

Bega Valley Shire Council News

Issue 17 - Tuesday 26 February 2019

connecting council and the community

Dream funding for sport

The future of sport in the Bega Valley Shire has received a massive boost with the Member for Bega, Andrew Constance, announcing \$13.5 million in funding for the redevelopment of the Bega and Pambula Sporting Complexes and Merimbula's Ford Park courts.

Mr Constance made the very welcome announcement during halftime of Saturday's NRL trial match at the Bega Recreation Ground, making special mention of the outstanding volunteers who have long advocated and worked towards seeing these planned upgrades become a reality.

Council had applied for the grant funding following the completion of an extensive master planning process and the identification of the Bega and Pambula sites as the Shire's 'Regional Level' facilities.

On a week when local sporting fans were treated to the visits of the Raiders and Bulldogs NRL squads for Saturday's trial match and former and current international and state cricketers for a mental health awareness match, the value and power of sport in a country community like ours was on display for all to see.

You only had to look around as wide-eyed children got up close and personal with their heroes to see what long-lasting benefits experiences like this have and now as we move forward they will have access to quality facilities as they pursue their own sporting dreams.



The Member for Bega Andrew Constance, Bega Valley Shire Council Mayor Cr Kristy McBain, Canberra Raiders CEO Don Furner and Group 16 Rugby League President Allan Wilton were all smiles following Mr Constance's announcement of \$13.5 million for sporting facility upgrades across the Bega Valley.

Photo by Robert Hayson

More reports to come on Hotel Australasia

Bega Valley Shire Council will push ahead with negotiations for a potential sale of Eden's former Hotel Australasia (as previously resolved by Councillors), however a successful rescission motion at last week's Council meeting means staff will also now prepare a report on potential funding opportunities.

The report will explore the prospect of Council maintaining ownership, and will include the one-off \$1.5million grant the NSW Labor candidate for the Seat of Bega, Leanne Atkinson, publicly announced on the condition that Labor forms government following the upcoming election in March.

This election promise of a grant, that must be matched dollar for dollar by Council, would be to assist with the cost of restoring the Eden icon.

This longstanding matter was back before Councillors after a rescission motion citing a potential error of meeting process was lodged by Councillors Tapscott, Dodds and Seckold.

The motion was based on their belief that information regarding possible funding opportunities was not available to inform the debate on 30 January.

After hearing three deputations from community members urging Council to keep the site, the

rescission motion was successful 5 votes to 4 before an alternate motion was also successful by the same margin.

A potential buyer of the historic building came forward after Council executed a non-exclusive agreement with three Eden based Real Estate agents in November 2018, with Councillors delegating authority to the Mayor and General Manager to negotiate a sale for an undisclosed minimum value.

Prior to any finalisation of a sale, the matter will now be reported to Council for final consideration.

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!



French, FOGO, frittatas and fun

Councillor Mitchell Nadin learnt a thing or two about cooking with leftovers from one of Australia's most-loved authors Jackie French, AM.

As did 10 other people from across the Bega Valley who shared their best cooking with leftover tips in a Facebook competition to win a place in the kitchen with Jackie at Eastwood's Deli and Cooking School in Bermagui.

Cr Nadin was Jackie's assistant in making a vegetable frittata, one of three delicious recipes she shared for a FOGO film project 'Cooking with Leftovers and Storing Stuff Right with Jackie French'. The group also made Zucchini Fruit Slice and Stuffed Zucchini.

The best part of the day was Jackie teaching some creative ways to avoid sending food to landfill. Jackie, who as well as writing over 200 books, is an experienced gardener and home cook. She also shared how to adapt recipes, depending on what leftovers you have on hand.

"You might have leftover cold boiled or baked potatoes, a handful of pasta, a punnet of cherry tomatoes, a hunk of chicken or fish, the last tiny pieces off a block of cheese or some rice noodles.

"I rarely use a recipe but adapt what I'm cooking to what we have in the garden, leftover from the day before or in the cupboard that needs using up.

"All my recipes are deeply adaptable and I've probably never made them exactly the same twice. The best way to save food is to learn to cook, so you are not bound by recipes but get ideas from them which you can adapt to what



Corrine Harris, Chris Aitken, Pam Gordon, Karen Wright, Kim Stafford, Kathy Cumming, Heather Compton, Cr Mitchell Nadin, Ben Smyth, Anne Maier, Naomi Appleton and Jackie French prepare to cook with leftovers.

you have."

Jackie also passed on storage tips for her recipes and for leftovers in general.

"If you cook something with rice in it, please make sure you eat it within a couple of days. If your leftover food is growing mould on it then it's probably best to give that to the chooks, put it into your compost or put it into the FOGO bin," she said.

Bega Valley Shire Council had the day filmed to produce a series of short videos which the community can view on the Bega Valley Waste and Recycling Facebook page and Council website. The recipes will also available on the Council's website in the FOGO section.

'Cooking with Leftovers and Storing Stuff Right with Jackie French' is funded through the \$641,400 Waste Less Recycle More grant from NSW Environment Protection Authority.

The Waste Less Recycle More program aims to encourage local communities to think differently about waste avoidance, recycling, littering and illegal dumping.

It funds projects which deliver conveniently located, value-for-money waste infrastructure that makes it easier for households and business to 'do the right thing'. It also encourages innovative regulatory approaches to protecting the environment and supports investment in new waste programs.

Further Education Scholarship applications open

Bega Valley Shire Council is again throwing its weight behind the region's young people and calling for nominations for this year's round of Further Education Scholarships.

The annual scholarships program (formally Tertiary Scholarships) supports young people seeking professional qualifications and careers while living in the Bega Valley. A total of \$5000 will be awarded to local students, allowing for five grants valued at \$1000 to be awarded.

The scholarships are targeted at those studying full or part time (including online) with a University, TAFE or Registered Training Organisation.

Applicants need to be living in the Shire, aged between 17 and 26, not in receipt of another grant or scholarship and experiencing financial barriers.

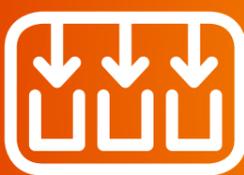
Bega Valley Shire Council Mayor, Cr Kristy McBain, said she is committed to seeing our young people reach their potential and sometimes it's

that helping hand along the way that keeps people going and headed in the right direction.

"In last year's round, scholarships went to young people completing such diverse courses as Early Childhood Education, Nursing Pathways to University, Certificate III in Individual Support and Website Development," Cr McBain said.

"I'd encourage anyone to make an application for one of these scholarships and see where it can take you."

Apply online at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/grants - applications close on 31 March.



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



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

www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/waste

Council gifts land to Preschool

The Bega Preschool Association Incorporated will be able to push forward with building extension plans after Council recently agreed to gift two parcels of land in Koolgarra Drive to the group.

The land in question is the current site of the Preschool, with the divestment to be undertaken for the nominal sum of \$1.00.

Council's Property and Facilities Coordinator, Rickee Marshall, said the resolution was a positive result for both Council and the Preschool.

"Issues surrounding the ownership of the land have been identified from as far back as the mid 1970s, with Council needing to give landowner's consent on every occasion the Preschool has looked to expand and develop over the years," Ms Marshall said.

"The buildings on the land are owned by Bega Preschool Association Incorporated and Council does not provide any capital renewal or maintenance support for these assets, therefore it makes perfect sense that they assume ownership of the land as well.

"As the Preschool celebrates 50



The Bega Preschool's Thursday Magpies and Tadpoles classes are looking forward to an exciting year ahead as the service celebrates 50 years.

years of operation this year, it is great to be able to recognise the wonderful contribution it has made to the community and provide some further certainty moving forward."

The Preschool's Director/Early Childhood Teacher, Anne-Maree Carroll, thanked Council for gifting the land and outlined the plans for the extension.

"Our plans for the extension include

a multi-purpose room, which will offer a myriad of opportunities for teachers and educators to further teach and support the children, particularly those with additional needs," Ms Carroll said.

"We will also include a staff room for our hardworking and dedicated staff, who give their heart and soul to their work.

"Assuming ownership of the land means that we will be able to

extend and strengthen our existing dedicated teaching of children with additional needs and support of their families, both through the planned extension and being able to explore grant funding opportunities.

"In November this year, when the renovations are complete, we plan to host an open day to celebrate the Preschool's 50 years of offering Bega and the surrounding communities a high-quality Early Childhood Education.

"Research shows that children who receive quality Early Childhood Education are more likely to arrive at school equipped with the social, cognitive and emotional skills they need to engage in learning. A child needs a great parent and a great teacher as 90% of a child's brain development occurs before the age of 5," Ms Carroll said.

Bega Preschool Association Incorporated is a not for profit community-based preschool licenced by the Department of Education to provide early childhood education to 40 children per day between the ages of 3 and 6 years.

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Planning & Development



Proudly supporting Laps for Life



Through our Aquatic Facilities, Council is proud to support the *Laps for Life* campaign by ReachOut, an organisation working to prevent youth suicide.

According to ReachOut, 1 in 4 young Australians are experiencing a mental health difficulty and ReachOut is there to help them 24/7. However, ReachOut reports that 70% of those who need help don't get it and suicide remains the leading cause of death of young Aussies. That means more young people take their own lives each year than die in car accidents.

Aquatic & Leisure Facilities Coordinator, Nicholas Hoynes, said that his team are keen to get behind this great initiative to build awareness and raise funds to support ReachOut's life-saving service.

"This March, the challenge is out there to sign up with *Laps for Life*, take a deep breath and start kicking the laps away!

"It's pretty straightforward to get involved, you just have to sign up at www.lapsforlife.com.au, set your own swimming goal, share your challenge with potential sponsors and start swimming, whether it's in a pool or in the ocean," Mr Hoynes said.

If you don't have an annual membership to one of the Shire pools, the best option at this time of the year is to purchase a book of Shire wide pool passes. The passes are very flexible and can be used at any pool by anyone. More information about pools, opening times and passes is available at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au - click on Community & Leisure.

ReachOut provides teenagers with practical tools, tips and advice for everything from dealing with exam stress to understanding how to get help for an issue that's worrying them.

For more information or to sign up to Laps for Life, please visit www.lapsforlife.com.au.

Light and Sound comes to Bermagui

Inclusive arts organisation RealArtWorks from Lismore has developed an exciting partnership with Sculpture Bermagui and the Bega Valley Shire Library to create a series of installations for the opening ceremony night of the sculpture festival.

The *Trail of Light and Sound* will feature a number of site-specific audio-visual artworks installed from the Indoor Sculpture exhibition in the Bermagui Community Hall, leading to the start of Dickinson Point headland where the larger Outdoor Sculpture works are exhibited.

The *Trail of Light and Sound at Sculpture Bermagui* is a unique hybrid of sculpture, digital media and performance that will lead the audience at the end of the opening ceremony from the Community Hall to the start of the headland via a number of digital media interactive happenings.

Professional artists identifying as experiencing disability will exhibit their own work and mentor local artists to create original concepts to be incorporated into the trail of sound and light.

The Useless Assembly is a group of artists from the Northern Rivers of NSW utilising obsolete technology and experimental process to create interactive and multi-disciplinary art.

Involving core artists from RealArtWorks Inc and electronic outfit Tralala Blip, the group of post-disability, emerging and professional artists have made exhibitions/installations at Lismore and Wagga Wagga Regional Galleries in 2014 and 2015.



Mathew Daymond standing in front of one of his installations in Lismore. The *Trail of Light and Sound* will feature a number of site-specific audio-visual artworks.

In 2016 they presented a showing of part creative development/part interactive artwork and part performance in the old Dubbo Goal as part of Artlands.

RealArtWorks are looking for up to ten local artists to be a part of the Useless Assembly project and participate in a four-day development workshop to create the artworks.

The artists will have full input into the creative process along with participating in skills workshops to learn stop motion

“The event will light up Bermagui for one night and will be a real treat for locals and visitors alike. It will be a mini-Vivid in Bermagui!”

- Scott Baker

animation, experimental sound techniques and the processes required for public art and performance.

Bega Valley Shire Library Programs and Partnerships Officer, Scott Baker, said this is a fabulous opportunity for artists of all abilities to work with the nationally renowned RealArtWorks.

“The artists and mentors they are bringing down have an amazing skill set they are sharing with local artists,” Mr Baker said.

“The event will light up Bermagui for one night and will be a real treat for locals and visitors alike. It will be a mini-Vivid in Bermagui!”

Local artists of all abilities can apply to be a part of the team online at <https://bit.ly/2UeGrEM> or they can pick up a printed form from any library.

For more information email sbaker@begavalley.nsw.gov.au or phone 6499 2172.

The *Trail of Light and Sound* starts after the *Sculpture Bermagui* official Opening Ceremony at 6pm on Friday, 8 March - entry is free and suitable for the whole family.

Council Meeting wrap up

Visitor Information Centres

Council agreed to renew the licences for the Bermagui (Bermagui Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism for their continued occupation of space within the Bermagui Community Centre), Eden (Eden Tourism for their continued occupation of space within the Eden Gateway Centre) and Merimbula Visitor Information Centres (Merimbula Tourism Incorporated for their continued occupation of the Merimbula Visitor Information Centre building).

The Mayor and General Manager will now execute the agreements.

Infrastructure Prospectus Update

Council noted the status of the projects listed in the Infrastructure Prospectus (December 2017) and the election brochure prepared to present policy and project priorities to State and Federal candidates in the upcoming State and Federal elections.

The projects listed in the prospectus that have not been funded will continue to be progressed for suitable funding opportunities.

Local Traffic Committee

Council adopted the

recommendations of the Local Traffic Committee.

Among these was the relocation of the two existing accessible car spaces at the Berrambool Sporting Complex; the installation of an accessible space at the Bemboka Bicentennial Playground; and road closures for the Shire's ANZAC Day ceremonies.

Everyone Can Play

Due to the pricing submitted through the tender process being outside of the project budget, Council declined to accept any of the tenders for the construction of the Tathra Everyone Can Play Inclusive Playspace.

The project designers and the Department of Planning will now undertake a review of the project scope and provide recommendations to amend the scope of the project to deliver on the objectives, while reducing costs to meet the project budget.

Quaama Men's Shed

Council has approved the divestment of Lot 10 Section 10 DP 758860 at 20 Bermagui Street, Quaama to the Quaama Men's Shed Incorporated for the nominal sum of \$1.00.

Next Meetings

27 February @ 2pm

13 March @ 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

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

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[begavalleyshirelibrary](https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirelibrary) | www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/library

Council's drought funding delight



The Bega Saleyards are set for significant upgrade and fencing materials and labour will be provided to landholders to help replace the internal and boundary fencing severely damaged or destroyed in last year's Yankees Gap Fire thanks to funding secured under the Federal Government's Drought Communities Programme.

Bega Valley Shire Council is delighted to have secured \$999,970 in funding under the Federal Government's Drought Communities Programme.

Local primary producers and those impacted by the Yankees Gap Fire are set to be the major beneficiaries of the project here in the Valley.

The Bega Saleyards will see a significant upgrade, while the grant will also enable fencing materials and labour to be provided to landholders to help replace the 150 kilometres of internal and boundary fencing severely damaged or destroyed in last year's fire.

In collaboration with the South East Local Land Services, drought resilience capacity building events will also be held to assist our local farming community to develop drought management strategies.

The plans for the saleyards include upgrades to the community kitchen and amenities (including the installation of an ambulant toilet); a renovation of the site office; improved signage and fencing; the conversion of an existing unused storage space into a community meeting room; the installation of industry tested rubber matting in the concrete livestock pens; the construction of a permanent open bay shelter over the dirt floor pens; and a renewal of the effluent management infrastructure.

Mayor, Cr Kristy McBain, said the local projects were developed in consultation with local farming groups and co-operatives, support organisations, and major agricultural businesses.

"While we have received some very welcome rain in the past couple of months, it is imperative that as a community we continue to support our agricultural industry," Cr McBain said.

"The challenges and difficulties posed by drought don't simply disappear with the first rain and for an area where the agricultural sector represents a large proportion of the workforce, such as ours, it has had a very significant impact.

"In the case of the saleyards, they support over 2,000 buyers and sellers who attend sale days each year from across our Shire, the Eurobodalla, Snowy-Monaro and East Gippsland.

"For the regional agricultural industry, the saleyards are a key asset for local farmers to meet and discuss a range of industry trends, issues and opportunities and it also a space for socialisation and peer support in times of hardship and drought.

"These improvements will immensely improve the functionality, accessibility, safety and amenity of the site and I am very much looking forward to seeing the positive flow-on effects of this investment," Cr McBain said.

Proactively identifying the need to set a long-term strategic direction for the Saleyards, Council had already engaged an external expert, Outcross Agriservices, to undertake a strategic review of the facility and its operations late last year. This review is being finalised, but initial directions helped inform a number of the projects eligible to be implemented with the funding.

The strategic review will help the saleyards support local agribusiness in the Shire through growing the facility's productivity, upgrading existing infrastructure and improving financial returns.

Council has received the recommendations and is seeking feedback from the community on these.

You can play role in this process by visiting www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay before 4 March - for more information contact Council's Economic Development Manager, Daniel Murphy, on (02) 6499 2222.

Those landholders with fire damaged fencing following the Yankees Gap Fire are encouraged to contact the Recovery Support Service on 6499 2475 or email recovery@begavalley.nsw.gov.au

HAVE YOUR SAY

Help Council make well-informed decisions to produce the best outcomes for our community.

Have Your Say on the following items now open for comment.



Cemeteries Strategic Plan

Closes 3 March



Bega Saleyards Strategic Review

Closes 4 March



Draft Rural Living Strategic Directions Report

Closes 8 March



Payment of expenses/facilities for Councillors

Closes 8 March

Visit our website

www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/HaveYourSay

Clean Up the Bega Valley on Clean Up Australia Day! Sunday March 3

If you've registered a Clean Up in your local area via the Clean Up Australia Day website, we can help with collection.

Register online at www.begavalley.nsw.com.au

Want to know more?

Follow our Facebook page @BegaValleyWasteandRecycling
Visit begavalley.nsw.gov.au/waste Phone 6499 2222



WTF



For the love of paint



Ben Quilty 2007, *Torana No.8*, oil on linen. The current *I HEART PAINT* exhibition showcases the practice of six outstanding Australian painters.

Love colour? Impressed by Impasto? The Bega Valley Regional Gallery's current exhibition *I HEART PAINT* showcases the practice of six outstanding Australian painters who simply love paint.

The highly expressive and naturalistic work of Ben Quilty has garnered international acclaim. Through thickly painted landscapes and portraits, Quilty aims to delve into the emotional qualities of places and people through his gestural application of paint.

Adam Cullen's paintings have been called simplistic, crude, adolescent and puerile by art critics but no-one can deny his highly personal visual language and his commitment to communicating through bold colours and gestures. Humorous and bold, Cullen's broad interests covered crime, masculinity and cowboy culture.

Elisabeth Cummings is one of Australia's most respected artists. Universally recognised as a master of the medium, Cummings' paintings depict Australian landscapes from across the continent.

Sally Gabori (Mirdidingkingathi Juwarnda – tribal name) was one of the leading contemporary Australian artists of the last decade. Though her career only began in 2005, she has since taken the art world by storm. Whilst her works could be recognised as abstraction, they are actually land and sea scapes depicting her country and her ancestral stories.

Flowers burst out from Alesandro Ljubicic's large, textured canvases. Sweeps and daubs of vivid colour convey his intense response to the beauty of nature, while the less

resolved Colour Studies share the same emotional charge. These smaller panels, created at the same time as the larger flower works, further explore the effects of layering paint.

Robert Malherbe's talented drafting skills were recognised early on as he gained practical training in an animation studio, honing his ability to draw from life and give vigour to his subjects. His art education has been largely self-taught, from standing in front of some of the greatest paintings in some of the greatest museums and galleries around the world.

BVRG Director, Iain Dawson, said the exhibition utilises works from key regional gallery collections (Goulburn Regional Art Gallery and the Newcastle Art Gallery), as well as major work from the Art Gallery of NSW, and private collections.

"*I HEART PAINT* celebrates painting and artists who are masters of their medium," Mr Dawson said.

"The masterpiece from Sally Gabori is a six-metre-long painting that has never toured outside of Sydney, so it's a real treat to see such a magnificent work in Bega.

"Ben Quilty's work is a stunning illustration of my theme for this exhibition, artists who celebrate the medium and push the boundaries of paint into a textural and almost sculptural form.

"We are thrilled to have work here from his personal collection, as his first retrospective opens at the South Australian Art Gallery next month," Mr Dawson said.

I HEART PAINT will run through until 29 March.



NDIS Plans in Practice Workshop

Bega - 18 March 2019

Merimbula - 19 March 2019

9.30am - 2.30pm

Venue details provided on registration

- ✓ Understand your NDIS plan
- ✓ Get the most out of your funding
- ✓ Know your management options
- ✓ Find and manage support workers
- ✓ Prepare for your review
- ✓ Hear from experienced presenters

Inviting People
with Disability
and their
Carers

Places are limited

Register online at www.pdcnsw.org.au/projects/ndis-plans-practice
or call 1800 688 831

Visit our website www.pdcnsw.org.au

Kids classes at Gallery

The NSW Government has made more than 40 rebates and savings available, including Creative Kids, which is all about making it easier for school-aged kids (4.5 to 18 years old) to get involved in creative and cultural activities.

Parents, guardians and carers can claim a \$100 voucher per year to put towards the cost of lessons and fees with registered providers.

It's a great opportunity to let kids find their passion and learn new skills.

Vouchers can be used to contribute to registration, participation and tuition costs for performing arts, visual arts, coding, languages, literature, music and other creative and cultural activities with our approved list of activity providers.

The Bega Valley Regional Gallery Kids Art Workshops program provides art classes for school-aged children.

Our qualified and experienced tutors teach a range of introductory art skills inspired by each current exhibition. Kids can experiment with materials, use their imagination and solve problems. Activities will include drawing, sculpture, clay modelling, sketching, painting, printmaking, design, craft, textiles,



graffiti, collage, paper craft and jewellery making.

Families can use their \$100 Creative Kids voucher to register with the BVRG for 12 months access to children's art classes and workshops. They will have a choice of classes:

(a) Up to 4 x 2-hour School Holiday classes per calendar year @ \$25 per child in the Bega Youth Space.

(b) Up to 8 x 1-hour Saturday afternoon art workshops @ \$12.50 per child in the gallery.

The full program is currently being developed and dates and classes will be announced on the gallery website <http://gallery.begavalley.nsw.gov.au> and social media channels soon. To get notification head to the gallery website and sign up for our email newsletter.

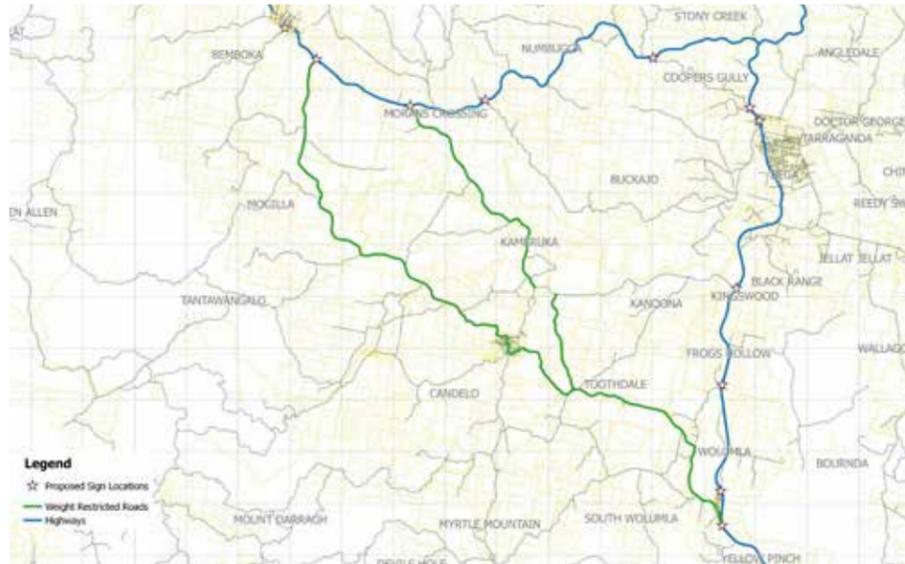
No load limits in Candelo-Wolumla area

Bega Valley Shire Council will not be reinstating any road load limits in the Candelo-Wolumla area until State Government regulations are changed.

The decision of Council comes after concerns were raised by transport operators and farmers struggling through last year's drought conditions that the previous imposition of 15-tonne load limits on Kameruka Lane, Mogilla Road, Candelo-Wolumla Road and West Kameruka Road had resulted in some unintended challenges.

Council's Director Assets and Operations, Anthony McMahon, said while the primary intention of the limits was to avoid non-local heavy vehicle traffic using these local roads as through routes, inflexibility in the applicable road rules meant that operators living or working locally were also impacted.

"Basically, as the current road rule



The map shows the roads that were previously the subject of 15-tonne load limits (marked in green).

(104) is written, heavy vehicle operators must use an alternate route if there is one available, which can mean extensive additional travel distances," Mr McMahon said.

"In reality this would mean a truckie

needing to travel from Bemboka to Candelo would have to make the journey along the Snowy Mountains Highway, then onto the Princes Highway through Bega, before turning onto Candelo Road

at Kingswood and on to their final destination.

"In this example we are talking about turning a 23-kilometre trip into 59 – this just isn't practical.

"While none of the roads in question have been constructed to cater for large volumes of heavy vehicles, Council decided that until we can achieve a degree of flexibility in the application of any potential load limits, we simply can't place unrealistic obstacles in the way of people's ability to do business in an efficient manner.

"While we understand achieving legislative changes can take time, Council remains steadfastly committed to achieving a long-term outcome that better balances the safety and social challenges of heavy vehicle movements, with the needs of business operators," Mr McMahon said.

Expo proves it's never too late

Over 30 different community craft groups and other organisations burst into action at the 'Never Too Late To Make It' Expo, held during Seniors Week recently.

Library Programs and Partnerships Officer, Scott Baker, said he was thrilled with the community response to the event.

"We had over 500 people come through the doors and many organisations there on the day said they found new members.

"People are often surprised to discover the vast range of creative activities that happen in our community.

"The Expo proved to be a fantastic opportunity to bring Senior folk together, to make new connections, and discover new creative passions – it really is never too late!" said Mr Baker.

The Bega Civic Centre was bustling and buzzing with displays on weaving, woodwork, craft, writing, tai chi, archery, history, pottery, coding and gardening as well as dance performances from the U3A Sapphire Coast Social Dancing group and a demonstration from the Tai Chi for Arthritis group.

Groups from around the Shire were represented at the Expo, including the Merimbula Men's Shed, Bega CWA, Merimbula and Bermagui Marine rescue, Eden Spinners, Wyndham Basket Weavers and the Towamba Felters, as well as the Bega Lions, who provided a free sausage sizzle.

Library Operations Team Leader, Samantha Fenton said that, as social hubs, our libraries host a number of creative groups who meet regularly to share skills, experience, and of course socialise.

"The Tura Marrang Quilters is an inspiring example - this group meets fortnightly at Tura Marrang library and was conceived by locals with a passion for quilting.

The group has grown to include members with a wide range of sewing and creative skills, some of whom travel from towns as far away as Cobargo and Eden," Ms Fenton said.

As well as creative pursuits, Shire libraries offer many other services to support Seniors and their interests.

"Our libraries are well supplied with large print books, audio books, eBooks and eMagazines.



The craftsmanship on show at the Merimbula Men's Shed display was simply outstanding.

"We also offer a Home Library Service to homebound residents, run free technology training courses and help with family history research," Ms Fenton said.

Floodplain Risk Focus Group has vacancies

A Floodplain Risk Management Focus Group meeting was held recently to discuss progress on two studies; the Eden, Twofold Bay, Towamba River Flood Study and the Merimbula Lake and Back Lake Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan.

Rhelm, the consultant working with Council on these studies, delivered a progress report on both projects.

Council's Asset Management Coordinator, Gary Louie, said that the meeting was well attended by community representatives from the Towamba River catchment, Council staff, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and the State Emergency Service.

"We have two vacancies for community representatives on the Focus Group at the moment and we are calling for expressions of interest for community members from both the Merimbula/Back Lake catchment and the Pambula River/Yowaka River catchments to support projects in those areas," Mr Louie said.

The Focus Group is made up of a mix of elected, community and professional members, who together, have the skills and interests suited to addressing the flooding problem of a specific catchment.

The role of the Focus Group is to assist Council in developing a floodplain risk management plan. Community members provide input from the wider community and contribute their knowledge about historical floods, information on flooding problems and possible solutions.

"Typically, community members will be local flood affected landholders

(residential or business), be from an environmental group or from a relevant industry or business group. The main ingredient we are looking for is an interest in floodplain risk management," added Mr Louie.

If you'd like to know more about being a community member on the Focus Group, please contact Gary Louie on 6499 2222 or email glouie@begavalley.nsw.gov.au. Expressions of interest close on Friday, 29 March.

Further information is available at https://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-GKM-01-85-66

Bega Valley Recovery

Vegetation work behind Dilker Road

Bega Valley Shire Council continues to undertake fire recovery activities in around Tathra

A contractor has been engaged to groom Asset Protection Zones in the area behind Dilker Road.

This work will commence in the coming week.

Council has prioritised the removal of fire affected vegetation in a number of key locations including Dilker Road, due to the felled trees impacting asset protection zone maintenance.

Following the removal of felled trees and adjacent fire affected vegetation, contractors will be engaged to implement a number of erosion and sediment control measures including Hydromulching, direct seeding, laying of jute

mesh and the deployment of coir logs.

This is consistent with the work that has been done in the area behind Ocean View Terrace and Wildlife Drive.

The monitoring of other fire affected natural areas around Tathra continues, with a focus now on weed management and revegetation.

Right: Direct seeding, Hydromulching, the laying of jute mesh and the deployment of coir logs will be amongst a range of measures employed to rehabilitate the area behind Dilker Road over the coming weeks.



Tathra Community Planting Day Sunday 17 March

- **Where:** Tathra Headland Reserve
- **Time:** Anytime between 9.30am and 11.00am
- **Dress:** Sturdy shoes and gloves
- **Bring:** A bottle of water and sun protection

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

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

As a thank you for helping, each participant will receive a free plant.

Green Shoots

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY



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