

YAMBA TIMES

DECEMBER 2025

BY FIRST NATIONAL REAL ESTATE YAMBA

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WITH A BANG**
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SPORTING FACILITIES UPGRADE IN THE PIPELINE



The Ngayundi Yamba Regional Sporting Complex

By **RICHARD HUNT**

Yamba is on the brink of an exciting new era for local sport. The newly formed **Yamba Combined Sports Association (YCSA)** is leading a community-driven push to transform the town's facilities and create a lasting legacy for athletes, families, and visitors alike.

At the centre of it all is Andrew Ford, the newest member of First National Yamba & Iluka and the newly appointed President of the YCSA. Ford has spent a lifetime immersed in community sport — playing, coaching, and volunteering across countless local clubs and organisations. The group's vision is simple but powerful: to unite the town's sporting community

and deliver modern, inclusive, and sustainable facilities that reflect Yamba's growth and passion for active living.

The YCSA's masterplan focuses on the redevelopment of the Ngayundi Yamba Regional Sports Complex on Angourie Road. The proposal includes rebuilding and re-draining the playing fields so they can be used year-round, even after heavy rain, and installing energy-efficient LED lighting to extend evening use for both training and competitions. New indoor courts are planned to cater for basketball, netball, pickleball, and futsal, while the addition of new changerooms, secure storage areas, and a

modern community clubhouse will make the complex more practical and welcoming. The plan also features a criterium cycling and walking circuit — a safe and scenic loop for riders, runners, and families — along with upgraded pathways and access points to ensure everyone, regardless of age or ability, can participate.

Ford says the benefits will reach far beyond sport. "This is about creating spaces that bring people together," he said. "Better facilities attract events, keep young people active, support local businesses, and make Yamba a place where visitors want to come and families want to stay."

The YCSA's plans align with the Clarence Valley Open Space Strategy, the NSW State Infrastructure Strategy, and Australia's Sport 2030 Plan, meaning the project is well-positioned for support from all levels of government.

For residents, it promises more opportunities to play, coach, and volunteer. For businesses, it means more visitors filling local shops, cafés, and accommodation. And for the wider community, it represents Yamba's next big step forward — a town investing in its people, its health, and its future. We very much hope that 2026 sees this fine plan become a reality!

To get involved, or for information: yambasportinggroup@gmail.com

SMALL TOWN, BIG TALENT: SPORTING STARS FROM YAMBA AND ILUKA

By ANDREW FORD

For towns better known for surf breaks and sunsets than stadiums, Yamba and Iluka have an extraordinary sporting record. From rugby league to squash, rugby union and endurance sports, these coastal communities have produced a remarkable list of athletes who have reached the highest levels of competition. Their stories are woven into the spirit of the Clarence Coast — grounded, determined, and quietly world-class. Recent notable stars include:

Brothers in the Big Leagues

Few families capture that spirit better than the Douglas brothers. Luke Douglas, born and raised in Yamba, became one of the NRL's most consistent performers, playing more than 300 first-grade games with the Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks and Gold Coast Titans before moving to the UK Super League with St Helens. He also proudly represented Scotland on the international stage.

His brother Kane Douglas took a different path but achieved equal success. A towering figure in Australian rugby union, Kane played for the

NSW Waratahs, the Queensland Reds, and represented the Wallabies in more than 30 Test matches, including appearances at the Rugby World Cup. Both brothers are known not only for their athletic ability but also for their leadership and humility — qualities forged in the close-knit sporting culture of the Clarence Valley.

From Iluka to the NRL

A proud Iluka product, Daine Laurie, a dynamic rugby league player who grew up in town and first pulled on a jersey for the junior Magpies, has now forged a very successful NRL career. After breaking into the NRL with the Penrith Panthers and impressing with his speed and flair, Laurie has had a stint with the West Tigers, before returning to the Panthers for the past few seasons. His career now moves further south, with Daine recently signing with the Canberra Raiders for the 2026 season. His journey from local fields to national competition continues to inspire young players across the region.

Squash Royalty from the Clarence Coast

Yamba's global sporting



Cameron Pilley and Donna Lobban at the Commonwealth Games (source CV Independent)

reputation extends beyond the football codes thanks to its world-class squash talent. Cameron Pilley, one of Australia's greatest squash players, grew up in Yamba and reached a world ranking of number 11. He represented Australia at multiple Commonwealth Games, winning gold and bronze medals, and became renowned for his powerful, attacking style.

The family sporting legacy continues with his brother Morgan Pilley, an elite endurance athlete who has competed in ultra-marathons and mountain biking events across Europe. Their cousin Donna Lobban (née Urquhart) is another squash star from

Yamba, who climbed into the world's top 20 rankings and also claimed gold for Australia at the Commonwealth Games.

A Proud Sporting Culture

For towns of their size, Yamba and Iluka have achieved something remarkable — producing a generation of athletes whose achievements stretch across continents and codes. Behind every success is a community that values participation, teamwork, and local pride.

From the grassy fields of Angourie Road to the courts and tracks of the world, these athletes prove that greatness can begin anywhere — even in a small town by the sea.



Iluka's Daine Laurie (source Fox Sports)



The Douglas brothers from Yamba (source: news.com)

BREAKERS BACK WITH A BANG — YAMBA'S RETURN TO THE TOP FLIGHT



Image: Yamba Breakers Senior Women Grand Final Winner 2024

Image: Yamba Breakers Premier Team

By RICHARD HUNT

What a season it has been for the Yamba Breakers. The club welcomed home one of its own this year, with local alumnus Harry Menzies returning to Yamba after completing his university studies in Canberra. Appointed as the club's Technical Director, Menzies immediately set to work overseeing all football operations — and the impact was felt across every age group.

While the club's highly successful women's team has long been a standout — consistently punching above their weight, earning best-and-fairest honours, and reaching at least the semi-finals every year since their inception — the men's program had been searching for a spark. Under Menzies' guidance, that spark became a surge.

The biggest moment came when the Breakers' first team made their long-awaited return to the North Coast Premier

League after a 15-year absence. The Breakers were back. "They won't win a game", "bitten off more than they can chew", and "wooden spoon contenders" echoed around the region. Instead of discouraging the squad, the criticism fuelled them. Determined to earn the club's first ever Premier League win — and to prove the black and yellow weren't just here to take part, but to take over — the team launched into the season with intent. And take over they did.

Having never previously won a Premier League match, Yamba stunned the competition with seven straight victories, rocketing to the top of the ladder. As the season progressed, rivals began to take the Breakers seriously, producing fierce, high-quality contests each week. After 18 rounds, Yamba finished fourth, just one point behind second place, earning an elimination final berth — the first Clarence Valley men's side to reach finals in more than a decade.

Though they fell 2–0 to last year's grand final winners, Northern Storm, the Breakers walked away with enormous pride. Their return to the Premier League will be remembered as one of the club's greatest achievements — as will Taylor Corbacho's Golden Boot, with 18 goals.

The season's success didn't stop there. Yamba was crowned North Coast Football's Club of the Year, while player-coach Harry Menzies earned a Coach of the Year nomination. Lester Denny was recognised as a Goalkeeper of the Year nominee, and Scott Johnson was named a Volunteer of the Year nominee. Across the junior ranks, the future looks even brighter. The Under-12s, 14s, and 16s all claimed grand final victories, with the U12s going on to win Northern NSW Football's Champions of Champions Tournament in October. With the maturing U16s now stepping into senior eligibility, the club expects to field a stand-alone Premier

League reserve squad next season, strengthening the depth needed to compete with the larger Coffs Harbour sides.

Off the field, the Yamba Player Pathways Program was launched, a Football Australia-aligned initiative designed to identify and develop talented players from across the region with a strong focus on technical excellence. First National is proud to support this exciting program, which is set to shape the next generation of Yamba footballers.

With renewed belief, rising talent, and a clear direction for the future, the Yamba Breakers are firmly back on the map — and this season may just be the beginning.



Want to get involved?
yamba.fc@gmail.com

CARING FOR HOMES, WELCOMING GUESTS – THE HEART OF OUR HOLIDAY TEAM



The First National Yamba & Iluka holiday team is helping local owners achieve great results – while keeping guests coming back year after year.

If you've ever stayed in one of Yamba or Iluka's beautiful holiday homes, chances are you've experienced the hard work and genuine care of the First National Yamba & Iluka Holiday Property Management Team.

Behind every five-star stay is a team that goes above and beyond – not just for guests, but for the property owners who trust them with their investment. From seamless check-ins and sparkling cleans to quick

maintenance turnarounds and warm guest communication, their work ensures each stay is memorable for all the right reasons. "Our goal is to make holiday letting effortless for owners and exceptional for guests," says Melinda, who leads the Iluka team. "We treat every property like it's our own and take real pride in showcasing what makes this part of the Clarence Coast so special."

At the Yamba office, Rebecca and Jean managing a growing portfolio of homes that consistently achieve high booking rates and rave reviews. With personalised service and strong local

knowledge, they've built lasting relationships with owners who appreciate clear reporting, proactive updates, and honest advice. Whether it's a weekend getaway or a coastal escape for the holidays, the team's commitment to quality and communication has made them the first choice for many returning guests – and a trusted partner for property owners.



BUILDING YAMBA'S COMMERCIAL FUTURE

First National Commercial Yamba – a natural progression for our team as Yamba evolves into one of the most dynamic coastal markets on the North Coast.

By aligning our local expertise with a national network of commercial and industrial specialists, we're bringing deeper knowledge, stronger strategy, and the level of professional support today's investors expect when making decisions in a growing market.

Yamba and Iluka are changing quickly. New businesses are opening, industrial space is in demand, and investors are looking for quality opportunities. Our role is to lift the level of service to match that growth –

providing a commercial offering that is sharp, informed, and backed by a respected national team.

Whether you're acquiring, selling, or positioning an asset for long-term success, our team is here to guide the process with clarity and confidence. And for owners wanting to protect their investment, our professional property management ensures your asset is cared for with the same attention we give our own.

You'll be seeing more from us – and more opportunities as Yamba's commercial landscape continues to mature.

Local knowledge. National capability. For investors who expect more.



CAFES & TAKEAWAY

ALOHA SUSHI
2/8 Treelands Dr, Yamba
6646 2934



AQUA KITCHEN & BAR
13-15 The Crescent, Angourie



BAY ST. LOCAL
5/17 The Crescent, Angourie



BEACHWOOD CAFE
22 High St, Yamba
6646 9781

BITE RITE
Uki St, Yamba
6646 1600

BAK'D HOTBREAD
7 Yamba St, Yamba
6646 8120



BRGR SPOT
2/15 Clarence St, Yamba
6646 1481

LANEWAY LUNCHBOX
3/18 Coldstream St, Yamba
6646 1634

SPLIT MILK
8 Yamba St, Yamba
6646 2619

RESTAURANTS

BRGR SPOT
2/15 Clarence St, Yamba
6646 1481

MADRE BAKERY
44a Wooli St, Yamba
0448 728 910

THE BAKE HOUSE
24 Coldstream St, Yamba
6646 2091

TIDES
(Angourie Rainforest Resort)
166 Angourie Rd, Yamba
6646 8600

MUSE
4/15 Clarence St, Yamba
0407 451 446

THE KIOSK
Yamba Surf Club, Yamba
0404 646 565

DRIFT PIZZA BAR
1/29 Yamba St, Yamba
0419 972 166

NOODLE PARADISE
Yamba Shopping Fair
6646 8858

SANDBAR
30 Clarence St, Yamba
6646 1425

EL OCASO
6/18 Coldstream St, Yamba
6646 3745

NORFOLK BISTRO
(Bowling Club)
44 Wooli St, Yamba
6646 2305

WISHBONE YAMBA
2/4 Yamba St, Yamba
5629 8011

FUSION ON THE HILL
6 Clarence St, Yamba
6646 8941

ONE FINE CUP
Shop 5/84 Yamba Rd, Yamba
6646 8882

YAMBA BREAD SHOP
Yamba Shopping Fair
0474 910 306

LELAS YAMBA
27 Coldstream St, Yamba
0422 088 291

PINEWOOD CORNER
1 Yamba St, Yamba
6646 8665

YAMBA'S FISHO
23 Yamba St, Yamba
6646 2545

PARADISO RESTAURANT
10 Clarence St, Yamba
0435 194 834

PIZZA HUT
Yamba Shopping Fair
6646 9133

YAMBA ICECREAMERY
4/23 Coldstream St, Yamba
0409 747 666

PLAYA BODEGA
16 Clarence St, Yamba
0481 337 206

SEAFIRE (Golf Club)
River St, Yamba
6646 9560

YUM YUM ANGOURIE CAFE
29 Coldstream St, Yamba
6646 2467

GOOD DAYS
19 Yamba St, Yamba
0410 582 793

SANDBAR
30 Clarence St, Yamba
6646 1425

SASSAFRAS PASTA & PIZZA
16 Coldstream St, Yamba
6646 1011

SWEET N SPICY
28B Yamba St, Yamba
0409 027 301

THE MEXICAN
25 Coldstream St, Yamba
6646 8259

THAI PAYU
20 High St, Yamba
6646 9156

TOM'S SEAFOOD CHINESE
RESTAURANT
3/4 15 Clarence St, Yamba
6646 2918

WOBBLY CHOOK
26 Coldstream St, Yamba
6646 3997

YAMBA CHINESE
RESTAURANT
84 Yamba Rd, Yamba
6646 1461

YAMBA SHORES TAVERN
64 The Mainbrace, Yamba
6646 1888

BARS, PUBS & CLUBS

BOWLO SPORTS &
LEISURE
44 Wooli St, Yamba
6646 2305

HARWOOD ISLAND HOTEL
56 Morpeth St, Harwood
6646 4223

JACKO'S BAR
1/1 Yamba St, Yamba

PACIFIC HOTEL
18 Pilot St, Yamba
6646 2466

SANCTUS BREWING CO
5 Re Rd, Townsend
1300 151 518

WOBBLY CHOOK
26 Coldstream St, Yamba
6645 8775

YAMBA DISTILLING & BAR
11 Uki St
0435 266 066

YAMBA GOLF & COUNTRY
CLUB
River St, Yamba
6646 2104

YAMBA SHORES TAVERN
The Mainbrace, Yamba
6646 1888

FASHION & HOMEWARES

BELINDA'S STORE
1 Little High St, Yamba
0499 846 611

BIRDSCAGE CLOTHING & GIFTS
13 Yamba St, Yamba
0432 161 787

BLUE ALLURE
1/18 Coldstream St, Yamba
6646 3116

BLW GOLDSMITH & JEWELLERS
3/25 Coldstream St, Yamba
6646 3027

COASTAL CASA
1/12 Angourie Road, Yamba

CORAL BOUTIQUE
24 High St, Yamba
0459 022 059

COUNTRY STYLE
6/4 Yamba St, Yamba
6646 1330

EMBELLA
2/29 Yamba St
0476 459 390

FLOTS AND JETS
3/13 Yamba St
0421 742 122

ISLAND COLLECTIVE
1/16 Uki St, Yamba
0416 560 201

KMART YAMBA K HUB
Yamba Shopping Fair
6645 6200

MY FAVE HOME LIVING
20 Coldstream St, Yamba
6646 9977

MUSE
4/15 Clarence St, Yamba
0407 451 446

CHANDII
29 Yamba St, Yamba

ONE COUNTRY MOUSE
11 Yamba St, Yamba
6645 8066

ONE COUNTRY MOUSE KIDS
8/8 Yamba St, Yamba
0405 391 634

PODIUM BOUTIQUE
5/4 Yamba St, Yamba
6646 2306

REVIVAL YAMBA
1/25 Coldstream St, Yamba
6646 3454

SEABREEZE STYLE
4/25 Coldstream St, Yamba
0477 927 297

SHACK YAMBA
30 Coldstream St, Yamba
6646 3996

SUMMI SUMMI
13 Yamba St, Yamba
0421 957 060

THE CORNER STORE
1/12-14 Yamba St, Yamba
0405 391 634

THE SHOE BOUTIQUE
21/23 Yamba St, Yamba
6646 3248

TOTALOOK CLOTHING
17A Coldstream St, Yamba
0460 400 173

WESTPAC HELICOPTER
OP-SHOP
20 Yamba St, Yamba
6646 2779

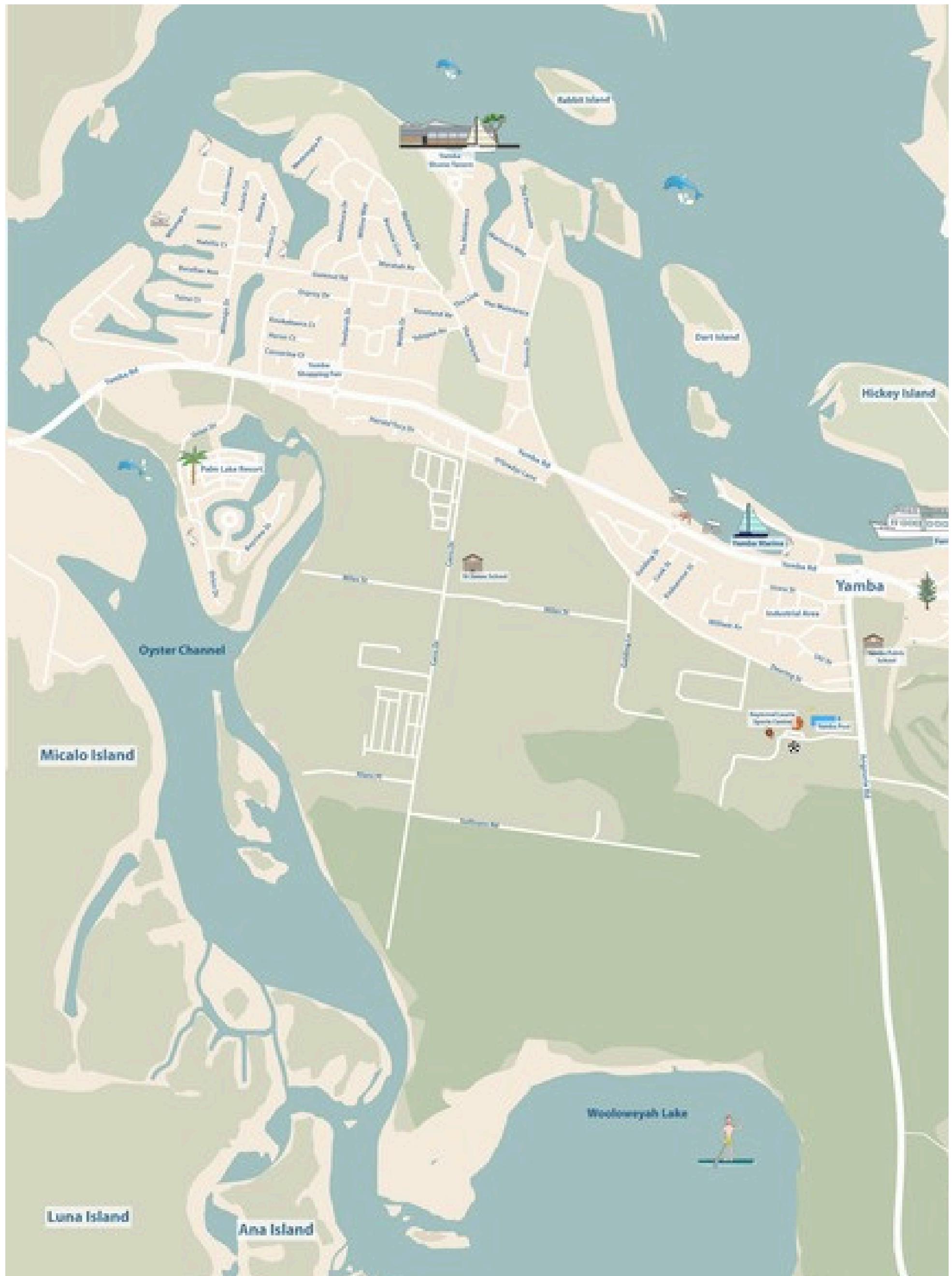
WILLOW BOTANICA
19 Yamba St, Yamba
0425 210 150

YAMBA SURF
10 Yamba St, Yamba
6646 16330

ZIG ZAG BOUTIQUE
8 Yamba St, Yamba
6646 2509



Images: Bay Street Local, ANGOURIE





In case of emergency – 000

MACLEAN DISTRICT HOSPITAL

21 Union St, Maclean

6640 0111

AMBULANCE STATION

Treelands Dr, Yamba

131 233

POLICE STATION

Wooli St, Yamba

6603 0199

FIRE STATION

River St, Yamba

6646 2058

SES STATION

Neptune Pl, Yamba

13 25 00

YAMBA SHOPPING FAIR

1/3 Treelands Dr, Yamba

Coles, K Hub, The Reject Shop, Liquorland,

Priceline, plus a range of specialty stores

BEACHES

- Main Beach, Yamba - Patrolled, wheelchair access, ocean pool & cafe
- Turners Beach, Yamba - Patrolled, wheelchair access
- Pippi Beach, Yamba - Northern end patrolled, southern end off-leash dog friendly
- Convent Beach - Not patrolled
- Whiting Beach, Yamba - Not patrolled, Western end dog friendly
- Spookys Beach, Angourie
- Point Beach, Angourie
- Back Beach, Angourie - Yuraygir National Park, pass required

PLAYGROUNDS

- Lions Park - River St, Yamba
- Ager Park - Cnr Clarence St & Pacific Pde, Yamba
- Admiralty Park - Admiralty Court Yamba
- Honeyman Park - Wooloweyah
- Angourie Park - Cnr Barri St & The Crescent, Angourie

SKATE PARKS

- Cnr Coldstream & River St, Yamba
- Lakes Blvd Wooloweyah

MUSEUMS & ART GALLERIES

- Yamba Museum - River St, Yamba
6646 1399

- Ferry Park Gallery - Pacific Hwy, Maclean
6645 3700

THE CLARENCE FOOTBALL ACADEMY CHANGING THE GAME



Harry Menzies, founder and director of the Clarence Football Academy

For the first time ever, talented footballers in the Clarence Valley can train locally in a genuine high-performance environment — thanks to the vision and drive of **Harry Menzies**, founder and director of the Clarence Football Academy (CFA).

Established in late 2024, CFA was created to fill a long-standing gap in the region: offering quality coaching, structured development, and clear pathways for young players — without the need for families to travel hours to Coffs Harbour or beyond.

Menzies, who grew up in Yamba and began his football journey with Yamba FC, understands that challenge better than anyone. As a promising young player, he travelled thousands of kilometres for training and competition, representing North Coast Football and Northern NSW, and attending

camps across the state.

“Back then, if you wanted to train at a high level, you had to travel,” he says. “Being in that position myself, it’s something I always wanted to change for the next generation of Clarence players.”

After suffering two ACL injuries in his teens, Menzies turned his focus to coaching — completing formal coaching courses while still at school and leading Yamba’s senior team by age 17. His passion for development only grew as he went on to study Health and Physical Education in Canberra, gaining seven years of NPL coaching experience before returning home to create something lasting for the Clarence region.

Since launching, CFA has worked with more than 220 players aged 5 to 18 through holiday camps, weekly squads, and one-on-one sessions. The



program’s philosophy blends inclusivity with performance — supporting beginners while also elevating elite athletes to higher levels of play, including placements in national and international squads.

A highlight of CFA’s impact has been Zethan Nicholls’ selection for Football Canberra’s U18 Boys UK Tour Squad, where both he and Menzies will represent the region in matches against academy sides in Manchester and Liverpool. “Seeing players from our region earn opportunities like this is what it’s all about,” Menzies says. “It shows that with the right environment and support, kids from small coastal towns can compete with the best.”

CFA continues to expand, recently adding Adam Leeson, an AFC B Licence coach from Canberra, and launching new program branches in Grafton and Iluka. The Academy also

invests in the growth of its coaches, with more than ten currently being mentored to refine their skills and knowledge.

With its **commitment to development, accessibility, and excellence**, Clarence Football Academy is transforming the football landscape of the Clarence Valley — **inspiring the next generation to dream big and achieve even bigger**.



LOCAL EVENTS

Sun 28 Dec **9.00am -** **YAMBA RIVER MARKETS**
Sun 25 Jan **2.00pm**
Ford Park, River St, Yamba
4th Sunday of every month
yambarivermarkets.com.au



Image courtesy of Yamba River Markets

Wed 24 Dec **7.00am -** **YAMBA FARMERS & PRODUCERS MARKETS**
Wed 31 Dec **11.00am**
Whiting Beach Carpark, Yamba
Free Entry
yambarivermarkets.com.au



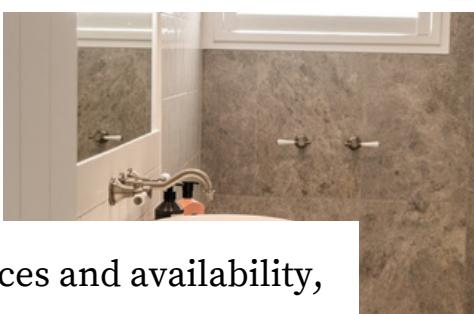
Image courtesy of Yamba Surf Life Saving Club

Thur 1 Jan **4.00pm -** **YAMBA TWILIGHT STREET MARKETS**
8.00pm
Coldstream St, Between River St & Yamba St, Yamba
Free Entry - gold coin appreciated
facebook.com/rotaryyamba

Sun 11 Jan **8.00am -** **YAMBA OCEAN SWIM**
12.00pm
Main Beach, Marine Parade, Yamba
oceanswims.com/event/yamba-ocean-swim

Check websites for event changes and cancellations

firstnational REAL ESTATE | Yamba Holidays



For prices and availability,
visit fnholidays.com.au or
call us on 6646 2299



FROM THE CLASSROOM TO THE PROPERTY MARKET: ANDREW FORD'S NEW CHAPTER

Born and bred in the Clarence Valley, Andrew Ford has clearly, and helping others always had deep roots in the local community. His father explains. "I've gone from was a respected builder in the region for many decades — shaping much of the area's growth — and that connection to homes, land, and local people has come full circle as Andrew embarks on a new career in real estate.

After more than two decades shaping young minds as a science teacher and Head Teacher at Maclean High School, Andrew has turned the page on a new chapter — moving from education into property.

"Teaching and real estate both come down to people —

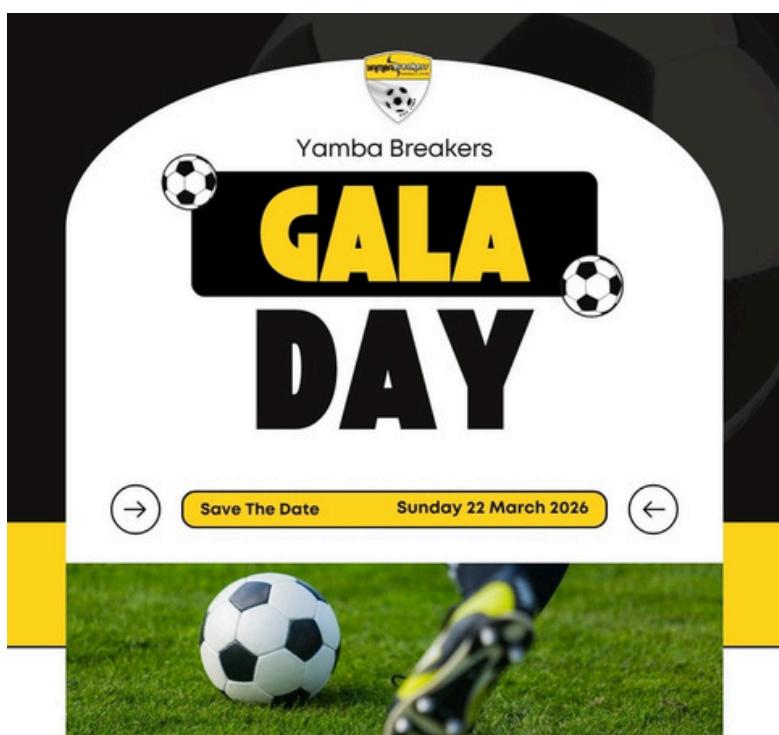
communicating, achieving their goals," he explains. "I've gone from helping students reach their potential to helping clients find their ideal home or growth — and that connection

Now part of the team at First National Real Estate Yamba and Iluka, Andrew brings with him a strong sense of community, a detail-focused work ethic, and a genuine commitment to helping locals and newcomers alike find their place in the Valley.

From classroom leadership to property success, Andrew's journey proves that lifelong learning and local pride go hand in hand.



SAVE THE DATE - YAMBA BREAKERS GALA DAY 2026



The Yamba Breakers are pleased to announce the date for their inaugural football gala day.

Sunday 22nd March has been set as the date with up to 15 clubs from as far south as Port Macquarie to the Queensland Border set to send up to 40 teams in ages from 8 to 11. The Angourie fields will be converted to 16 pitches hosting up to 156 games. This pre season weekend falls at a quieter time of the year prior to the easter break and is a

great way to kick off the football calendar. We very much hope the weather gods oblige and families and friends will be able to enjoy the festivities and all that our destination town has to offer...

First National Holidays are proud sponsors of this event, and thus will be offering holiday accommodation discounts for participants.

Contact our holiday team for more information

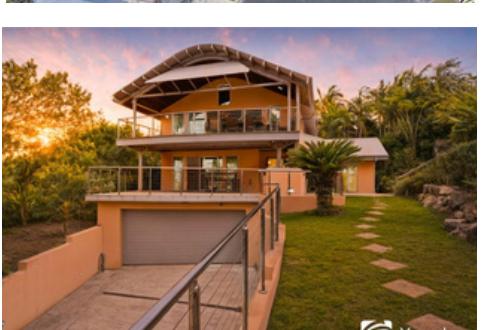
 **firstnational** REAL ESTATE | Yamba

1/19-21 Coldstream St, Yamba NSW 2464
 (02) 6646 2299
 info@fnyamba.com.au
 realestateyamba.com.au





Just some of First National Yamba's
Solds in 2025



If you would like to see your
property here in 2026,
contact us!



firstnational
REAL ESTATE
Yamba

