

Bega Valley Shire Council village newsletter

Page 1 - 5 May 2017 #114

Local volunteers captured on film

National Volunteers Week is upon us, an annual celebration to acknowledge the generous contribution of our region's volunteers.

Bega Valley Shire Council has approximately 370 council volunteers who give their time to assist Council across a range of endeavors.

Council volunteers can be found helping with local libraries, halls, sporting and recreation areas, in cemeteries and parklands and in the Regional Gallery.

Mayor Kristy McBain said over 30,000 hours are contributed annually to Council with a conservative estimated value of \$1.1 million.

Beyond Council, a host of organisations are at work along our stretch of coastline, and in many cases people are volunteering as part of more than one group.

"Local people have a proud history of volunteering with more than 26% of Bega Valley people aged over 15 engaged in some form of voluntary work," Mayor McBain said.

"That is 6% above the NSW average and speaks volumes about our willingness to pitch in and help make a difference."

All next week (May 8 to 12), Bega Valley Shire Council will be acknowledging the time and energy of the shire's volunteers with a series of short films on Council's Facebook page and website – tune in for your daily installment and keep an eye out for friends, family, or maybe yourself.

Our celebration of local volunteering will culminate on Wednesday, 17 May with the annual Bega Valley Shire Medallion presentation at the Commemorative Civic Centre in Bega at 11:30.

Thank you to our



Valley of Volunteers

celebrating the contribution of our community



Careers at Council

Apply online:

www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/careersatcouncil

For current vacancies please check Council's website.

Sign up to receive job alerts for new listings.

Sign up to your VN!

A newsletter just for you!

Stay in touch with what Council is doing. Subscribe to our fortnightly Village Newsletter by email.

www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/subscribe

Council News

Don't have social media?

Want to see what they are seeing?

Then jump online and visit our news page.

www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/news

Tenders

If you are a supplier of goods and services and wish to access the tender notices register online.

www.tenderlink.com/begavalley/

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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Page 2 - 5 May 2017 #114

Westpac Foundation's 200 Community Grants now open.

Applications for Westpac Foundation's 200 Community Grants are now open, until 9 June. Community Grants are \$10,000 each and also include non-financial support via Westpac's 'More than Money' program, helping to maximise the social impact and sustainability of grantees.

If you are or know of a not-for-profit grassroots community organisation giving opportunities to those who need it most in our local community, nominate or apply today via westpac.com.au/grants.



Gold fossicking adds to region's tourist appeal

Member for Bega Andrew Constance has advised that the Far South Coast has been declared a fossicking district, aimed at supporting the local economy.

Bega Valley and Eurobodalla Shires are now fossicking districts, taking the total number of districts to 62 across 28 local government areas.

Works update

Vegetation and Drainage team

- Mowing at Bermagui, Cobargo, Merimbula, and Wolumla
- Slashing in the area between Bega and Tathra, and Merimbula to Candelo.
- Mulching along Nutleys Creek Rd at Coolagalite
- Tending to vegetation around Bermagui and Bega townships
- Sports fields getting attention include Eden, Pambula, Merimbula, and Bega

Roads maintenance works team

- Bourkes Road, west of Cobargo
- Jews Creek Road, Glen Oaks Road, and Greendale Road all at Greendale.
- Slaters Lane, Kemps Lane, Candelo Street in the Candelo area.
- The general Bermagui area
- Angledale, and all around Bega
- Around Pambula, and Wyndham Lane

Urban maintenance team

- Toilet cleaning, rubbish pickup, street cleaning, weed spraying
- Playground maintenance and repairs
- Eden bus shelter concrete slab pour
- Eden town team shed erection
- Sign renewals on urban and rural roads
- Carrying out wharf inspections
- Concrete ramps at Eden's Endeavour Park
- Merimbula board walk timber repairs
- Bollard installation in Fishpen area at Merimbula
- Bemboka cycleway repairs
- Bega cycleway – upgrade past Kisses Lagoon
- Coraki Dr Pambula Beach pavement renewal
- Reseals to be completed at Candelo and Wandella
- Linemarking shire-wide

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Page 3 - 5 May 2017 #114

Mr Constance said our region's rich history can now be explored in a different way.

"Bega Valley and Eurobodalla Shires were part of the 1850s gold rush, now visitors and locals can get a real feel for that history," Mr Constance said.

"This allows Councils to better market themselves as tourist destinations for fossickers, which will provide a boost to our local economy."

Fossicking districts now cover more than 8.9 million hectares, or 11 per cent of the state – the largest area ever in NSW.

Minister for Resources Don Harwin said the increase in fossicking districts will help to expand the regional geotourism market in NSW.

"Fossicking is not only a popular and rewarding recreational activity, it has a positive impact on regional tourism and NSW regional economies," Mr Harwin said.

The NSW & ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association estimates around 50,000 people fossick across the state each year, which contributes approximately \$20 million annually to NSW rural economies.

Fossicking can be carried out on any land in NSW where it is deemed lawful, provided participants obtain permission from landowners and key stakeholders of the land.

Fossicking remains prohibited in National Parks.

For a comprehensive guide, including tips and rules on fossicking in NSW visit <http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/fossicking-in-nsw>

Public land use audit

In the months ahead Bega Valley Shire Council will be auditing public lands for un-authorised usage including outdoor dining furniture, signs and advertisements.

Council Rangers are keen to talk to shopkeepers and café managers about the requirements and work constructively to address any potential issues.

Council's [Use of Public Land Policy](#) deals with

footpaths, public reserves, road reserves and crown reserves. In broad terms, the aim is to ensure public safety and welfare and oversee commercial activities on community spaces.

Un-authorised use of public land has been a growing concern, with people generally unaware of the issues that need to be considered before tables and chairs, footpath displays and buskers appear on local streets and in reserves.

Businesses are required to obtain approval from Council for these activities, however the policy is flexible enough to offer exceptions in many situations.

People and organisations can seek further guidance about the application process and any fees through [Council's website](#).

Applications can be approved for five years along with an annual rental fee as well as public liability insurance, in many cases there is no fee due to Council.

At the extreme end of the policy, un-authorised use may attract a monetary fine and seizure of the item under the Local Government Act. However Bega Valley Shire Council Rangers will always take a cooperative and educational approach in the first instance.

Please refer to Council's Public Land Use requirements on Council's website or contact Council's Public Land Use officer on 64992222.



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