

Bega Valley Shire Council village newsletter

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Beware swooping magpies

We are reminding residents that it is that time of year when magpies 'swoop' to protect their eggs or fledglings from pedestrians or cyclists who pass through their territory. Understanding magpies and knowing how to behave around them can help in avoiding injury from swooping birds. Here are some tips:



→Wear a broad-brimmed hat and sunglasses or shelter under an umbrella to protect your face from swooping magpies.

→Paint or stick large 'eyes' on the back of your hat.

→If a magpie swoops while you are cycling, it will probably stop swooping if you get off your bike and walk.

→Avoid known magpie nesting areas by taking alternative routes during the breeding season.

→If you must enter a magpie nesting area the birds will be less likely to swoop if they are watched constantly, or if people walk in a group.

→Waving sticks or umbrellas in the air or attaching a brightly coloured flag on a long pole to your bicycle can deter magpies from swooping.

Shire's beaches ready for summer

Local beachgoers can return to the water this summer with confidence that the beaches of the Bega Valley Shire are among the cleanest in NSW. The Office of Environment and Heritage has released the State of the Beaches Report, 2014/15 – an annual scorecard of the summertime water quality at 241 popular NSW beaches and swimming spots. Despite the wet conditions of last summer, the report graded all 14 swimming spots monitored in the Bega Valley Shire area as 'Good' or 'Very Good'. The Shire's consistently cleanest beaches were Camel Rock Beach, Beares Beach, Tathra Beach, Short Point Beach, Merimbula Main Beach, Pambula Beach and Aslings Beach. The Bruce Steer Pool, Horseshoe Bay, Blue Pool (big), Mogareeka Inlet, Bar Beach, Pambula River Mouth and Cocora Beach were of a high standard and suitable for swimming most of the time.

Work continues at Kisses Lagoon

Work continues at Kisses Lagoon in Bega, on the western foreshore of the lagoon, and includes removing and chipping the remnant dead willow trees along the bank. The mature plane trees will be retained. Council is asking the public stay clear of the area while the works are taking place. A native revegetation plan has been developed and planting is due to begin in early autumn 2016. We have secured addition funding to continue works on south Kisses Lagoon which is planned for 2016. For more information phone Council on 6499 2222.

Jobs with Council

- Employee Support Services Officer. Close on 21 October at 5pm.
- Data entry officer (part time). Close on 22 October at 5pm.
- Road Service Team member. Close on 22 October at 5pm.
- Rural Bitumen Team member. Close on 22 October at 5pm.
- Roadside Vegetation Team Member (plant). Close on 22 October at 5pm.
- Works Engineer. Close on 23 October at 5pm.
- Library Services Trainee. Close on 23 October at 5pm.
- Fixed-term Labourer. Close on 28 October at 5pm.
- Gym and Group Fitness Instructors. Close 29 October at 5pm.

Position descriptions available from our website or by phoning Council on 6499 2222.

Doing business with Council

- Renewal of playgrounds at Ford Park, Merimbula and Bega Park, Bega. Close on 21 October.
- Request for proposals for the Pambula Beach Accessibility Project. Close on 21 October.
- Construction tender for water mains renewal/upgrade program. Close on 28 October.

All Council tendering information and tenders are received through the e-tendering portal at www.tenderlink.com.au/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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Quaama fair

The Quaama Spring Fair will be held this Saturday, October 17, in the Quaama Hall from 9am to 2pm. The theme this year will be the Orange and Yellow and attractions include market stalls, veranda talks, an art exhibition, music and Quaama Quisine.

Talking waste

Council's customer service officer in the waste section, Sam Ferrara, was a guest speaker at the October meeting of the Bega Probus Club for active retirees. Sam is already a hit with the pre-school set so was interested to see how she would go with the other end of the age demographic.

The Probians were also impressed by Sam and her message about recycling and reuse and many took notes for future reference. We were also asked to pass on to Village Newsletter readers a tip for gardeners trying to keep kangaroos out of their gardens. Sprinkle a few tablespoons of blood and bone mixture where they leave their droppings and top it up after rain. A Probus member has declared it a success as she has not seen any "roo poo" in more than three weeks.

Any group (young or old) who would like to book Sam as guest speaker should phone Council on 6499 2222.

Words and music at book launch

The launch of local author Isobel Blackthorn's second novel, *The Drago Tree*, will be held at the Bega library on Monday 16 November at 6pm. The event is free and everyone is welcome. The launch will be a special event that

includes live music from folk duo, Tidal Moon, to provide a musical background that fits the theme of the book.

Set against a panoramic backdrop of dramatic island landscapes and Spanish colonial history, *The Drago Tree* is an intriguing tale of betrayal, conquest and love in all its forms. Isobel Blackthorn lives at Quaama and her first novel, *Asylum*, was published earlier this year. For more information about the launch phone Scott Baker at the Bega library on 6499 2127.

New citizens welcomed

The Bega Valley Shire's newest Australian citizens were welcomed last week with an official citizenship ceremony held at the Council chambers in Bega. Mayor Michael Britten and the Federal Member for Eden Monaro, Dr Peter Hendy, welcomed seven new Australians living locally in the Shire. The Mayor said the new citizens have undertaken a journey much greater than most of us appreciate, in some cases several years, with a will to become 'Australians', and we congratulate them.

The new citizens are Tamer Ahmed of Eden who was born in the Russian Federation; mother and daughter Sommai Harris and Supichaya Luanmongkol of Bega (Thailand); Pauline Rees of Berrambol, (Scotland); Chris Smeda of Bermagui (South Africa); Lawrence Verney of Merimbula (United Kingdom); and Wayne Armstrong of Eden (Wales).

For further information or to apply to become an Australian Citizen, contact the Department of Immigration and Citizenship on 131 880 or visit their website: www.immi.gov.au

National Gallery comes to town

The National Gallery of Australia is coming to three Shire libraries on Friday 6 November with an introduction to one of Australia's legendary artists, Tom Roberts. Staff from the NGA will present an exhibition that brings together more than 130 of Roberts' most famous paintings, including *Shearing the Rams*, *Bailed Up* and *A Break Away*. Sessions will be held at 10am in Bermagui library, 1pm in Bega library and 4pm in Eden library. The free presentations require no previous art knowledge and are supported by South East Arts.

Backyard Bird Count

The Aussie Backyard Bird Count starts 19 October. There's still plenty of time to get some practice in before the official Aussie Backyard Bird Count begins – head outdoors, enjoy some fresh air and take pleasure in the beautiful birds around you. All you need is 20 minutes, an outdoor space, and keen eyesight or binoculars. Simply record the birds you know and look up those you don't on the Aussie Bird Count app or the website (the field guide can be found under the 'Submit your checklist' button). You'll instantly see live statistics and information on how many people are taking part near you and the number of birds and species counted across your neighbourhood and the whole of Australia.

www.aussiebirdcount.org.au

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