

Bega Valley Shire Council village newsletter

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Bike path project on track

A cycle path connecting Tathra and Kalaru is set to become a reality by as early as mid-2019, with the planning phase of the project commencing recently.

Survey work and investigation studies are underway along Tathra Road and in the two townships, with the concept path alignment to begin at the bus stop in Kalaru and finish at Tathra Public School.

The project is to be entirely funded by a \$3,000,000 grant received from the State Government under the 2017/18 Active Transport Program and represents the first stage in creating a cycling network between Bega and Tathra.

Council's Acting Director of Transport and Utilities, Ian Macfarlane, said the project aligns with the vision and goals and short-term priority proposals of the Bega Valley Bike Plan.

"It is very exciting to see this project commencing and much credit should go to the Bega Tathra Safe Ride community group who have been instrumental in securing the funding," Mr Macfarlane said.

"The bike path certainly has strong support and we look forward to successfully delivering this project for the local community.

"The path will be located within the existing road reserve wherever possible and the alignment will be adjusted to suit the existing site topography and work around vegetation.

"It is envisaged that the path will provide connection into the existing mountain bike network and cater for cyclist of all abilities," Mr Macfarlane said.

The concept design will commence once the initial investigations have been completed later this month and a concept design will go on public exhibition for community comment early in 2018.

A staged construction of the bike path is planned to commence in mid-2018, with a target completion of mid-2019.



Have Your Say

- Draft Commercial Centres Strategy Review - closing 22 November
- Merimbula Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade
- DA for Frogs Hollow recreational flight school

Visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay to find out more on these items

Local Events

- 18 November: The Janes, Launch of a new Album "All I want for Christmas", Bemboka
- 18 November: Outdoor Movie Night, Eden Marine High School 6.30 to 9.30pm
- 1 December: Looks Good on Paper Exhibition, Cobargo Creators Centre

Form more information visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/events

Tenders

- Design, Supply and installation of street lighting at Bega Sporting complex and Bega Park
- Galba Creek armco culvert repair and guardrail installation

Visit www.tenderlink.com/begavalley to find out more on these items

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Council celebrating innovation award

Bega Valley Shire Council is celebrating after receiving an award for innovation at the IPWEA NSW Engineering Excellence Awards on Thursday night.

The recognition comes after Council has beefed up the technology it uses for internal communication, project and asset management.

A comprehensive system known as a Network Operating Centre (NOC) has been developed internally, enabling data mining between Council's separate information management systems.

The concept originated from a need to manage intellectual property, with staff keen to reduce duplication and highlight opportunities that bring about greater collaboration and efficiency.

Council's Manager of Strategy and Assets, Jason Deller, said that the NOC allows staff (through the use of a touchscreen) to view all relevant information for a localised area, which in turn saves on transportation costs and maximises the efficiency of works personnel.

"There was a real focus on the transport network in developing the NOC and we now have the ability to view large quantities of data spatially across the

Shire," Mr Deller said.

"Through utilising the NOC, Council is able to fully understand the complexities of transport servicing. Renewal and upgrade information is readily available and reflects the current 'real time' status of our network for tactical and operational workflow and future strategic planning.

"While still evolving, the system is already bringing great benefits including better project planning; displaying crash data statistics that guide funding applications and road improvement programs; displaying Council road grading schedules to determine level of service requirements and compliance; and minimising the loss of corporate knowledge.

"This is cutting edge technology and the use of drones for video and photographic evidence has been vital to the project, which enables Council to optimise value for money and deliver responsible, ethical spending and efficient service delivery," Mr Deller said.

In exciting news for the community, much of the information held within the NOC will be soon available through a new 'transport portal' on Council's website.

Citizen of the year nominations

Time is running out to nominate deserving locals for the 2018 Citizen, Young Citizen (under 25) and Senior Citizen (over 65) of the Year awards.

Nominations should include information about a person's service to the community and/or a distinguished performance over the past 12 months.

To nominate someone visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/awards, email council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au or deliver nominations to any Council office by 21 November 2017.

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Frogs Hollow flight school update

Planning staff at Bega Valley Shire Council have made a preliminary assessment of Development Application - 10-2017-445-1, which proposes a recreational flight school on land adjacent to the Princes Highway at Frogs Hollow.

The site is home to a longstanding airfield; however the applicant, Sports Aviation Flight College Australia is proposing a \$10.4 million investment.

Council officers have determined that all information needed for the application to be placed on exhibition has been submitted.

Submissions from the community will be accepted until 6 December.

In line with Schedule 4A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, Council will then forward the application to the Southern Joint Regional Planning Panel (SJRPP) for final determination.

The Act compels Council to refer certain

developments valued at over \$5 million to the SJRPP, this includes air transport facilities.

Council's role in this case will be to coordinate the exhibition period; on completion Council staff will compile an assessment report for the consideration of the SJRPP. Any submissions received during the 21 day exhibition period will be addressed in the staff report.

Planning Panels are an instrument of NSW Department of Planning and Environment and operate across the State to provide independent, merit-based decision making on regionally significant developments.

Former NSW Environment Minister, Pam Allan, is Chair of the SJRPP.

Those with an interest in the proposed recreational flight school at Frogs Hollow will be able to engage with the process ahead via Council's DA tracker and the Planning Panel's website.

Grandparents join the preschool fun

Bega Valley Shire Council's Children's Services hosted a number of special events to celebrate NSW Grandparents Day recently.

The Bandara Childrens Services and Sapphire Mobile Preschool children had the opportunity to show their older relatives all the learning opportunities they engage in over the course of a day.

A NSW Department of Family and Community Services grant enabled Bandara to hold an interactive games day to mark the important occasion this year, with the children and grandparents sharing some classic games from the past, including Bocce and Skittles.

The guests also had the opportunity to play with their grandchildren in both the indoor and outdoor learning environments. There were nans sharing stories, pops working on constructions, tea parties on the deck and a full sandpit, before everyone shared lunch.

At Candelo Preschool the grandparents engaged in dramatic play, as the children set up a café to serve the family members tea and coffee.



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The children were also excited to show their guests the ELLA apps that support the children to learn Mandarin, while in the afternoon one of our working grandparents joined in for story time and read 'How the birds got their colours'.

The Bemboka Preschool children cooked and served pizza as they joined their grandparents for morning tea. Plenty of fun was also had making playdough and the children shared coloured counters to make dinosaurs. Council's Children's Services Coordinator, Lynn Bray, said the staff and children felt very fortunate to have so many guests take part in the celebrations.

"We hold these events every year to celebrate the wonderful contribution that grandparents make in their grandchildren's lives and it is just wonderful to see the enjoyment everyone gets out of the cross-generational interactions," Ms Bray said.

New enrolments for all of Council's preschools and long day care centres are now being accepted for 2018. To enrol, or for more information, contact Bega Valley Shire Council's Children's Services on (02) 6499 2118.

Input sought on effluent management project

With specialist consultants AECOM having commenced the concept design and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Merimbula Sewage Treatment Plant upgrade and Deep Water Ocean Outfall, Council is looking for people who live in the Merimbula/Pambula area to join a community working group.

This voluntary group will provide input and help the project team and Council to consider the options for upgrading the existing Merimbula Sewage Treatment Plant; the alignment for a deep water ocean outfall; and the concept design of required infrastructure.

The 10-member working group will be expected to constructively contribute to discussions and attend approximately five meetings over the next few months.

Eligible community members will be current residents, landowners or business owners; able to represent and communicate the interests of the community; willing to adhere to the groups' code of conduct; and able to read and review any preparation materials supplied for workshops.

Those interested in becoming part of the community working group need to lodge their formal expression of interest through the project website www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/merimbulastpupgrade by 5pm on Tuesday, 21 November.

Successful applicants will be notified on the week commencing 27 November.

For more information on the project, please call the project team on 1800 317 028.

Photograph: Council is seeking community input around the Merimbula Sewage Treatment Plant upgrade and Deep Water Ocean Outfall project.



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IRC Conference Dispute Concluded

Bega Valley Shire Council (BVSC) representatives attended a second compulsory conference at the Industrial Relations Commission in Sydney this week, after the United Services Union (USU) sought to have the matter relisted.

Council was asked by the Commission, to provide further explanation on specific changes to positions directly impacted by the restructure when it appeared on 25 October, 2017. This material was provided to the Commission and the USU on 27 October, 2017.

In a statement provided to both parties at the conclusion of the conference, Commissioner Peter Newall said, on the basis of the material before the Commission and the facts that emerged in today's proceedings, it is clear that the restructure and regrading of positions by Council in this case has been correctly carried out.

Commissioner Newall further determined that he can see no basis for further dispute about the regrading and that the file on the dispute has now been closed.

The Commissioner also advised that Council was now able to undertake recruitment activity to fill the new roles.

Council is confident that it can now move forward and finalise the required organisation structure changes. Council acknowledges that change is difficult and will continue to provide support to affected employees through the change process.

More plaudits for regional gallery

Industry accolades continue to roll in for the Bega Valley Regional Gallery (BVRG), with its strong exhibitions again being recognised.

This time it was the announcement on Friday evening of a highly commended in the 'Exhibition Projects – Galleries (Volunteer Organisations or organisations with 2 or less paid staff)' category at the 2017 IMAGinE Awards presented by Museums and Galleries of NSW.

BVRG Gallery Director, Iain Dawson, said the IMAGinE awards recognise the people who work in museums and galleries across NSW and the contributions they make.

"IMAGinE celebrates all institutions and pays homage to those organisations run by volunteers, with limited budgets and minimal resources," Mr Dawson said.

"These awards offer a unique opportunity for museums and galleries in NSW to advocate, promote their achievements and raise their profile within the

sector and the broader community.

"The consistent industry endorsement of our gallery's program is very encouraging, as we pride ourselves on being at the cutting edge of programming.

"The acknowledgement of Young & Free: An Australian Discourse is a great recognition of this and comes after the gallery won the category in 2016 for Flora Australis.

"It is thanks to the passion and commitment of our 50 plus volunteers that we can host these important exhibitions," Mr Dawson said.

The citation for the highly commended award described Young & Free: An Australian Discourse as "curatorially brave; conceived to address a vacuum of discussion around pressing social issues in Australian society; and designed to provoke audiences to reflect and develop their own opinion on the issues addressed".

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