

Bega Valley Shire Council village newsletter

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Bega Park playground

As long as the rain holds off, Council is hoping to have a special Christmas present for the Shire's children. Work has begun on the renewal and upgrade of the playground at the Bega Park off Parker Street in Bega. The playground has been designed with inclusiveness in mind and will have improved access features including boat swings, rubber softfall around play equipment, sand play areas and a low level slide making use of the changes in site levels. The equipment will arrive in the week beginning 14 December, followed the next week by the softfall layers and then it's playtime!

Free technology training

The Bega Valley Shire Library Service is offering free technology training at the Bega library over November and December. The two hour sessions are varied and can be booked as all eight workshops or as a combination to suit individual needs.

Anyone unsure about which sessions to do can talk to library staff who will be able to match them to an appropriate session and anyone thinking of purchasing an iPad or tablet can attend an introductory course to discover more about them before they buy. All classes have limited places and start from 10.30am. To book online go to at www.begavalleyshirelibrary.eventbrite.com.au or phone 6499 2127.

The Shirl finalists selected

Finalists in the inaugural National Youth Portrait Prize, The Shirl, have been selected and will go on exhibition

in the Bega Valley Regional Gallery from 18 December. The selection panel for the finalists, The Shirl benefactor Peter Hannan, gallerist Carolyn Killen, Archibald Prize 2015 finalist Kerry Mcinnis and local painter Dirk Rampling, were pleased at the high quality and strong numbers of entries received from across the country.

Gallery Curator, Iain Dawson, said "this 'little sister' event to our showcase award, The Shirley Hannan National Portrait Award, is off to an incredible start and we look forward to the exhibition and announcement of the winner in December."

Several local young artists are included in the finalists list which will be judged by young artist Abdul Abdullah with the winner announced on 18 December in the Gallery. The exhibition will run until 20 January 2016. To see the images of the final works go to facebook.com/TheShirlNationalYouthPortraitPrize



The Shirl Judge Abdul Abdullah's 'Self Portrait as Ophelia'

Jobs with Council

- Apprentice heavy diesel mechanic. Applications close at 5pm on 8 December.
- Casual lifeguard and pool attendant. Applications close at 5pm on 9 December.
- Water and Sewerage casual team member (four positions). Applications close at 5pm on 9 December.
- Bega Valley Regional Learning Centre Coordinator. Nominations close at 5pm on 10 December.
- Water and Sewerage mechanical and electrical engineer. Applications close at 5pm on 23 December.

Position descriptions are available from our website or by phoning Council.

When applying, address the selection criteria in your application and send by email to recruitment@begavalley.nsw.gov.au or post to the address below.

Doing business with Council

- Aquatic facilities strategy request for quotation. Close at 12pm on 9 December.
- Sale of Lot 946 and Lot 949 Main Street Merimbula request for tender. Tenders close at noon on 3 February 2016.

All Council tendering information and tenders are received through the e-tendering portal at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au

Call: 02 6499 2222 Fax: 02 6499 2200 Email: council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au Web: www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au

Internet access is available at all of our libraries in Bega, Bermagui, Eden and Merimbula.

Please send all correspondence to PO Box 492, BEGA NSW 2550.

To view exhibition documents visit us at our Bega office in Zingel Place or one of our libraries: Bermagui - Bunga Street, Eden - Cnr Mitchell & Imlay Streets, Merimbula - 103 Main Street.



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Our Halls - Nethercote



In a scattered community with no village shops, a local hall is crucial to social cohesion. The Nethercote community recognised this and spent 12 years fundraising and rebuilding the dilapidated community hall.

Nethercote's origins date back to the mid-19th century when exploring for gold along the eastern ranges was popular. Very early in its history, Nethercote was typically a bark and timber milling and sleeper cutting community and then moving into dairying.

Activity associated with the school led to the formation in 1899 of the Nethercote Progress Association which erected a weather shed at the Nethercote School. Until the construction of the Nethercote Hall in 1911, the school was the site of much of the general public entertainment held in the district, including concerts and dances.

A combination of the school closing and the winding down of the dairy farming led to community activity in Nethercote gradually diminishing in 1963. By 1969, it was agreed that its license not be renewed. An attempt was made to sell the Nethercote Hall; fortunately for today's community, the attempt failed.

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Then in 1996, the Nethercote community agreed to set up the Nethercote Residents' Association which held an "outstandingly successful" community Christmas Party, held in the Nethercote Bush Fire Brigade shed. Over 100 residents attended with "events like this bring back old thoughts of a community."

It was also noted that the Nethercote Hall could not be used for the event, due to its state of disrepair, but "restoration of the hall is top of the agenda, with fund-raising events planned."

Today, the beautifully restored Nethercote Hall is the focal point for many local events. It was rescued from oblivion by local residents and restored as a community project. About \$110,000 was spent over 10 years on improvements. Of that total, \$38,000 was provided by the Commonwealth on a \$1 for \$1 basis. The remaining funds were raised by the community, almost entirely from fundraising events, although the Bega Valley Shire Council made significant contributions to the restoration. The community contributed almost 3,000 hours of voluntary labour to the restoration.

The hall hosts meetings, bushfire training days, music events and concerts, yoga and a seasonal produce market on the fourth Saturday of every fourth month.

Facilities include a brand new stainless steel caterer's kitchen, commercial gas stove and dishwasher. There are 14 tables, 100 chairs, gas barbecues, crockery and cutlery for 120. There is TV and video and a piano available and excellent disabled access to hall and toilets.

Local sport grants

Applications are open for the NSW Government's Local Sport Grant Program to get more locals involved in sport and recreation activities. There are four project types within the Program - Sport Club Development; Community Sport Events; Sport Access; and Facility Development and Capital Equipment. Applications close 11 February 2016. For more information, visit www.sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au

Seniors Festival grants

Funding is available for community groups wanting to run events as part of NSW Seniors Festival from Friday 1 to Sunday 10 April 2016. We're encouraging people to plan activities that promote health, wellbeing and happiness for seniors. Applications are available at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au Information & services > Awards Grants & Scholarships > Seniors Week Grant and close 5pm Friday 19 December.

Quiz Councillors

Quiz Councillors on a wide range of topics at a Councillor Roving Workshop held at 4pm on Wednesday 2 December in Council chambers. This will be followed at 4.30pm by a Council presentation on its Annual Report, financials and Quarterly Budget Review to explain the complexities of Council's financial activity in clear and easy to understand ways. For more information and to book a 15 minute presentation, visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au or call Tamara Whiting on 6499 2222.

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