

Bega Valley Shire Council News

Issue 27 - Wednesday 13 November 2019

connecting council and the community

Green Shoots funding boost



Shannon Grass of CoastLife Adventures (2nd from left) and Council's Environmental Management Officer, Andrew Morrison (2nd from right) with students from Bergmann Anglican College. 120 Year 9 students from the college helped to remove plant guards and weeds and plant over 400 endemic native plants at the Tathra Headland while on their annual camp with CoastLife Adventures.

Bega Valley Shire Council's *Green Shoots* post fire recovery program has received a welcome boost through a NSW Environmental Trust grant of \$84,560.

The *Green Shoots* program has been run since the Tathra and District Bushfire in March 2018 and has focussed on healing both the local community and the fire affected environment through restoration events that everyone can participate in.

To date the program has run 11 restoration projects/events, attended by over 500 community volunteers.

Council's Environmental Management Officer, Andrew Morrison, said the grant will allow Council to continue working with the community to help restore the Tathra environment that

means so much to us all.

"The grant will enable us to focus on weed control to allow natural regeneration, along with native vegetation planting and workshops," Mr Morrison said.

The latest *Green Shoots* activity saw 120 Year 9 students from Bergmann Anglican College in Canberra helping to remove plant guards and weeds and plant over 400 endemic native plants at the Tathra Headland while on their annual camp with local business CoastLife Adventures.

"As part of this excursion CoastLife and the school wanted to give something back to the local community, so volunteering to be part of the *Green Shoots* program was a real win win," Mr Morrison said.

"We even ended up downing tools and heading down to the wharf to see whales pass close by on several occasions - the kids (and teachers) were stoked."


There will be more *Green Shoots* activities to come over the next two years.



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

Follow us
on Facebook
or visit our
website



 begavalleyshirelibrary | www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/library

New terminal in action

The Merimbula Airport terminal extension project is moving into the final stages, with a live transition into the upgraded terminal building successfully undertaken on Friday, 1 November.

Bega Valley Shire Council's Project Manager, Jenny Symons, said the transition was very smooth thanks to the work of the airport management, Regional Express, Joss Construction and Council's own work teams from Bega, Eden and Merimbula.

"We are very excited that the travelling public are now able to enjoy the added comfort and improved facilities the new terminal brings," Ms Symons said.

"The final touches to the building will continue for the next few weeks. They include external signage, sun shades, flight information displays, televisions, tourism displays, art installations and some additional seating, while the meeting room (holding up to six people) will be ready for public bookings by the middle of December.

"The users of the airport have been incredibly understanding of the disruptions to parking and the use of the temporary terminal building, which significantly reduced the project timeframe.

"Among the features of the new terminal are enlarged seating areas, significant improvements to the cafe, upgraded staff amenities, an external seating area with access to the cafe and the separation of incoming and departing passengers, along with climate control measures such as environmentally friendly instantaneous heating and fan driven ventilation."

An upgrade to the short stay carpark around the terminal (that commenced on Monday, 4 November) represents the final stage of this significant project, with short-term measures necessary to facilitate this.



A successful live transition into the upgraded Merimbula Airport terminal took place on Friday, 1 November, with the travelling public now able to enjoy the added comfort and improved facilities the new terminal brings.

"The main entrance is closed, and two temporary entrances have been activated – one for hire cars only and the other for all other traffic," Ms Symons said.

Signage has been installed on site to direct airport users, however with fewer spaces available while the work is carried out it would be helpful and very much appreciated if the public, where possible, can use other options such as drop offs, bus services and the privately-owned secure parking on site rather than the short-stay parking.

Some useful contacts are listed below:

- Merimbula Taxi Service – 6495 2103
- Sapphire Coast On Demand Bus Service - 6495 6452, Google Play, the App Store and <https://www.flexibus.com.au>.

- Sapphire Coast Buslines – scheduled service – see www.scbuslines.com.au.

- Merimbula Airport Secure Parking – 6495 4211

All work is still very much on track to be completed before the summer holidays.

Bega Valley Shire Council received funding under the Australian Government's Community Development Grants Programme to assist in the delivery of the Merimbula Airport terminal extension project.

For more information and/or to provide feedback, contact Council's Project Manager, Jenny Symons, on (02) 6499 2222 or email jsymons@begavalley.nsw.gov.au.

On the roads

Gravel re-sheeting

Council plans to undertake gravel re-sheeting works on Reedy Swamp and Peak Hill Roads in the coming weeks.

Weather permitting the work will be carried out on the 2.4km stretch of Reedy Swamp Road (up to the Vimy Ridge intersection) from 19 - 29 November and on the 700 metres from the start of Peak Hill Road from 25 - 29 November.

The projects will include drainage improvement, vegetation maintenance and road rehabilitation, and water trucks will be operating throughout the working days to reduce dust from the construction. Traffic control will be in place for the duration of the project.

For more information contact Council's Road Maintenance Coordinator, Cliff Shipton, on (02) 6499 2222.

West Kameruka

Works are well underway along West Kameruka Road, with vegetation management, road formation works, replacement of drainage structures and batter repairs all nearing completion.

In the next few weeks heavy stabilisation equipment will commence renewing the existing pavement and preparing the surface for an initial bitumen seal in early December.

The project will see the final 8km of unsealed road upgraded to a minimum 8m wide sealed pavement, with additional features including new guardrail, signage and a wide centreline treatment.

Sealing the road will not only improve the driveability and safety for road users, but also provide much relief to local residents from dust generated by traffic.

Works are scheduled for completion in February 2020.

What's ON!

LOCAL EVENTS

17 November

Animal Welfare League's 'Santa Paws'
@ Coastal Grooming
9.00am - 1.00pm

30 November

Band Together Music Festival
@ Wolumla Recreation Ground
noon - 11.00pm

List your event
on Council's
Local Events
Calendar

www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/events

Scholarships for our young women

To acknowledge International Women's Day 2020, Bega Valley Shire Council is calling on young women living in the Shire to apply for Young Women's Scholarships worth up to \$500 each.

International Women's Day, which is held on March 8 each year, is a day to celebrate the gains women have made over the years and to bring attention to the issues that women still face all over the world.

Council's Community Development Officer, Ange McKechnie, is keen to hear from young local women aged 18-25 who would like support to follow their community motivated aspirations.

"The scholarships support young women across the Shire to have a voice, make decisions and participate in community life at places where they live, work and play," Ms McKechnie said.

"If you have an idea for a community initiative or you are striving to reach a personal goal related to community, sport, business, music, arts or another area, we strongly encourage you to apply."

In 2019, the scholarships were awarded for initiatives in the fields of arts, Aboriginal culture, agriculture, music therapy and sporting achievement.

One of this year's recipients, Jessica Pearce, used her scholarship to host social events for young farmers in the district to develop their skills and resilience.

"A particular highlight was an experienced farmer



Jessica Pearce used her scholarship to host social events for young farmers to develop their skills and resilience.

talking to a group of around 30 young farmers about his experiences in the industry," Ms Pearce said.

"You learn a lot through conversations and networking and it was definitely a positive experience for everyone involved.

"I would encourage all those with an idea or a goal to give it a go and take every opportunity that comes your way - this scholarship opportunity is a great way to get started," Ms Pearce said.

Applications for the Young Women's Scholarship close at midnight on Sunday, 1 December 2019 and they will be presented as part of the International Women's Day celebrations in March 2020.

For more information and to apply visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/grants, alternatively you can contact Council's Grants Administration Officer, Jayde Rankin, or Community Development Officer, Ange McKechnie, on 6499 2222.

Grants available for Seniors Festival 2020

The grant application process is open for Seniors Festival 2020 activities. Local community groups and organisations are encouraged to apply for funding of up to \$1,000 to assist in running events and activities next February aimed at engaging seniors in our community. Applications close on 1 December.

Council's Community Development Officer, Ange McKechnie, said the Bega Valley Shire Council grants offer great opportunities for seniors to experience new things.

"Activities funded by grants can help build confidence and share experiences. They often inspire people to continue with the activities long after the festival has finished," Ms McKechnie said.

In 2020 the NSW Seniors Festival will run from Thursday 13 February to Monday 24 February. The festival is a perfect opportunity for seniors to get involved in their communities



Bega Valley Archers received a Seniors Festival Grant to run 'introduction to archery' tailored specifically for seniors who have always wanted to try the sport.

and enjoy all the benefits that come from participation.

Community groups and organisations may wish to hold events or activities just for seniors, or activities that bring the wider community together. Seniors Festival Grants can be used to

organise free events or activities which recognise and celebrate the role seniors play in the community.

"The events supported by these grants are a great way to showcase the activities of your club or community group and attract new members, so groups

or clubs seeking new members are encouraged to apply," Ms McKechnie said.

In 2019, the Seniors Festival Grants supported U3A Sapphire Coast's Compass of Music Program; the Bermagui Seniors river boat outing; Pambula-Merimbula CWA's afternoon tea party; the Eden Killer Whale Museum's 'This Eden' DVD viewing, the Bega Valley archery day; Panboola kokedama; the Eden Access Centre's IT workshops; and the 'Never Too Old to Make It' expo in Bega.

To be considered for a grant, applicants must be an incorporated association or be under the auspices of an incorporated association. Application guidelines and forms are available at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/grants or by contacting Council's Grants Administration Officer, Jayde Rankin, or Community Development Officer, Ange McKechnie, on 6499 2222.

Bega Valley Commemorative
Civic Centre
Zingel Place, Bega
www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/Civicculture [begacivicculture](https://www.facebook.com/begacivicculture)

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



Climate resilience strategy on exhibition

The draft Bega Valley Shire Climate Resilience Strategy 2050 is on public exhibition until 16 December 2019 in public libraries, Council offices and on the *Have Your Say* page of Council's website.

Council is calling for comments and suggestions on the draft strategy, which puts forward a resilience approach to addressing the projected impacts of climate change across the Bega Valley Shire.

Council's Director Community, Environment and Planning, Alice Howe, said the strategy is about local actions everyone can take to ensure the Shire is well placed to respond to climate-related challenges now and into the future.

"This is about working together to make our community strong: it links to our environment, our economy and our communities," Dr Howe said.

"Resilience is about building strong foundations for our Shire to respond to challenges and seize opportunities. That could be through early adaptation or developing new industries and technologies that create jobs and benefit all residents," she said.

The draft strategy sets out seven areas of response:



The climate resilience strategy is about local actions everyone can take to ensure the Shire is well placed to respond to climate-related challenges now and into the future.

- Protecting our natural systems
- Preparing for natural hazards
- Liveable and connected places
- Safe, healthy and inclusive communities
- Diverse and Thriving economies
- Energy security
- Food security

Across these areas, the document identifies areas of vulnerability and risk, ideas for local actions across

the Shire, and a vision for success by 2050.

"We have put forward some ideas for activities and hope to generate many more local actions during the public exhibition period that recognise the role we all can play in creating a climate resilient future.

"Partnerships will be key to our success. We really encourage everyone to think about what they

can do to contribute. Our final strategy will be a blueprint for a resilient Bega Valley Shire," Dr Howe said.

Residents, business, industry and community groups are all encouraged to share their ideas via the Have your Say page on our website at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/HaveYourSay or via email council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au.

Nominations open for citizen of the year awards

Nominations are open for the Bega Valley Shire's 2019 Citizen, Young Citizen (under 25s) and Senior Citizen (over 65s) of the Year, Sportsperson of the Year and the Australia Day awards.

Council is calling on people to recognise the efforts of friends, neighbours, colleagues and family.

Bega Valley Shire Council Mayor, Cr Kristy McBain, said individuals are being sought for nominations from the community to recognise

outstanding people.

"It's a highlight of the year to present these awards to recognise these outstanding achievers and community champions for their hard work and determination in enriching the social fabric of the Shire," Cr McBain said.

"The awards are a great way to honour those who work hard to make our community a better place; those who quietly and selflessly help others."

Nominations should include information about a person's service to the community, or of a distinguished performance over the past 12 months.

To nominate someone, visit Council's website www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au, email council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au or deliver nominations to any Council office by 24 November 2019.

For more information please contact Council's Executive Assistants on 6499 2222.

"The awards are a great way to honour those who work hard to make our community a better place" - Cr Kristy McBain

Snap Send Solve

Snap Send Solve is the free app that allows you to easily report feedback to Bega Valley Shire Council





Endangered plant survey undertaken

In mid-October Bega Valley Shire Council coordinated an endangered plant survey through some of the bushfire impacted bush around Tathra as part of the *Green Shoots* Bushfire Recovery Program.

Community volunteers joined Council staff; Senior Save our Species officer Rod Armstrong; members of the Atlas of Life in the Coastal Wilderness (ALCW); and several local botanists to search for Matted Bush-pea (*Pultenaea pedunculata*), a low growing native plant with small yellow flowers that is found in only three populations in NSW.

Prior to this survey there were only a couple of records of Matted Bush-Pea in the Tathra area. However, following the March 2018 Tathra and District Fire, Council staff had noticed a large amount of germination of this species in several areas around Tathra.

With the plants coming into flower in October/ November the timing was right to see how widely the Matted Bush-pea was distributed.

The survey targeted four areas to the west of



A native bee pollinating Matted Bush-pea (*Pultenaea pedunculata*) plant. Photo credit: Kerri-Lee Harris (ALCW).

Tathra and along the Kianinny Walking Track. In total over 400 Matted Bush-pea plants were found.

Local entomologist, Kerri-Lee Harris, managed to

photograph a native bee pollinating some of the plants, further increasing knowledge of Matted Bush-pea ecology.

Council's Environmental Management Officer, Andrew Morrison, said the survey was a great opportunity for community members to be involved in collecting valuable scientific data that will be directly used in the conservation of this endangered species.

"It was fantastic to have so many kids come along for the survey - they are really enthusiastic and have good eyes for finding things like small plants," Mr Morrison said.

"Seeing how well this endangered plant responds to fire really adds weight to getting more of the indigenous community back onto country and incorporating more cultural burning into the landscape."

Following the strong post fire regeneration of the Matted Bush-pea there are plans to undertake trial burns to better understand the relationship between fire and germination of Matted Bush Pea seed.

Council Meeting wrap up

Recovery Support Service

An independent evaluation of the of the Bega Valley Shire Council's Bushfire Recovery Support Service for Tathra and District and Yankees Gap District was presented for the information of Councillors and the community.

The report provides some useful insights into some of the issues the service faced at the time and how it could be improved and replicated.

The report will also be utilised to develop a Recovery Support Service model to improve access to recovery services and resilience

during and after future similar disaster events.

Ocean Outfall

Following extensive consultation and research, Council has unanimously resolved to construct the proposed Merimbula Ocean Outfall on a northern alignment 2.6 kilometres out to sea and 30 metres underwater, providing a sustainable disposal option to return treated wastewater back to the environment when it cannot be reused.

In addition, the decision was made to treat the water to a higher

standard including an additional sand filtration step, further phosphorous removal and UV disinfection.

Popularly Elected Mayor

A motion to hold a constitutional referendum at the 2020 Council elections proposing "That the Bega Valley Shire Council Mayor be elected by the electors" was defeated.

Tura Beach Country Club

As Crown Land Manager of Reserve (R95834) Council has approved a further 20-year lease to the Tura Beach Country Club Limited, for their continued occupation of the Tura Beach golf course land, for an annual market rental as determined by a registered valuer.

Bega Indoor Sports Stadium

Council has approved a further two-year licence agreement with an option for a further year to fLiNG Physical Theatre Incorporated for

their continued occupation of the Bega Indoor Sports Stadium for an annual rental fee as determined by a formal market valuation and increased annually by CPI.

Next Meetings

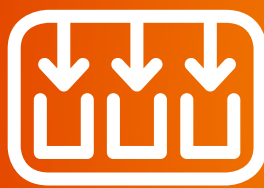
20 November

27 November

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 at 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



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

Solar installed at the workshop

Refurbishment works to the Bega Valley Shire Council workshop and stores building have recently been completed.

As part of these works the redundant electrical system was removed and replaced with a new compliant system.

The new electrical system now consists of LED lights, which will reduce the electrical usage compared to the old industrial halogen high bay lights. To aid with the lighting, transparent sheeting was also placed on the roof to provide more natural light into the building.

The biggest modification to the electrical system was the installation of a 30kW solar system and the allowances made in the switchboard.

The switchboard now has the capacity for an upgraded 80-90kW solar system to essentially transform the workshop building into a mini solar power plant, which will then produce enough power to make the Maher Street depot energy neutral through the day.

This will provide substantial cost saving to Council in the reduction of electricity bills and the exporting of



Upgrades to the switchboard and the installation of solar are key components of the workshop refurbishment.

unused solar energy back into the grid.

The initiative is a part of Council's Clean Energy Plan and represents a continuation of Council's long-term commitment to the environment.

This large clean energy project

will also make an important contribution to reducing our overall carbon footprint.

The building itself was given a face lift with new wall and roof cladding replacing the old deteriorated cladding from when the building

was originally constructed.

Almost all of the materials that were removed from the workshop during the demolition works have been recycled by the local contractor with very minimal waste being taken to landfill.

Environment focus at Wyndham

Bega Valley Shire Council staff were delighted to see so many Wyndham locals attend the Community Environment Day on Wednesday, 6 November.

Restoration of Mataganah Reserve was a high priority for the community and some of the speakers on the day provided insights into how this could be successfully achieved.

The presenters included Les Kosez from Eden LALC who explained the cultural significance of the reserve; Kylie Ryan from Council's Biosecurity and Invasive Species team speaking on biosecurity weeds; Chris Post from Landcare, who provided insights into the role of volunteers; and Council's Natural Assets Officer, Jess O'Brien, speaking on management structure

and reserve vegetation.

Local community member Derek Lewis also provided some perspectives on environmental management strategies for the Wyndham area.

Following the discussions and workshops and some lunch in the hall, participants moved to the Mataganah Reserve for a tree planting session with Wyndham Primary School.

This was the second community environment day convened by Bega Valley Shire Council - a similar day having been held in Kiah in July.

The community feedback to these days has been overwhelmingly positive, so if your community would like to know more about your local environment, please contact Council's Environmental Education Officer, Natalie Ryan, on (02) 6499 2222.



The Wyndham Primary School took part in a tree planting session.

We're looking for community solutions to reuse, recycle and avoid waste in the first place!



Waste Community Assistance Grants Category B open now

Apply online www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/grants

Email grantsadmin@begavalley.nsw.gov.au

Phone (02) 6499 2330



Boomerang Bags, funded 2017



Weapons for the Soldier to open

A new exhibition featuring some of Australia's most important Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists will open at the Bega Valley Regional Gallery (BVRG) on 15 November.

Weapons for the Soldier brings together 41 important artists who have made new work to examine complex and varied responses to weaponry, warfare, and their connection to protecting land and country.

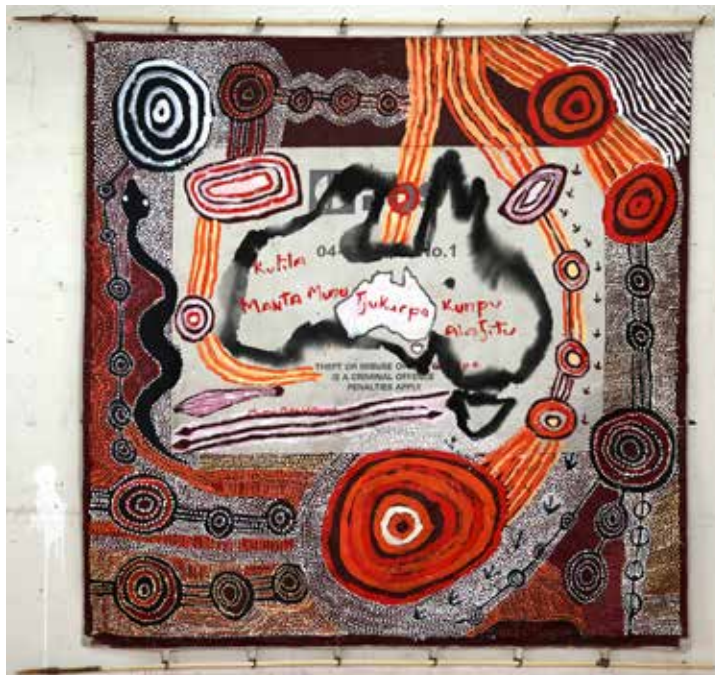
Twenty-seven of the artists are from the art centres of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands of central Australia, while the 14 invited artists are some of Australia's most important Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists (including Ben Quilty, George Gittoes, Shaun Gladwell, Alex Seton, Jonathan Jones and Danie Mellor).

Weapons for the Anangu Soldier is a subject that senior APY artist Ray Ken has explored in his paintings throughout his career. With his permission and encouragement, along with the support of other senior men who often paint weapons and stories of conflict, the young Indigenous artists have explored what it means to be a soldier today and to fight to protect your land and culture.

BVRG Director, Iain Dawson, said fighting for Country and a deep connection to Country are recurrent themes that are explored throughout the exhibition, evocative of both the broader tenets of the ANZAC legacy and the distinct position of Indigenous people within Australia.

"The exhibition and these vitally important themes have resonated with audiences across Australia and we are very much looking forward to dialogue being fostered here in the Bega Valley," Mr Dawson said.

"Those attending the exhibition will experience works



Kunmanara (Mumu Mike) Williams, Kunmanara (Willy Muntjantji) Martin and Sammy Dodd Kulila! (Listen!) 2018.
Courtesy of the artists and Mimili Maku Arts.

that promote conversations around multi-geographical and multigenerational fights for land, Country and freedom experienced by Australians, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, as well as the Indigenous experience in Australian military history."

Weapons for the Soldier will be officially opened at 6pm on Friday, 15 November and will run through until 8 February 2020.

For more information on the exhibition and the gallery programs visit <https://gallery.begavalley.nsw.gov.au>

Merimbula waste facility open all day

In direct response to consistent community feedback, the Merimbula Waste and Recycling Depot will no longer close for lunch on its regular days of operation.

Also supporting the move is facility usage data indicating that the busiest hours of operation at the site are from mid-morning until mid-afternoon.

The most popular of Council's seven waste facilities, the Merimbula site has up until now closed from noon – 1.00pm to enable staff to take a necessary break, however thanks to a redistribution of resources this will no longer be the case from 18 November 2019.

To make this possible an additional staff member will be rostered to Merimbula, with the nearest facility at Wallagoot no longer opening on Mondays to ensure the change is funded within the existing budget.

For all information on Bega Valley Shire Council's waste services (including the opening hours of our waste facilities) visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/waste.

Track Applications

ONLINE An e-service tool available on Council's website...

APPLICATION TRACKER!

Allows for the tracking of Development Applications and Complying Development Certificates from lodgement right through to decision.

visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au OR scan the QR code

Planning & Development

Panboola Pomaderris planting



The planting of the threatened Pomaderris bodalla at the Panboola Wetlands is part of a project led by the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

Council staff joined community volunteers to plant out the rare and threatened *Pomaderris bodalla* at the Panboola wetlands on 10 October.

It is a shrub with cream coloured flowers that occurs in a couple of spots around our Shire, including along the foreshore in Merimbula.

The plants used had been grown from cuttings and seed collected more than a year ago from the Council-managed Merimbula foreshore reserve and grown up by the Australian National Botanic

Gardens (ANBG) in Canberra.

The community planting was part of a project led by the ANBG in collaboration with Bega Valley Shire Council, the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and community groups.

The three-year project funded by the NSW Environment Trust aims to conserve rare Pomaderris species, with community groups, such as the Panboola volunteers, playing a key role in custodianship and looking after these rare and special plants.

Less Weeds. More Bega Valley.

No Space for Weeds

www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/weeds

Celebrating Children’s Week

Children’s Week is a celebration of children’s right to enjoy childhood. This year, National Children’s Week ran from 19 – 27 October.

The theme for Children’s Week 2019 was ‘Children have the right to good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that they will stay healthy.’

At Eden Early Learning Centre, children and staff celebrated the week by creating a bush tucker garden and vegetable garden.

Staff supported the children to learn about growing and eating healthy food to keep us healthy and strong. Children also learnt about the importance of looking after our environment and caring for country.

At Bandara Children’s Services in Bega, our children focussed on learning about safety with a visit from the local police.

The children learnt about the important role police play in keeping our community safe and the importance of road safety was also discussed.

On Friday 25 October staff and children got dressed up in red in recognition of ‘Day For Daniel’, which highlights the need to educate children about how to stay



Vegetable and bush tucker gardens were created at Eden Early Learning Centre.

safe in their environment.

The children read a story called *Sam The Safe Explorer*. The story is about a boy called Sam, who wanders off from his mum at the park and finds himself lost. In the end, Sam makes some good choices and gets back to find his mum safely.

Thanks to our wonderful staff and our visitors and helpers for making a fantastic week of activities and events.

If you would like to know more about Children’s Week visit <https://www.nswchildrensweek.org.au> and for more information on ‘Day For Daniel’ head to <https://danielmorcombefoundation.com.au>

Talking weeds with gardeners



Jamie and Kylie from our biosecurity team spoke to gardeners about weeds at the Tura Beach Garden Centre’s open day, with special guest Costa Georgiadis.

What’s your Big Idea?

Two workshops to capture issues and identify the solutions for creating and recruiting local jobs will be taking place in Bega and Eden next week.

The Big Ideas workshops are part of Bega Valley Shire Council’s *Jobs & Skills Bega Valley* project, which aims to get a better understanding of the local jobs market as it is currently and what needs to happen to expand employment opportunities.

Council’s Economic Development Officer, Alison Vandenberg, said *Jobs & Skills Bega Valley*, through these Big Ideas workshops, is a once in a decade opportunity to have voices heard about our jobs future that will become a part of resource used by industry, government and education and training providers to make decisions affecting our community’s future.

“The workshops, that are open to every member of the community are a key part of the *Jobs & Skills Bega Valley* consultation process,” Ms Vandenberg said.

“The Eden event is designed to capture the voices and ideas of the Eden community and those with an interest in Eden. Should the event be successful in capturing the unique challenges and opportunities at a town level, future workshops in other towns may be planned.

“The intention is to bring local representatives of business, employees and future job seekers together to understand priorities

and generate ideas on how locals can fill the kinds of jobs that are required in our local economy now and into the future,” Ms Vandenberg said.

The Western Research Institute (WRI), that is working with Council on the project and will be running the workshops, has also designed a business survey and interview schedule.

CEO, Kathy Woolley, said WRI will be using technology to assist in capturing all the ideas from workshop participants in both Bega and Eden.

“This means we will have a list of ideas and participants will have voted on them to gauge which ones are supported. It is an easy process and only requires the use of your smart phone, tablet or laptop,” Ms Woolley said.

Big Ideas for Bega Valley will be held on Wednesday, 20 November from 2.30 - 5.30pm at the Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/76858147789> to book your spot.

Big Ideas for Eden will be held on Thursday, 21 November from 2.30 - 5.30pm at the Eden RSL Memorial Hall. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/78110278947> to book your spot.

For more information on the *Jobs & Skills Bega Valley* project and the Big Ideas workshops, contact Council’s Economic Development Officer, Alison Vandenberg, on (02) 6499 2423.



A photograph of a blue moving van with 'MOVING VAN' written on its side, driving on a paved road that leads towards a range of mountains under a clear sky.

Have you moved?

Do you need to update your address?

use our online form

www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/update-my-address

Mirror and Me screening success

It's not easy making a short film in just a few days but six young local women aged 12-16 years - Isobel, Olivia, Taylor, Amalia-Grace, Jada and Maddison – have done just that, it's an awesome achievement!

Their film called *Mirror and Me* had its first screening recently as part of the Far South Film film night at The Picture Show Man Cinema and the film explores themes around fitting in, self-esteem and the need to recognise and understand your own unique value.

The talented group wrote, costumed, scouted locations, acted in and filmed the work during a two-day workshop called 'Girls in Media', facilitated by Lis Shelley from Stage Flight and organised by the Women's Resource Centre in Bega.

The workshop was about teaching young women the skills to get a message out into the community using tools that were already available to them - their mobile phones or tablets.

Lis encouraged the group to think about film as a medium for speaking out about issues that were important to them – giving them a voice.

With the raw footage in hand, some of the young women experimented on their own version of the edit. The final edit of the film brings together all their contributions – including some original ukelele music by Maddison in the soundtrack.

"It was a really fun experience and it taught me new skills. It was great to see everyone's ideas put together," Maddison said.

The participants also gained experience in brainstorming ideas, developing a 'message', planning projects, sourcing resources, costuming and acting.



Jada Koek, Cr Cathy Griff and Amalia-Grace Thompson at the first screening of the film *Mirror and Me*.

With their new-found skills and confidence, some of the young women have even started recording and editing short films on their own using their mobile devices.

Lis is keeping her eye out for other opportunities to screen *Mirror and Me* including at the inaugural Far South Film Festival – watch out for the festival happening in August 2020!

Council has been proud to support this workshop through a Youth Week Grant and 'Girls in Media' is a great example of what our Youth Week Grants can achieve with our amazing and dedicated community facilitators.

Youth Week Grants fund youth-focused activities that strongly involve young people in their planning and delivery - the next round of grants open soon. More information at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/grants.

Repair Café launch

The Bega Valley Repair Cafe (previously the Bega Remakery) will re-launch on Friday, 15 November at its new location at the Youth Space.

Bega Valley Repair Cafe is a not-for-profit community initiative with the purpose of repairing items rather than seeing them go into landfill. It also provides a social connection for people as they learn how to repair everyday items for themselves.

Bring along your out of order small electronics items like radios and TVs, learn how to mend your clothes and have a cup of tea and a chat while you're there.

When: Friday, 15 November from 10.00am to 2.00pm.

Where: The Youth Space, 91 Gipps Street Bega (opposite Target)

For more information phone David on 0405 383 692.



Preparing for potential bushfires

In mid-October, Bega Valley Shire Council partnered with the Rural Fire Service (RFS) to offer the residents of Thompsons Drive in Tathra and Barragga Bay an opportunity to better prepare their properties for potential bushfires.

Council ran a free bushfire hazard vegetation clean-up day for residents of these two areas, with residents encouraged to reduce the fire hazard on their properties by pruning and removing shrubs and vegetation close to their homes.

Piles of vegetation were brought to the roadside and contractors were

GET READY!
Bega Valley

engaged to mulch this material. The resulting mulch was made available to the residents for free.

Thompsons Drive was chosen as it was impacted by the 2018 bushfire and the community have recently undertaken Community Protection Plan workshops with the RFS, while Barragga Bay carries the highest level of bushfire risk of any community in the Shire.

Need help with your NDIS Plan?

Contact our disability team for a confidential discussion.

Contact details:

Phone: (02) 6499 2464
Post: PO Box 492, Bega NSW 2550
ndis@begavalley.nsw.gov.au
www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/NDIS

Bega Valley Shire Council's Disability Service is a registered provider of NDIS services.



What will it cost?

You will not have to pay any out of pocket expenses if the services you need are included in your NDIS plan budget.

What do we provide?

Coordination of supports
+
Plan management



SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT!

Receive your Rates & Water Notices via email

SAVE TIME!



Register Online
begavalley.enotices.com.au

Solar-powered traffic lights in use



A solar-powered traffic light in use on Mogilla Road.

As part of its drive to reduce its carbon footprint, Council’s works section have been using solar-powered traffic lights when carrying out road works at various locations across the Shire.

Although only a relatively small contribution to emissions reduction, the use of solar-powered traffic lights is a marked improvement for the environment when compared to engine powered lights that we have previously used. An unintended benefit has been the quiet running in urban areas allowing earlier starts when needed.

The lights are also very cost

effective and safer due to eliminating the need for fuel and are also easier to handle on site with no engine or bulky fuel tank.

Council’s Sealed Roads Team Leader, Greg Cusack, said these lights are easy to manoeuvre into position and there’s no need to mess about with fuel throughout the day.

“We can set them up and leave them knowing they won’t run out during the working day,” Mr Cusack said.

The lights can be set up to cover a length of up to 1km and have recommended wait times programmed for motorists.

Rabbit control trial

Bega Valley Shire Council has partnered with South East Local Land Services (LLS) to undertake a rabbit control trial at Merimbula’s Short Point.

Short Point was chosen for the trial due its status as a regional attraction and the noticeable impacts the rabbit population is having on the native vegetation and recreation reserve.

The trial program will include a series of free feeding evenings and population monitoring, before the newest strain (K5) of the Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV) - formerly Calicivirus is released.

This will guarantee the target species is being lured and ensure there is adequate uptake of the bait - in turn increasing the effectiveness of the release.

RHDV, which causes fatal haemorrhagic disease in the European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) has been chosen for the trial due to its targeted nature and long-term biological establishment, whereby the virus will continue to live in this community of rabbits and re-emerge naturally when seasonal variances allow it to.

Council’s Recreation Assets Officer, Ed Crothers, said the trial represents the first step in a staged approach by Council to improve rabbit management, with effective pest control often demanding a mix of techniques applied in sequence over time.

“Under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015, landholders are obliged to control rabbit populations on land

“Council is developing a management plan for the control of rabbits across the Shire.”

- Ed Crothers

they own and manage; therefore, we have an obligation to manage these populations,” Mr Crothers said.

“Council is developing a management plan for the control of rabbits across the Shire, and this trial will enable some targeted monitoring to measure the effectiveness of this control.

“Ongoing monitoring of the rabbit population will continue after the trial to inform the development and implementation of further controls across the Shire.

“We are very appreciative of the support, expertise and guidance LLS is providing us in this endeavour,” Mr Crothers said.

Being a very specific species control, RDHV has never been found to cause infection in any other animal except the European rabbit.

Dog owners frequenting Short Point with their animals are encouraged to ensure there is no disturbance to feeding stations during the trial however.

For more information on the trial, contact Council’s Recreation Assets Officer, Ed Crothers, on (02) 6499 2222 or email ecrothers@begavalley.nsw.gov.au.

Spinifex - key to dune stability

Spinifex (*Spinifex sericeus*) can be seen along the front of dunes at most beaches within the Bega Valley and is a key species for dune stability.

It is often one of the first species to colonise dunes with its strong, rope like roots able to fix onto the sand.

Growing in clumps known as tussocks, it is able to withstand tough conditions including salt spray and windblown sand, helping dune formation by trapping sand.

Plants have both a male and female flowerhead, the male flowerheads are brown clusters of flowers with the female flowerheads consisting of a ball like cluster of spikelets (shown in image).

These flower heads detach from the main plant when mature and act like a tumbleweed being blown along beaches.

See if you can spot this species when you are next down the beach!



Contact us

- p. 02 6499 2222
- e. council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au
- a. Zingel Place, PO Box 492
Bega NSW 2550

Follow us

- BegaValleyShire
- [begavalleyshirecouncil](https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil)
- www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au

Subscribe

Subscribe and you’ll receive **Council News** in your inbox. This publication will occur in the week immediately following the Council meetings (generally every three weeks).

