

Bega Valley Shire Council News

Issue 21 - Tuesday 4 June 2019

connecting council and the community

Celebrating our volunteers



Eleven of our community champions were recognised at the Community Service Medallion presentation held at the Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre last Wednesday. Pictured (from back left): Jamie Clark, Tania Lingard, Christopher Franks, Lori Hammerton (Medallion Committee), Lyn Moore, Cr Kristy McBain (BVSC Mayor), Robert Johnson, Cheryl McCarthy (Medallion Committee), Margaret Collins (Medallion Committee). Front: Adam Wiggins, Mick Trenerry, Fran Trenerry, Stuart Robson and William Blakeman. Absent: Colin Dunn.

Photo Credit: Robert Hayson Photography.

See Pages 4 and 5 for more on the outstanding work being done by this year's recipients.

Access Improvement Grants open this week

Bega Valley Shire Council's Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee* is pleased to announce that the 2019 round of Access Improvement Grants will open this week.

The Access Improvement Grants aim to support projects that improve access for residents and visitors within the Bega Valley Shire, such as:

- accessible paths of travel including ramps;
- modifications/re-engineering of barriers like steps, curbs etc;
- improving signage or interpretive information;
- retrofitting amenities including toilets, barbecues, shelters, picnic tables, etc; and
- the installation of handrails or grab bars.

Projects need to generate measurable benefits/outcomes to access issues; and improve resident and visitor experiences in the Bega Valley Shire.

This year \$25,000 is available to support grants of between \$500 and \$5,000.

The grants open on 7 June 2019 and must be submitted no later than 4pm on 8 July 2019. Applications can be submitted on Council's website via the online form, via email, fax or hard copy by mail, or at Council's office in Bega.

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

All interested applicants are urged to carefully

read the grant information at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/grants.

Should you have any specific questions relating to this grant, please contact Laura Golding on 6499 2222 or email lgolding@begavalley.nsw.gov.au.

*Council established the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee under Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) to advise Council on issues relating to access to public areas and Council facilities, inform Council policy development and raise awareness of access issues across the Shire.

Bega Valley
Commemorative
Civic Centre
Zingel Place, Bega
www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/Civiccentre  begaciviccentre

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



Small business friendly Council

Bega Valley Shire Council has been commended for its leadership in making it easier for local businesses to start and grow at the inaugural Small Business Friendly Councils Conference in Sydney on 16-17 May.

NSW Minister for Small Business, Damien Tudehope, said Bega Valley Shire Council was one of 69 NSW councils to join business leaders, mayors and experts from across the country to plan and discuss strategies to stimulate local economies.

"The Small Business Friendly Councils is a fantastic initiative that provides all NSW councils with information, workshops, networking opportunities and resources to support local businesses," Mr Tudehope said.

"This inaugural conference was a significant milestone for the Small Business Friendly Councils initiative, and I was pleased to join the Councils to celebrate their involvement."

NSW Customer Service Minister Victor Dominello also attended the conference to acknowledge Bega Valley Shire Council joining the Easy to do Business program.

"This award-winning program puts



Council's Manager Economic Development, Daniel Murphy, (centre) is congratulated by the NSW Minister for Finance and Small Business, Damien Tudehope MLA (left), and the NSW Minister for Customer Service, Victor Dominello MLA (right).

customers at the heart of everything we do and transforms how small business owners transact with government.

"Easy to do Business has been a huge success, with 108 NSW councils now on board, covering two-thirds of the state.

"Small business owners can access

free online and phone support from Service NSW's Business Concierge, which means they can start, open and grow much faster," Mr Dominello said.

NSW Small Business Commissioner Robyn Hobbs congratulated Bega Valley Shire Council for embracing the Small Business Friendly Councils initiative and for its commitment to

supporting the growth of business on the Far South Coast.

"Small business is the backbone of our economy and local government plays a key role in supporting businesses to start and grow," said Ms Hobbs.

Bega Valley Shire Council was presented with a plaque to recognise its commitment to the Small Business Friendly Councils initiative and Easy to do Business.

"We are pleased to be part of an initiative that helps small businesses navigate their way through red tape to get started quickly and succeed," said Mayor, Cr Kristy McBain

Mr Tudehope said NSW is now home to more than 765,000 small businesses, the most the state has ever had.

"More small businesses are being created in NSW than any other state, with a net growth of close to 30,000 businesses in 2017-18," Mr Tudehope said.

"This is a fantastic result for our state and it shows there is no better place to start a new small business than in NSW."

For more information go to www.smallbusiness.nsw.gov.au.

Timor-Leste acknowledged

The Bega Valley Advocates for Timor-Leste (BVATL) were joined by Councillors and Council staff in Littleton Gardens for a flag raising ceremony on 15 May.

The ceremony was to mark the anniversary of the country's independence (20 May 2002).

Council is proud to have a long-standing agreement with the group - visit <https://sites.google.com/site/begavalleyadvocatesfortimor/home>



What's ON!

LOCAL EVENTS

9 June

- Jazz Festival Race Day @ Sapphire Coast Turf Club

15 June

- Alcohol Ink Painting Workshop @ Cobargo School of Arts Hall

15 and 16 June

- How Watercolour Works Workshop @ Cobargo School of Arts Hall

List your event on Council's Local Events Calendar

www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/events

Hall committee nominations



Nominate now to join the new Community Hall Committees at Tathra and Pambula.

Council is calling for expressions of interest to form new Community Hall Committees at Pambula and Tathra.

These halls are important spaces where people of all ages come together, engage in cultural and recreational activities, create connections, and build stronger communities.

Council welcomes the participation of the community in the care, maintenance and management of community halls; with the engagement of local people enabling us to better understand and respond to local needs and aspirations.

While no particular qualifications are

necessary to hold a position on the committees, a commitment to the delegated roles and responsibilities and a willingness to be actively involved in committee activities and work constructively and positively with Council is essential.

All members of the Community Hall Committees are appointed by resolution of Council.

If you are interested, please complete the volunteer nomination form at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/forms before 30 June.

For further information contact Council's Halls Officer on 6499 2222, or email halls@begavalley.nsw.gov.au.

Burning off reminder

As the weather becomes colder, Council has been receiving increasing numbers of complaints regarding open pile burning. Please be mindful of the materials you are burning, the location of your burn pile, and the impact of smoke on your neighbours.

Burning off of vegetation requires approval from Council, and notification to Fire and Rescue NSW or NSW Rural Fire Service who may also issue a permit. Piles must be located at least 75 metres from a habitable dwelling

on neighbouring land, and only vegetation burnt. Chipboard, melamine, offcuts, plastics etc typically emit toxic smoke and must be disposed of at the tip and not burnt.

Please be aware that if the property has access to a green bin, it is unlikely that your application to burn off will be granted.

For more information and to view Bega Valley Shire Council's clean air procedure, visit <https://bv.lyte.link/2851/E776>.

Ravenswood Street roadworks

Stabilisation work has commenced in Bega's Ravenswood Street this week.

The project, which follows on from the recent upgrade of watermains, driveways and drainage, is expected to take three weeks to complete (weather permitting) and will focus on the area between the High and Prospect Street intersections.

There will be occasions when full road closures are necessary and only local residents will have access during these times. Otherwise traffic control will be in place and no on-street parking will be permitted during the project.

Local residents are being provided with progressive updates.

For more information contact Council's Projects Coordinator James Downes on 0428 260 996.



Councillors in the Community

- Quaama @ the Hall 22 May 5:30pm
- Wyndham @ the Uniting Church 5 June 5:30pm
- Wonboyn @ the Fire Shed Wednesday 1 May 5:30pm

What's important to you?

This is your chance to chat with Councillors and senior staff in your own town, on matters that are important to you.

For more information: phone (02) 6499 2222 or visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/news

NOTORIOUS BVRG

The life and times of our permanent collection
curated by Iain Dawson

Katy MUTTON, Gunybi GANAMBARR, Julian MEAGHER, Judy CASSAB, Rosie DEACON, Hilda Rix NICHOLAS, Cheryl DAVISON, Liam AMBROSE, Andrew SAYERS, George RAFTOPOULOS, Sally ROBINSON, Celia PERCEVAL

29 June - 7 September 2019

BEGA VALLEY REGIONAL GALLERY
Zingel Place BEGA NSW
Monday-Saturday 10am-4pm
closed public holidays
gallery.begavalley.nsw.gov.au

Bega Valley Shire Community Service Medallion

The Bega Valley Shire Community Service Medallion is presented for the outstanding work of volunteers across Bega Valley Shire and recognises one of the great strengths of a community - people who are prepared to give up their own time for the benefit of others and the community as a whole. The tireless work of this year's recipients is highlighted in this feature.

William Blakeman - Merimbula

William (Bill) is the current Unit Commander of Marine Rescue Merimbula, a position he has held since being elected in 2014.

With a working career in the maritime industry, it was a logical step for Bill to give back to the community by volunteering with the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol (now Marine Rescue NSW) when he retired in 2007. Initially, Bill accepted the role of Training Officer, which he still holds today, along with his other positions.

In March 2015, Bill was awarded the Marine Rescue NSW Commissioner's Commendation for Courage for an operation carried out in October 2011. He skippered the rescue vessel with a crew of two, risking their lives to save two people in a desperate situation in horrendous conditions.

As the Unit Commander, Bill is on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week – a mammoth commitment.

Under Bill's management, the Merimbula unit has enjoyed significant growth, an increased profile within the community and its strong financial position enabled the unit to commence the purchase of a second vessel capable of reaching previously inaccessible local waterways.



William Blakeman is thanked by Mayor Cr McBain for his wonderful service to the community as Unit Commander of Marine Rescue Merimbula.

Tania Lingard - Cobargo

Tania is a valued member of the Cobargo community and has worked tirelessly over many years to assist her community and improve Cobargo's facilities for young people.

She is a committee member of the Cobargo Skate Club and worked hard to secure funding and help organise for the Cobargo Skate Park to be built, which has proven a valued facility for Cobargo's

youth since it opened in 2012.

Tania was also instrumental in obtaining funding and helping to organise the construction of the BMX track, which was opened in 2018.

Over the last 10 years, Tania has worked steadily to improve Narira Creek through a regeneration program. She has spent innumerable hours clearing weeds and planting native trees and shrubs.

In recognition of the high esteem in which Tania is held by her community, she was awarded the Cobargo Citizen of the Year 2019.

Currently, Tania is involved with fundraising for the construction of a netball and basketball court next to the BMX track.

Robert Johnson - Bermagui

Robert has proven himself to be a very community minded person over many years.

He volunteers for the Bermagui Life Saving Club as well as his local Rural Fire Service, donates blood regularly and helps with the ReBoot Bermagui event.

Robert has made a significant contribution to the Bermagui Surf Life Saving Club. While most of us are still in bed, Robert is up and about collecting empty bottles and cans from around Bermagui. He's done an amazing job of fundraising and to date he has raised over \$16,000 for the Bermagui Life Saving Club.

Every two weeks, Robert drives to Canberra to donate blood. Impressively, he recently made his 708th donation, being one of only twelve Australians to have reached the 700 donations milestone!

Christopher Franks - Bermagui

Chris has been consistently involved as a volunteer with the Montreal Goldfield Cultural Heritage community project since its inception in 1999.

As well as taking on the role of President of the Montreal Goldfield Management Committee, Chris has willingly taken on responsibility for most of the administration work.

Chris' passionate care of the Montreal Goldfield project covers all aspects from maintenance to future direction.

Chris is continually learning new skills, not only for himself but for the benefit of others. He also volunteers his time to entertain and involve senior citizens in music through the Bermagui Ukulele Group at community venues and retirement homes.

In addition, as a member of the Bega Valley

CanAssist charity, Chris has helped to raise thousands of dollars at various events around Bermagui.



Chris Franks strumming a tune as part of the Bermagui Ukulele Group.

Colin Dunn - Pambula Beach

Colin is a perfect example of someone who devotes their retirement to serving their local community.

Colin has been President twice of the Rotary Club of Pambula (2011 and 2017) and has also performed the role of Catering Coordinator. Colin's input helps raise thousands of dollars each year from this activity alone, for community projects.

Colin was actively involved in the role of Treasurer to the Pambula Aquatic Centre Inc. during the construction of the Sapphire Aquatic Centre.

He has also been Treasurer to the Pambula Bendigo Bank Board from 2009 to 2017 and has been Chair of the Bank Board since 2017.

In another volunteer role, Colin has been Executive Officer of the Bureau of Accessible Tourism (BOAT) since 2014, working directly with Bega Valley Shire Council to facilitate access for everyone, regardless of abilities, and since 2017, Colin has been an active member of Council's Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

Colin was one of the co-founders of the highly successful Pambula Men's Shed, which now boasts 50 members.

Visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/awards to read the full citations

Bega Valley Shire Community Service Medallion

Stuart Robson - Merimbula

Stuart is a familiar sight walking up and returning down Sapphire Coast Drive collecting rubbish up the hill to the Tura Beach shops. There are other spots where he collects roadside litter - from the intersection of Monaro St and Merimbula Drive out to the Princes Highway by-pass and return as well as a 20 kilometre stretch of Mt Darragh Road near Lochiel.

Stuart insists on being an example to younger people to respect a tidy and clean environment. He says he does this volunteer work for fitness, but it's clear his motivation stems from his great pride in Merimbula and the surrounding area. He strives to keep the area a showpiece of the NSW Far South Coast.

For the last three years, Stuart has also volunteered his time in maintaining the RSL Cenotaph and garden in Merimbula.



Stuart Robson, who is pictured here with some of his young helpers, was recognised for his great work in clearing litter from our roadsides.

Lyn Moore - Bermagui

Lyn has been a resident of Bermagui for most of her life and for many years she has been actively involved in her local community as a volunteer.

For over 10 years, Lyn volunteered to help run the annual Bermagui Seaside Fair and was part of the team that ran the Fair's Arts & Crafts Exhibition.

Lyn was one of the elected artists for the Umbrellas of Bermagui event, which was held from 2015 to 2018. She donated four beautiful hand-painted umbrellas of her own creation to the event, which raised funds for local youth sporting groups and donated over \$40,000 during the time it was held.

In addition, she has donated many of her artworks to local community groups and organisations for them to use as a raffle prize.

Jamie (Jim) Clark - Boydtown

Jim has been a dedicated volunteer with a range of organisations over many years.

He joined Apex Merimbula in 1985 and in recognition of his many contributions and hard

work, Jim was made a Life Member of Apex Merimbula in 1992.

He made a significant contribution to the 1990 Nyngan flood relief effort by collecting, sorting and storing furniture before driving a truck load to Nyngan to those in need.

As an Apex member, Jim provided free swimming lessons to members of the public for many years; firstly, at the South Haven Pool at Fishpen and later at the Pambula Community Pool.

Jim has also been an active member of the 1st Merimbula Scouts group since he joined in 1992. Over that time, he has received nine Scout awards including a service decoration for 25 years, awarded in 2017.

Since 2016, Nancy and Jim have been volunteers for the NSW Parks and Wildlife Service, carrying out daily checks and counts on endangered Hooded Plover nesting grounds at Boydtown Beach.

Adam Wiggins - Kalaru

Adam played a significant role in firefighting efforts during the 2018 Tathra and District Bushfire. As Captain of the Tathra Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade, he was first officer on the ground initiating coordination of firefighting services and playing an active role fighting fires as they impacted Tathra.

In addition, Adam has been an active volunteer member of the Tathra Brigade since 2001 and donates an average of five hours per week to the Brigade.

Adam has actively engaged the community through open days and taking the fire-fighting equipment to schools and preschools to encourage fire awareness amongst families in the community.

In addition, Adam plays a supportive role volunteering in other parts of the community, through the Tathra Surf Life Saving club as a Nippers age manager and UAV operator, minor rugby league as a keen parent and with the Evans Park Sporting Complex as a committee member and project manager.

Michael Trenerry - Bermagui

Since moving to Bermagui about 13 years ago, Mick has been actively involved as a volunteer in his community in a variety of ways.

He is Secretary of the Bermagui Cricket Club, where he has worked tirelessly in raising thousands of dollars for new cricket nets and facilities. The Club didn't have any junior teams for eight seasons until Mick registered an Under 12 team into the local competition – without even having a single child registered – as he just knew children in the area wanted to play. In the three seasons since, Bermagui now boasts three junior sides and runs annual 'Come and Try' days, aimed exclusively at increasing the participation levels of our young female cricketers. He has also run public school cricket programs at Quaama,

Bermagui and Cobargo.

Mick (and his wife, Fran) initiated the AFL Kickability program in 2015 with the Bermagui Breakers AFL Club. Kickability is a specialised Aussie Rules program, that is designed to ensure that all kids, regardless of their physical or mental abilities, feel included in team sport.

Mick also volunteers with the Bermagui Surf Life Saving Club's Same Wave program, which is an all abilities service that partners people with special needs to lifesavers and other volunteers for a safe and supported beach experience.



Michael and Francine Trenerry (with Mayor Cr Kristy McBain) were both recognised for their tireless work in the Bermagui community.

Francine Trenerry - Bermagui

Fran returned to the Bermagui area, where she grew up, 13 years ago and has made an impressive impact on her community during that time.

Fran (along with her husband, Mick) initiated the AFL Kickability program in 2015 with the Bermagui Breakers AFL Club. Kickability is a specialised Aussie Rules program, that is designed to ensure that all kids, regardless of their physical or mental abilities, feel included in team sport. The success of the Kickability program, led Fran into giving kids the ability to be involved in summer sports too, introducing programs that included cricket, tennis and soccer.

Through the summer months, Fran volunteers every Saturday for Bermagui Surf Life Saving Club's Same Wave program, which is an all abilities service that partners people with special needs to lifesavers and other volunteers for a safe and supported beach experience.

Fran, along with some parents of kids with various abilities, produced a musical performance called "Abba Go". This musical production culminated in the children performing for 150 community members at the Bermagui Country Club.

It's a little-known fact, but Fran has spent countless hours over the years with elderly members of the community, helping them with everything from filling in a form and paying bills at the post office, to reading a complex legal document to them.

Visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/awards to read the full citations

Bemboka Treatment Plant opened

The much-anticipated Bemboka Water Treatment Plant was officially opened by Mayor Cr Kristy McBain on Saturday (1 June).

The wholly Council-funded, \$4 million project, represents the first of three facilities of this nature to be commissioned in the Shire, and means that Bemboka residents and businesses are now enjoying a greatly-improved quality of drinking water.

A good crowd attended the Open Day, where attendees were able to take a self-paced walking tour, see the inner workings of the plant and have their questions answered by Council staff.

Council greatly appreciates the assistance of the Bemboka Lions, who provided a sausage sizzle, and the Bemboka Hotel, who supplied a shuttle bus service between the Town Hall and the site.



A good crowd was on hand for the official opening of the Bemboka Water Treatment Plant on Saturday.

ADULT SWIMMING WORKSHOP

SWIM EASIER AND IMPROVE YOUR STYLE

Freestyle Workshop & Clinic for Adult Swimmers
Aged 18 y/old to 88+ y/old



SAPPHIRE AQUATIC CENTRE - PAMBULA NSW
SATURDAY JUNE 8th 2019

Small groups of 1.5hrs with accredited swim coaches for adults.
Some theory then guidance in-water for body, arm, kick & breath control.
Refine your stroke for efficiency and best technique.
Suitable for pool and open water swimmers.
Cost: \$5.00 (includes workshop & pool entry) payable on the day.

TIME TRIALS FOR FUN! SUNDAY JUNE 9th 2019

Come along to do a time trial for fun (25m to 400m) with the local adult club!
Book your place or find out more by contacting the Sapphire Aquatic Centre on 02 6494 3100. Email Bruce at willowsofbega@yahoo.com.au or phone Bruce on 0418503050.
Event hosted by Masters Swimming New South Wales. Further information at www.mastersswimmingnsw.org.au



Yankees Gap Fire Recovery

Community Meeting

In continued support for bushfire recovery, all impacted residents of Yankees Gap and Districts are invited to attend.

Tuesday 11 June

Bemboka Town Hall

6.00pm - 7.00pm Community Meeting

Recovery Support Service

• Monday to Friday: 9.00am - 4.30pm

Unit 6 Tathra Beach House Apartments, Tathra

Recovery Hotline 6499 2475 | recovery@begavalley.nsw.gov.au



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

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Shadow & Light

The Art of Photography with Heide Smith



Join acclaimed photographer Heide Smith for a discussion about working with many of the featured photographers in the CONTEMPORISING THE MODERN exhibition at the Bega Valley Regional Gallery from noon on Wednesday, 19 June. Heide, who is based in Narooma, will discuss her own practice which has seen her exhibit around the world.

Batteries are causing fires

Staff at the Central Waste Facility have noticed an increase in small smoulder events at the landfill tipping face, with batteries being identified as the main cause.

As waste is compacted, the internals of the batteries can be damaged resulting in the release of acids, metals and other toxic substances – this can in turn lead to fire and/or contaminate soils and find their way into the landfill's leachate system.

The situation is particularly dangerous around lithium-ion batteries, with damage potentially resulting in fire or explosions due to a chemical reaction.

Batteries can be responsible for fires at the landfill surface, but can also cause sub-surface fires, which are much more difficult to extinguish and can burn for days, weeks and months.

These fires can release poisonous gases, damage leachate and landfill liner systems and can cause cavities that lead to land collapsing.

Simply put, disposing of batteries in the landfill puts Council's staff, infrastructure and equipment at risk, and while the chemistry of batteries is varied, most contain valuable metals and other ingredients that can be readily recovered.

With this in mind, we are urging everyone to take advantage of the free Community Recycling Centre service for batteries at the Merimbula Waste and Recycling Depot (see the advertisement below for more information).

Council Meeting wrap up

DCP Amendment - Wolumla

A proposed amendment to Section 7 of the Bega Valley Development Control Plan 2013 will be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

The proposed amendment would require the preparation of a Master Plan detailing the concept lot design, servicing arrangements and traffic requirements for the future subdivision of three sites at Wolumla.

These properties were part of the recent Wolumla Deferred Matters Planning Proposal, considered at the Council meeting of 31 October

2018, which established new zones and minimum lot sizes for each of these sites.

Tathra Headland Walk

Council has delegated authority to the General Manager to enter into negotiations with local contractor GDB Excavations and Landscaping for the timber, steel, concrete and civil works on the Tathra Headland Walkway.

The negotiations follow on from a recent open tender process.

Tathra Kalaru Track Bridges

Local firm Guideline South Coast Pty Ltd will carry out bridge

construction as part of the Tathra to Kalaru Bike Path project after being confirmed as the successful tenderer for the work.

Garfields Road Bridges

Council will continue to work with landowners on Garfields Road at Numbugga concerning the future of the Handscombe and Johnson Creek bridges.

The matter was deferred, and a further report will be prepared for a future Council meeting.

Lake Street Shared Path

Following extensive scoping of the Lake Street Shared Path project options, it is clear that the current available funding supplied by the State Government is insufficient to enable the delivery of the preferred option.

As a result, Council will work with the local member, RMS and the Active Transport program to identify potential funding sources for the shortfall.

Tathra Wharf Lease

With the current lease for occupation of the lower level of Tathra Wharf Building due to expire on 31 August 2019, an EOI process seeking suitable future tenants was carried out.

The submission from current tenant, The Wharf Local, has been accepted.

Next Meetings

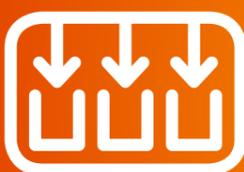
12 and 26 June

Council Chambers,
Biamanga Room, Bega Valley
Commemorative Civic Centre,
Bega @ 2pm

Watch Live

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

www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/councilmeetings



Community Recycling Centres

Waste matters

Drop off your household problem waste for recycling

FREE SERVICE

Bega Valley Community Recycling Centre is located at:
Merimbula Waste & Recycling Depot
Red Hill Road off Sapphire Coast Drive



www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/waste

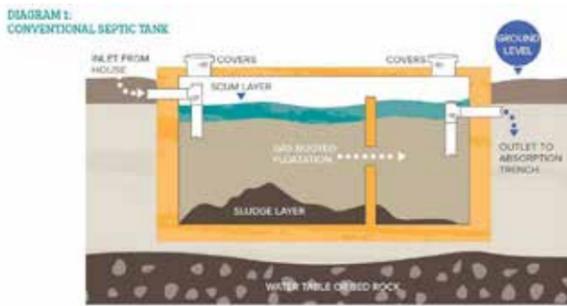
These items are accepted:

 Paint	 Gas bottles and fire extinguishers	 Fluoro globes and tubes
 Household and car batteries	 Smoke detectors	 Motor oils and other oils

Septic Systems 101 - the ins and outs

If you live on a property or in a small town, chances are that your backyard contains a highly exciting piece of infrastructure – the septic tank and absorption trench. While no one really enjoys talking about poo, knowing how this system is supposed to work, how to keep it in great shape, and when it is telling you that it needs some TLC can keep hassle to a minimum, protect your health, and give you a great topic of discussion at your next party!!!

Infrastructure – what are we looking at?



In a conventional septic tank, waste (toilet, laundry and kitchen sink water) comes in, the solids sink to the bottom, and the liquids form a layer above.

A scum forms on top, which can help to minimise odour, and bacteria break down waste. Liquids move through the tank to be piped into an absorption trench which allows this liquid to slowly soak in underground, break down with

more friendly bacteria and plants, and evaporate with our sunny days.

When the solids left behind become a thick sludge layer, this layer is pumped out so that the process can continue. An AWTS system has an added aerobic process where air is pumped through to encourage further good bacteria to break down the waste, and the resultant liquid is then disinfected before being used to irrigate areas of the yard.

With good care, a septic system can last decades, safely breaking down and disposing of our waste without impacting health or the environment.

What does my septic system really enjoy?

Septics love residents who know where the tank and trench are located and how the system is supposed to work; keep the absorption area mown; have a regular pump out scheduled (approximately every 3 years); are water wise, careful not to load the system with regular

multiple loads of washing or long showers; and choose environmentally friendly dishwashing, laundry and personal care products (harsh disinfectants can kill the bacteria which are working for you in the tank).

How do I tell if the system is failing?

Call a plumber if you notice blocked drains or sewage overflow from a small grated pipe outside the building (called a 'gully'); soggy ground in the absorption trench area, or any pooled liquid effluent; bad smells; or AWTS alarms.

Don't leave it for later, and risk overflow into water bodies or human contact with your waste.

Want more information?

Check out the *Get Septic Smart* factsheets on Council's website, have a chat with Council's Environmental Health Officers when they inspect your system, or ask questions of your plumber or technician.

Alcohol Free Zone proposal

Council is seeking submissions from the community on a proposal to establish an Alcohol Free Zone (AFZ) in the Eden CBD.

NSW Police made the application for the APZ that is described as - Imlay Street, between Bass Street and Chandos Street and Chandos Street between Imlay Street and Flora Street. If adopted the AFZ would be for a four year period.

In its application NSW Police advised that the Eden CBD and surrounds continue to be areas subject to alcohol-related crimes, such as malicious damage and assault.

The proposed AFZ would provide additional powers to assist NSW Police in reducing alcohol-related antisocial behaviours and bolster public safety and awareness.

In previous years, when the AFZ was in place, there was a positive impact on policing operations, which led to a steady decline in alcohol-related crime.

Importantly there would be no implications for public land use by licensed premises within the area.

Head to www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay before 23 June to comment on the proposal.



Tathra & District Recovery

Community Meetings

Bega Valley Shire Council is committed to supporting Tathra, Reedy Swamp and Vimy Ridge residents through the bushfire recovery.

All impacted residents are invited to attend.

Meetings will be held Thursday

6pm - 7pm @ Tathra Public School Hall

20 June 2019

25 July 2019

Note: the meeting scheduled for 18 July is cancelled

Recovery Support Service

Monday to Friday: 9.00am - 4.30pm

Unit 6 Tathra Beach House Apartments, Tathra
Recovery Hotline 6499 2475 | recovery@begavalley.nsw.gov.au



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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