

Bega Valley Shire Council News

Issue 10 - Tuesday 4 September 2018

connecting council and the community

Commitment to service

Bega Valley Shire Council's ongoing commitment to continually improving our customer service functions has taken another significant step forward with the recent establishment of a dedicated Development Hub.

The Hub, that now operates as the 'first point of call' for anyone with development enquiries, came about after independent consultants City Plan Services conducted a thorough review of Council's suite of Development Assessment functions and provided recommendations in 2017.

The establishment of a dedicated and specialist Hub for all development related matters was one of the key recommendations stemming from the review.

Initial development enquiries, the provision of application fee quotes, inspection bookings, assistance with preparing applications and conducting initial assessments prior to lodgement are all among the team's functions.

To contact the DA Hub, phone (02) 6499 2209 or email developmentHUB@begavalley.nsw.gov.au.



Christine Griffin, Rochelle McArthur, Tim Weber, Rachel St Hill, Erin Kluit and Loretto Mills are the friendly faces behind Council's newly established Development Hub.

Merimbula Parking report released

There has been an ongoing debate in the community around the provision of appropriate numbers of car parking spaces in the Merimbula Central Business District (CBD) and the allocation of development contributions for this purpose.

Following questions and requests from landowners and community members, Council recently engaged independent contractors, Zenith Town Planning, to review the situation and provide a report to Council on the matter.

The report was presented to the 13 June Council meeting, with the findings subsequently endorsed, along with a further resolution that a briefing be given to the Merimbula Chamber of Commerce.

Council's (then) Acting General Manager, Anthony Basford and Manager Planning and Sustainability, Keith Tull, attended the Chamber's meeting on 26 July to discuss the findings of the review.

The key findings include that Council's historic Development Contributions Plans have been sound; there are currently adequate parking spaces provided in the Merimbula CBD as required by development consent conditions for all historic commercial developments; and Council has used funds from sources other than contributions to construct public car parking

Head to Council's website to view the full report.



An independent report into the provision of car parking spaces in the Merimbula CBD has been released.

Bega Valley

Commemorative Civic Centre

Zingel Place, Bega

www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/Civicculture



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

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



Sporting Complex plan on exhibition

Individuals and groups with an interest in community sport and recreation facilities are encouraged to provide their feedback on the concept design for an upgraded Bega Sporting Complex Building.

This public consultation phase represents another key step forward for the project and follows on from Council working closely with Cox Architecture and a stakeholder group of site users over recent months.

Council’s Manager Leisure and Recreation, John Grady, said that the stakeholder group had provided excellent input through an initial survey and two subsequent workshops presented by the Cox Architecture team.

“The result of this collaboration is a concept plan that is based on overcoming facility gaps, meeting the needs of users, compliance with current standards and getting the facility mix right,” Mr Grady said.

“It also explores linking and relating those required works to other opportunities for upgrades and improvements that will see the site able to cater for a wider range of uses and community events into the future. Importantly an option for staging the work has also been included.

“Among the multitude of improved and new features outlined in the concept are new and upgraded change rooms, seating and canteen facilities for both grounds and the indoor sports building; an upgraded building foyer area and facilities; better defined vehicle and pedestrian areas, including a shared concourse; improved



INTEGRATED STADIUM ENTRY AND FOYER



COVERED SEATING



MULTI USE STADIUM FOYER



ADDITIONAL AND UPDATED CHANGEROOMS



INTEGRATED STORAGE, NATURAL LIGHTING & VENTILATION



CLUB ROOMS AND UPPER LEVEL SEATING



MULTI PURPOSE ZONE



ACCESSIBLE CONCOURSE

The concept plan for an upgraded Bega Sporting Complex Building is on public exhibition for community feedback.

connectivity to the town centre; and a larger indoor sports building footprint,” Mr Grady said.

Council has been working through the NSW Government’s Sports Infrastructure Fund process in an effort to secure external funding for the two adopted sporting complex masterplans for Bega and Pambula.

Good feedback was received on Council’s initial ‘Expression of Interest’ and a full business case

application has subsequently been submitted.

The public exhibition phase for the Bega Sporting Complex Building project extends until 7 October - to provide your thoughts head to <https://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay>.

For more information visit https://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-LAC-52-46-27 or contact Council’s Leisure and Recreation team on (02) 6499 2222.

LEADING COMMUNITIES THROUGH CHANGE

In Conversation with Costa, Bruce Pascoe and Friends

Costa Georgiadis

Joley Vidau

Bruce Pascoe

Sophie Longden

TATHRA HOTEL | SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 6.30PM

Join Gardening Australia’s Costa Georgiadis, Indigenous historian Bruce Pascoe and Bega Valley FOGO project leader Joley Vidau in a conversation about communities and change
Hosted by ABC South East’s Sophie Longden



New cemetery access

Bega Valley Shire Council recently assumed management of the Tantawangalo Cemetery after the sale of the adjoining church grounds.

For many years local families and volunteers have selflessly tended the grounds of the beautiful little cemetery.

As access to the site was previously gained over the church grounds it was necessary for a new road to be constructed to the south of the church to allow for ongoing pedestrian and vehicle access.

Thanks to the professionalism of local contractors John Michelin and Son Pty Ltd and Council’s Unsealed Roads Team this work is now completed.

Council’s Cemetery staff would like to thank the new owners of the church grounds for their patience and allowing access to continue over their property while construction was undertaken.

A new fence and gate has also been put in place off the new access road.

For further information on this project or any of the cemeteries, contact the Cemetery team on 6499 2222 or email cemeteries@begavalley.nsw.gov.au.

The Tantawangalo Cemetery has a greatly improved access road as these before (left) and after pictures (right) show.

Waste strategy released

Bega Valley Shire Council has released a new blueprint for managing waste over the next 10 years.

Reducing waste that goes into landfill, exploring circular economy opportunities and expanding Council infrastructure for recycling are among recommendations in the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy (2018-2028) 'Recycling the Future'.

Introducing the Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) waste collection service on October 29 is also a recommendation of the Strategy.

Waste and Recycling Manager Toby Browne said 'Recycling the Future' was the culmination of a 12-month collaboration between Council and a community-based Waste Strategic Working Group.

'Recycling the Future' delivers the community's vision as outlined in Council's Community Strategic Plan:

Greater investment in innovative waste management technologies and processes; a focus on public litter; greater recycling; and harnessing the benefits of local waste transformation.

"The way individual regions manage their waste has global implications and Council needs to be proactive in



tackling waste issues," Mr Browne said.

"During the past decade Council has undertaken significant improvements to the standard of our waste facilities and services but a simple 'take, make, use and dump' approach is not sustainable.

"This Strategy identifies opportunities to better use waste resources locally and divert more waste from landfill.

"One of the initiatives that Council has adopted from this Strategy is collecting food waste from households that currently have a garden organics service and making it into high quality compost at the Merimbula Waste and Recycling depot.

"This new service, FOGO, is just one of many opportunities the Strategy identifies for communities to participate in better use of our waste resources," Mr Browne said.

A summary report of the new Strategy is on public exhibition until September 14, 2018 and is available to download from Council's website at https://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-RRA-65-40-21.

Environment Grants announced

The commitment and dedication of eleven community groups to enhance, protect and restore our local environment will be supported by Bega Valley Shire Council through the 2018-19 Community Environment Grants.

They will share in \$50,000 after the successful projects were announced this week.

The Community Environment Grants program is now in its seventh year and has supported up to 70 projects to date to the approximate value of \$300,000. The program is funded from Council's Environment Levy.

Council's Acting Environment and Sustainability Coordinator, Michael Fiedler, congratulated and thanked the successful applicants for the work they do.

"The groups receiving funding are from right across the Shire and will be undertaking a diverse range of projects that will make our area an even nicer place to live and visit," Mr Fiedler said.

"The overarching aims of the program are to support our community groups; encourage and foster ethical environmental behaviour; increase community awareness; support conservation strategies; encourage innovation; and support, protect and enhance areas of cultural significance."

The full list of grant recipients includes:

- Bega River and Wetlands Landcare Inc - Bega River Sundays, \$6,000.

- Sapphire Coast Wilderness Oysters Inc - Wise Waterway Use on Our Wilderness Coast, \$6,000.

- Far South Coast Landcare Association - Tathra Emergent Weed Plan, \$6,000

- Pambula Preschool Kindergarten Association - Nest Box installation and Education Program at Pambula Preschool, \$1,146.

- Towamba Landcare Group Inc - Towamba Landcare Strategic Weed Incursion Response Crew, \$5,503.

- Pambula Landcare - Conservation of Significant Environmental Assets Within Pambula Beach, \$6,000.

- Dry River Landcare Incorporated - Dry River Landcare and Quaama Public School Community Environment Project, \$1,230.

- Panboola (Pambula Wetlands and Heritage Project) - Protecting and Enhancing Panboola's Environmental Assets, \$5,455.

- Back Road Landcare Group (auspiced by Far South Coast Landcare Association) - The Back Road Landcare Group Start-up Project, \$6,000.

- Cobargo Community Action Group (auspiced by Far South Coast Landcare Association) - Protecting All the Good Work, \$1,280.

- Bega High School - Nesting Boxes, \$6,000.

For more information on the Community Environment Grants program, contact Michael Fiedler on (02) 6499 2222 or email mfiedler@begavalley.nsw.gov.au.

Is coming to town from October 29

FOGO

You can start FOGOing when your kitchen caddy arrives.

Stay updated Follow our Facebook page @BegaValleyWasteandRecycling
 Download the FREE Bega Valley Waste APP
 Visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/waste Phone 6499 2222



New garbage trucks on the road

'Look inside, there's a divide' is the message on new garbage trucks in the Bega Valley.

Waste collection contractors Cleanaway have purchased split trucks as part of its new five-year contract with Bega Valley Shire Council.

Council first introduced split trucks 13 years ago to empty landfill (red) and recycling (yellow) bins into the one truck. Drivers empty individual bins into the correct chamber with a flick of a switch on the dashboard.

Council's Waste Management Coordinator, Joley Vidau, said people still got confused when they watched rubbish from their red and yellow bins go into the same truck.

"We get at least one call a week from concerned residents that the recycling they've carefully sorted into the right bin at home goes all in together in the back of the truck and ends up in landfill. We hope this new campaign will help alleviate people's concerns because this is certainly not the case," Ms Vidau said.

Cleanaway, a multi-national network of waste contractors, started Bega Council's kerbside



Cleanaway's new split trucks highlight the two separate chambers for landfill and recycling.

collection service in 2012. Their new five-year contract with Council started on July 1.

"Cleanaway have provided a fantastic kerbside service to the Bega Valley for the past six years," Ms Vidau said.

"It is a major job and last year alone they did more than 1.1 million kerbside bin lifts. We look forward to continuing our good working relationship over the next five years which will include the transition to FOGO on October 29."

New NDIS clients very welcome

Bega Valley Shire Council's Ageing and Disability Services team remains committed to supporting people to live at home independently, participate in the community and achieve their goals.

With an exemplary record of providing disability services to residents of the Shire since 1992 and more recently managing the complex transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), our experienced team is ready to welcome new clients.

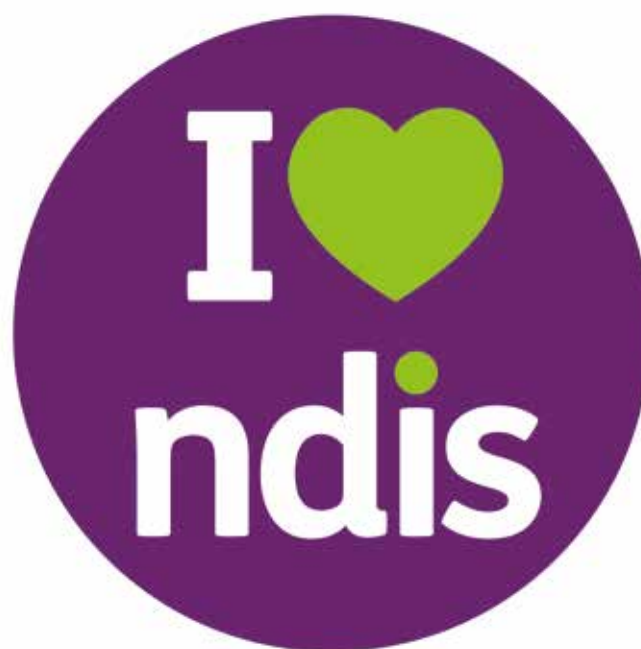
BVSC Manager Community Connections, Kristina Brenner, said that as an independent provider Council was uniquely positioned to assist people to use their NDIS plan to its fullest potential.

"Through specialising in plan management and support coordination, our case managers help people identify their goals, get support from both mainstream and disability specific organisations, and provide assistance to ensure support networks are working well," Ms Brenner said.

"As an independent provider Council is uniquely positioned to assist people to use their NDIS plan to its fullest potential."

- Kristina Brenner

"The case managers (including new Support Coordinator, Emilie Bird) are experts with decades of collective experience and vast local knowledge and perfectly placed to coordinate services for people living with a disability who have complex needs and want greater independence.



"If you have an approved NDIS plan; are aged up to 64; live in the Bega Valley Shire; and need support coordination (case management) or financial intermediary services, we can help."

To find out more about how to access Council's support coordination and plan management services, contact the disability team for a confidential discussion on (02) 6499 2464, email ndis@begavalley.nsw.gov.au, or visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/ndis.

Council's Ageing and Disability Services operate weekdays from 10:00am – 4:30pm at 104 Gipps Street, Bega (between Momsen Motors and the Woolworths Caltex petrol station).

Heritage Assistance Fund

Assistance to conserve and promote the Shire's heritage places is currently available through Bega Valley Shire Council's Local Heritage Assistance Fund.

Money from the fund is available to individuals, organisations and community groups to help conserve heritage items in small grants of up to \$5,000 (excluding GST) on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

Eligible projects may involve the repair, maintenance or reinstatement of missing items on heritage buildings, and can range from structural work through to painting.

Owners of heritage items in the Shire are encouraged to apply, with applications closing on Sunday 16 September 2018. After this time, applications will not be received until the next financial year.

All applications will be assessed on merit and the funding allocated at the discretion of Council.

For more information and to apply online visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/grants.

Council's Heritage Advisor, Trevor King, is available for free consultation and advice on heritage places.

Bega Valley Shire
library
Bega, Beramgui, Eden & Tura Marrang

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website



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Eden Wharf project progressing

The \$44 million Eden Breakwater Wharf Extension is a major infrastructure project for NSW and a significant investment to drive economic activity in our corner of the state.

The project is fully funded with the support of the NSW Government (\$32 million), Australian Government (\$10 million) and Bega Valley Shire Council (\$2 million).

The project is expected to economically benefit the community by:

- Increasing economic activity during construction of the wharf;
- creating around 86 ongoing jobs in tourism, hospitality and stevedoring;
- increasing visitation of cruise vessels and opportunities to local businesses; and
- increasing visitations to local attractions such as the Eden Whale Museum and the Sapphire Coast Marine Discovery Centre.

The key features of the project comprise deepening of the adjacent berth pocket and approach channel, disposing the dredge material at an offshore disposal site and extending the existing Breakwater Wharf by 110 metres.

The project, once completed, will enable cruise ships of up to 325m in length to berth in the Port of Eden and passengers to safely embark and disembark at the wharf.

The project is being undertaken in two stages.

Stage One, which was awarded to Heron Constructions, commenced in August 2017 and was completed in February 2018.

This stage involved dredging and disposal of 210,000 cubic metres of material, and the fabrication of 172 scour protection mattresses which were then laid on the seabed.



Stage 2 of the \$44 million Eden Breakwater Wharf Extension is in full swing with approximately 80% of the wharf piles already driven into the seabed to create the foundations.

These mattresses will safeguard the wharf, once completed, from turbulence generated by cruise ship propulsion systems.

Stage Two, which was awarded to Waterway Constructions, is underway with approximately 80% of wharf piles driven into the seabed to create the foundations for the new wharf extension.

Work to be undertaken over the next few months includes:

- Fabricating concrete headstocks and deck planks;
- installing concrete headstocks and deck planks to form the new wharf platform;
- excavating and constructing the concrete formwork for the onshore bollards;
- installing piles for mooring and berthing dolphins;
- trimming piles to their required levels;
- drilling and grouting rock sockets on the toe of piles that could not

be driven into the seabed due to hard rock;

- bracing dolphin piles in position to ensure there is no movement while a dolphin jacket is lifted onto the dolphin pile group and grouted in place;
- installing sacrificial anodes to dolphin jackets and piles for corrosion protection;
- installing a navigation aid, hydraulic and electrical services, bollards and wharf furniture; and
- pouring concrete for onshore bollards, wharf transition and main wharf structures.

The project is scheduled to be completed by mid-2019, weather permitting.

Additional project information including monthly updates and video footage are available on the project webpage - <https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/lands/major-projects/infrastructure/eden/updates>

Access Improvement Grants extended

Bega Valley Shire Council (through Council's Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee) have extended the current round of the Access Improvement Grants Program for a further three weeks to allow further opportunity for community groups, individuals and businesses to undertake projects that improve access and inclusion.

Grants are available for projects that improve access and inclusion for residents and visitors of and to the Bega Valley Shire and deliver measurable outcomes to access issues and improve resident and/or visitor experience.

Applications for grants from \$500 up to \$5,000 will be considered.

Applications must be submitted no later than 4pm on Friday, 14 September 2018.

They can be submitted via the on-line form, email, fax or hard copy via mail or in person at Council's office in Bega or at any library branch (Bermagui, Bega, Tura Beach or Eden).

All grants provided by Bega Valley Shire Council have standard assessment and eligibility criteria as well as grant specific criteria.

All interested applicants are urged to read the grant information carefully.

This information can be found at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/grants

Should you have any specific questions relating to this grant please contact Katrina Berenguer on 6499 2358.



Latest on Hotel Australasia

Council is moving ahead with plans to engage the three Eden real estate agents to provide a detailed marketing plan for the sale of 142-144 Imlay Street, Eden (former Hotel Australasia).

The marketing plans are to include costings related to commissions and other expected expenses.

In line with the 8 August 2018 Council resolution, Council has now released the amount of funds spent on this matter.

Property Purchase Price	\$ 535 737
Legal Costs & Consultants	\$ 102 462
Maintenance of Property	\$ 69 821
Total Council Investment	\$ 708 020



Council is moving forward with the sale of the former Hotel Australasia in Eden by engaging the three Eden real estate agents to provide detailed marketing plans.

Help choose books for the library

Bega Valley Shire Library is throwing open the opportunity for everyone to be involved in choosing news books for the library at a special book-buying event.

Book buying events at the Bermagui and Tura Marrang libraries have been very successful in past years and this year's community book-buy will be held at Bega Library on Tuesday, 11 September from 10.00am - 2.00pm.

Council's Systems Librarian, Megan Jordan-Jones said that people will have the chance to go through a large selection of recently published books and pick the ones they would like to read and have available on our library shelves.

"This event has become an annual fixture and we really look forward to inviting our community to be directly involved in choosing brand new books for their library," Ms Jordan-Jones said.

"Pop in for ten minutes or spend as long as you like browsing and choosing new books.

On the day, there will be a wide range of adult and children's fiction and non-fiction titles to choose from and library staff will be on



Previous book buying events at the Bermagui and Tura Marrang Libraries have proven very popular.

hand to check whether selected items are already held by the library to avoid buying duplicates.

People who are already library members can have their selected books reserved for them so that once the books are processed they will be the first to borrow them.

"Books in our system move between all four of our libraries

so any new items will reach Eden, Tura Marrang and Bermagui libraries and will be able to be searched and reserved through our online catalogue at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au," Ms Jordan-Jones added.

For more information about this event, please contact Bega library on 6499 2127.

Mumbulla Grants

Council is thrilled to be once again partnering with the Mumbulla Foundation to support the wonderful work of our local community groups and organisations.

The Mumbulla Foundation Community Grants Program supports multiple groups each year that are focussed on improving the collective economic, environmental, social and cultural wellbeing of those living in the Bega Valley.

The 2018 round is now open until 30 September.

For more information on the Community Grants Program visit the Mumbulla Foundation website at <http://mumbulla.org.au/grants>.



**South/East Interference Volume I
ROSIE DEACON**

15 September - 20 October
BEGA VALLEY REGIONAL GALLERY
Monday - Saturday 10am - 4pm
gallery.begavalley.nsw.gov.au



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for healthy pool people

Registration for students not enrolled in our learn to swim programs during 2018

Council Meeting wrap up

Planning proposal

Council today resolved to support the planning proposal to rezone the Bunnings-owned vacant land on the corner of Sapphire Coast and Tura Beach Drives to a B5 (Business Development Zone).

The planning proposal will now be forwarded to the Department Planning for Gateway Determination.

Following the Gateway Determination the proposal will be placed on public exhibition.

Externally Funded Programs

The findings of an independent

review into Council's externally funded community service programs, encompassing Children's Services and Community Services have been adopted.

The review determined the overall financial viability of the current suite of externally funded programs and provided recommendations as to future options.

The findings will be made available on Council's website.

Library Funding

Council has formally welcomed the NSW Government announcement to provide a \$60m funding package

for NSW public libraries over the four years from 2019-20.

BVSC continues to support the ongoing 'Renew Our Libraries' initiative to secure the pledged funding, clarify the funding components and liaise with the government regarding the funding model.

Local Traffic Committee

The latest recommendations of the Bega Valley Local Traffic Committee were adopted.

Importantly these include taking appropriate measures to avoid impacts to the local agricultural sector through load limits currently imposed on roads within the Candelo/Wolumla area.

These will include having load limits temporarily revoked on Mogilla Road, West Kameruka Road, Kameruka Lane and Candelo-Wolumla Road until necessary regulatory changes are made and advocating to the State

Government to provide greater flexibility in current regulations.

A further review will be undertaken in six months.

Next Meetings

17 September @ 2pm
(Mayor and Deputy Election)

19 September @ 2pm
(Regular Meeting)

Council Chambers,
Biamanga Room, Bega Valley
Commemorative Civic Centre,
Bega

Watch Live

Each Council meeting is live streamed for you to watch on your desktop, tablet or mobile.

www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/councilmeetings

Important groundwater study commences

Work has commenced on a key study into the groundwater around the existing Bega Borefield and areas near the junction of the Bega and Brogo Rivers.

The aim of this project is to investigate the groundwater around Bega and identify production bore locations for the long-term sustainable supply of drinking water.

It will also improve the understanding and management of the resource, particularly during drought times.

The current borefield is located alongside the Bega River to the west of Bega, and is the source of water for the Bega-Tathra supply system.

The existing six bores are 40 years old and, for a range of reasons, are now in need of renewal and/or replacement.

Specialist engineering firm SMEC Holdings have been engaged by



An AgTEM geophysical survey was conducted last week as part of an important study into the groundwater around Bega and identification of production bore locations for the long-term sustainable supply of drinking water.

Council to undertake the study that will provide the basis of the plan for, and continuing management of, the water supply over the next 50 years.

The three-phase investigation (Information and Data Review; Geophysical Surveys; and Drilling

and Pump Testing) will be carried out over the next 3 - 4 months.

Due to the nature of the work, access to some private properties may be required - all impacted landholders have been contacted.

The investigation activities will only

occur during daylight hours on weekdays and are non-destructive.

For more information on the study, contact Council's Project Manager, Andrew Stewart, on 6499 2158 or email ASTewart@begavalley.nsw.gov.au.

JOBS AT COUNCIL

Bega Valley Shire Council

Permanent Full Time

- Supply Services Officer
Assets & Operations
Position closes 12 September 2018
- Supply Services Store Keeper
Assets & Operations
Position closes 16 September 2018

Fixed Term Contract/Casual Employment

- Site Supervisor – Eden & Candelo/Bemboka
Assets & Operations
Position closes 13 September 2018
- Learn to Swim Instructor
Assets & Operations
Position closes 13 September 2018
- Lifeguard/Pool Attendant
Assets & Operations
Position closes 13 September 2018

For more information or to express interest in general applications, please visit
www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/CareersAtCouncil

Outdoor Pools to open

All of Bega Valley Shire Council's outdoor swimming pools will open for the summer on Monday, 1 October (public holiday).

Special opening hours for 1 October:

Bega 10:00am - 4:00pm

Bemboka 2:00pm - 6:00pm

Candelo and Eden 10:00am - 5:00pm

Cobargo 10:00am - 6:00pm

Times will return to normal from Tuesday, 2 October.

For more information on all of Council's local pools visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-LSL-03-76-58.

Page 7 - Council News - A Bega Valley Shire Council publication

Busy time for outdoor teams

Bega Cheese Apex Park

A project to restore the Bega Cheese Apex Park at North Bega to its former glory is complete.

The Bega Town Team have repainted and repaired the shelters, picnic tables, guttering and down pipes; a new bin stand was installed; and the roof sheeting was replaced on all the shelters.

New electric barbecues were retro fitted into the existing bench, along with a new stainless steel bench top and doors.

Thanks to local contractors Peter Moore Welding (bench top and doors) and Rod Camilleri (new LED lighting under main shelter and wiring of barbecues) for their quality workmanship.



A project to restore the Bega Cheese Apex Park at North Bega has it back to its former glory.

Michael Learner Lookout

Michael Learner Lookout has come in for attention from the Bermi Town Team guys of late.

Bollards and a gate have been installed to prevent vehicles driving too close the cliff edge and to minimise erosion in the reserve.

The old damaged picnic table has been removed and a slab installed for a new table, while dead vegetation has been tidied.



Bollards have been installed at Michael Learner lookout to minimise erosion caused by vehicles.

Line Marking

The Urban Maintenance Team are currently carrying out line marking works on 'Give Way' and 'Stop' lines within Merimbula to improve intersection delineation and safety.

This project coincides with

the maintenance of street and intersection signage across the Shire.

Line marking works will continue throughout the year in other towns and villages.

Wyndham Focus

The Wyndham tennis courts and skate park areas have been a recent focus for the Eden and Merimbula Town Teams.

The courts have been cleaned; the surrounds mowed, whipper snipped, and sprayed for weeds; and the trees pruned.

Shelters will be given a spruce up over the coming days, along with the street trees and shrubs leading into the reserve.



The Wyndham Tennis Courts and Skate Park have come in for some attention.

Bindii control program starts across Shire



A bindii control program is currently underway at Council parks and reserves across the Shire.

A routine bindii control program has kicked off at parks, pools and reserves across the Shire this week.

The areas being targeted typically experience high-use, often have people with bare feet and/or have events with large volumes of people moving through them.

The selective herbicide Javelin will be used and signage will be installed at each location.

The areas to be covered include:

Bermagui

- Dickinson Park
- Bruce Steer Pool

Cobargo

- Cobargo Pool
- Cobargo Park

Bega

- Bega Park
- Bega Pool
- Bega Sporting Complex
- Bega River Reserve

Tathra

- Taylor Square and around the Surf Club
- Kianinny Park

Merimbula

- Ford Park
- Fishpen – Fishpen Road
- Spencer Park
- Beach Street Walkway

Candelo

- Candelo Pool
- William Loftus Reserve
- John Gordon Recreation Ground

Bemboka

- Bemboka Pool
- Bicentennial Park

Pambula

- Sapphire Aquatic Centre
- Pambula Surf Club
- Town Park

Eden

- Eden Swimming Pool

For more information on the spraying program contact Council's Recreation Assets Officer, Ed Crothers, on 6499 2316.

Weed management plans adopted

The effective management of weeds across the Shire continues to be a priority.

Council recently resolved to adopt the principles and priorities identified within the South East Strategic Weed Management Plan (SERSWMP) and further prioritise actions through eight local management programs within the Bega Valley Shire Local Weed Management Plan.

The plan outlines the measures all landholders must take to discharge their General Biosecurity Duty (GBD) in relation to weed controls in the Bega Valley.

Under Section 371 (1) (b) of the Biosecurity Act 2015, the functions of local control authorities (Council) are to "develop, implement, co-ordinate and review weed control programs".

Weed risk assessments (WRA's) that include the mapping of incursions, records and potential high-risk pathway inspections, have been carried out and collated over many years by weeds officers and enabled the WRA's to be assessed at a local level.

Due to this already large investment, some of the Valley's widespread weeds also have a potential impact on a locality level and the SERSWMP and its overarching weed risk assessment outcomes and recommendations have assisted Council to fine tune localised weed control measures.

One example is African Lovegrass that is a dominant weed within central locations, but in the north and south it occurs only in isolated incidences.

The local plan now stipulates more defined measures for isolated infestations which are controllable and buffer lines on infected properties to protect production farms and environmentally sensitive land.



The effective management of weeds such as African Lovegrass continues to be a priority across the Shire.

It is imperative that the SERSWMP and Bega Valley Shire Local Weed Management Plan are read in conjunction and both will soon be available on Council's website.

Don't forget to use the weed identifier tool on the website, or alternatively you can organise an inspection of your property with free advice on weed management and identification.

For more information contact Council's Biosecurity Invasive Species team on 6499 2222.

Tathra & District Recovery

Headland restoration begins

The ongoing effort to restore the natural areas in and around Tathra that were adversely impacted by the March bushfire continues.

The focus of the *Green Shoots* campaign has now turned to the iconic Tathra Headland, with a restoration program of the badly burnt vegetation commencing this week.

The first step in the implementation of this project will be the hand removal of fire affected trees and shrubs by contractors. All living vegetation will be retained.

The plant material will be mulched and then spread over the site to protect the soils and assist the regeneration of the area.

Council's Acting Environment and Sustainability Coordinator, Michael Fiedler, said a revegetation program involving the community will follow in the coming weeks.

"The headland will be replanted with plants that are native to the local environment, with the aim of retaining the natural character of the site," Mr Fiedler said.

"Plans are afoot to hold a community event during the October school holidays to assist with the plantings.



The fire impacted sections of the Tathra Headland are the subject of a restoration program that commenced this week.

"The headland will be replanted with plants that are native to the local environment."
- Michael Fiedler

"We have been thrilled by the large numbers of both locals and visitors who have expressed an interest in assisting with this type of work and as such we will be issuing an open invitation to the public once details are finalised."

For more information contact Michael Fiedler on (02) 6499 2222 or email mfiedler@begavalley.nsw.gov.au.



Mayoral Appeal Fund update

Stage two of the Mayoral Appeal Fund is all but complete, with 115 distributions made to impacted residents.

Stage two provided a distribution to owner occupiers, second residence owners and tenants whose residence was destroyed, declared permanently uninhabitable or significantly damaged by the Tathra and District Fire.

On the back of generous donations from across the country the Mayoral Appeal Fund has now moved past the \$1.5 million mark.

More information about the Mayoral Appeal Fund (including the fund rules) is available on Council's website at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/tathra

Donations to the Mayoral Appeal Fund can still be made via:

- Electronic bank transfer: BSB: 012525 Account: 837535154
- In person, at an ANZ Bega Branch.
- Credit Card over the phone, call (02) 6499 2345 during office hours.

Tathra & District Recovery

Community Meetings

Bega Valley Shire Council is committed to supporting Tathra, Reedy Swamp and Vimy Ridge residents through the bushfire recovery. Based on your feedback we will continue to hold monthly meetings to keep you up to date, answer your questions and share information.

All impacted residents are invited to attend.

Meetings will be held monthly

6pm - 7pm @ Tathra Public School Hall

✓ 12 July

✓ 9 August

6 September

4 October

1 November

13 December

Tathra and District Recovery Support Service

The Tathra and District Bushfire Recovery Centre and Information Point has transitioned to the Recovery Support Service (RSS).

This service is available to anyone who feels they have been impacted by the Tathra and District fires.

The Recovery Support Service will be open for 12 months at **Unit 6 Tathra Beach House Apartments in Tathra**. The service's Recovery and Resilience Officers, who are qualified caseworkers, can also offer home visits for greater convenience.

Our Recovery and Resilience Officers will offer you one-on-one assistance with your personal and practical needs such as:

- Working out what needs to be done and developing an action plan
- Finding out what financial and non-financial supports are available to you
- Assisting with referral and application processes
- Managing grief and loss
- Navigating insurance and the rebuilding process
- Liaising with Centrelink and other government bodies to complete paperwork
- Developing strategies on how best to support children, families and yourself after disaster

The service is available Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9.00am - 4.30pm; with extended hours from 9.00am - 7.00pm on Thursdays. The service will also operate from 9.30am - 4.30pm on Saturdays.

To access the Recovery Support Service, visit the office at **Unit 6 Tathra Beach House Apartments in Tathra**, call the Recovery Hotline on **6499 2475**, or email recovery@begavalley.nsw.gov.au.

The Recovery Support Service is jointly funded under the Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.

Tathra & District Recovery

Seed spreading working bee



The Tathra Landcare group continued their tireless work in restoring the fire impacted areas in and around Tathra with a recent working bee that focussed on spreading grass seeds.

A working bee on 25 August represented the latest in the tireless work being carried out by the Tathra Landcare group to restore the fire impacted natural areas in and around Tathra.

The focus of the event was the hand spreading of grass seed over several hectares of land in the area behind Ocean View Terrace.

Native species Weeping Grass (*Microlaena stipoides*), Wallaby Grass (*Austrodanthonia* sp) and Kangaroo grass (*Themeda australis*) were used, along with the

exotics Rye Corn and Oats.

The works will greatly assist in soil stabilisation, complementing other soil and sediment control measures and contributing more broadly to Council's *Green Shoots* program.

Council thanks Tathra Landcare for their fantastic contribution to these works and their ongoing efforts since the fires, which has also included rubbish collection throughout coastal reserves surrounding Tathra and replanting some burnt areas.

Hydromulching work underway

Work continues on the stabilisation and rehabilitation of the asset protection zones in and around Tathra.

As part of the broader *Green Shoots* program, Council is currently undertaking a number of erosion and sediment controls activities in the area between Fauna Grove, Wildlife Drive and Ocean View Terrace.

The Department of Primary Industries (Crown Lands) have provided generous grant funding to enable the purchase of erosion control products and the subsequent environmental restoration.

As part of this work, contractors have been spraying mulch (Hydromulch) over the ground, which contains a mix of native and exotic seeds.

The Hydromulch will protect the bare ground from further erosion and provide temporary protection until grass becomes established.

Council requests that everyone using the reserves avoids the hydromulched areas to allow the grasses to become fully established as quickly as possible – signage is in place.

GET READY WEEKEND
PREPARE FOR BUSH FIRE
23 SEPTEMBER
TATHRA FIRE STATION

DISCUSS PREPARE KNOW KEEP

THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO DROP IN ANY TIME BETWEEN 10am & 2pm TO TATHRA FIRE STATION ON SUNDAY THE 23rd OF SEPTEMBER.

* kids give aways * Free Bushfire Survival plan kit * Maps of Tathra's fire risk * Free BBQ *much more.



Council's contractors have been busy spraying Hydromulch over the bare ground in the the asset protection zones in and around Tathra over the past couple of weeks in an effort to stabilise the areas and speed up the rehabilitation process.

Contact us

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