

Be prepared this summer

Do you have a plan?

It's a question we are hearing asked more and more regarding the danger bushfires pose and being prepared, but can you and your family honestly say yes?

As we end a year in which the danger, destruction and reality of bushfires has been clear for all to see and left an indelible mark on our community, Council is joining with the Rural Fire Service in urging everyone to get organised.

It was this simple yet vital message that the Far South Coast Rural Fire Service Superintendent, John Cullen, stressed in his address to Councillors last Wednesday.

As we move into summer Mr Cullen said that while the recent rain was certainly welcome, the seasonal conditions remained very concerning, citing an estimated 200mm deficiency in soil moisture levels.

"To be very clear the bush will absolutely burn at present and everyone needs to be acutely aware of this fact," Mr Cullen said.

"We (the Rural Fire Service) are ready to deal with any incidents



The Rural Fire Service and Council are calling on the community to be prepared for another challenging bushfire season, with soil moisture levels still low despite the recent rainfall. Photo courtesy of the Rural Fire Service.

– the service is fully staffed, our volunteers (including 70 that are newly inducted) are trained up and we are fortunate to have a strong fleet of appliances, but we need the

community to do their part too.

"Know your risk, be prepared and stay informed.

"Importantly we need people to be

aware of the fire danger ratings and adjust their activities accordingly," Mr Cullen said.

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Flight School application refused

The Southern Regional Planning Panel unanimously refused the Frogs Hollow Flight School Development Application at last Thursday's public determination meeting.

The panel's decision supported Council's recommendation and follows 728 submissions and three petitions being received.

The panel gave seven reasons for their decision:

1. The application fails to demonstrate that the site is suitable for the development, with regard to impacts upon the amenity and character of the locality and other airports; capacity of the site; capability of the site to comply with CASA's civil aviation advisory publication CAAP 92-1(1);

capability of the site to comply with Recreational Aviation Australia's Operations Manual; and the meteorological constraints of the site.

2. Inconsistent with the existing character and landscape quality of the locality.

3. Insufficient information to describe the extent and nature of likely impacts of the development (including noise) and identify appropriate mitigation measures.

4. Inadequate information to consider the potential impacts and mitigation measures with regard to Aboriginal Archaeology.

5. The application has not adequately

considered the full extent of likely impacts upon the natural environment, including clearing of Endangered Ecological Community - Lowland Grassy Woodland to comply with CAAP 92-1(1); disposal of effluent upon Endangered Ecological Community - Lowland Grassy Woodland; and required works to the runways to comply with CAAP 92-1(1).

6. Unacceptable socio-economic impacts in the locality.

7. Not in the public interest.

Planning Panels operate across New South Wales to provide independent, merit-based decision making on regionally significant development.

Planning Panels include Sydney Planning Panels (SPPs) and Regional Planning Panels (RPPs).

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!



Major award for compost crew



The Bega Valley Shire Council compost crew Michael Randall, Glenn Alexander, Mick Yarra and Luke Hamilton are celebrating their recognition at the recent Australian Organics Recycling Association (AORA) Awards.

Bega Valley Shire Council has won a major organics recycling industry award for its composting, introduction to FOGO and commitment to the local community.

The Australian Organics Recycling Association (AORA) awarded Council for outstanding local government initiative in organics collection, processing and marketing at its NSW industry night in Sydney this month.

Award judges congratulated the team at Bega Valley Shire Council on their community-centric approach to composting and their introduction of the FOGO collection and processing service.

"Bega Valley Shire Council's commitment to community engagement and education, their dedication to continual process improvement and the passion of their team on the ground at the Merimbula Organics Processing Facility are a credit to Council and provide an outstanding example for other communities to follow," judges said.

Bega Valley Shire Council General Manager, Leanne

Barnes, said the award was a testament to the hard work the waste and recycling team had put into Council's composting facility to achieve the highest possible standards.

"Council is fortunate to have a team of people working in organics processing who genuinely love what they do," she said.

"They have put a lot of energy into communicating openly and collaboratively with the community to help a smooth as possible transition to the FOGO bin collection service.

"This is resulting in some outstanding results, with a decrease of 27 percent in household waste going to landfill in the past six weeks and among the lowest contamination rates in Australia of less than 1%.

Ms Barnes said Council was proud to accept the award on behalf of the Bega Valley community who were helping reach the goals of the 10-year Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy (2018-2028) 'Recycling the Future'.

Smart Parking arrives to monitor Merimbula

In line with Council's ongoing commitment to consistently assess traffic flows and the provision of parking across the Shire, specialist supplier, Smart Parking Australia, has been engaged to supply and install a system to provide ongoing monitoring of parking in Park Street, Merimbula.

Smart Parking is a world leader in the design, development and management of parking technology.

The system utilises sensors installed in the car park, which in turn communicate with Smartspot gateways, recording data on car park usage.

Council's Manager Strategy and Asset Services, Jason Deller, said the smart parking is being done in Merimbula to assess the parking demand throughout the year and importantly inform planning decisions.

"A traffic study is planned for Merimbula following the recent works such as the bypass and access road to the new Woolworths. The information from the parking sensors will be used in the traffic study to complement our traffic count program," Mr Deller said.

"It is important to stress that the monitoring is being used for data collection only, not to identify potential infringements."

The system was installed last week to ensure it was operational prior to the busy Christmas holiday season.

For information contact Council on 6499 2222 or email council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au

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



Gallery show sizzles for summer

Local art lovers are set for a real treat when they visit the second edition of South/East Interference at the Bega Valley Regional Gallery.

The exhibition that runs through the summer holiday period until 9 February, brings together a diverse group of six mid-career artists working around themes of personal identity and redefining and re-imagining cultural heritage and storytelling.

Sydney and Jogjakarta based Jumaadi presents his contemporary shadow puppets, which are tools to convey the quotidian, the traditional and the contemporary; while Sydney based Indonesian artist Val Wens uses performance and documentary photography to critique contemporary Indonesian identity.

Darwin based Chayni Henry



Dadang Christanto, Lost and Found #3, 2013, aluminium and acrylic. Courtesy of QUT art collection.

brings her diary style chronicled experience to life with new works and Gunybi Ganambarr presents traditional Yolngu stories and art making techniques to the most contemporary of materials, which

hold up current land use politics and controversy around mining in Northern Australia.

Dadang Christanto is an internationally acclaimed Indonesian artist whose painting and installation practice honours the victims of crimes against humanity.

Ramesh Mario Nithyendran's monumental 'Mud Men' completes the exhibition. Built on an attitude of agitation, and ostentatious in style, Nithiyendran's sculptures appear to strut and shout look at me! I'm raw and garish. I'm atheist, Hindu, Christian, feminist, queer and gender fluid. I'm exotic and every day.

Reactions to his installations run the gamut of emotive spectatorship, from fits of giggles, wonderment and critical

celebration to rankle and disgust.

The Guardian Australia's art critic, Dr Andrew Frost, said South/East Interference Volume II is a collection of work that has been brought together from a range of artists for whom the story of their subjective response to the world lies at the heart of their art making.

"The work resonates with shared themes of personal identity, and a redefining and re-imagining of cultural heritage, while bearing, quite literally, the traces of the artist's hand, and through an act of viewing on the part of the audience, a transition from intention into a realisation of meaning," Dr Frost said.

BVRG will be open regular hours, Monday – Saturday from 10am – 4pm all summer (closed on public holidays). Entry is FREE!

Our Christmas and New Year hours

Over Christmas and the New Year period many of Council's offices and services will be affected by closures or a change in opening hours as summarised below.

Bega Office

Council's Bega office will close on Friday 21 December at 4.30pm and reopen on Wednesday 2 January at 9.00am. The after-hours telephone will be staffed for emergencies, call 6499 2222.

Waste Services

All tips will be closed Christmas Day only. Otherwise, tips are open as usual over the holiday period. Check operating hours at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/waste or on the Bega Valley Waste App.

Household bin collections will happen as normal.

Children's Services

- Bandara Preschool closes on Wednesday 19 December and reopens on Tuesday 29 January at 8.00am.
- Sapphire Mobile Preschool closes on Wednesday 19 December and reopens for children on Wednesday 30 January at 9.00am.
- Bandara After School Care closes on Wednesday 19 December and reopens on Tuesday 29 January, 3.15pm – 5.45pm.
- Eden Preschool closes Wednesday 19 December at 12 noon. (Opens as Eden Early Learning Centre).
- Eden Childcare Centre closes on Friday 21

December at 12 noon. (Opens as Eden Early Learning Centre).

- Eden Early Learning Centre (new name) opens for children on Tuesday 15 January at 7.30am; their preschool opens at 8.30am that day.
- Bandara Long Day Care closes on Friday 21 December at 12 noon and reopens for children on Tuesday 15 January at 7.45am.

Bega Valley Shire Libraries

All libraries at Bermagui, Bega, Tura Marrang and Eden will close at 12 noon on Saturday 22 December. Bega, Tura Marrang and Eden libraries will reopen on Wednesday 2 January at 9.30am with Bermagui library reopening on Thursday 3 January at 9.30am.

The Summer Holiday Program for kids, including the Summer Reading Club, will run at all four libraries and boasts a variety of entertaining activities throughout January.

For details and bookings visit www.begavalleyshirelibrary.eventbrite.com.au.

Bega Valley Regional Gallery

Currently showing South / East Interference Vol. 2, the Gallery will be closed for all public holidays; otherwise open as normal (Monday – Saturday, 10.00am – 4.00pm).

Summer holiday kids' workshops will run at the Gallery in January.

For more information visit <https://gallery.begavalley.nsw.gov.au>.

Bega Valley Regional Learning Centre

The Centre will close at 1.00pm on Friday, 21 December and reopen on Wednesday 2 January at 8.30am.

Swimming Pools

Council managed pools will close at 5.00pm on Christmas Eve, close Christmas Day and reopen on Wednesday 26 December. Please check with your local pool for public holiday opening hours.

Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre

The Civic Centre will close on Friday 21 December at 4.30pm and reopen on Wednesday 2 January by appointment or for bookings only.

Bega Valley Recovery Support Services

This Service, set up in response to the 2018 fire incidents, will be closed on public holidays and will temporarily move to the Bega Civic Centre with a mobile phone service operating until Tuesday 29 January. Please call 0428 610 127 or 0428 644 814 to arrange meetings.

Normal services will resume at Unit 6 Tathra Beach House Apartments from Wednesday 30 January 2019.



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

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website



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Creation and stimulation for Tura quilters

It is well and widely documented that having a hobby brings numerous benefits to our lives.

Hobbies provide us with broader experiences and new skills, are known to relieve stress and promote patience, increase confidence and self-esteem, and importantly increase social connections.

For a group of like-minded local ladies, two Tuesdays a month is spent at the Tura Marrang Library and Community Centre, where the Tura Marrang Quilters group provides an outlet for their creative talents.

Since July 2016, they have been making the journey from as far afield as Cobargo and Eden to work on their latest creations, but more importantly chat, share and support each other.

While a quilters group in name, the reality is the membership comprises sewers and knitters, those that crochet and others that do love the challenge of creating a quilt.

For founding member Colma Gee it is the social side of the group that keeps her coming back.

“It is really just a nice relaxing day out and by coming together as a group it takes away the distractions that can come up at home and allows me to achieve something each time,” Colma said.

“With new members joining regularly it is also a great chance to meet new people and form new friendships.”

The ladies share resources, ideas and knowledge and while for the majority of the time they are

working on their own individual creations, they have also combined to produce over a dozen bed runners for the carer’s accommodation at the South East Regional Hospital.

“It is a great chance to meet new people and form new friendships.”

- Colma Gee

Judging by the quality of some of the projects underway when we visited, there are some lucky family members and friends set to receive some great Christmas gifts, while some of the other intricate works certainly have potential to become prized heirlooms in the years to come.

The partnership with the Library has enabled the group to store key items such as cutting tables and ironing boards on site and taken away the financial burden of hiring a space.

Council’s Programs and Partnerships Officer, Scott Baker, said the quilters are a great example of what the libraries are all about.

“We are extremely focused on ensuring the libraries across the Shire are places where the community feel comfortable, connected, empowered and stimulated,” Mr Baker said.

“They are much more than just book repositories, we have books, but we have so much more for people of all ages.



The Tura Marrang Quilters meet on the first and third Tuesday of every month.

“The quilters have really brought a great energy to Tura Marrang and we are delighted to see the group going so well.”

Those interested in joining the group are encouraged to head along to the Tura Marrang Library and Community Centre on the first and third Tuesdays of every month between 10.00am and 3.00pm.



Expired Flare Collection



Roads and Maritime Services expired marine flare collection program is on again in January and February 2019. Find a collection point near you to safely dispose of your expired flares.

Far South Coast

Quarantine Bay Boat Ramp, Eden	Thursday 3 January	8-10am
Merimbula Boat Ramp, Merimbula	Thursday 3 January Friday 15 February	1-3pm 8-11am
Kianinny Bay Boat Ramp, Tathra	Thursday 3 January	4.30-6.30pm
Bermagui Harbour Boat Ramp, Bermagui	Friday 4 January	8-10am
Apex Park Boat Ramp, Narooma	Friday 4 January	1-3pm
Moruya Boat Ramp, Moruya	Friday 4 January	4.30-6.30pm
Hanging Rock Boat Ramp, Batemans Bay	Saturday 5 January Friday 15 February	8-11am 2-5pm

For more information on the schedule and other collection locations across NSW visit rms.nsw.gov.au/flares or call 13 12 36.

Eden footpath upgrade completed



The new path connects West Street and the Princes Highway.

Local contractors RD Miller Pty Ltd recently completed construction of a 320m concrete footpath along Reservoir Street in Eden.

The path, which connects West Street and the Princes Highway, was identified as a priority by local community members during consultations undertaken as part of the Eden Place Plan.

Funding of \$50,000 was secured under the NSW Government’s

Social Housing Improvement Fund to complete the project.

The path now provides a safe pedestrian access and a direct link from the social housing area to the Eden town centre, schools, beaches and major recreation areas.

We appreciate the disturbance caused to residents during construction and would like to thank you for your patience.

Plenty on offer at the libraries

In addition to the Summer Reading Club our libraries will have a range of school holiday workshops and craft activities on offer for children and teenagers throughout January, including character design workshops, a gaming day and an electronic music-making workshop.

The Games Central Station Day at Tura Marrang Library promises to be a real highlight, with the event to include workshops and demonstrations, Virtual Reality set ups, and games such as Minecraft to play.

There will also be a two-hour Unity workshop, offering the opportunity to learn from local experts with a hands-on introduction to video-game development using game engine Unity.

Games Central Station will be held from 10.00am – 2.00pm, with the Introduction to Unity workshop from 12.00 – 2.00pm, both at Tura Marrang Library and Community Centre on Friday 18 January.

Our community has also been lucky enough to secure visiting artist and illustrator April Phillips to run two character design workshops.

April will introduce people to drawing on an iPad, leading to participants creating their own character to use in their stories and comics.

The 'Meet My Character' workshop will run at Tura Marrang on Wednesday 16 January from 10.00am – 2.00pm, and at Bermagui Library on Friday 18 January from 10.00am – 2.00pm.

Other school holiday activities include a Making Beats workshop, a Photoshop workshop and a Lego Day, as well as special craft sessions.



The Making Beats electronic music-making workshops have proven very popular in the past, with another opportunity to be involved coming up in the holidays.

The craft sessions will cover making suncatchers, recycled papermaking, stain glass-effect pastel pictures, football game boxes, tie-dye garments, and a celebration of the wonderful world of Mem Fox.

Please contact your local library for a school holiday schedule, check the library's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirelibrary or go to www.begavalleyshirelibrary.eventbrite.com.au.

Bookings are essential for workshop events and craft activities.

Technology Training back in the New Year

Bega Valley Shire Library's always-popular Technology Training workshops are set to run again at the Bega and Tura Marrang libraries in early 2019.

The workshops commence in January and run through until mid-April.

Each workshop addresses a specific topic, with a broad range covered over the entire series. Participants are welcome to mix and match according to their interest and needs, or book into all workshops if they choose.

Topics include basic computers, searching the internet effectively, setting up and using email accounts, the all-important CyberSafety, exploring social media, making the most of iPads and find out more about online shopping.

In 2019 we are also introducing a session on the NSW Senior's Card website.

As we have had particularly high demand for the iPads workshops, these will run at both the start and finish of the early 2019 series.

All Tech Training workshops are free and facilitated by library staff who create a friendly environment where participants can learn at a relaxed pace and ask questions when they need.

Bookings are essential, please visit www.begavalleyshirelibrary.eventbrite.com.au, or contact your local library.

Workshops details will also be available on the Bega Valley Shire Library Facebook page.

Resale treasures to be found



There are plenty of treasures to be found at the Waste and Recycling Resale Areas.

This is the perfect time of year to go treasure hunting at your local waste and recycling centre.

Stop by Merimbula, Wallagoot, Bermagui, Candelo, Cobargo or Eden Waste and Recycling Centres and browse our Resale Areas – you'll be amazed at what you might find!

Our Resale Areas include items which are far too good for landfill or items full of potential to the right person.

At this time of year they are brimming with treasures as people clean out last year's unused Christmas gifts and the range of items we have is astounding – including gym equipment, outdoor furniture, dining sets, lounges,

building materials, toys, bikes and gardening tools.

"Our staff love it when people come in and find a treasure, even though it's something someone else didn't want; it sums up beautifully the whole point of reusing and recycling goods," Acting Manager Waste Services, Chris Best, said.

When you are taking things to the tip, you can play a big part in resource recovery by packing your vehicle or trailer in sections.

This also helps us efficiently calculate any fees payable as customers are not charged for items transferred to Resale Areas (final assessment is made by Waste Service staff on arrival).

FUN EXCITING LIFELONG SKILL

Learn to Swim

at your local pool

- Bega War Memorial Pool** (10 day program)
26 December to 5 January, 2019
14 January to 25 January, 2019
- Cobargo Pool** (10 day program)
2 January to 15 January, 2019
- Bemboka Pool** (5 day program)
14 January to 18 January, 2019
- Candelo Pool** (split program)
7 January to 11 January, 2019
14 January to 18 January, 2019
- Eden Memorial Pool** (split program)
7 January to 11 January, 2019
14 January to 18 January, 2019
- Sapphire Aquatic Centre** (split program)
7 January to 11 January, 2019
15 January to 17 January, 2019
21 January to 25 January, 2018

**HOLIDAY FUN
JANUARY**

Contact your
local swimming
pool to register

Program dates, duration and size will vary, so please contact your local swimming pool.

Swimming Pool contacts available at

www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/swimmingpools

Summer Reading Club returns

Libraries across the Shire will be buzzing these summer holidays with the return of the popular Summer Reading Club.

Curious Creatures is the theme this year and invites kids to learn about our real-life animal heroes, explore non-fiction animal facts and kingdoms, explore fictional talking animals (aka anthropomorphic characters), and much more.

Council's Partnerships and Programs Officer, Scott Baker, said we are drawing on this curious and quirky theme to make reading fun, and inspire children to engage their developing reading skills over the school holidays."

"Our Summer Reading Club is open to children and teenagers aged up to 18 years and launch parties will kick off the excitement across the Shire," Mr Baker said.

Launch parties will be held on Friday 4 January at Bega Library, Wednesday 9 January at Tura Marrang Library, and Thursday 10 January at Eden Library, all starting at 10.30am, and will include an all-ages special Storytime and craft.

It's easy to take part in the Summer Reading Club that offers weekly prizes.

First make sure you are a member of the Bega Valley Shire Library and then register for the reading club at any of the Bermagui, Bega, Tura Marrang or Eden libraries.

Registrations will open from Wednesday 2 January 2019 and all participants will receive a gift bag at registration.

For those not already library members, the library is free to join and it only takes a few minutes in person or online at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au to sign up.

The Summer Reading Club is a free online and in-



Customer and Information Officer, Anne Moore, with one of the gift bags that all participants in the Summer Reading Club will receive on registering. Launch parties for the club will be held early in January.

library holiday program, delivered nationally and run in partnership with State Library of Queensland, the Australian Library and Information Association, and the Australian Public Library Alliance.

Young Women's Scholarships

Bega Valley Shire Council is calling on young local women to apply for one of five Young Women's Scholarships worth \$500 each, in acknowledgement of International Women's Day 2019.

Council will award the scholarships to women who are living in the Bega Valley and aged between 18 and 25 with a dream or idea they want to pursue.

Council's Community Development Officer, Ange McKechnie, is keen to hear from young women with ideas for a community initiative or who are striving to reach a personal goal.

"Whether your interest is in learning, community, sport, business, music, arts or another arena, please get in touch with me," Ms McKechnie said.

Applications for the Young Women's Scholarship close at midnight on Monday 7 January 2019 and will be awarded as part of the International Women's Day celebrations in March 2019.

For more information visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/grants or contact Ange McKechnie on (02) 6499 2208.

Third landfill cell in operation

Construction of the third landfill cell at the Wanatta Lane Central Waste Facility is complete and landfilling is underway.

The new cell is 98,000m³ with a design life of 4.1 years.

John Michelin and Sons from Eden was awarded the civil contract for cell construction and commenced bulk excavation in March 2018.

Procurement, delivery and quality assurance testing of the liner materials was carried out concurrently to the excavation of the cell by Ecoline Solutions Pty Ltd.

The installed liner system consists of a geosynthetic clay liner, overlaid by a high-

density polyethylene sheet, then a protective layer of geotextile, prior to placement of a layer of drainage aggregate and then a final layer of geotextile.

Council engaged GHD as Quality Assurance Engineer to complete the significant amount of quality assurance required on the new cell.

The design and specification of the cell was undertaken in accordance with Environment Protection Authority NSW requirements and is industry best practice for lined landfill cells.

Right: Landfilling is underway at the Central Waste Facility's third cell.



Have you moved?

Do you need to update your address?

use our online form

www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/update-my-address

Heritage trusses return home

In a heartening and welcomed show of support from the wider community, the grey box timber trusses from the original Pretty Point Bridge near Wyndham have returned to a site adjacent to the bridge.

It's a good news story that hasn't been without its ups and downs, as the Wyndham community rallied to claim the trusses back in honour of the old bridge built back in 1896 and to acknowledge the enduring significance of local heritage.

The story about the new steel based bridge replacing the old wooden one, which could no longer cope with increasing load limits, is not new. Rather, the story here focuses on the goodwill and sheer number of individuals, businesses and organisations which have come on board to ensure that those magnificent truss supports return to the locality. When they are reinstated on the bridge, their job will be purely aesthetic. They are not holding up the bridge, nevertheless there's a sense that their 'return home' reflects the support for a determined community.

Project Manager, Phil Baird, said that even though it's been a long time coming, it's very rewarding to be able to stand next to the trusses in their temporary compound.

"We've been lucky to have contractors and people involved who are enthusiastic and willing to act quickly.

"Roy Holdsworth from Bemboka has worked on the site preparation, McKinnell Logging have proved strong backers, Forestry Corp donated the stringy bark poles, George Zuev from Technibuild Consulting provided pro bono professional work, as did Sautelle White Lawyers and we are grateful for the cooperation of the Munro's who have licenced their land to Council so the trusses can be housed appropriately," said Mr Baird.



The grey box timber trusses from the original Pretty Point Bridge near Wyndham have returned to a site adjacent to the bridge. Photo: Phil Baird.

Grant funding is enabling the Wyndham Progress Association (WPA) and the Pretty Point Bridge Action Group to begin work on restoring the trusses which are being displayed together in a compound next to Pretty Point Bridge. In addition, there'll be a picnic area and interpretive signage included and it's planned for the project to be completed by the end of April 2019.

Based on an application from Council and the WPA, funding of \$100,000 was announced in August 2018 through the Heritage Near Me program of the NSW Office of

Environment and Heritage.

"We'll try to replace key parts that have since gone missing from the original structure.

"Some of the cast iron components are cracked and broken and we have been successful in sourcing replacements," added Mr Baird.

Treasurer of Wyndham Progress Association, Bob Hunt, has a smile on his face.

"Now when you see the trusses sitting proudly next to the bridge, suddenly you see them in context and they make sense," he said.

Flood study drop-in sessions

Recent drop-in sessions about the Merimbula and Back Lake Floodplain Risk Management Study were described by Council's Asset Management Coordinator, Gary Louie, as "real community events".

"People from the community shared some great information with us that will definitely assist the final study outcomes and we'd like to thank everyone who took the time to come along and contribute.

"There were lively discussions as people shared stories with one another of their flooding experiences and ideas on how to manage particular issues," said Mr Louie.

About 20 residents from different locations from within the study area attended the two sessions, which were designed to gather first-hand local information on Merimbula Lake and Back Lake flood risk, environmental issues and infrastructure impacts.

In the coming weeks, survey contractors will use the floor level of select properties within the study area to assess the economic impacts of flooding and assess the economic benefit of flood mitigation options.

For more information, please contact Gary Louie on (02) 6499 2222.



Attendees provided some very valuable information at the recent Merimbula flood study sessions.

Youth Week grants

Bega Valley Shire Council is providing grants of up to \$1,000 to support National Youth Week activities in 2019.

Youth Week will be held from 10-18 April.

The funding will assist community members to work with young people to run free events and activities to celebrate the positive contributions of young people in our communities.

Youth Week Grants are intended

to partially fund youth focused activities that strongly involve young people in their planning and delivery.

Applications for the grants close on 18 January 2019.

For more information and the details on how to apply, visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/grants, contact Matt Simpson (Community Development Officer) on (02) 6499 2455, or email msimpson@begavalley.nsw.gov.au



The Bega Colour Run was just one of the events held to celebrate Youth Week in 2018.

Get fire ready for summer

From page 1

Highlighting Mr Cullen’s concern that some people simply weren’t getting the message is the fact that during the recent Yankees Gap Fire, there was an average of five calls for assistance from property owners each day across the Shire to control burn offs that had become out of control.

Activities including slashing and welding have also caused significant issues.

Bega Valley Shire Council Mayor, Cr Kristy McBain, said that it was disappointing that despite the tireless work of the RFS to educate the public, there is still some apathy out there.

“We are fortunate to live in such a wonderful part of the country, however as we all know being surrounded by bushland brings inherent dangers as well,” Cr McBain said.

“Take the time to put a bushfire plan in place, find out where your nearest neighbourhood safer place is and whether it is through the various forms of media or other means, stay informed,” Cr McBain said.

“Knowledge is power and you owe it to yourself and your family to be prepared and stay up to date.”

The Rural Fire Service website contains a plethora of valuable information, head to www.rfs.nsw.gov.au.

Around the towns

The latest from our works teams



The rejuvenation of Merimbula’s Boller Park means that it is now a great place to stop and enjoy the spectacular view.

Our Works Teams take pride in preparing our towns and villages for locals and, particularly at this time of year, for the influx of Christmas holiday makers. All town boat ramps around the Shire were cleaned in November and beach access tracks have been checked and repaired as well. Necessary repairs to Tathra and Merimbula wharves have been carried out.

Bermagui

Lamont Street footpath was pressure cleaned, weeded with repairs to handrails, pavers and retaining walls. The grassed areas around signs and palm trees on the beach side of Lamont Street have been improved to prevent erosion and trip hazards. A new shelter and picnic table was constructed at Bermagui skate park with materials supplied by North Eden Timber.

In Cobargo, the team repaired footpaths, weeded gardens and pruned trees along the main street.

Bega

In Tathra, Joe Caddey Park trees received attention with pruning. In Bega, streets and cycle ways have been sprayed for weeds and Carp Street gardens and trees

were tidied up. Paving repairs were carried out at Tathra Beach near Tathra Beach Tapas.

Merimbula

As an entrance to Merimbula, Boller Park has been improved for folks to rest and enjoy the view, with accessible furniture (from North Eden Timber) and a pathway with handrail. New picnic tables, bollards, fresh turf, mulch with 180 native vegetation plantings complete the picture of a rejuvenated space.

Eden

The Curalo boardwalk was repaired and Endeavour Park BMX bike track received attention, as did the Eden Cove reserve with weeding. The team has also contributed to setting up for cruise ship arrivals.

Urban maintenance

This team renewed signage on urban roads and unsealed roads and signs were installed at Merimbula wharf with line marking. They refreshed the line marking of disabled carparks in Bega and public toilet repairs were carried out as necessary throughout the Shire. Boat ramp signs have also been repaired.

Council Meeting wrap up

Rural Living Report

The Rural Living – Strategic Directions report will be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days from February 1.

The report provides a detailed analysis of rural residential land supply as a basis for making recommendations for each of the Shire’s rural catchments.

Nardy House Hydrotherapy

Council has resolved to waive fees and charges relating to the establishment of the Nardy House Inc hydrotherapy pool and will support its application for State and

Commonwealth Grants to fund the project.

Nardy House Incorporated is a disability service in Quaama that supports individuals with profound disabilities who require 24-hour care.

Community Project Proposals

Seven community project proposals were reported to Council.

Among these was a proposal for the construction of a new skate park at Merimbula's Ford Park.

Due to the size, scope and clear community interest in such a project, Council resolved to defer

a decision on this matter to enable thorough community consultation to occur.

Bega Valley Fields Master Plan

Council will undertake a formal review of the Bega Valley Fields Sportsgrounds Master Plan during the 2019-20 financial year.

The review will occur due to the changing use of the site and in particular the recent introduction of Australian Rules Football.

Master Plans are documents that identify and guide future uses and developments.

Sportsground Fees

Council resolved to levy sportsground fees on a per registered player basis in 2018-19 (in line with the recommendation from the s355 Sportsground Committee).

There will be a public meeting in the New Year, with the aim of

charting a way forward into the future.

Tathra to Kalaru Bike Track

RD Miller Pty Ltd will undertake construction of the Kalaru section of this project after being confirmed as the successful tenderer.

Next Meeting

Wednesday 30 January @ 2pm

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](http://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/councilmeetings)

Bega's
Australia
Day Markets

FREE FAMILY FUN
FREE BREAKFAST
FREE KIDS SHOWBAGS
LIVE MUSIC
CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY - 9:00^{am}
AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS
AUSTRALIA DAY AMBASSADOR

Saturday 26th January
7:30^{am} - 12:00^{pm} Littleton Gardens

LOCAL MARKETS

bring the family

Woolworths
Australia's fresh food people

bega valley shire council

Innovation Hub into Civic Centre

Bega Valley Shire Council is excited to announce that the Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre will provide a vital learning space to the first group of Bega Valley Innovation Hub participants attending the iAccelerate Educate Program, which will begin in March 2019.

Mayor, Cr Kristy McBain, said that this connection builds on the strong relationship Council enjoys with the University of Wollongong (UOW) Bega Campus.

"It makes sense for the Bega Valley Innovation Hub to enjoy the benefits of running its program at the Civic Centre as a visible, modern and central facility, which will offer participants a professional and integrated workspace.

"We look forward to working with the Innovation Hub to support economic development and job creation for our region," Cr McBain said.

The Manager of the Bega Valley Innovation Hub, Mia Maze, said that utilising the Civic Centre means the first cohort will have the best possible start, located in the heart of the Bega Valley, for training and co-working.

"The beautiful open space invites the opportunity for key stakeholders and visitors to our region to tour and experience the Bega Valley Innovation Hub and to be part of the growth and development of the businesses as they are introduced to the foundations that they need to run successful and sustainable businesses for our region and the world.

"It also provides a perfect space for the combination of industry experts, experiences entrepreneurs, investors and UOW academics to deliver the iAccelerate Educate Program.

"The UOW Bega Campus will remain the home of the Bega Valley Innovation Hub for all administration purposes and we see this connection as valuable so that the University remains a pathway and connected to the Bega Valley Innovation Hub," said Ms Maze.

The 12 week iAccelerate Education Program is designed to better prepare startups, scale ups and existing businesses for engagement with customers and investors, and for sustainable long term growth.



Small business, how's your cyber protection?

Small business owners are encouraged to protect their livelihood by thinking about their cyber security risks and weak spots through a grant program offering cyber security health checks.

The Cyber Security Small Business Program provides small businesses with 19 or fewer employees with grants of up to \$2,100 for up to 50% of the cost of a certified small business health check.

Health checks are carried out by the Council of Registered Ethical Security Testers Australia and New Zealand (CREST ANZ) and will guide business owners in making considered investments in online protection.

The program will run for the remainder of 2018/19 and 2019/20 and information about the grant opportunity guidelines is available at business.gov.au.



Small business owners are encouraged to protect their livelihood by thinking about their cyber security risks.

Bega Valley Recovery

Bemboka tip back to regular operating hours

The Bemboka Waste Transfer Depot will return to its regular operating hours of Saturdays, 10.00am – 2.30pm, from Monday 24 December, after its hours were temporarily extended to meet demand from the Yankees Gap Fire clean-up.

Fees will continue to be waived for the disposal of vegetation due to the bushfire as long as the vegetation is free of contamination and noxious weeds.

If you have asbestos-free demolition waste from fire affected properties, please take it to the Eden Waste and Recycling Depot (Princes Highway) and you will not be charged.

You can check opening hours (for all tips) on the website at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/waste or on the Bega Valley Waste App.

Property owners wanting to dispose of demolition waste from damaged and destroyed buildings must obtain a complying development certificate and written fee waiver prior to disposing of the waste and this can be arranged by contacting Council on (02) 6499 2222.

Asbestos waste from the Yankees Gap Fire will be accepted at the Central Waste Facility at Wanatta Lane for no charge but you will need to pre-book.

Current asbestos disposal protocols must be

followed including contacting Council to obtain a complying development certificate and written fee waiver prior to disposing of the waste.

If you have any questions about waste disposal after the Yankees Gap Fire, please contact Waste Management Coordinator, Joley Vidau, on (02) 6499 2222.



Support service widens net



The Tathra and District Fire Recovery Support Service is now also supporting people affected by the Yankees Gap Fire and will be known as Bega Valley Support Services.

The Service is available to anyone who feels they have been impacted by the 2018 local bushfires and our Recovery and Resilience Officers are joined by Linda Mayo from Red Cross to offer comprehensive personal and practical assistance including:

- Developing an action plan and working out strategies to support you and your family
- Finding out what financial and non-financial supports are available
- Assist with referrals and applications
- Help in coping with grief and loss
- Navigating rebuilding and insurance processes
- Liaising with Centrelink

Ms Mayo reports that she can help with the following:

- Assist with funding submissions for community recovery events
- Arrange transport for affected people to community recovery and rebuilding events
- Organise Red Cross trained volunteers to provide psychological first aid where needed
- Organise various Red Cross programs such as PillowCase Project Presentations at schools, Support the Supporter presentation and other outreach activities
- Provide Red Cross printed resources
- Assist with planning, facilitation and liaison regarding recovery events
- Organise specialist support to assist with community recovery

A festive graphic with a green pine branch border at the top decorated with white snowflakes and gold and blue ornaments. The text "Christmas New Year hours" is written in a red cursive font. Below it, "Bega Valley Support Services" is in a large blue sans-serif font. The dates "2nd January – 29th January" are in a bold black font. A paragraph states: "Support services will be mobile over Christmas and New Year. Please phone 0428 610 127 or 0428 644 814 to arrange a meeting." A bullet point says "Closed - Public Holidays". Another paragraph says: "Normal services resume 30 January 2019 at Unit 6 Tathra Beach House Apartments". At the bottom right is a graphic of a white signpost with four directional signs: "HELP", "ADVCE", "ASSISTANCE", and "GUIDANCE".

*Christmas
New Year hours*

**Bega Valley
Support Services**

2nd January – 29th January

Support services will be mobile over Christmas and New Year.

Please phone **0428 610 127** or **0428 644 814** to arrange a meeting.

- **Closed - Public Holidays**

Normal services resume
30 January 2019 at
Unit 6 Tathra Beach House
Apartments

Contact us

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Bega NSW 2550

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