

Bega Valley Shire Council village newsletter

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Partners in the future

Bega Valley and Eurobodalla Shire Councils are pushing into the future side by side, signing a Memorandum of Understanding that formalises a partnership that has been developing over the past two years. The MoU signed by Bega Valley Mayor Michael Britten and Eurobodalla Mayor Lindsay Brown, is not a legal document but is the foundation of a partnership built on good faith and a desire to see the community better and more efficiently served.

The two Councils have a strong history of sharing information and resources in a number of policy and frontline areas. Since 2013 the two councils have collaborated on works connected to aquatic centres and planning regulations and shared advice around domestic violence policy in the workplace.

The 10 point agreement points to six monthly reports by each General Manager and a decision making model built on consensus. September's Local Government election is an early example of the MoU at work, with the planning, implementation and cost of the ballot and induction programs being shared across both organisations. Collaboration around the new council induction program for both new councils will also see the cost halved, saving ratepayers around \$25,000.



Celebrate a new facility with us

This Saturday's official opening of the Tura Marrang Library and Community Centre will be a celebration that equals the size of the transformation this space has undergone. What was once a dark inward looking tavern is now a light, bright, dynamic community asset. The building was able to open its doors to existing library members on Monday, with staff fine-tuning and testing systems. The million dollar project delivers much for the fastest growing area in the Shire and has been funded by a mix of borrowings, sale of asset and licences and grant funding. Residents and visitors get a full range of

library services, including free WiFi and computer access, a variety of reading a study spaces, kids' and youth zones and current newspapers and magazines. Saturday's opening celebrations will run from 9.30am until 2pm, with Mayor Michael Britten and Member for Bega, Andrew Constance, officially opening the new centre at 11am. The day will feature plenty of activities including tech classes, Minecraft, face painting, Story Time, balloon animals, paper boat making, a sausage sizzle and even a visit from Princess Anna from Frozen. Library members and people who join on the day will receive a limited edition library bag.

Jobs with Council

- Town team leader.
Applications close on Tuesday 28 June at 5pm.
- Plant operator (grader).
Applications close on Tuesday 28 June at 5pm.
- Casual support workers.
Applications close on Thursday 30 June at 5pm.

Full position descriptions and selection criteria on Council's website. Address the selection criteria and send by email to recruitment@begavalley.nsw.gov.au or post to address below.

Tenders

- Restoration proposals for Imlay Street, Eden.
Expressions of interest close at noon on 29 June.
- Shire transport strategy.
Expressions of interest close at noon on 2 July.
- Sewer and Water facilities.
Expressions of interest close at noon on 6 July.

Visit our e-Tendering Portal at www.tenderlink.com/begavalley

Budget good news

There was good news in this week's State Budget for the Shire with \$1 million for completion of the bridge widening over Bemboka River at Morans Crossing. There is also \$15 million to start construction on the realignment of the Princes Highway at Dignams Creek with the aim of making our journey north safer.

There was also confirmation of funding for a new fire station in Eden. This is a project that has an estimated total cost of over \$1 million with \$250,000 confirmed in 2016-17 to get it off the ground.

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Please send all correspondence to
PO Box 492, BEGA NSW 2550.

To view exhibition documents visit us at our Bega office in Zingel Place or one of our libraries: Bermagui - Bunga Street, Eden - Cnr Mitchell & Imlay Streets, Merimbula - 103 Main Street.



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Green Army helpers

A helping hand came forward Council and the clean-up effort underway following this month's east coast low. Lead by Gunther Meesmann, the Green Army stepped in to assist Council with the removal of debris washed up at the Pambula River mouth in the storms of June 4 and 5.

The Green Army recruits pitched in with the messy work first before moving on to replanting and mulching garden beds in the popular reserve. The Green Army is a Federal Government employment initiative designed to deliver environmental and land restoration projects, while building skills and confidence in young job seekers.

The burst of people power from the Green Army has allowed Council's recreational areas at Pambula River to get back on track quicker than they otherwise would have in these busy times following the storm. Locals will also notice new steps leading from the Pambula River mouth park area at the start of the Jiguma walking track.

Small Biz Bus

The Small Biz Bus is a State Government initiative to provide business advice, face to face guidance and support to people in small business and it will be visiting the Shire next week. On Wednesday, 29 June, it will be parked at Dickinson Park in Lamont Street, Bermagui, from 9am to 3pm, and on Thursday, 30 June, in Imlay Street, Eden, in front of the Australasia Hotel from 9am to 3pm. To book a free session phone 1300 134 359 or email smallbusiness.nsw.gov.au

Hannan Portrait Award

Sydney artist Sally Robinson has won the 2016 Shirley Hannan National Portrait Award with an acrylic on canvas of Ella Rubeli, a double Walkely Award winning photo journalist, a filmmaker, artist and writer. Judge Dr Christopher Chapman, senior curator at the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra, announced the winner at the Bega Valley Regional Gallery last Friday night.

Earlier in the week the portrait was also selected for the "mailroom" prize, selected by Council staff who received the entries. The exhibition will run until 20 August. And remember, entry is always free!



Keep boiling the water

Following another episode of heavy rain in the Shire, NSW Health has ruled against lifting of the precautionary Boil Water Notice in the Brogo Bermagui River water supply system. The Boil Water Notice applies to Quaama, Cobargo, Bermagui, Beauty Point, Fairhaven, Wallaga Lake, Wallaga Lake Heights, Wallaga Lake Koori Village, Akolele and also trunk main customers in these areas.

Council recommends that all water for consumption, food preparation, cleaning of teeth and ice making should be boiled before use. Water can then be allowed to cool and stored in a clean container with a lid and refrigerated.

Artistic response to vandalism

This is a story to warm the heart! The anger and expense tied to the recent vandalism of trees in Bega's Littleton Gardens was replaced last Friday by a pop-up paper art installation. An anonymous local artist has reclaimed the space on behalf of the community who are keen to see the park filled with beauty again.

Around 50 newly planted trees were hacked down in the early hours of May 7 and 8, adding up to a repair bill in the tens of thousands of dollars for ratepayers. Council's General Manager Leanne Barnes said she was delighted to see the surprise white paper flowers attached to the remaining trunks of the vandalised trees. "It is truly beautiful," said.

Since the vandalism, staff from Council's Recreation and Leisure team have been working on plans to replace the trees and get Littleton Gardens looking good again. Community feedback and suggestions have really fed our response to the vandalism and we are taking this opportunity to refocus and respond accordingly.



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