

Bega Valley Shire Council News

Issue 26 - Tuesday 15 October 2019

connecting council and the community

Retail Revamp is coming

Bega Valley Shire Council is excited to be partnering with the Merimbula Chamber of Commerce to bring the magic of visual merchandising guru, Carol Bagaric, to the retail communities of Merimbula and Eden next Wednesday and Thursday (23 and 24 October).

Retail Revamp is a structured program that helps retailers refresh their visual merchandising skills and challenges them to respond to the local and global challenges the retail sector faces.

Council's Economic Development Officer, Alison Vandenberg, said that Carol has worked with numerous Councils and has been regularly engaged by the NSW Small Business Commissioner, Robyn Hobbs, to work with the retailers in severely drought impacted towns.

"This program receives incredibly positive feedback from regional retailers and their councils. Carol really understands the challenges of retail and how to engage with retailers to produce truly transformative change," Ms Vandenberg said.

"Carol will deliver a motivational and inspirational workshop session for independent retail store operators, who will learn the 'how' and 'why' of visual merchandising and how to get the 'WOW' back into their store.

"It will be a great opportunity to learn simple tips and tricks to improve the in-store shopping experience for customers, including what visual merchandising can do for a business; three easy steps to creating eye catching window and in-store displays; and why the simplest idea can create the greatest experience.

"The focus of this session looks at the theory of visual display and motivational ideas that will inspire and improve the way attendees can create and deliver professional presentations," Ms Vandenberg said.

Merimbula Chamber representative, Karyn Denaro, who is working with Carol to plan the



Jill Warnock of The Travel House in Merimbula is looking forward to next week's Retail Revamp sessions.

schedule of activities, said that the partnership between Council and the Chamber meant that the workshops in Merimbula and Eden will be free for retailers to attend.

"We have also made sure that the opportunity to attend the workshops is open to all - retailers do not need to be members of their local chamber and they do not have to be from the Merimbula or Eden area," Ms Denaro said.

The Retail Revamp workshop will be presented at Club Sapphire from 7.30am – 9.30am on Wednesday, 23 October, before Carol will spend the day undertaking one on one in-store sessions in Merimbula, and a walk-around-town session commencing at 5.30pm. Carol will then move on to Eden on Thursday, October 24 to present the

workshop at the Eden Log Cabin from 7.30am – 9.30am in partnership with the Eden Chamber of Commerce.

In an effort to ensure the whole Shire benefits, it has also been confirmed that Council will engage Carol again, likely in March 2020, to bring her Retail Revamp program to the northern part of the Shire, with workshops planned in Bega and Bermagui.

To book your spot at the Merimbula workshop visit <https://events.humanitix.com.au/retail-revamp/tickets> and for the Eden workshop, register your interest by sending an email to EconomicDevelopment@begavalley.nsw.gov.au or speaking to Alison Vandenberg, Economic Development Officer on (02) 6499 2222.

We're looking for community solutions to reuse, recycle and avoid waste in the first place!



Waste Community Assistance Grants Category B open now

Apply online www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/grants

Email grantsadmin@begavalley.nsw.gov.au

Phone (02) 6499 2330



Leave on time, avoid the fine



Council now has an ongoing parking ranger after a successful four-month trial.

Town parking throughout the Shire includes a mix of time-restricted and all-day free parking, designed to encourage parking turnover and give as many people as possible convenient access to key shopping and service areas within our towns.

At its last meeting, Council resolved to continue with an ongoing parking officer position, after a four-month trial showed a marked improvement in the availability of parking spaces in time-restricted areas.

Council also resolved to upgrade its signage for long term parking and revisit current parking timing in all towns.

Director Community, Environment and Planning, Alice Howe, said that having a parking officer regularly enforcing time limits has been a change for people.

"I encourage everyone to check the signs around where you are parking to know your time limit."

"Free all-day parking is available in all towns, often a short walk of a few hundred metres to access main street shopping.

"Restricted parking is about making sure customers can park nearby to shops and services, so a wide number of people can access this convenient parking," Dr Howe said.

During the trial, a significant number of infringement notices were issued to drivers who were not eligible to park in disabled parking bays.

"Parking in these spots denies people with mobility difficulties access to their community services. You must have a Mobility Parking Scheme (MPS) permit clearly displayed in your vehicle to park in these spaces," added Dr Howe.

If you think you may qualify for an MPS permit or for more information, please visit <https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roads/using-roads/mobility-parking/index.html>

EPA funding for our region

The Canberra Region Joint Organisation (CRJO) has been awarded funding of \$840,000 from the EPA under the Council Regional Capacity Building Program.

A portion of the funding of the Council Regional Capacity Building Program will provide the CRJO with two dedicated positions. The two contaminated land specialists will be employed for a period of up to three years to work with and support Bega Valley Shire Council with our procedures and registers for managing contaminated land, as well as assisting with taking over responsibility of underground petroleum storage systems (UPSS) from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

Chair of the CRJO, Cr Rowena Abbey, welcomed the announcement and said this program has afforded in-house expertise for our regional councils in the transition of the regulation of UPSS and provided assistance when dealing with land contamination issues arising from historical underground fuel tank leaks or land which was formerly used for industrial activities.

"Bringing this expertise to our region and upskilling councils through training will help to protect our community and environment now, and for the long term," Cr Abbey said.

The EPA grant is through the NSW Government's \$4.2 million Council Regional Capacity Building Program, which runs from 2018-2021. The EPA will continue to work with councils to ensure integrated management and regulatory oversight of fuel handling and storage systems.

Under the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997 (CLM Act), the EPA regulates contaminated land where the contamination is significant enough to warrant regulation. Contaminated land that is not regulated by the EPA is managed by local councils through land-use planning processes.

The Canberra Region Joint Organisation is a network to help drive better planning, economic development and service delivery in regional NSW. The Organisation provides a structured way for local councils, State agencies and other stakeholders to collaborate, plan, set strategic priorities, support a shared vision and deliver important projects, both short and long term, on a regional scale, by working across traditional council boundaries.

Membership includes: Bega Valley Shire Council, Eurobodalla Shire Council, Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Hilltops Shire Council, Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, Snowy Monaro Regional Council, Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Wingecarribee Shire Council and Yass Valley Council.

What's ON!

LOCAL EVENTS

www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/events

28 September
Nethercote Produce Market
@ Nethercote Hall
8.00am - noon

31 October
Bega District News Race Day
@ Sapphire Coast Turf Club
noon - 6.00pm

List your event
on Council's
Local Events
Calendar

Synth Surfers festival develops local skills

Fanatics, beginners and everyone in between will gather at the Murrah Hall from 10.00am this Saturday 19 October for Synth Surfers, the Bega Valley's very first synth festival.

See, hear and try cutting edge music technology, talk directly to synth manufacturers and musicians and synth your day into the night with a special after-dark performance, called Oscillations that will feature interstate and local musicians as well as modified toy instruments and a trumpet!

Library Programs and Partnerships Officer, Scott Baker, says that through this event Council is providing locals access to a metropolitan-style event combining technology and creativity, as well as supporting the development of local skills infrastructure through the Bermi Create & Make Crew project.

"This means that locals will have the skills, experience and networks to run their own successful events; it's about capacity building for our future as a destination and liveable place.

"Synthesisers have featured in bands since the 1960s and they're having a revival using basic

ingredients called electronic wave forms.

"People coming along will be surprised at the broad applications of synthesisers today which are pushing the boundaries of what music is," Mr Baker explained.

The Crew consists of ten young people who are completing nationally credited TAFE units which are embedded holistically into the project.

"Parklight and now the Synth Surfers event are learning milestones for this group of young people and I wholeheartedly congratulate the broader community for coming out and supporting them.

"Synth Surfers will give the Crew experience in running a quality professional and comprehensive, ticketed event, which will further develop their employability skills in project and event management, promotion, workshop facilitation, artist liaison and graphic design," Mr Baker says.

Workshops are a key element of Synth Surfers and are designed so that complete beginners will learn side by side with more experienced users, who will be able to expand their skills under the

guidance of specialist facilitators.

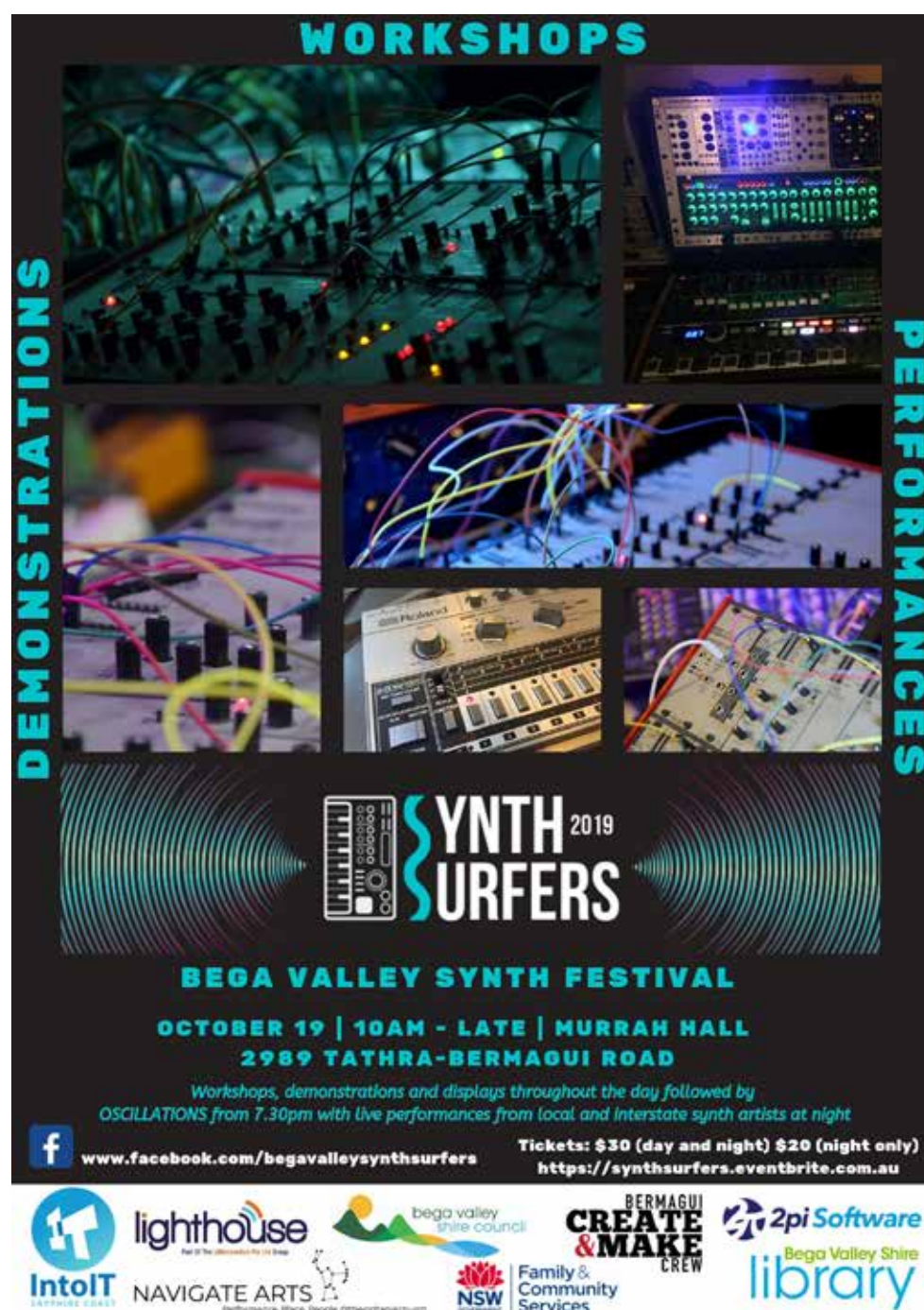
Aimed at all ages, from eight years up, the workshops will include getting started with a limited budget, controlling your lasers from a synthesiser, building your own synthesiser, Ableton Live, and using free modular synthesiser software (VCV Rack).

Detailed program information and tickets are available at <https://synthsurfers.eventbrite.com> with various ticketing options. Bookings are essential for workshops and you must buy at least a day ticket. Refreshments and catering will be available during the entire event.

Synth Surfers is brought to the Shire by the Bega Valley Synth Club, Bega Valley Shire Library, 2Pi Software and IntoIT.

The Bermi Create & Make crew is a Bega Valley Shire Library program funded through a Youth Opportunities Grant from NSW Family and Community Services.

More information about Synth Surfers festival and the Bermi Create & Make Crew is available from Scott Baker on (02) 6499 2172.



WORKSHOPS

DEMONSTRATIONS

PERFORMANCES

SYNTH SURFERS 2019

BEGA VALLEY SYNTH FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 19 | 10AM - LATE | MURRAH HALL
2989 TATHRA-BERMAQUI ROAD

Workshops, demonstrations and displays throughout the day followed by **OSCILLATIONS** from 7.30pm with live performances from local and interstate synth artists at night

Tickets: \$30 (day and night) \$20 (night only)
<https://synthsurfers.eventbrite.com.au>

www.facebook.com/begavalleysynthsurfers

Partners: lighthouse, bega valley shire council, CREATE & MAKE CREW, 2pi Software, IntoIT, NAVIGATE ARTS, Family & Community Services, NSW, Bega Valley Shire Library



Swimming Pools Strategy

HAVE YOUR SAY

TAKE OUR SURVEY

Visit the website to complete the survey and Have Your Say on the future and funding of our swimming pools

We are planning for the future of our six pools, which the community has made clear they want to retain, including how we fund them.

To raise the funds needed we are considering an increase to your rates through a Special Rates Variation.

We need your feedback.

begavalley.nsw.gov.au/HaveYourSay



Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre

Zingel Place, Bega
www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/Civiccentre

Visit our website to book a space or see what's on!

[begaciviccentre](https://www.facebook.com/begaciviccentre)

Jobs and skills for the future

Bega Valley Shire, in partnership with well-known employment services provider Campbell Page, has embarked on 'Jobs & Skills Bega Valley' – a project to create a better environment for meaningful employment and learning opportunities into the future for people at all stages in life.

Council's Economic Development Officer, Alison Vandenberg, said the project aims to provide insights into our labour market, our future direction, challenges and opportunities to set up our community and our Shire for the job demands of the future.

"Western Research Institute has been engaged to undertake the research work in the project. Their staff will be seeking to interview and engage with businesses, organisations and individuals across a broad spectrum to gain a full understanding of the needs and attributes of the area, and a deeper analysis of Eden's job market needs," Ms Vandenberg said.

Council's Economic Development team has taken on this challenge to support our region's education and skills providers, our organisations working with job seekers, our schools developing our young minds



Campbell Page's Head of Community Services, Anne Hodge, and Council's Economic Development Officer, Alison Vandenberg, are excited about the upcoming 'Jobs & Skills Bega Valley' project.

and entrepreneurs of the future, and State and Federal Government agencies looking to develop new employment and training programs.

"All these groups are making investment decisions that affect our community and our ability to bring sustainable, inclusive economic development to the Shire," Ms Vandenberg said.

"The practical guide and research analysis created as part of this

project will support decision makers to make better decisions about our Shire's jobs future. We know the community wants quality job opportunities now and into the future.

"There will be plenty of activities for community, businesses and local industries to get involved. The more voices we can hear the more we can make sure that this 'Jobs & Skills Bega Valley' project sets up our Shire for a bright employment future.

"We are grateful to both Campbell Page Eden for coming on board as our project partner and to Far South Coast Regional Development Australia for supporting our grant proposal," Ms Vandenberg said.

This project is funded under the Regional Employment Trials grant program, through the Australian Government Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business. This grant opportunity is still open to new projects that aim to stimulate local job opportunities.

If you have a project idea contact Council's Economic Development Officer, Alison Vandenberg, at AVandenberg@begavalley.nsw.gov.au or on (02) 6499 2222.



Small Business Month
1 - 31 October 2019

Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee volunteers

Applications are sought from suitably qualified and experienced members of the community to be appointed as a volunteer independent and external member of Bega Valley Shire Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee. The Committee meets four times a year in Bega.

One external member of the Committee will have a strong financial management and/or audit background, with an understanding of accounting and auditing standards in a public sector environment.

Other desirable skills include legal, governance, risk management, information and communications technology (ICT) and business management.

The following criteria will be considered in relation to skills and experience when assessing applications:

- Relevant professional qualifications;
- Relevant professional knowledge and expertise;
- Understanding of experience in the public sector/local government;
- Understanding of the role of corporate governance in organisations; and
- Current/prior experience on similar committees in the local government sector.

An information pack outlining the required skills and experience of the external Audit, Risk

and Improvement Committee members can be downloaded at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/ARIC.

All interested applicants must submit a cover letter detailing their suitability for the role and a current resume with a minimum of two referees to Council by close of business Friday, 1 November 2019.

For further information about the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee, and/or the role of the external committee members, please contact Council's Risk & Internal Audit Coordinator, James Dangers on (02) 6499 2222.

Time for a CleanOut!

**FREE
SERVICE**

Have you ever wondered what to do with those unwanted, out-of-date or leftover chemicals in your kitchen, bathroom, laundry, garage or garden shed?

CleanOut your household chemicals the right way

 **Household
Chemical CleanOut**

Don't forget to
download the free
Bega Valley Waste APP –
and never miss another
Household Chemical
CleanOut day again

PAMBULA

Merimbola St carpark (rear of shops)
Saturday Nov 9 | 8am - 2.30pm

BEGA

Saleyards, Kerrisons Lane
Sunday Nov 10 | 8am - 11am

BERMAGUI

Bermagui Tip, Strudwicks Rd
Sunday Nov 10 | 1pm - 4pm

More information: www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au
Phone 6499 2222

Facebook @BegaValleyWasteandRecycling



Holiday activities win smiles

Smiles came hand in hand with spring at all Shire libraries during the school holidays as library staff swung into action to offer gardening and camping themed crafts and activities to keep children amused.

“We made kites to fly, dream catchers to help us sleep, tie-dyed some library bags and of course read lots of stories,” said Library Learning and Engagement Officer, Sugita Wahl.

“Our school holiday programs are a key part of our service by encouraging creativity and introducing the idea of lifelong learning to children.

“It’s a chance for children to interact with each other in an informal setting and meet new friends too,” said Ms Wahl.

Our libraries at Bermagui, Bega, Tura Marrang and Eden run a varied program of activities every school holidays. During term time, they run regular Storytime and Rhymetime sessions – contact your local library for more information or phone (02) 6499 2127.

To keep up to date with what’s coming up at the library, subscribe to our monthly e-news at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/library.



There were some wonderful creations made during the recent school holiday program at the libraries across the Shire.

Mogareeka toilet block reopens



The toilet block adjacent to the Mogareeka boat ramp has reopened.

The toilet block adjacent to the boat ramp at Mogareeka has reopened after significant upgrades to the Onsite Sewerage Management System.

Council’s Environmental Health and Recreation and Natural Assets Teams worked closely together on the project with the aim of protecting the environment, water quality and public health and ensuring the system design meets the needs of the community and complies with relevant legislation.

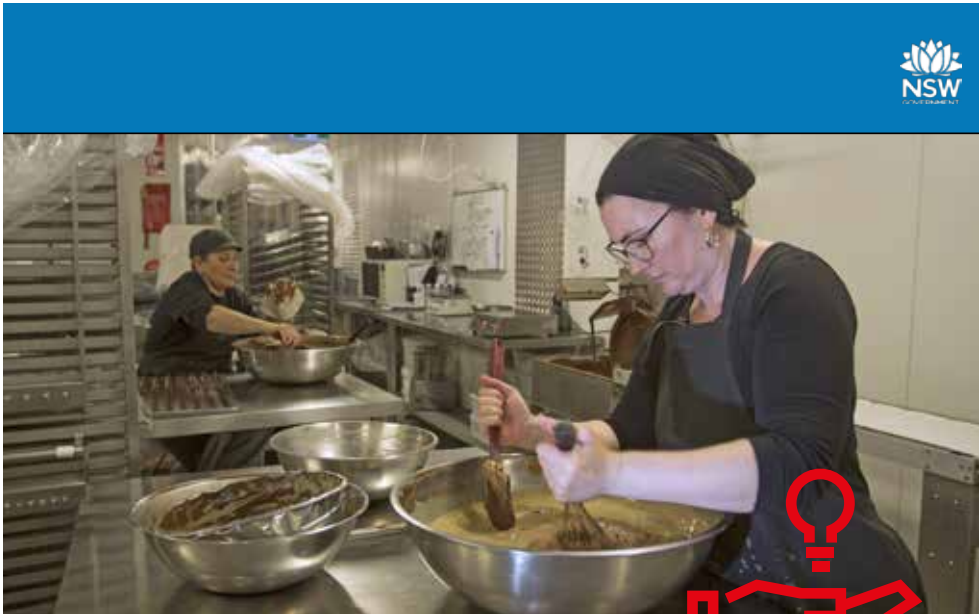
Local contractors and materials were used in the upgrade of the system, while the toilet facilities have also been given a fresh coat of paint and native plants have been placed in the raised absorption area.



Tathra Regeneration After Fire Walk

This is an opportunity for residents of Tathra and others to explore how the landscape has responded a year after the fires of 2018. The walk will be led by botanist Jackie Miles, with Andrew Morrison from Bega Valley Shire Council, Dan Morgan from Local Land Services and special guest Oliver Costello, Director of the Firesticks Alliance Indigenous Corporation. We will visit two different ecological communities that were affected by fire - the coastal headland and the eucalypt forest behind Tathra. Participants will see the significant regeneration of local native species and have a chance to discuss weed control, revegetation and cultural burning that has been undertaken in the local area.

- When:** Friday 18 October 2019, 9am -12.30pm
- Where:** Coastal track on Tathra Headland and Eucalypt forest off Thompsons Drive
- Cost:** The walk is free and morning tea is provided.
- RSVP:** Please book with Ali Rodway info@fscmn.com or 0417 246 896 (location details provided on booking)



Energy Saver Energy 101 for small business

The NSW Government is collaborating with Bega Valley Shire Council to offer a **FREE** course for business owners and their staff.

Attending this course will help you to:

- learn how to analyse your energy bills
- understand how your business uses energy
- identify energy saving opportunities, including no-cost/low-cost solutions
- learn about funding options and resources that will help you take-action.

REGISTER HERE

Date: Tuesday 29 October 2019
Time: 5:30pm - 7:00pm

Location: Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre, Zingel Place, Bega NSW

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/energy-101-for-small-business-live-online-event-tickets-73763501619?aff=BegaValleyShireCouncil>

Receive \$400 worth of virtual coaching for FREE.

As part of Small Business Month, we are offering every business who attends this course, a two hour, one-on-one e-coaching session with an expert energy advisor.

In partnership with



Kids art workshops



New BVRG Casual Education Officer, Acacia Peterson, at the recent neon event.

A dedicated Education Officer, Acacia Peterson, has started work at the Bega Valley Regional Art Gallery (BVRG), which offers regular art workshops for children that complement their school studies.

Ms Peterson has a BA in Visual Arts from Sydney College of the Arts and has returned to the Sapphire Coast to study for her Master of Primary Education at the University of Wollongong Campus in Bega.

“It’s easy for school-aged children to get involved in creative and cultural activities with the Creative Kids voucher,” says Iain Dawson, BVRG Curator.

“BVRG is a registered provider through the NSW Government’s \$100 Creative Kids voucher, which parents, guardians and carers can claim to put towards the cost of lessons and fees,” he said.

In addition to kids’ art trails within each exhibition, monthly workshops are held on Saturday afternoons for two hours.

The workshops cost \$25 per child and will be deducted from your voucher.

“We always run school holiday activities too and the recent Glow With The Flow workshops were brilliant!” added Mr Dawson.

Creative Kids Vouchers can be claimed annually through Service NSW

Visit our website at <https://gallery.begavalley.nsw.gov.au> or follow us at www.facebook.com/begavalleyregionalgallery for more information.

Track Applications ONLINE An e-service tool available on Council’s website...

APPLICATION TRACKER!

Allows for the tracking of Development Applications and Complying Development Certificates from lodgement right through to decision.



visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au OR scan the QR code
Planning & Development



Less Weeds. More Bega Valley.



October
2019

No Space for Weeds

Information Session 10:30am - 11:30am

- Bega Library - 23 October
- Bermagui Library - 28 October
- Eden Library - 30 October
- Tura Marrang Library - 31 October

Come along, chat with Council's Biosecurity officers and find out about the Shire's priority weeds. If you have what you think is a weed, bring along a sample or a photo and we can help you identify it and advise on control measures.

This is an opportunity to learn more about the work of our Biosecurity team to minimise the threat of invasive weeds on our economy, our farms, our natural environment and on our recreational spaces.



Department
of Industry



P. 02 6499 2222 | www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/weeds

Snap Send Solve

Snap Send Solve is the free app that allows you to easily report feedback to Bega Valley Shire Council



One Book One Community launch

Can very different people smile together? We think so!

Especially if they are reading the same book through the One Book One Community special online book club which will launch at Candelo Books in Bega at 3.30pm on Friday 18 October, including a performance by local musician, Sam Stevenson.

This summer, Bega Valley Shire Library is encouraging everyone to read and discuss the same book, Favel Parrett's latest novel, *There Was Still Love*, through One Book One Community.

Acting Library Coordinator, Megan Jordan-Jones says that One Book One Community is worth joining.

"Established book groups can take part as well as individuals or families and we expect new friendships will develop and book clubs will be revitalised through One Book One Community.

"We're hoping people will grab a copy of the book and join the reading and conversation around this novel, whether online or through our library-based Book Chats - it's just more fun reading together!" Ms Jordan-Jones says.

Being part of One Book One Community can help combat isolation and loneliness for some people in our community, especially during what can be a difficult time of year over the Christmas/New Year holiday season.

"It's a great way to stay connected with friends and family members who live away from the

Shire, by reading a book "together", swapping notes, and sharing a smile," added Ms Jordan-Jones.

People can register to join the club at www.onebookonecommunity.com.au.

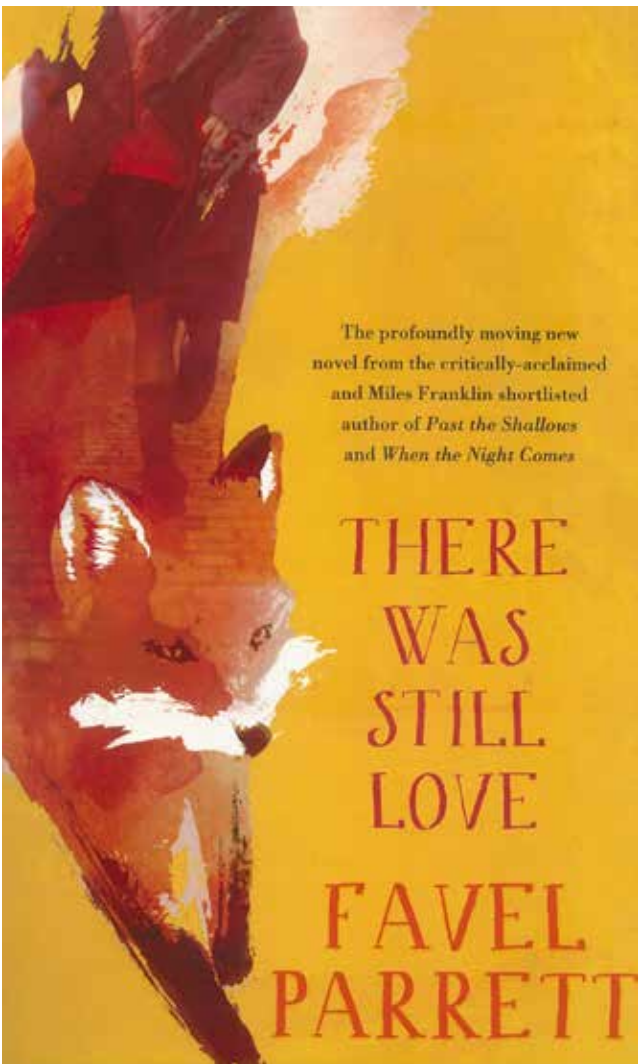
Registrations for the launch are encouraged – visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/one-book-one-community-launch-tickets-75253407969>.

Parrett's eagerly awaited third novel, *There Was Still Love*, is a beautiful story celebrating all that we do to maintain our sense of home.

It's our efforts, from mundane to extraordinary, that strengthen family bonds despite loss and distance, and, in the end, much can be endured because there is still love.

Copies of the book will be available at Candelo Books at the discounted price of \$25 or for loan from Bega Valley Shire Library.

One Book One Community is an initiative of the Bega Valley Shire Library, Candelo Books, Rural Adversity Mental Health and Anglicare, made possible with funding from the Primary Health Network South Eastern NSW.



*This summer, Bega Valley Shire Library is encouraging everyone to read and discuss the same book, Favel Parrett's latest novel, *There Was Still Love*, through the One Book One Community special online book club.*

Council Meeting wrap up

Telecommunications Tower

Council has refused a DA for a telecommunications tower on the corner of Togo and Reservoir Streets in Candelo.

The reasons for refusal were that the application fails to adequately demonstrate that co-location on existing infrastructure in the locality is not practical or feasible; the proposal would have an adverse visual impact on the immediately adjoining residential properties and the broader locality of Candelo; it fails to minimise the proliferation of telecommunication facilities and associated visual clutter in the locality; and it fails to demonstrate net positive social and environmental impacts for the community.

Festivals and Waste Wise Events

Twenty-five local festivals and events are being supported through the Festivals and Waste Wise Events Grants Program 2019/20.

Long-standing events such as the Cobargo Folk Festival, New Year's Eve in Merimbula, the Four Winds

Easter Festival and Eden Whale Festival

are among the recipients to share in the \$75,000 on offer along with new additions to the calendar such as the Rainbow Wave Festival.

Additional Meeting Dates

Council will hold two additional meetings on the 6th and 27th of November, while a third will be added to the calendar on 4 December if Council's resolves to proceed with the lodgement of a Special Rate Variation application for the 2020/21 year.

Local Traffic Committee

Council resolved to adopt the latest recommendations from the Bega Valley Local Traffic Committee.

These included the installation of a 22.5 tonne weight restriction on the Cuttagee Bridge until bridge strengthening works are completed; arrangements for the Christmas on Imlay event in Eden and New Year's Eve Fireworks

in Merimbula; and a change of priority at the intersection of Andrea Street and Bellbird Court

in Eden through the installation of a Stop sign and lines on Bellbird Court along with centreline marking along Andrea Street.

Next Meetings

30 October

6 November

Council Chambers, Biamanga Room, Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre, Bega @ 2pm

Watch Live

Each Council meeting is live streamed for you to watch on your desktop, tablet or mobile at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/councilmeetings

Merimbula Bay data for EIS

Scientific surveys of the marine environment have continued in Merimbula Bay through September and October to inform the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and concept design for the Merimbula Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) Upgrade and Ocean Outfall Project.

The EIS will assess the social, economic and environmental impacts of the construction and operation of the project.

In September, a marine geophysical survey was conducted to gather information about ocean depth, seabed profile and conditions below the seabed using acoustic instruments.

This data will complement that collected from a marine hydrographic survey carried out in 2017.

Most recently, marine ecology surveys were carried out in October to gather information about marine habitats.

The data collected will be used to refine maps of the area. In addition, underwater videos were taken at selected locations to identify habitats and groups of fish.

The first marine ecology survey was carried out between Sunday 29 September and Thursday 3 October 2019 and the second survey happened between Tuesday 8 October and Tuesday 15 October 2019.

Acting Water and Sewer Services Manager, Toby Browne, said that the data collected through these latest scientific surveys will add to the growing body of research which has developed around this project.

“People will remember the dye dispersion tests that happened in Merimbula Bay in 2017/2018 to collect data on dispersion rates and travel times of waterborne material.

“This data has contributed to accurate hydrodynamic modelling to assist the Community Working Group and our designers determine the best location for the placement of the ocean outfall,” Mr Browne said.



Two recently completed marine ecology surveys are the latest scientific work carried out to inform the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and concept design for the Merimbula Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) Upgrade and Ocean Outfall Project.

Project background

This project involves upgrading the Merimbula STP, constructing a new ocean outfall and investigating reuse options, taking into consideration factors such as the shape of Merimbula Bay, the need to protect our lakes and vital oyster industry, and our duty to safeguard public health.

In 2013, the NSW EPA amended the Environment Protection Licence for the Merimbula STP to require Council to upgrade the plant and construct an ocean outfall.

You can find out more about the project by:

- visiting the project website at begavalley.nsw.gov.au/MerimbulaSTPupgrade;
- calling the toll-free phone number 1800 029 478; or
- emailing merimbulaSTPupgrade@begavalley.nsw.gov.au.

Strength in Struggle

A Saturday/Sunday workshop on the 19th and 20th October at Tathra Hall is being offered to people affected by the 2018 local bushfires impacting the communities of Tathra, Reedy Swamp, Vimy Ridge, Yankees Gap, Numbugga, Brogo and surrounds.

The workshop has been created by Psychology For A Safe Climate in response to requests from locals for time to gather together and make space to acknowledge what has been a very difficult time post-bushfire.

Workshop facilitator, Beth Hill, says there will be opportunities to share in creative processes that acknowledge loss and associated feelings and there will be outside activities using nature as a resource for healing.

“We will also share practical skills for ongoing self-care and collective action beyond this workshop.

“Supportive activities will help you reconnect with who you really are and what matters to you, while also opening out to the larger story of what is happening on our planet at this time.

“There will be time for personal and private reflection as well as the opportunity to connect with others. Some exercises are playful and fun, other practices are designed to be restful and nourishing,” says Ms Hill.

Each day runs from 9.00am to 5.00pm with lunch and tea breaks throughout the day.

The workshop draws from three key bodies of work regarding resilience and recovery: grief workshops run by Psychology For A Safe Climate for several years; The Work that Reconnects developed by respected peace activist and deep ecologist Joanna Macy; and, Transformational Resilience, a body of work originally developed in the USA to support communities recovering from disaster events.

To register or for more information, email psychologysafeclimate@gmail.com

Did you know?

The Bega Valley is home to multiple threatened and endangered shorebird species including Pied Oystercatchers, Hooded Plovers (pictured), Little Terns and Sooty Oystercatchers.

You will find these birds nesting on beaches within the Shire between August and March. During this time of year you can help these birds by:

- Looking out for signs/fences on the beach;
- Sticking to access tracks and the waters edge;
- Picking up any discarded fishing line; and
- Keeping dogs away from marked areas.

The hooded plover has only 20 known breeding pairs within NSW so keep an eye out for these rare birds next time you are down the beach.



Contact us

- p. 02 6499 2222
e. council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au
a. Zingel Place, PO Box 492
Bega NSW 2550

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 www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au

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