



PORTCALL

SEPTEMBER 2010

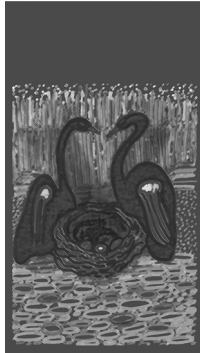
On Saturday 18 September from 5pm to 9.30pm the

Southside Festival

Will return to the banks of the Coomaditchie lagoon – Cowper Street Kemblawarra

There will be buskers and stilt walkers, face painting and delicious food (for a gold coin donation).

Dress warmly, bring a picnic rug and join us as we are enthralled by the dreaming story of how the black swan got its feathers and think about home as we build a very special NEST.



Special guest performer will be Christine Anu.

This festival is possible because of the support of our sponsors. Including Festivals Australia, Port Kembla Port Corporation, Wollongong City Council, Coates Hire, Westpac Bank

Warrawong, The SES and the community organisations that host it. Port Kembla Community Project, Warrawong Community Centre, Illawarra Legal Centre, Barnadoes and Coomaditchie United Corporation.

Port Kembla Community Project

Invitation

Do you want to become more involved with the Community Project?

We meet the first Wednesday of every month at the Community Centre, at 5.15pm.

If you would like to join us or bring any issues to our attention you would be most welcome. If you would like to discuss any issue please call Jenny on 4276 3433 and leave a message or email jenny@pkcp.org.au

Mission Statement

To work within the community to create and implement projects to alleviate the suffering, distress, misfortune and poverty of disadvantaged members of the Port Kembla community.

The Project reflects principles of access and equity, social action, empowerment and community spirit. It seeks to support and motivate: recognising the individual value of each person within the community.

Port Kembla Vision Statement

The Association respects the dignity, rights and potential of all people. It demonstrates this via its recognition of the rights and responsibilities of the individual and of specific groups/ communities and its commitment to self-determination for individuals and groups/ communities.

phone 4276 3433

email jenny@pkcp.org.au

office hours Wednesday to Friday from 9.30.

postal address PO box 9 Port Kembla 2505.

Local Citizens, Leading Change

The Port Kembla Community Project in partnership with TAFE Illawarra Community Services is developing an initiative to bring together people, organisations, business and industries to....

“...explore the most critical concerns of our times and discover new opportunities to make a real difference in accelerating the emergence of an ecologically sustainable, socially just, economically viable & spiritually fulfilling human presence on our planet”(www.pachamama.org)

The project aims to engage local people in conversation about the critical factors affecting the health, wellbeing and sustainability of our community, and develop a vision for the future.

The initiative will provide a forum for people to express their collective cares & concerns, hopes & dreams for the future, as well as a framework for people to work together to develop the strategies & solutions necessary to affect change locally & globally, and take leadership on the key challenges of our times.

So, whatever your dream for the future, be it a suburb of solar rooftops, re-greening the land for biodiversity; sustainable fisheries or growing food organically; colouring in the neighbourhood with creativity; social justice and equality..... or simply a sense that there is a better way.

Come share it and join us for the...

**Awakening the Dreamer
Changing the Dream Symposium**

Awakening the Dreamer

Changing the Dream Symposium

“.....An inspiring multi media presentation, with leading edge information & dynamic group interactions....”

“...designed with the collaboration of some of the finest scientific, indigenous and activist minds in the world....”

“.....participants of this event are inspired to reconnect with their deep concern for our world, and are empowered to make a difference.....” (www.pacamama.org)

WHEN: WEDNESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER, 2010

PROGRAM:

9:00am – 10:00: REGISTRATION - *Enjoy our fabulous Organic Fair Trade Community Café*

10:00 – 12:00: PART 1 - Investigates current global crises and causes

12:00 – 1:00: LUNCH - *Yummy woodfired organic sourdough, soup and salads*

1:00 – 3:00: PART 2 - Explores the possibilities for change & how we can make it happen

3:00 – 4:00pm: WRAP UP – where to from here – developing a vision for Port Kembla

COSTS: \$20/\$10 - full/concession

PLACE: Port Kembla Community Centre, Cnr Wentworth & Church St
PORT KEMBLA

MORE INFO: contact the Port Kembla Community Project p: 4276 3433
e: jenny@pkcp.org.au

Check out www.pachamama.org for more info about the Symposium & the Pachamama Alliance

‘.....together we can create change’

2 Kings Project – King George Oval



Spring is just around the corner and the Port Corp funded art works are installed in King George oval along the well trodden pathway leading to Port Kembla beach. The artist responsible for these icons, Michael Keighery, used his special technique to fuse photographs of the 2 kings, local community groups and events significant to Port Kembla, onto tiles inlaid in the terrazzo milestones.

The park acted like a wind tunnel previously however it is beginning to respond to the love and care poured into it in recent years and the effect is magnificent. In the sandy, barren wasteland, dead dirt, local community members have been tending a myriad of trees and shrubs that will eventually provide much needed shade as well as habitat for local flora and fauna species. Soil should be alive and teeming with billions of microscopic bacteria, fungi, protozoa and nematodes, earthworms, arthropods, and other visible crawling creatures. Healthy soil is a complex community of life and actually supports the most bio-diverse ecosystem on the planet.

With the introduction of valuable organic matter in the form of mulch as well as the leaves dropping from trees and shrubs planted in the oval, the soil has amazingly improved and is now encouraging earth worms and other micro organisms. These creatures will assist in building the soil and transforming nutrients into a soluble form to enable the young trees and shrubs to access plant food.





Several local groups have assisted in the implementation of recycled seating arranged along the walkway and near Military Road. One beautiful red wood bench seat was transformed from a piece of 'drift wood' washed up on MM Beach providing an opportunity for people to sit amongst the Australian natives planted in the mulched

beds and experience a pleasant natural environment in which to walk their dogs, amble towards the beach, hang out or watch the various sports activities held on the oval.

The Laneway Permaculture Gardens

'.....People, Food & Biodiversity....'

Every Friday arvo
3.30pm – 5.30pm
Meet in the lane @ Fifth Avenue

Come along and join us in.....
Gently tending to the needs,
Of the gardens, land and trees
Working together harmoniously
To grow our little community

Hope to see you there

Contact Dan on 4274 1424 or the
Port Kembla Community Project
on 4276 3433.



This is an initiative of the Port Kembla Project inc.

Coomaditchie Yarning



This is both an excited and anxious newsletter from us this time.

First, we are really excited to be preparing for the SouthSide Festival on 18 September. We have students from Shellharbour TAFE working alongside us to prepare for this fabulous event. The theme is as usual based on a dreaming story and the focus is on caring and on home. What an important place home is. We can't wait to show you all what we have been working on – so please come along.

The trees that were planted before the last festival have grown and as a result of the community involvement in the care for our area – we are please to say that some wildlife is returning.



That little dot is actually a baby turtle (that was safely replaced in its habitat after the photo was taken!) It's great that there is enough foliage for them to hide it so that they can grow. The other photo is of the bush that has regrown and the path that has been cleared.

Our anxiety is that after seventeen years Coomaditchie may have to close down. We were sadly unsuccessful in securing any funding over the last few months of applying and very soon there will be **NO MORE MONEY** to keep the hall open.

We have applied to Minister Linda Burney for funding and she listened to us intently – its now a matter of hoping and waiting.

If you feel that you would like to support our application to Minister Burney for renewable funding so that we can keep Coomaditchie operating – it would be great if you could write her a letter or send her an email.

Her details are:

The Hon. Linda Burney M.P. Level 30 Governor Macquarie Tower, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney, NSW 2000.

Or email: office@burney.minister.nsw.gov.au

We hope we can say - till next time.

Catch ya

Port Kembla Baking Group



The Wood-fired Oven baking group has now been running workshops for eight months at Port Kembla Community Centre hall. We've been having a great time baking a variety of breads and pizzas.

We successfully baked 100 whole meal bread rolls for a function held in Dapto on 27 June. In May also we baked fruit buns and wholemeal bread rolls for lunch for the National Permaculture Day at North Wollongong.

If you are interested in doing a workshop with us just ph 0402 806 371 or just turn up at 9.30am

Tuesday 31 August, 14 or 28 September. The cost is \$5.00.



No Interest Loans Scheme

Recently Leonie and I attended the National Nils® conference in Brisbane Southern Nils® (No Interest Loan Scheme), where we witnessed some powerful speakers who provided the following information.

Nils® was set up in Collingwood Melbourne 30 years ago by the Good Shepherd Nuns/sisters with an initial amount of \$20,000. The sisters originated in France and came to Australia to assist women and children suffering from social disadvantage issues associated with the Gold Rushes in 1860's. They acknowledged that "relational lending" was built on trust and compassion and mistakes are a powerful force for learning. Today there are 300 Nils® locations in Australia, an innovative form of lending not seen anywhere in the rest of 'civilised society'.

An estimated 10% or 2.2 million Australians live in poverty rendering them financially excluded. National Australia Bank (NAB) has a shared concern to arrest Financial Exclusion across the nation while maintaining their responsibility to their shareholders and society. While Banks can't solve all the issues associated with financial exclusion = social exclusion, they can engage in partnerships e.g. Banks supply the capital to lend while Government supports the operational issues of Community loan schemes.

The Government's recent interest in microfinance projects has provided unprecedented financial support. The role of microfinance is to tackle social disadvantage and financial exclusion in Australia. Early this year FaHCSIA provided \$124,000,000 over the next 2 years to microfinance programs across Australia. This funding will focus on financial management, financial exclusion/inclusion, Indigenous Australians & capacity building while creating inroads of sharing wealth, delivering alternative banking and building social capital. By targeting Indigenous Australians Nils® is aiming to graduate loan participants into solid financial practice and mainstream services = stamping out financial exclusion.

The following information may assist you to reduce your energy bills by 25% to 30%:

- Use electric fans instead of air-conditioning - fans cost around \$5 per year to run
- Heating costs can be reduced by maintaining 18 to 21 degrees
- Cooling costs can be reduced by maintaining 23 to 26 degrees
- Standby power accounts for around 10% of electricity bills
- Purchase goods with at least 4 star ratings can reduce costs by up to 20%
- Ask what 'wattage' the goods are - Plasma TV's can cost \$19 per month and consume more than LCD TV's
- Washing machines used 4 times a week cost around \$1.30 per month
- Clothes driers used 4 times a week cost around \$7 per month
- Leaving play-stations on can cost around \$250 per year

Southern Nils® targets low income earners living between North Wollongong and Windang. During the last 12 months Southern NILS had 1090 inquiries and approved 103 loans to purchase household items such as washing machines, refrigerators, furniture and computers. Every repayment tops up the pool of loan capital so loan recipients know that their efforts in sticking to their repayment plans benefit not just themselves, but their wider community. Many NILS clients cannot access affordable credit for essential items elsewhere and once people have successfully paid off a loan they are welcome to return and enter a new agreement to purchase the next item needed in their household.

People wishing to apply for a No Interest Loan can access a referral form at the Berkeley, Port Kembla, Unanderra and Warrawong Community Centres.

*Note: We are pleased to announce that in August we will also be situated in Dapto Ribbonwood Centre 1 day a week. Appointments will be made through the main office at Port Kembla.

Southern NILS is located in the Port Kembla Community Centre on the Corner of Church and Wentworth Streets, Port Kembla.

For more information please ring Sheryl or Leonie on 42762224

Port Kembla City Farm and Community Park - Harry Moreton Park - Social Enterprise Update

The long term aim for the Port Kembla City Farm & Community Park is to be an environmentally friendly social enterprise which will also provide community amenity through revegetation. It has the goal to provide education and employment to unemployed members of our community whilst providing the Illawarra region with:

- fresh chemical free produce
- commercial flower garden
- wood fired organic bread bakery/cafe
- a food, tree and flower nursery
- a food waste collection and composting service

The Port Kembla Community Project is pleased to announce that they received a grant from Illawarra Area Assistance Scheme for \$100 000 per year for the next 3 years to go towards the development of the Port Kembla City Farm and Community Park. This funding will pay for a coordinator and a site manager to move the project forward with some money available for infrastructure.

Engineers without Borders are continuing to work with us on the Development Application requirements for the project and have recently completed a survey of the site. They are currently working on the site plan that we will be required to submit with our DA.

The design for the bakery/cafe building is underway with a local building designer Kate Lynch donating her time to develop the building design to a DA ready stage.

The first round of Green Jobs Corps has finished on the site; although they didn't accomplish as much as they would have liked, they weeded two islands of bitou bush and sprayed the surrounding kikuyu to get the areas ready for re-planting. A new Green Jobs Corps project will start on the site at the end of August and will follow-up the previous work undertaken by planting into the treated area & slowly extending these areas out to join up with existing vegetation.

Wollongong City Council have some plans for revegetation work on the edge of the Cleary Bros tip site on the NE corner of Harry Morton Park, they are planning to undertake this work this year and they are hoping to link it in with the Green Jobs Corps project that will commence in August 2010.

The Port Kembla Community Project will continue to work on developing business ideas and sourcing funds for the project and as these ideas develop and funding comes to fruition we will keep you posted.

For more information about the concept plan please contact Port Kembla Community Project on 4276 3433.

Do you want your Port Call newsletter emailed to you?

Feedback from our community indicates that the quarterly PortCall newsletter has become an important communication tool to bring our community together and celebrate our successes.

We love to hear your comments and suggestions for improving the vibrant Port Kembla Community Project Inc.

Suggestions have indicated some people would like to receive the newsletter via their email account. If you are interested in having your local Port Call Newsletter delivered via your email account, please let us know by sending a request email to portkemblacommunityproject@gmail.com.

Please put "Port Call Email" in the subject line.

Port Kembla Men's Group

Wood-fire oven baked pizza with garden fresh toppings from our garden and cheese from Boris around the corner? I thought that'd get your attention. We're the Port Kembla Men's Group and we have that kind of lunch about twice a month along with an espresso coffee or two and some good socializing every week.

In our socializing and grounds maintenance work, we've noticed that some serious work needs to be done to get the Community Centre Workshop into working order. We've decided that we need to clean up the area. We've sought opinions from representatives from another local men's group and we're seeking more expertise before designing the workshop and setting things in place. In some ways it seems like the workshop restoration and development is going to take a long time, but maybe that's just because we were waiting for your effort and skills to pitch in with us.

Even if you're not skilled in the area of workshop, come for a coffee and/or lunch and see and hear what we're about.

Speaking of coffee, we took our Café to several community events over the last few months as usual. For example, several of our members set up the Café at the International Men's Health Event held at Warrawong Bunnings, 19 June. Half the proceeds went to Doctors without Borders.

We also set up our Café for the group who designed and produced the mural art down at Port Kembla beach.



Other activities included several men participating in a native trees, shrubs, grasses, and ground covers planting. Also some of us help in community gardens in Port. Some men have been involved in baking bread in the wood-fire oven for community events as well.

Café to support Kiama Council's film screening of 'The Power of Community' and the launch of their biosphere website. Café for Landcare Illawarra and café for the Permaculture Partners launch of Warrawong High School Living Classroom.

50% of funds going to the Orangutan Information Centre in Sumatra, Indonesia www.orangutancentre.com.



All this happens Wednesdays 9:00am to 3:00pm. Any men are invited and welcome.

We also have a *lively* and open-to-the-public steering committee meeting, generally on the fourth Wednesday of every month, from 3:00 to 4:30 PM.

Port Kembla Youth Project

Hi there! It's Marie and Melissa here from the Port Kembla Youth Project. We have been working hard on a number of different projects with local young people, Take a look at what we have been involved in.

Here's what else that's happening!!!

Connexion Theatre

Drama and visual arts was used as a tool to build self-esteem and confidence to explore and embrace cultural awareness and build friendships and networks across the community. A small showcase was developed as part of the process and enjoyed by local peers, friends and family.

Connexion Stories

Connexion Stories gave young people an opportunity to increase literacy and multimedia skills. With the theme of culture, this project allowed young people the opportunity to share positive aspects of their cultures by researching, writing, taking photos, graphic design and then we published it! Wow, what a process!!

Congratulations to all the students from Warrawong High School, Illawarra Senior College and Warrawong Intensive English Centre who participated in the 2010 Connexion Stories. You all did a great job!

Connexion/Youth and Harmony Celebration

Young people from our local area celebrated Youth Week and Harmony Day in 2010. This was a very exciting day and included young people engaging in Performance, Body Percussion Workshops and Beading Workshops. And of course there was awesome food that topped the day.

This is a collaborative annual project working alongside Cringila Youth Project and aims to bring young people together to get to know each other and to celebrate Harmony Day and Youth Week.

This Connexion Project is proudly supported by the Australian Government's *Diverse Australia Program Small Grants*. For more information visit www.harmony.gov.au

Port Kembla Pool Art Project

With the beautiful beaches and surroundings in Port Kembla, local young people, along with others in the community have been involved in creating art pieces to feature on the Port Kembla Pool Wall facing the beach. Congratulations to all involved, the art pieces look fantastic and are a great feature. Thanks to Wollongong City Council for giving us the opportunity to be involved.



Art in the Garden

This was an exciting project in 2009 and early 2010 where local young people created aerosol art panels within the Port Kembla Area. Congratulations to all the young men involved, over 6 different panels were created, which can be seen in 5th Avenue laneway in Port Kembla. Many hours of work went into the panels using fantastic designs and colours.



Young Women's Forum

Young women's program is back and we are currently working with young women from local high schools. This program will go all term! Congratulations to all girls for a successful combined forum day with girls from four different high schools.

Swim Program

On Monday's and Thursday's During School Terms after school. Classes are held in an indoor heated pool and all instructors are AustSwim qualified.

Water Confidence/Learn to Swim/Stroke Correction/Squad

\$8 per class with concessions available.

Call Mel on 42761229 Mon & Thurs 11-4 to enroll your child.

Tutoring Program

Do you need help with homework or would like some tutoring support in a friendly, relaxed environment?

Port Kembla Youth Project Tutoring Program is a free program for Primary and High School Students. If you would like to enquire about our free tutoring program then please contact **Marie on 42761229**.

This program has been kindly sponsored by BlueScope Steel.

Join an Art Class

These programs are suitable for the beginning and advanced student. The focus is on skills development through a range of subject matter and media. This is an open class where you can try them all. Watercolours, Oils, Acrylics, Drawing or Pastels, do one or the lot.

For the first class just bring basic drawing equipment and discuss with your teacher Beth Crawford your interests in this area of developed works with new approaches. Have a go. This class is suitable for beginners and experienced students.

Cost : \$5.00. All Welcome.

Place : Port Kembla Community Centre Thursday 9.30 am to 12pm.

Ph: 4271 1314 M: 0403 724 030

King George Bushcare Update

Regular users of King George V Park will appreciate the changes taking place, as evidenced by the attached photograph taken back in December 2009. The soil may be full of rocks, coal wash, and all sorts of rubbish including glass and steel. Hard to imagine it was once all sand. The conditions are also harsh, with strong salt laden winds buffeting the large open spaces of the park, yet the plants are beginning to thrive. The gardens of endemic native species are now starting to grow together to protect the larger trees planted back in April 2009 and April 2008.



Over the past 12 months the Bushcare group has installed, built and relocated 10 seats and there are more to come. With each seat installed and each tree planted we get closer to our goal to make the park more user friendly and get to the stage where we will start to grow food in the western

portion of the park.

Please feel welcome to come and plant a tree, shrub or groundcover, the group meets every Sunday either at 9am or 2.30pm. You don't have to come every week only when you can make it. The group sends out a weekly email stating what work needs to be done and what time we will be meeting. If you would like to be added to the email list please send an email to kinggeorgebushcare@live.com or you can also get in touch with us via Facebook on the King George Bushcare page.

Hope to see you there either working with us or using this beautiful asset our community shares.

Thank you.

Meet one of your neighbours....Nella

Hello to all in our community

I have been involved with the Port Kembla Community Project for a number of years now and in the last 2-3 years I have seen what a handful of people can achieve. I decided to get involved because I had the revelation that if I want to live in a vibrant community, my individual contribution, as like other community members, can make valuable ideas that can make positive change, change the culture of our community be part of social entrepreneurship opportunities that would help us generate income to fund further projects, generate jobs and be self sustaining.

For example, I have lived in Port Kembla all my 48yrs and until 2 years ago I did not know who or where Harry Morton Park was. As I attended the monthly community meetings I have been made aware of this empty, unused parcel of land on the border of Port Kembla & Warrawong. Most people wouldn't even know it existed.

Being part of this group has helped me to 'think outside the square' and I get excited thinking of the potential of what this unused, unkept "park" could be used for. The ideas put forward by fellow members seemed unreal and I have seen this Project grow to the point that Port Kembla Community Project has been successful in obtaining a 3 year funding plan to see this project get off the ground.

The point I am trying to make is that I encourage all community members to think differently on what a Community Centre is about. I heard someone say that many times they have seen the Community Centre appearing empty and what do they do in there? Until finally this person made an active choice to come along to our monthly meetings and was amazed at the level of contributions, energy, enthusiasm of a



small group of ordinary but extraordinary people can make to a community.

The Port Kembla Community Project is currently involved in a number of diverse projects, active and successful, making differences in peoples' lives and changing the mind set of what a Community Centre is about.

We are ordinary people for a love of Port Kembla and I get excited about seeing and being part of big changes in Port Kembla in the next few years and what is amazing that EVERYONE HAS A PART TO PLAY & contribute no matter how small or 'out of the square' , how much education you have.....EVERYONE is like a piece of a puzzle and when everyone's voice comes together the pieces fit to form an exciting project.....Hey....We all know that Utopia doesn't exist but it can exist if it is built on community members driven by passion, diversity, enthusiasm, dreams & ideas.

So I encourage all to participate & be part of a 'Think Tank' that is going places and make a difference in shaping the next phase of Port Kembla Community.....

Nella Keenan

Hall for Hire

The Port Kembla Community hall is available for hire for classes, meetings and functions.

Our rates are very reasonable.

Call 4276 3433 or email tina@pkcp.com.au.

Sandon Point warrior, 69, dies from stroke



Crusader: Rosemarie Gillespie, pictured on Hill 60 in Port Kembla last year, died early on Monday morning from a stroke. Her work in human rights spanned more than 40 years.

Vale Waratah Rosemarie Gillespie (1941-2010)

Rosemarie (Waratah) Gillespie passed away in St Vincent's Hospital in Melbourne yesterday (Monday 21st June) after suffering a massive stroke. She was 69 years old.

Waratah (Rosemary Gillespie) was a long time fighter for Bougainville and Indigenous Rights issues. She was a lawyer, a feminist, a writer and a film-maker. She was a mother of three and is survived by her two daughters.

Waratah's friends knew her as a very brave woman who put herself in the front line of many political actions, including acting as a Human Shield and eyewitness to the invasion and occupation of Iraq in 2003.

Waratah will be remembered by many as a tireless fighter for social justice and human rights in general. Her contributions to NIRTG, the Sandon Point Aboriginal Tent Embassy (SPATE) and the campaigns to protect Sandon Point and to end the Northern Territory Intervention were immense.

Waratah has been a resident of Port Kembla for a few years now she has been a regular contributor to the community centre and we will miss her.

The staff and committee at the Port Kembla Community Project are shocked and saddened at the loss of Waratah to our community and send our regret and regard to her family.

Port Parables

Free coffee and hot chocolate.

Positive Support for MEN interested in the stories Jesus told. We're men reading parables Jesus told and asking ourselves -- no matter our religion--what the stories mean for us.

Thursdays at the Port Kembla Community Centre - 5:30pm - 7:00pm.
Contact: Jason: 0431 562 298 or Corey: 0411 599 124.
Blog: <http://portparables.tumblr.com>

Warrawong Community Centre

Housing Communities Program Coordinator
Housing tenants Come and Join us
Day trips, BBQ, Tenancy Action Group

SENIOR'S KIOSK – Learn how to use internet, access to the web
Thursday 9.30 – 4pm

CENTRELINK Worker - Wednesday 10.30-12.30

CRAFT – Wednesday 1pm

MENS DROP-IN - Thursday Morning

CHOIR

First Wed of Month

BEYOND EMPATHY

Young People, Learn film production , Monday and Wednesday

Other Community News

HCP COMMUNITY 'GET CONNECTED' EXPO

Wednesday 10 NOVEMBER 2010

Port Kembla Pool

10.00am-2.00pm

Beginners Patchwork Classes Port Kembla Community Centre

Unwind and relax while learning the joy of patchwork and quilting. No experience necessary as this work is all done by hand, and taught in a relaxed environment. You will learn step by step how to make your very own patchwork quilt over 8 weeks.

So come along and join the fun!

Start date : Thursday 14th October

1pm-3pm for 8 weeks

Cost: \$85

Seniors: \$65

Booking essential only limited places available

Contact

Shell 4238 4628



**This newsletter is sponsored, compiled
and written by the -**

**Port Kembla Community Project
Port Kembla Community Centre
Corner Church and Wentworth Street
Port Kembla 2505**

**phone 4276 3433
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