would like to support as many people with disability from multicultural backgrounds as possible while the program is up and running". As the program is government-funded, there is no cost.

If you have any questions about the CALD Community Connector program, or if you could benefit from the support, please call, or send text message to 0429 656 100.

Keiko Clements
CALD Community Connector

Peats Ridge & District CWA

Our members enjoyed a great day on Monday 15th visiting Mood Indigo at the Galleria (old Ettalong Markets).

We were welcomed by Carol and Ann with nibblyies and a cuppa. Carol gave us a talk on the plant indigo and how the legumes were used to dye material and the history of this ancient plant.

We then had a demonstration by Ann showing us how patterns are made and then dipped into the "blue water" and then the finished article (most interesting).

Thanks to Margaret for organising this special social day. Good company and, strangely enough blue skies, made this a wonderful outing.

Till next time, take care and hope everyone is safe from this rain.

Christine Sanfilippo
Publicity Officer



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The Gift Of Giving Back

Volunteering Central Coast has received additional funds to enhance their delivery of the Community Visitors Scheme (CVS).

The Hon Greg Hunt, Minister of Health, recognises the significant impact that the CVS volunteers have had on the wellbeing of older Australians since it commenced in 1992. This volunteer program has been particularly important during the last year of COVID restrictions on Aged Care Facilities and Volunteering Central Coast (VCC) volunteers have used all manner of ways to remain connected, sending cards and gifts, telephoning their older friends providing a lifeline of connection during this distressing time of social isolation. VCC has received additional funds to be able to enhance these connections using tablets or iPads to enable video calls between the older resident and their visitor as well as being a source of connection to the internet, mind gym apps, music and more.

Toni Trent the CVS Coordinator at VCC explains that "community visitor volunteers commit to visiting their matched resident friend at least once a fortnight. Visits are spent doing something both the visitor and the resident enjoy – you might want to read, listen to music, chat and reminisce, or watch a favourite TV Program together, go for a walk or an outing." The new funds will enable these activities to expand with new volunteers exploring the opportunities of being connected to the internet, Ancestry searches, online games, or touring the world via Google Earth!

Volunteering Central Coast is the local Volunteer Resource Centre (VRC) and the lead agency for Volunteer Support Services (VSS) for the Central Coast Region. We provide volunteer support services to individuals and volunteer involving organisations across the region and have represented the volunteer sector here for nearly 40 years. The Central Coast has over 36,000 formal volunteers and many more that volunteer occasionally or help out in a crisis.



VCC coordinates the delivery of the CVS program on the Central Coast and also provides nearly 50 volunteers to visit older people, providing friendship and companionship. Visits are available to anyone receiving government-subsidized residential aged care or Home Care Packages.

Dr. S. ANANDASIVAM
(ANAND)
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The program aims to enrich the quality of life of socially isolated people living in aged care residential facilities who are lonely and would benefit from a friendly visitor.

This is a bespoke program that seeks out the extraordinary people that can be matched and make friends with the residents. The program's 25th year anniversary of being with VCC was celebrated with a short film by Bendigo Bank's 'Bank of Goodwill' program –<https://www.volunteeringcentralcoast.org.au/community-visitors-scheme>

There is a particular focus on older people that have little contact with friends or relatives, are feeling isolated from their culture and heritage, have mobility issues that prevent them from taking part in social or leisure activities or are different in some way. Regular visits from a carefully matched volunteer can help to improve quality of life and help older people feel less isolated.

The Community Visitors Scheme shows how volunteers personified VCC's message about volunteering – 'Helping people, changing lives'. "Volunteering brings people together for many reasons", said Fiona Morrison, Executive Officer at Volunteering Central Coast, "and we are so proud to have a wonderful team of our own volunteers giving back to those most isolated in our community, especially the perseverance we have

seen in the challenges they have faced to maintain contact with the resident they have befriended during the COVID restrictions that have seen some Aged Care Facilities in lock down for 6 months." Fiona added "As an innovative, not for profit organisation with a mission to enable community engagement, inclusion and growth through volunteering we are delighted to have additional funds to enhance the capacity of this wonderful volunteering program to be able to continue throughout the impacts of the global pandemic and beyond."

For more information on how you can get involved, visit our website www.volunteeringcentralcoast.org.au/community-visitors-scheme, call 02 4329 7122 or email cvs@volcc.org.au

A CVS story -

Lee and Colleen - Killarney Vale

Lee is 103 years old, legally blind and has lived in aged care for 12 years. Lee has knitted and donated over 2000 trauma teddies for the ambulance service.

Colleen moved to the Central Coast and decided to volunteer her time visiting an older person in aged care. Her initial concern was imposing herself on someone, she needn't have worried..... Colleen and Lee have been friends since May 2017.

Toni Trent

Volunteering Central Coast

DISASTER RELIEF PAYMENTS

Central Coast residents that have been affected by the March 2021 Flooding may be eligible to claim for a Disaster Relief payment via Services Australia.

Eligible residents can claim up to \$1000 per adult and \$400 per child under 16 years of age.

Anyone effected by the flood should be encouraged to check the Services Australia Website via this link:

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/new-south-wales-floods-march-2021-australian-government-disaster-recovery-payment>

or contact via phone on 180 22 66 to check their eligibility (Phone is the best way to lodge your claim, please be aware of wait times but they are getting them processed this way a little faster)

Claims can be made up until the 20th September 2021.

Kristy Chidgey

Community Referral Worker

P: 02 4353 1750 (Wyang)

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MAITLAND CATTLE SALE REPORT

Sale 20/3/21

Yarding: 600 (last sale 1400)
Clearance: 100%

Quality & condition was very good. An excellent yarding of quality vendor bred wether sters from the local area.

A strong marlet overall, with most cattle gong away from the area as we in the lower hunter were going under water Friday & over the weekend. Numbers were below what we advertised as sellers couldnt then out from their properties.

Steers

- Weaners 320 head 6mth to 11mth \$1200 - \$1750
- Yearlings 60 head 12mth to 20mth \$1400 - \$1775

Heifers

- Weaners 100 head 6mth to 14mth \$1300 - \$1575
- PTIC 30 head 2yo to 3yo \$1750 - \$2650

Cows

- Cows with Calves 60 head 2yo to 10yo \$2300 - \$3350
 - PTIC 20 head 4yo to 10yo \$1625 - \$2350
 - Joined 10 head 5yo to 10yo \$1500 - \$1925
- Prices were generally firm with

Steers weaker and Heifer weaners stronger.

Sale 22/3/2021

Yarding: 250 head Clearance: 100%

A good quality yarding of cattle. Most cattle were from the low lying areas under flood, cattle looked well. Good buying attendance from the regulars.

Trade Cattle

- Vealers \$14.00 - \$6.36c/kg
- Yearling Steers \$4.00 - \$4.70c/kg
- Yearling Heifers \$3.70 - \$4.50c/kg

Export Cattle

- Grown Steers / Bullocks \$3.10 - \$3.30c/kg
- Cows \$2.40 - \$2.88c/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.

- Maitland fat sales every Monday 9am
- Maitland Store Sales every 3rd sat of the month

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Remain vigilant to increased animal disease risks

Greater Sydney landholders are being warned to remain vigilant for increased animal disease risks.

Recognising that a number of these animal diseases can exist long after flood waters recede, Local Land Services Animal Welfare and Biosecurity Business Partner, Scott Ison says it is important to inspect livestock at regular intervals once it is safe to do so. "The most important consideration is to ensure livestock have access to clean water and feed.

Stock that are nutritionally challenged and stressed as a result of the floods, are likely to be more susceptible to a range of diseases. "Animals that have been standing in water for some time are susceptible to skin and respiratory infections whilst bacteria, biting insects and worm eggs and larvae may also be present. "Flooded pastures can be contaminated with silt and debris which pose a particular risk as wounds or breaks in skin can quickly become infected" said Mr Ison.

Another common risk for animals following floods is plant or feed poisonings with displaced and hungry stock forced to feed on poisonous plants, weeds or rotting pastures.

UPCOMING CATTLE AUCTIONS

Maitland Regional Saleyards

- Weekly Monday Liveweight Cattle Sales 9am, followed by Calves, Pigs & Sheep from 12 noon
- Maitland Annual Feature Weaner/Store Sale – Saturday 17th Commencing 12pm

Gloucester Saleyards

- Fortnightly Thursday Store Cattle Sales 11am 1st, 15th & 29th April

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“Where possible, producers who are sending stock away on agistment should endeavour to make enquiries as to the presence of poisonous plants on those properties and monitor cattle closely.

The same applies to stored or standing feed that might also be flood affected. “The good news is that if caught early, many of these diseases can be treated with veterinary attention.

Inspecting animal health on a daily basis is the key” concluded Mr Ison. NSW DPI and LLS respond to natural disasters together as the Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area (AASFA). Landholders can register with the Agriculture and Animal Services hotline on 1800 814 647 if they need assistance with animal assessment or directly contact their Local Land Services District Veterinarian.

Local Land Services have produced the “Caring for livestock in times of flood” guide to assist landholders monitor livestock. Download a copy at www.lls.nsw.gov.au

*Nikki McGrath
Local Land Services*



Invitation

the galea family would like to invite everyone
who wishes to attend an open air mass to
celebrate the life of our dear

Joseph Peter Galea

the mass will be conducted at the family home of
331 waratah road, mangrove mountain AT 10.45AM
on the 24th of april 2021 with a wake to follow.

please rsvp by 14th of april to
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Available to those who have experienced disadvantage due to the Three Mile fire in 2019/2020 by individual assessment. The Australian & NSW governments provide funds to support the community

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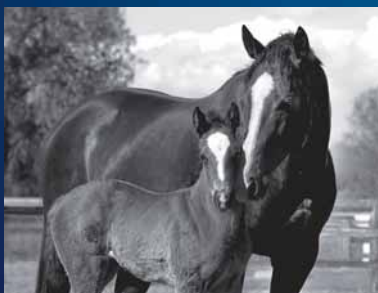


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All our team have significant life and business experience and possess the empathy necessary to effectively connect with our vendors, landlords, buyers and tenants. We pride ourselves in being able to bring all parties together through a professionally negotiated and mutually satisfying process, while never losing sight of our key core value, **integrity.**

Our ultimate objective is to achieve the very best price possible for our vendors and landlords and at the same time create a satisfied group of buyers and tenants.

**Proud to be serving
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Louisa Foxford - Celebrating 20 Years At MCCC

For the last 20 years, Louisa Foxford has been an asset to the mountain community through her work at the Mountain Community Children's Centre. Her contributions however reach far broader than just her work as the centre's Director. She is also a valued friend, colleague and employee. In whatever role we know her in, she always stands apart as someone special.

Louisa's history with MCCC extends long before her employment with the centre in November 2000, having attended the centre herself as a young child. As a young woman, Louisa had a passion for early childhood education and care. She worked and managed the local before and after school care service out of Kulnura Public School prior to securing a permanent position with MCCC in November 2000. During her employment with MCCC, Louisa studied a Bachelor of Teaching, graduating in 2004 before successfully securing the position of Director.

In her role as Director, Louisa has ensured that the delivery of care and education focuses on embedding a strong connection between family, community and our beautiful mountain



environment in all children attending the centre. Her passion, creativity and dedication to the education of children has helped shape and is continuing to shape our wonderful community and provide a strong foundation for thousands of children as they venture into our local primary schools and abroad.

It is also worth especially acknowledging Louisa's resilience and perseverance following the devastating fire that destroyed part of the centre in 2017. Within 6 weeks of the fire, Louisa had managed to completely relocate MCCC to a new local facility at Somersby thus ensuring that families on the mountain were still able to access childcare – something

many of us cannot do without. Louisa then oversaw the re-build of the centre, devoting hundreds of hours on top of her 'day-job' as Director to ensuring that the new centre was constructed and approved in line with the many federal, state and local government regulations.

It has been an absolute privilege to know Louisa and witness her devotion to MCCC and the mountain community for the last 20 years. On behalf of the children, families, staff and the MCCC management committee, we thank and congratulate Louisa on this wonderful professional milestone.

*Claire Miles, President
Mountain Community Children's Centre*

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George Downes Drive Repaired

The recent flooding rains undermined a portion of George Downes drive between Springs Rd and Greta Rd.

George Downes Drive was closed between these two points until temporary repairs were completed, however, a considerable amount of traffic, including trucks and B-Doubles diverted via Springs, Greta and Finns Roads causing damage to the edges and shoulders of those roads.

Those roads will require additional repair work in the future along with a more permanent repair of the location on George Downes Drive.

Keith Aranjó



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Peats Ridge Scout Group

Scouts finally starting to get back to normality. We finally had our long-awaited ARP!!!

We unfortunately missed our last ARP (Annual Report Presentation, similar to an AGM) in 2020 due to COVID-19. On Friday, 26th April, the group finally got together to look back over the year and reflect on our achievements in the face of adversity.

Over the last 2 years we all had many challenges, but literally, we can say, no plague or drought or fire or flood or wind can keep us from the enthusiasm of Scouting!!!

As we reflected, we acknowledged the members, Section Leaders and their families who were particularly affected by the bush fires, massive winds and the floods over the past year and a half. But as the Scouting family does, we all banded together and helped these families to get back on their feet.

During the COVID-19 lockdown we kept Scouts going via Zoom sessions and this was very successful. They did many activities in their own back yard and enjoyed various games, including a Camp Craft competition, but the all-time favourite was the "Kahoot!" quizzes.

When the COVID-19 restrictions eased, we were excited to meet



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outside our Scout Hall and created COVID-friendly games to enjoy the fresh air.

Weeks later we were allowed to enter the Hall where we enjoyed the indoor fire and participated in team activities. Camping came back onto the agenda, as did some awesome hikes.

At Peats Ridge, you don't just join Scouts; you also become a member of the Peats Ridge Scouting family. We all support and encourage each other and always welcome new members with open arms.

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Enquiries to Pat Carlton, 0458 300922.

Section meeting times for Cubs (8-10yrs boys & girls), Scouts (11-14yrs boys & girls) and Venturers (15-18yrs youths) can be located in the rear listings of the Community News. All enquiries can be made by contacting our Group Leader, James Lutwyche on 0438 476 562 or by email to James.lutwyche@nsw.scouts.com.au

*Meredith Lane, Cub Leader
Peats Ridge Scout Group*

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NEW CEO COULD BE JUST THE TICKET FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR THE COAST

Central Coast Council Administrator, Mr Dick Persson AM announced Mr David Farmer as the new Chief Executive Officer of Central Coast Council.

Mr Farmer spent eleven years as General Manager of Wollongong City Council and has been praised for the job he did in rebuilding the Council in the wake of the 2007 ICAC investigation, subsequent dismissal of the council and appointment of administrators.

Mr Farmer was credited with implementing a strong governance regime, financial management system and improved service delivery.

During his tenure there were some major projects delivered as well as the transformation of the cultural, social and entertainment landscapes.

Underlying all the achievements was the restoration of Council's finances and the establishment ongoing good financial management.

Mr Farmer left Wollongong City Council in 2018 and in early 2019 took up the CEO role with Ipswich City Council.

In a familiar situation, Mr Farmer began the role while the Council was under administration and again managed a range of governance improvements with the eventual return of an elected council in 2020.

After a Queensland Government Crime and Corruption Commission (Operation Windage) investigation the Queensland Government had sacked the Ipswich City Council and in the final outcome the CEO, Mayor and several others outside of council were convicted and some imprisoned.

When leaving Wollongong for Ipswich Mr Farmer was quoted "There are definitely some similarities in Ipswich, most importantly the need to restore public confidence and trust".

Well, now his task starts again on the Central Coast but with the benefit of the experience of working with Councils in difficult situations and under administration.

In all, Mr Farmer has been Chief Executive of four Councils over the past twenty three years, being Mudgee, Cairns as well as Wollongong and Ipswich City Council.

So as Mr Farmer takes up his new role as CEO of the Central Coast Council, would it be more appropriate if the questions of the number of councillors and wards was managed by Mr Farmer rather than the Administrator?

Mr Farmer has the experience and will have his own vision as to what the ongoing working framework should be.

There was an ICAC inquiry in Wollongong and in Ipswich a CCC

Support for Flood/Storm Damage

Cessnock LGA has been deemed a flood affected area and has been included in Australian Government Assistance packages for storm and flood damage to homes and businesses.

A one-off, non-means tested payment of \$1,000 for eligible adults and \$400 for eligible children, who have been seriously injured, lost their homes, or whose homes have been directly damaged, or the immediate family members of a person who has lost their life, as a direct result of the storms and floods, is now available.

Call Services Australia Disaster Assistance hot line: 182 22 66.

[https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/new-south-wales-floods-march-2021-](https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/new-south-wales-floods-march-2021)

inquiry, both resulting in criminal convictions being handed down. Here, the Administrator has not noted any corruption and has not called for any investigation or inquiry into what has happened on the Central Coast.

The push to reduce the number of councillors on the Central Coast can be questioned because no matter the number, there can still be one or two people who act inappropriately or corruptly (not that there has been any suggestion by the Administrator of



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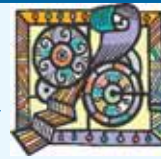
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The Morrison Government will also lift mutual obligation requirements for job seekers in Cessnock LGA from Friday 19 March until Tuesday 6 April 2021. No job seeker in flood affected areas will face payment suspension or financial penalties for failing to meet their mutual obligation requirements such as not being able to attend appointment or activities.

Insurance and flood damage – what to do when you return to your property:

- Only return when safe
- Contact your insurance company as soon as possible to lodge a claim
- Take pictures of videos of damage to property & possessions prior to beginning clean up
- Keep samples of materials/fabrics to show insurance assessor
- Remove water or mud-damaged

goods that might pose a health risk, such as saturated carpets & soft furnishings

- Make a list of each item damaged & include a detailed description, such as brand & serial number if possible

The Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) has declared a Catastrophe for large parts of NSW. This declaration will escalate & prioritise the insurance industry's response.

ICA Disaster hotline – 1800 734 621 – to assist insurance policy holders if uncertain of their insurance details or general inquiries about the claims process.

Disaster Recovery Assistance for Businesses/Non-profits/Sport or Recreation Clubs:

- If your business premises have been damaged in the recent storms and flooding, please take photographs of the visible damage as soon as it is

safe to do so, to assist in accessing support in the future.

- Support includes: Business loans & financial assistance for Primary Producers, Small businesses, Non-profit organisations, Sporting Clubs.

- Support also includes Natural Disaster Transport Subsidy for primary producers.

- Sporting and recreation clubs and associations can apply for grant support for clean-up, removal of debris and/or restoring essential facilities.

Apply by emailing NSW Treasury: natural_diasters@treasury.nsw.gov.au

For more information call: 1800 678 593 or visit: <https://raa.nsw.gov.au/disaster-assistance>

Melissa Boucher

Community Recovery Officer

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corruption here on the Central Coast).

The key is education, experience and a very good underlying system of governance. The Central Coast would be better served by maintaining the current number of fifteen councillors, just need to implement a thorough induction, training and monitoring process. And, most importantly, votes for councillors (or for that matter any other elected position) should be cast on competence not politics.

Keith Aranjo

WASTE LEVY WAIVED

The NSW Government has waived the waste levy fee for residents disposing of flood generated waste in areas across NSW that have been declared Natural Disaster Areas.

Residents will be able to dispose of all building materials, furniture and any other flood generated waste on both private and public land.

The exemption applies from 10 March 2021 through to 30 June 2021

on debris and waste created by local flooding. Extensions will be granted upon request to 30 September 2021.

Residents can check with their local council for the name, location and opening times of local facilities, as well as for any specific requirements to dispose of flood damaged waste.

For more information visit: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/yourenvironment/waste/waste-levy

Information from the Office of

Matt Kean, Minister for Energy and

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REGULAR ACTIVITIES & MEETINGS

RURAL FIRE SERVICES

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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 Sue, 43721280 or 0407768000.
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 Kariang. 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 Community Hall, ANZAC Rd, 6.30pm - 9pm
Kulnura & District Garden Club		Second Monday, 9.30 for 10am start. Jacqui Maxwell 0455364262 kulnuradgc@gmail.com
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 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
Mountain District Football Club Meeting		Second Tuesday of the Month 6.30pm 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
Spencer Community Progress Group Inc		President Brad Maissey, 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		
The Mountain Tuesday Social Tennis Group		Tue 9.30am-12.30pm, Kulnura Tennis Courts. Ph Glenys Palmer on 4374 1441 for enquiries. 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
Serbian Orthodox	2nd & 4th Sun. of the month. 10 am, followed by luncheon, tea, coffee, cakes (cost \$15). George Downes Drive, Peats Ridge
Kariang Community Baptist Church	Sun @9.30am, Church & Kid's Program, Kariang Public School Hall, Jonathan Houston 0427 731277
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 Last Sun, 9am to 4:30pm, One Day Retreat

(cont'd next page)

Tocal College celebrates a successful 2021 graduation

Tocal College recognised the hard work and achievement of 218 graduates at its Paterson campus last Friday.

The Director of Education and Tocal College Principal, Darren Bayley said it was inspiring to see so many students graduate this year.

"Tocal College staff and supporters always get a buzz out of seeing so many young people receiving their qualification and starting their career in agriculture. We also get a tremendous sense of satisfaction from seeing graduates who are already working in agriculture and associated industries, advancing their skills and qualifications" Mr Bayley said. "This includes the 3,269 people who took part in Tocal's skills training program across 120 locations across NSW".

"The high number of graduates and participants in skills training this year points to the demand for an increasingly skilled workforce in agriculture and land management, due to improving seasonal conditions (even despite the recent flood events)." Mr Bayley said.

The guest speaker at the Tocal College Graduation was the Hon. Michael Johnsen MP, Member for Upper Hunter and Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture.

The 2021 Tocal College graduates received awards in agriculture, horse breeding, conservation and land

.:KSR.:.

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management and biosecurity response operations. The Duxes of the College's Full-Time Courses were:

Certificate IV in Agriculture (Tocal Farm Supervision and Agribusiness program) - Emily Bernardino - Aberglasslyn

Certificate III in Agriculture (Tocal Agriculture Production program) - Gilbert Murcott - Booral

Performance Horse (Stock Horse Breeding and Training Program) - Lily Coldham - Emmaville

Certificate IV in Agriculture Traineeship - Jonathan Billing - Dorrig

Tocal College will continue to grow its' programs over the next 12 months as a leading provider of training in agriculture and associated industries. Mr Bayley said that he "looks forward to keeping in touch with graduates through the Tocal College Alumni".

Robyn Papworth

Executive Support Officer to the Principal Tocal College, Director of Education

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REGULAR ACTIVITIES & MEETINGS (cont'd)

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
Uniting Service	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: begilmour@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
HALL BOOKINGS	
Kulnura Hall	Hall bookings contact Annette Stackman 43561196 Committee mtg 3rd Thurs 7:00pm at Hall- Open to all from community.
Mangrove Mountain Hall	Hall bookings Ryan Howard 0405416289
Somersby Hall and Mountain Districts Culture and Heritage Centre	Hall Bookings: 0413 359 655 or AH 4373 1488
Yarramalong school of Arts / Hall	booking contact Fiona Mob 0422 865 041 ph 43561600

REMINDERS FOR YOUR DIARY

Blues on the Mountain	Saturday 17th of April at Mangrove Mountain Hall - Featuring Ali Penny and the Money Makers plus Lecia Louise. Tickets via www.trybooking.com/BJAOZ
Tocal Field Days 2021	April 30, May 1 and 2. Tocal Agriculture Centre, 815 Tocal Road PATERSON NSW 2421. https://www.tocalfielddays.com/



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ANZAC COMMEMORATION SERVICE

Sunday 18th April 2021, 2pm
Afternoon Tea served afterwards
All welcome
Held at Mangrove Mountain
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Try out the new Community News Website

The new website offers the latest Community News issues on-line in full colour as well as an increasing number of historical issues.

The first issue was published in 1977 and following the issues through the years provides some great reminders and memories of our district's history.

You may even see yourself as a school student or a participant in the Country Fair.

You look up the various services and products offered by advertisers, submit your news and articles and

POSITIONS VACANT

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE/Farm Hand required. Use of Mowers and Equipment Operations a must. If interested, please contact us on 02 9484 5700 or email accounts@luhrmann.com.au

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE required for permanent role. Role includes: Mowing/edging, Brushcutting, weed spray application, landscape rubbish removal, cleaning grounds, trimming shrubs, weed/pest control identification. Job sites located in Sydney with depot on CC, vehicle provided. If interested, please contact us on 02 9484 5700 or email accounts@luhrmann.com.au

HOUSE CLEANER REQUIRED
4 – 5 Hours per month in the Bucketty Area
Contact 0406380557

HANDYPERSON - 4 hours per week all year in Bucketty Area. Mowing, whipper snipping, fire wood management and general outdoors maintenance. Contact 0406380557

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We require the services of an experienced, reliable, competent and honest person to assist the owners in the ongoing maintenance of gardens, lawns, hedges and paddocks on a small acreage in the local area.

Previous experience in this type of work and the knowledge of and the ability to competently and safely use equipment such as mowers, chainsaws, hedgers etc is preferred.

Work is to be carried out on Fridays from 7.30am to 4.00pm from mid-November to the end of March and fortnightly from April to mid-November.

Please phone 0412 669 649 or email your details and relevant experience to: enquiries@cnews1.com.au

RESIDENTIAL HOUSE CLEANER

We require the services of a competent, reliable and honest house cleaner for a home in the local area.

Previous experience and references required. Attention to detail is essential.

The work is for 4 hours per fortnight

Please phone 0412 669 649 or email your details and relevant experience to: enquiries@cnews1.com.au

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CASH PAID – collector of all oil, petrol, automotive, old shop and agri items. Any enamel signs, oil & grease tins, bottles, bowsers, steam & tractor. Mick 0422688670

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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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