

Celebration and inspiration

The warm sunshine wasn't the only reason for the over 300 shining faces at the Shire's official Australia Day ceremony in Littleton Gardens.

People were happy to be there for a number of reasons - some came for a family day out; some were excited to be there in support of family and friends receiving Australia Day awards or becoming a citizen; others took the opportunity to collect a free native tree, grab a piece of fruit (donated by Woolworths Bega) and to browse the market stalls; some simply came to be together in community.

Bega Valley Shire Council Mayor, Cr Kristy McBain, summed it up best in her speech when she spoke about the different ways we choose to acknowledge our national day.

"As unique and wonderful a country we have, so too are the ways we celebrate our national day, whether it be through organised community activities, a barbeque with family and friends, perhaps a dip at the beach or a long weekend camping," Cr McBain said.



Bega Valley Shire Council Mayor Cr Kristy McBain (left) and Australia Day Ambassador Corey Payne (right) congratulate this year's awardees - Neil Rainbow (Sportsperson of the Year), Luke Meyers (Young Citizen of the Year), Eileen Cameron (Australia Day Award), Debbie Alker (Citizen of the Year) and Des Whitby (Senior Citizen of the Year).

Continued Page 4

Photo credit: Robert Hayson Photography.

Talk to us about the cemeteries

The absolute importance of cemeteries to communities can never be underestimated.

They represent the final resting place for our loved ones, hold deep historical connections, provide important snapshots into the past and connect families.

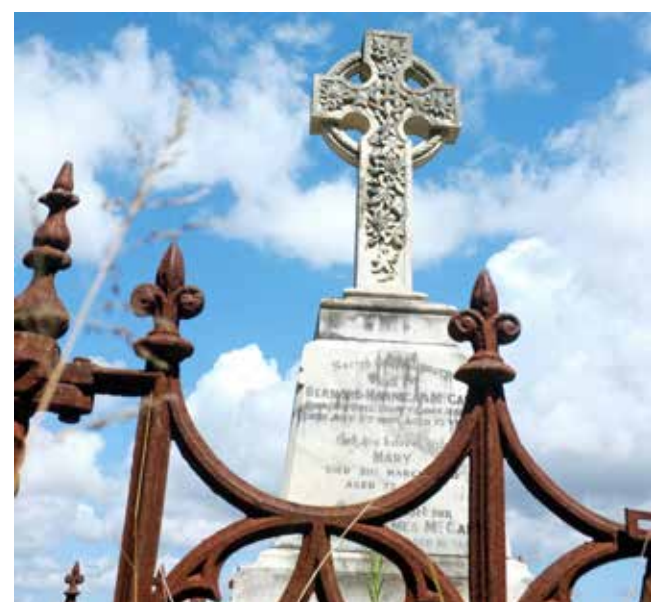
With this in mind, Bega Valley Shire Council is wholeheartedly committed to the ongoing preservation and improvement of the Shire's 14 cemeteries.

A key step in doing this effectively is the development of a strategic plan to guide their overall management; giving consideration to cultural and religious issues.

Council has engaged local firm Katagic to undertake this important task, with a vital plank in the process being the collection, collation and understanding of community sentiment and ideas.

Multiple strategic issues are to be considered, including any Native Title implications, future infrastructure needs and future expansion and land acquisition requirements.

Another one of the key objectives is to assess the financial sustainability of the cemeteries and how fees and charges are managed and applied.



Continued Page 5

Have your say on the future of the Shire's cemeteries.

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

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Trials aim to build on FOGO success

After the successful introduction of FOGO to residents, we are starting to look at some other exciting avenues to reduce waste sent to landfill.

Nappy Trial

Council is currently undertaking a nappy trial where we are providing one month's supply of certified compostable nappies to 50 families across the Shire.

Other Councils (including Hobart City Council) have been successfully composting this brand of nappy (Eenee's Compostable Nappies) on a commercial scale for many years.

We hope to find that our system can handle this type and volume of waste, and that we can promote the use of compostable nappies across our Shire into the future.

The trial is also being extended to include the use of these nappies in

Council's childcare centres.

If successful this would greatly decrease the volume of waste sent to landfill, and provide an alternative (put them in the FOGO bin) for residents concerned with odour from the red bin with a fortnightly collection. So watch this space!

Bermagui Business Trial

We are beginning a free FOGO trial for all commercial properties in Bermagui in early February.

This will include food businesses such as restaurants, clubs, and cafes, as well as other businesses such as vet clinics, doctor surgeries, butchers, newsagents, etc.

The trial will conclude towards the end of April, and depending on its success, we will be looking to start doing this in the remainder of the FOGO towns in the Shire.



Following on from the successful introduction of FOGO to residents, some exciting new trials are now looking at further potential avenues to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill across our Shire.

New technologies at CWF to reduce emissions

Landfill Cells 1 and 2 at the Central Waste Facility (CWF) have reached capacity.

As part of the management and maintenance of the facility, Council progressively cap (cover) and revegetate these landfill areas.

The cap design is made up of several layers of material placed over the landfill once it is full.

Council engaged contractors, John Michelin and Sons and Eco Line Solutions, to complete the civil and geosynthetic (a special plastic cover) construction works, which were finalised December 2018.

As waste decomposes, landfill gas is produced. Most of the gas is methane and carbon dioxide; harmful 'Greenhouse Gases' created by the decomposition of organic matter, such as food and garden waste.

Methane has an estimated global warming potential approximately 28 times higher than carbon dioxide.

One effective way to decrease greenhouse gas emission from landfill is to destroy the methane by burning.



The new flare at the Central Waste Facility burns off the methane, converting it to carbon dioxide and water vapour.

The new flare at the Central Waste Facility burns off the methane, converting it to carbon dioxide and water vapour.

Another effective way of limiting the amount of methane entering the atmosphere is to remove food and garden waste from landfill with programs such as FOGO.

The Gas and Cap system at the Central Waste Facility applies new technologies engineered to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit the amount of leachate (water that has passed through the waste) generated from waste.

The Gas Collection and Treatment System is registered with the Federal Government's Clean Energy Regulator as a new abatement project under the Emissions Reduction Fund. This means that carbon credits are available to be claimed.

Landfill Gas Industries are contracted by Council to construct, operate and manage the abate project.

Stage 2 construction works are to commence in March 2019.

FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS...

Less than 1% contamination in our FOGO bins

This makes the Bega Valley among the best FOGO collection services in Australia!

There's more...

Before FOGO your green bins diverted around 120 tonnes of food and garden organics from landfill every month – now you're doing that every single week!

Find out more

Follow our Facebook page @BegaValleyWasteandRecycling **Phone** 6499 2222

Visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/waste **Download** FREE Bega Valley Waste APP

THANK YOU



Flood program near completion

An intensive program of flood recovery works targeting the local transport network is nearing successful completion.

Administered by the Public Works Department and RMS under the Natural Disaster Recovery and Relief Assistance Scheme (NDRRA), the work included a total of 579 repairs across the Shire stemming from three flood events in the 2016 (including the very damaging East Coast Low).

A key component of the funding was that the work was to be completed by contractors and

Council has been delighted with the quality produced by our local civil operators from across the Shire.

The Director Assets and Operations, Anthony McMahon, said the additional funding Council has had over the past couple of years to deliver flood recovery works has seen a significant increase in activity across the transport network, particularly on our unsealed roads.

“We have had a small, but dedicated and high performing team, that has overseen the

delivery to an extremely high standard, with the outstanding work undertaken by the local contractors being in addition to Council’s regular works programs.

“With the flood recovery work winding up we will be moving back to regular activity and servicing to the level that occurred prior to the flood events, which is in line with Council’s asset management plans and what we can afford,” Mr McMahon said.



Helmets Crossing at Wolumla (before on the left and after on the right) was just one site to come in for attention under the flood recovery program.

Efficiencies enable expanded road project

A project to improve the road surface and drainage along Upper Brogo Road commenced last week.

While the road was originally included in this year’s gravel re-sheeting program, improved planning and processes has provided an opportunity to significantly expand the original scope of works.

Expected to take a month to complete, the project will include gravel re-sheeting where required from Verona Road through to Hore Lacey’s Road to address poor pavement condition and improve road surface drainage; gravel patching between Hore Lacey’s Road and Waterloo Creek to address some clay patches and badly corrugated corners; and a maintenance grade for the remainder of Upper Brogo Road through to the end of the maintenance marker.

Council’s Director Assets and Operations, Anthony McMahon, said the Works team are always looking for better ways to undertake all their tasks and as a direct consequence several previous re-sheeting projects have been delivered in shorter timeframes and with less resources than originally expected.

“As a direct result of this mindset, budget resources have been freed up to deliver this work on Upper Brogo Road,” Mr McMahon said.

“Council has recognised the need to make improvements to Upper Brogo Road and we are very happy that we have been able to stretch our gravel re-sheeting budget a little further this year to get the work that’s needed done.”

For more information contact Council’s Works Engineer, Jason Heffernan, on (02) 6499 2222.



An expanded project aimed at improving the road surface and drainage on Upper Brogo Road has commenced.

Bega Valley

Commemorative
Civic Centre

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

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

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



Australia Day in the Bega Valley

Celebrating what makes us great

From Page 1

"Whatever way we mark the day, it does encourage us to reflect on being Australian and it's an opportunity for all of us to re-commit to making Australia an even better place for us today and for future generations."

Our Australia Day Ambassador, Corey Payne, is a former professional rugby league player and the Founder of the Future Direction Network (more information about the Future Direction Network is available at www.fdn.net.au).

His inspiring speech reflected his willingness to give and motivate others as he reached out to young people and their parents to emphasise the value of education in providing a level playing field for people from all backgrounds - a fitting Australia Day sentiment!

This year, two people had the honour of becoming citizens on Australia Day.

Originally from England, Mr Alan Head received his citizenship along with Ms Thi Ha Nguyen from Vietnam.

Tathra's Debbie Alker was named Bega Valley's Citizen of the Year for her selfless service to her community over many years and more recently after the bushfire tragedy.

Des Whitby was recognised for his dedication in ensuring the roundabout gardens in Pambula are always well tended, blooming and the pride of the town. Mr Whitby was named Senior Citizen of the Year.

Young Citizen of the Year was awarded to Luke Meyers, who has been an exemplary role model within the local Scouting movement, displaying leadership and maturity.

Neil Rainbow is the Sportsperson of the Year for his valuable contribution to Australian Rules Football in the local area, whether on the field or off and Eileen Cameron received the Australia Day Award for her long-term commitment towards helping others within the Eden community.

Full citations can be viewed at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/Australia_Day.

Mr Payne also attended a ceremony at Cobargo hosted by the Cobargo Country Women's Association.

Tania Lingard was announced as the Cobargo Citizen of the Year in recognition of her varied contributions to the town over many years, including her work on the Narira Creek regeneration and her support of a number of Cobargo sporting clubs.

Elsewhere in the Shire, Merimbula held an Australia Day ceremony with a free breakfast provided by the Rotary Club of Merimbula and in Eden there was a flag-raising ceremony, singalong and barbeque breakfast at the Eden Killer Whale Museum.

Bega Valley Shire Council would like to thank our Australia Day sponsors – Bega Cheese, Bendigo Bank, Bega Lions and Woolworths Bega.

Photo credit: Robert Hayson Photography.



Alan Head and Thi Ha Nguyen received their Australian citizenship on Australia Day.



The Bega Girl Guides were given the important duty of raising the Australian flag.



The guys from Mojo kept the large crowd entertained with an eclectic mix of songs.



*Above:
The free tree giveaway proved very popular.*



*Left:
The hardworking Bega Lions team got through over 300 breakfasts on the day.*

Hydrology investigation continues



SMEC Geologist Ingrid Farr and BVSC Water Resources Coordinator Ken McLeod sampling sediment for analysis.

The drilling stage of the Bega groundwater hydrology investigation concluded recently.

SMEC and subcontractors Adams Drilling Pty Ltd undertook the drilling for Council.

Five 50mm diameter monitoring bores and one 254mm test bore were drilled near the existing Bega Borefield using a mud rotary drill rig.

Each bore was fitted with slotted PVC pipe to the base of the bore hole and surrounded with a gravel pack. Compressed air surging was used to clear muds and fines from around and within each bore. A one metre high lockable steel monument was placed over each bore on the surface.

Water bearing zones and sediment profiles were logged. Sediment and water samples were taken at various depths for laboratory analysis.

Council’s Water Resources Coordinator, Ken McLeod, said the next phase of the investigation is pump testing, which is occurring this week.

“SMEC has returned to the site with a pump contractor to pump the test bore at different flow rates over 24 hours and monitor groundwater level changes in the monitoring bores,” Mr McLeod said.

“The test bore is then being pumped continuously for 72 hours at a high flow rate with groundwater levels monitored continuously in the monitoring bores.

“The data collected will be used to determine water yields and throughflow characteristics important for selecting the location and depth for new production bores.

“The existing Bega bores were built in the late 1970’s and are deteriorating through corrosion. New bores are needed to ensure a sustainable supply of water for the Bega-Tathra area and to supplement supply to Yellow Pinch Dam over the next 50 years,” Mr McLeod said.

The investigation will also be used to develop and calibrate a groundwater model of the aquifer to simulate the impacts of drought and climate change on the amount and availability of water for users and the environment.

Another aspect is to assess the concentration of iron and manganese in the groundwater at various depths to help select the optimum extraction level for drinking water and provide water quality data required for the design of the new Bega Water Treatment Plant.

The area for the investigation was chosen following the completion of the geophysics stage late last year, which gathered data on subsurface features such as the depth to bedrock and areas of clay, sand and gravel and the geometry of the river valley around Bega.

For more information on the Bega groundwater hydrology investigation, contact Ken McLeod on (02) 6499 2222.

Have your say on the future of our Shire’s cemeteries

From Page 1

The development of the strategic plan also provides the ideal opportunity to accurately map plots and digitise records.

Cemeteries and Halls Officer, Katrina Berenguer, said the consultation program aims to enable all stakeholders to be able to share their views and feedback on the long-term vision for the cemeteries.

“Along with a survey that is available online at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay and in hard copy at the front desk of Council’s administration office and at the libraries located at Bega, Bermagui, Tura Beach and Eden, three sessions will be held (in Cobargo, Bega and Pambula) to encourage community members to engage in the conversation,” Ms Berenguer said.

“Prior to Council assuming management of the cemeteries in 2009, they were managed by local community groups and committees and we know there is a wealth of valuable knowledge out there.

“We encourage you to come along to the community consultations in person and provide your feedback.”

They are being held at the following locations and times:

Tuesday 12 February 2019
10.00am – noon
Cobargo Public Hall (supper room)
18 Cobargo-Bermagui Rd, Cobargo

Wednesday 13 February 2019
10.00am – noon
Pambula Hall
13 Quondolo Street, Pambula

Thursday 14 February 2019
10.00am – noon
Bega Civic Centre – ground floor foyer
Zingel Place, Bega

The opportunity to participate in this initial consultation phase closes at 12pm on Sunday, 3 March 2019, however there will be further opportunities to comment on the draft document in the future.

For more information on the project, contact Council’s Cemeteries and Halls Officer, Katrina Berenguer, on (02) 6499 2222.

New software for Council’s children’s services

Council’s Children’s Services Team has implemented a big change to its web-based software that has resulted in simplified processes for families and a big saving for Council.

The existing web-based software was proving ineffective for families and Council, so the team bit the bullet in December and jumped into a new system which has many

benefits – some still to be realised.

An immediate benefit to families is the ‘electronic sign-in’ where parents simply enter their telephone number, press a button and it is done.

The system also alerts parents to messages, which keeps them engaged with Educators; and it is intended it will also prompt parents in the future concerning fees that are due.

Right: The new electronic sign-in has effectively simplified the process for parents at our children’s services.



Nominate a local volunteer you value

We all know at least one long-term volunteer in our community, neighbourhood or organisation and now's the time to nominate them for a Bega Valley Shire Community Service Medallion.

Bega Valley Shire Council is committed to acknowledging the valuable work volunteers carry out every day throughout the Shire and nominations are now being called for the Community Service Medallion awards as a way of recognising the outstanding work of many of our unsung volunteers.

Mayor, Cr Kristy McBain, said she always looks forward to awarding the Community Service Medallions because the recipients tend to be people who have never expected a reward for their voluntary efforts, often carried out over many years.

"Our volunteers add value to our Shire's economy, boost the wellbeing of communities and have a positive impact on so many aspects of our daily lives.

"We have literally hundreds of people in our community who are prepared to give up their time to ensure the welfare of others and the

Community Service Medallions are our way of saying thank you," Cr McBain said.

Council encourages organisations, individuals and families to nominate candidates.

"If you know someone who is working tirelessly in their community and you feel deserves recognition, nominate them now!

"Please don't assume that someone else will nominate the person you think of – we don't mind receiving duplicate nominations," Cr McBain added.

Nominations need to be received by Friday 8 March and will be considered by the Bega Valley Medallion Committee, who will provide their recommendations to Council. The awards will be presented during National Volunteer Week in May.

Nomination forms and guidelines are available on Council's website at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/awards.

For more information contact Council's Executive Assistants on 6499 2103 or email execassist@begavalley.nsw.gov.au



Marshall Campbell and Geoffrey Grigg are volunteer gardeners, who keep Bega's Littleton Gardens blooming.

Welcoming Dr Alice Howe to Council

We are pleased to introduce Dr Alice Howe, our new Director Community, Environment and Planning, who brings a quality mix of technical expertise and previous local government experience to the Bega Valley Shire Council.

Dr Howe is an Environmental Engineer, with an impressive line-up of experience covering coastal management, strategic planning, community engagement and business development.

Backed up by her qualifications, which include a PhD in estuarine wetland eco-hydraulics and rehabilitation, as well as two Bachelor honours degrees in resource engineering and natural resources, Dr Howe is an exciting addition to Council's executive team.

Dr Howe started with Council in late January after moving to the Bega Valley from the Hunter region,



Dr Alice Howe

where most recently she held senior management positions at Lake Macquarie City Council. Previously, she worked at Newcastle University and in the private consulting sector.

"I've received a very warm Bega Valley welcome and I'm anticipating a busy time ahead as I get to know people and our programs, and work out how I can best contribute to the great work that's happening here,"

Dr Howe said.

"My husband and I both love being outdoors, and are looking forward to exploring the region's fabulous parks and beaches on weekends too."

Her team at Lake Macquarie City Council have been recognised internationally for their achievements in climate change adaptation, and their pioneering approach to planning for future flood risks and rising sea-levels received an award for Planning Excellence by Planning Institute Australia in 2017.

Dr Howe's areas of responsibility include Communication and Events, Libraries, Regional Gallery, Community Development, Brighter Futures, Ageing and Disability, Volunteers, Children's Services, Planning and Sustainability, Ranger Services, and Certification and Compliance.

Bandara's new kitchen



The Children's Services Team has brought the kitchen at Bandara into the modern world!

The centre caters for up to 56 children each day, providing them with morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.

While everyone else was enjoying their Christmas break, a team of tradies came in and replaced the kitchen – just in the nick of time for the re-opening of the centre.

Children's Services Coordinator, Alison Macfarlane, said she is thrilled with outcome.

The team plan to replicate this for the Eden Early Learning Centre in the near future.



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Treatment plant progressing well

The Bemboka Water Treatment Plant, located on the northern outskirts of Bemboka, has been the scene of a major upgrade to what was previously a small pumping station and chlorinator situated on the banks of the Bemboka River.

This significant upgrade, funded by the Bega Valley Shire Council, will improve the quality of drinking water for Bemboka residents.

Council's project manager overseeing construction of the new plant, Nathanael Wearne, says that the building works are very close to being finished and nearly all of the water treatment equipment is now installed.

"Over the next few months, we'll aim to seal the internal roads, lay hardstand paving around the lagoons suitable for heavy vehicles, install solar panels and restore the worksite," he said.

"During the times they are generating energy, the solar panels are intended to be the primary source of electricity for the plant.

"The exciting part will start in mid-March when we'll begin to test and commission the water treatment processes.

"That will set us up ready to begin operation of the plant and start proof of performance testing in April.

"We're also starting to plan for the transfer to the new system, which will take place up stream of the town's reservoir.

"Once the new plant is on line then we'll decommission the existing pump station and chlorinator," Mr Wearne said.

There will be minimal impact to Bemboka residents and businesses when the changeover happens and we'll keep residents updated with progress of commissioning the new plant.

Right: Construction of the Bemboka Water Treatment Plant continues to progress well, with the building works nearing completion and nearly all of the water



New Year, new name in Eden



Council's children's service in Eden has been named the Eden Early Learning Centre.

Council's Eden children's service has a new name as we commence 2019 – Eden Early Learning Centre.

Following January's merger of the former Eden Pre-School and the Childcare Centre, the service is now able to provide long day care places to assist working and at-risk families; along with more affordable Pre-School places for children who attend between 9.00am and 3.30pm two days per week, all from the one location.

The Nominated Supervisor of Eden Early Learning Centre, Kim Flint, said the reason for the name change is to step away from a misconceived view that child care equals babysitting.

"Nothing could be further from the truth," Ms Flint said.



"All our educators are qualified, with the minimum level being a Certificate III. Half of our staff hold a

diploma, while our Early Childhood Teachers have all completed their degrees.

"We provide a curriculum that is informed by the national Early Years Learning Framework, that forms the foundation for ensuring that children in all early childhood education and care settings experience quality teaching and learning.

"It has a specific emphasis on play-based learning and recognises the importance of communication and language (including early literacy and numeracy) and social and emotional wellbeing.

"Further to this, the program at Eden is created from the ideas of the children and families. Children's ideas are nurtured and spontaneous play creates opportunities for learning through the support of the educators," Ms Flint said.







Ben Quilty, 'I Heart Paint' 2018, oil on canvas, 2 x 1.5m (each), Bega Valley Regional Gallery Collection, image: Ben Quilty

I HEART PAINT

Adam CULLEN
Elisabeth CUMMINGS
Sally GABORI
Alesandro LJUBICIC
Robert MALHERBE
Ben QUILTY

16 February - 29 March 2019
curated by Iain Dawson

Bega Valley Regional Gallery
Zingel Place, BEGA NSW
<http://gallery.begavalley.nsw.gov.au>
+61 2 6499 2222
Monday to Saturday 10am - 4pm

School Holiday winning activities

Our libraries once again provided a hub of fun activities for all ages throughout the January school holidays, with highlights including a character design workshop, a gaming day, electronic music workshop and a Lego day.

Craft sessions proved popular and gave children the chance to experiment with different art techniques, at the same time encouraging them to re-use found materials to create something new.

The Summer Reading Club has been an annual summer fixture for many years and families join up year after year to take advantage of the weekly prize draws – with great prizes!

“We really encourage children to keep reading and to remember to bring in their completed reading logs so they are eligible for the major prize draw,” Sam Fenton, Library Team Leader, said.

“This year the Big Draw will be held at 4.00pm on Friday 22 February at Bega library.

“The Summer Reading Club runs for another few weeks, so there’s still time to join up at your nearest library,” Ms Fenton said.

Prizes are donated by our generous local sponsors and the major prize this year is a Lego Boost Robotics Set.



The holiday storytime and craft at the Bermagui Library proved very popular with the children.

Book Chats are back for the New Year

Book Chats is a relaxed conversation about books and authors with library staff and other readers.

Tura Marrang library is starting Book Chats this year!

Open to everyone - pop along for a cuppa, share what you’re reading with other book lovers, and perhaps find out about a new author from someone else.

Tura Marrang Library

Friday 15 February, 15 March, 12 April, 17 May
10.30am – 12.00pm

Eden Library

First Friday of the month
10.30am – 12.00pm

Bermagui Library

Friday 15 February, 15 March, 5 April.
10.00am – 12.00pm



The Bega Valley Shire Library thanks the following local businesses for their generous support of the Summer Reading Club

Dominos Pizza Tura Beach, Booktique, Merimbula Ice-Creamery, Oaklands Barn, Collins Booksellers Merimbula, Tura Beach Bakery, Infuse Café Tura Beach, Ollie Mason’s Piattini Cafe, Sapphire Coast Marine Discovery Centre, Eden Visitor Information Centre, Eden Killer Whale Museum, Candelo Books, McDonald’s Bega & Merimbula, Neilsons Mitre 10 Bermagui, On the Perch Bird Park, Potoroo Palace, Sportspower Bega, Candelo Books, Magic Mountain, Merimbula Aquarium & Wharf.

NSW SENIORS FESTIVAL 2019

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ARCHERY | HISTORY | POTTERY | CODING | GARDENING
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Demos & Displays
Come along and get involved!

Wednesday 20 February 2019

10.30am - 2.30pm

Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre

Free Entry | Free refreshments | Free Sausage Sizzle
Seniors come and find your new creative pursuit!

For more information call Bega Library **6499 2127**



LEGAL ISSUES FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Join our panel of lawyers and seniors rights experts as they explore issues that older people and their families experience when planning for the future.

There will be a film screening of the play *Piano Forte*, which explores elder abuse, followed by a discussion and a chance to ask the panel members questions. Free refreshments will be provided.

Friday 22 February 2019
10 am to 12 noon

Bega Valley Library,
Zingel Place, Bega.

Bookings: 6499 2127 or
<http://begavalleyshirelibrary.eventbrite.com.au/>



The filming of *Piano Forte* was funded by Legal Aid Queensland's Community Legal Education Collaboration Fund.

Gardens are escaping across the Shire

Garden plants have been enjoying a bumper season with warm humid days and plenty of rain promoting rapid growth and spread. They have responded well to the break in the drought just as pastures and bushland plants have.

We are all enjoying not only a very varied display of flowering plants of all types, but also home-grown fruit and vegetables.

Council's Biosecurity Invasive Species Coordinator, Jamie Dixon-Keay, points out there is a dark side to this growth however.

"Unwanted or over-enthusiastic garden plants are spreading beyond their boundaries, invading neighbouring land where they may be less than welcome," Mr Dixon-Keay said.

"Vines, such as morning glory (Ipomoea species) and Japanese honeysuckle (Lonicera japonica), to

name just a couple, can overwhelm gardens, covering shrubs and trees in a dense mat and climbing over boundary fences where they are doing the same.

"Other plants, including many daisy species, agapanthus, lion's tail, polygala and the succulents also spread, many beyond gardens into bushland and reserves.

"If you have plants that are rapidly spreading, take care to keep them in your garden and protect the environment beyond your fence.

"Think about what you plant in your garden and consider replacing plants that are unruly with less invasive species," Mr Dixon-Keay said.

Local nurseries offer advice on appropriate species to plant and Council Biosecurity Officers are more than happy to visit your property with advice on how



Morning glory enveloping all in its path.

to restrain or safely dispose of unwanted and unruly garden plants.

Officers can also provide advice on what not to plant and advise on similar plants that are less likely to spread - if you would like to arrange a visit please contact Council on

6499 2222.

For more information please visit www.weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au or download the WeedWise app in Google Play and iTunes and select Bega Valley South East for priority weeds in the Bega Valley Shire.

Council Meeting wrap up

Airport Terminal Extension

Council has delegated authority to the General Manager to enter into negotiations with Colin Joss & Co Pty Ltd trading as Joss Constructions for the construction of the Merimbula Airport terminal extension.

A variation to the Commonwealth Funding Deed will be sought to defer the installation of screening equipment until such time as it is required.

The identified project funding shortfall is to be covered via loan funds to be repaid through the Airport Special Rate Variation.

Men's Shed Tenure

As the Crown Land Manager of Edgar Jaggers Reserve (R180062), Council has approved a 20-year tenure to the Wallaga Lake – Bermagui Men's Shed Incorporated for the purpose of erecting a men's shed facility.

This tenure proposal will be advertised in accordance with the provisions of section 47 of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW).

Southern Lights Project

Council supported the business case for funding of the Smart Street Lighting Program by the NSW

Government at a cost of \$61.4M and will seek support for the project from the local member.

The Southern Lights project proposes to deliver LED street lights and digital enabling infrastructure through 83,000 street lights across southern NSW.

It will provide better, cheaper, more efficient, more reliable street lighting and digital connectivity that will be enabling infrastructure for smart community technologies.

Former Hotel Australasia

Council has delegated authority to the General Manager and Mayor to continue to negotiate a sale of 142 – 144 Imlay Street, Eden (former Hotel Australasia) with an identified potential developer for a minimum value as determined by Council in closed session.

Bega Pre-School Land Tenure

Council has approved the

divestment of its current interest in two lots at Koolgarra Drive, Bega by way of gift to the Bega Pre-School Association Incorporated; for a nominal sum of \$1.00.

Additionally landowner's consent will be granted to enable a current pre-school DA to be assessed.

Next Meeting

Wednesday 20
February @ 2pm

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

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streamed for you to watch on
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Bega Valley Recovery

Green Shoots community planting day planned

Join us for another planting event to help restore bushfire affected areas at the Tathra Headland Reserve.

Our previous community planting event held in October last year was so successful, that we're organising a similar planting activity to keep boosting the recovery of the natural vegetation of the reserve.

Come to the Tathra Headland Reserve anytime between 9.30am to 11.00am on Sunday 17 March, when we'll have over 1000 plants waiting for ready hands to plant, guard, mulch and water.

Please wear sturdy shoes, bring gloves, a bottle of water and sun protection.

Council will cater for up to 100 participants and the event is open to tourists, community members and community groups.

Our staff will be on hand to guide people to appropriate planting sites around the reserve.

As our way of thanking people for their help, we'll also provide each participant with a free plant for themselves.



Another community planting day is planned for Sunday, 17 March. This map shows the areas that will be targeted on the day.

Native flower meadow magic

Council's environmental staff, who recently inspected the post-fire recovery of the clifftop areas of Tathra, are impressed by the amount of native vegetation regrowth in this reserve.

Areas covered by melaleuca that burnt with a high intensity during the March 2018 bushfire now have a meadow like appearance, dominated by purple native Fairy Fan-flower (*Scaevola aemula*). Other native species doing well include Running Postman (*Kennedia rubicunda*) and native geranium.

Council's Environmental Management Officer, Michael Fiedler, said that it was still not clear what the vegetation community would eventually look like but that it was likely to be different from the Melaleuca dominated headland scrub that existed on much of the cliff tops before the fire.

"There are not a lot of melaleuca seedlings coming back at this stage and it is likely that the vegetation will be more wattle dominated," Mr Fiedler said.

"There was a real risk that weeds would take advantage of the disturbance caused by the fire so council contractors have done



The amount of native vegetation regrowth in Tathra has impressed Council's environmental staff.

several sweeps to target weeds through the entire burnt clifftop reserve from Kianinny Bay to Tathra Headland.

"This approach has been very successful with natives dominating the regrowth."

Council has applied for a grant through the Environmental Trust Restoration and Rehabilitation grant funding program to continue the Green Shoots community bushfire recovery program.

The project aims to continue to assist both community and environmental post-fire recovery through restoration works in fire affected reserve areas.



Accidental counsellor Workshop



WHEN
Saturday 23 February 9.30am to 4.30pm

WHERE
Tathra Public School

WHO
Community members wanting to support others

COST
Free

TO REGISTER
Contact Louise Roser:
4474 8410 or email
lroser@coordinare.org.au

Training the 'accidental counsellors' in our community

As community members we often find ourselves providing support to friends and neighbours who are experiencing difficulty and emotional distress. We want to help, but how should we respond?

This **FREE** 1 day workshop aims to provide participants with a practical framework and skill set that enables them to respond with clarity and confidence.



Places for this free workshop are limited and registration is essential.

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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