

Bega Valley Shire Council village newsletter

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Merimbula roving workshop

Merimbula residents will have a chance to have their say on local issues at an upcoming Councillor Roving Workshop next week. The workshops have proved to be a valuable source of information both for and from the community, with people invited to present on local issues and quiz Councillors on a wide range of topics during a question and answer session.

The Merimbula workshop will be held at 4pm on Wednesday 11 November at the Pambula Merimbula Golf Club. For more information and to book a 15 minute presentation, visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au > Council & Infrastructure > Council Roving Workshops, or call Tamara Whiting on 6499 2222. Further workshops are planned for Bermagui on 18 November from 4pm to 5.30pm at a venue to be confirmed; and at Bega on 2 December from 4pm to 5.30pm in the Council chambers.

Regional Wellbeing Survey

If you would like to improve the wellbeing and quality of life of people living in rural and regional Australia you can help by taking the 2015 Regional Wellbeing Survey. The survey is voluntary, confidential and anonymous, and closes on 1 December 2015, at midnight. Please consider participating - everyone aged 18 or over who takes part can enter the draw to win one of 16 prizes worth a total of \$7,000. Do the survey online at www.regionalwellbeing.org.au or call 800 981 499 if you would like a paper survey posted to you or for help with the survey.

Hackathon demo night

Bega Valley Shire Library Service, together with IntoIT and CoWS, is holding 'What the Hack?' - a hackathon information and demo evening at Bega Library from 5.30pm on Thursday 12 November. The hackathon is a competition where teams create a product focused on technology to win prizes. Participants find out more about the event and see examples of previous Hackathon projects. There will be organisers for a Q & A session, some examples of previous Hackathon entries, previous entrants who will share their experiences and, of course, free pizza. Then you will be ready for the big event on the 21 and 22 November. For more information phone contact Scott Baker at Bega library on 6499 2172.

Picnic day

Bega Valley Shire Council offices will close on Friday 13 November for Union Picnic Day. This includes the call centre, customer service area, libraries and the Bega Valley Regional Gallery. Shire tips, childcare centres and preschools will open as usual. For any urgent matters, please call 6499 2222.

Good news for Mogareeka

Now that tenders for a new double lane boat ramp at Mogareeka have closed we look forward to construction beginning next year. The upgrade project includes expansion of the carpark and launching area, improved lighting and signage and is being co-funded by Council and NSW Roads and Maritime Services under the NSW Boat Now program.

Jobs with Council

- Water and sewerage mechanical and electrical engineer. Applications close at 5pm on 18 November.
- Ageing and disability caseworker. Applications close at 5pm on 18 November

Position descriptions are available from our website or by phoning Council.

When applying, address the selection criteria in your application and send by email to recruitment@begavalley.nsw.gov.au or post to the address below.

Doing Business with Council

- Sports field assessment consultancy request for quotation. Quotations close at noon on 11 November.

All Council tendering information and tenders are received through the e-tendering portal at www.tenderlink.com.au/begavalley



The present Mogareeka boat ramp that will be replaced next year

Call: 02 6499 2222 Fax: 02 6499 2200 Email: council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au Web: www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au

Internet access is available at all of our libraries in Bega, Bermagui, Eden and Merimbula.

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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Council merger for consideration

Bega Valley Shire Council has resolved to consider a merger with the Bombala Shire Council. Bega Valley Shire's position in such a merger will be discussed at the next Extraordinary Council meeting. The Bombala Shire Council requested the merger follows the release of an IPART report indicating the financial 'fitness' for the future of NSW councils.

Bega Valley Shire Mayor Michael Britten said he was pleased the IPART report had found Bega Valley Shire Council to be 'fit for the future' and, that in good faith, Bega Valley should consider all information before resolving its position.

"Particularly, Council needs to consider if a merger could benefit the Shire and be aware of any potential impacts or opportunities. We are in a position now where we can look at either continuing on our current path as well as review what a merger with a neighbouring Council can offer, how it can satisfy state government's push to modernise and, more importantly, how it can benefit us as a financially sustainable Shire.

"Bombala Shire has approached us, indicating a preference to merge with a financially fit coastal Council over their inland neighbours which have been classified as not fit in the IPART report. Our next step is to thoroughly investigate this option and a merger will only be considered if it means we continue as a financially sound organisation with its own identity." Cr Britten said.

The Extraordinary Council meeting will be held in the Council chambers at 2pm on Monday 16 November 2015 and the public are welcome to attend.

Bega-Tathra drinking water

We are working to reduce the incidence of dirty water by carrying out an extensive flushing program in the Bega and Tathra reticulation areas. Targeted flushing of particular areas is being carried out, although this can adversely impact water quality in other parts of the system and is likely to be the cause of some of the widespread discoloured water problems now being experienced.

This week Council began cleaning of the larger trunk water mains supplying Bega and Tathra areas using a process known as "ice-pigging", an aggressive process that will remove accumulated sediment using an ice slurry pumped through the water mains.

The predominant source of the discolouration is iron from the Bega River source water and corrosion of water main fittings. The issue is an aesthetic one rather than a health concern and there is no health-based guideline value for iron in drinking water. The water is disinfected, safe to drink and of a high quality in terms of most indicators.



Our halls Bemboka

The Bemboka Memorial Hall had its origins in a 1948 meeting, when residents decided to plan and raise funds for a hall. Many balls, bazaars and community efforts later, the hall was opened in 1962.

The memorial plaque that still stands was unveiled a year later on Anzac Day by Captain W L Brill, DSO, DFC and dedicated by Father O'Riordan and the Reverend L James.

President of the then Mumbulla Shire Council, Cr Jack Allen, (father of present Councillor and former Mayor Tony Allen) spoke at the event and said the hall belonged to the people and noted that completion was a joint effort between the Bemboka War Memorial Committee and the Shire itself, however giving 99 per cent credit to the memorial committee.

The hall was built with funds from public subscription and a loan of £6,000, with £16,000 in total raised.

Today, the hall hosts pre-school sessions, Tai Chi classes, school concerts, awards nights, weddings, birthdays, funerals, footy club functions and church group meetings. Regular meetings are held by the Senior Social Group, the Bemboka Rural Area Support Group and Garden Club. A highlight every year is the Bemboka Garden Show.

For bookings call Bemboka Post Office on 6493 0240. Fees and useful information can be found at Council's website, www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au - search Bemboka Hall in the search bar.

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