

Bega Valley Shire Council News

Issue 03 - Tuesday 27 March 2018

connecting council and the community

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Council humbled by support

Bega Valley Shire Council is extremely thankful and humbled by the NSW Government's announcement that they will provide \$10 million to facilitate the clean-up of all homes destroyed by the bushfire.

The announcement, made by NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Member for Bega Andrew Constance on Monday, will ensure the cost of cleaning up properties in Tathra and its surrounds will not be deducted from funds available under residents' insurance policies for rebuilding.

NSW Public Works will coordinate the clean-up operation, in partnership with insurers and Bega Valley Council, and will engage expert contractors regularly utilised in the aftermath of natural disasters.

Bega Valley Shire Council Mayor, Cr Kristy McBain, said the support the local community had received from right across Australia had been nothing short of amazing and the State Government has been right at the forefront.

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NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Bega Valley Shire Council Mayor Kristy McBain following the State Government's very welcome recovery funding announcement at the Tathra Headland on Monday. Photo by Robert Hayson

Mayoral Appeal Fund to support residents

In response to the Tathra Fire emergency, a Mayoral Appeal Fund has been launched and offers people, businesses and community groups a direct method of assisting those residents impacted.

Within hours of the Mayoral Appeal Fund opening, donations were being made and after only one week, the total has already reached \$344,000.

Mayor, Kristy McBain said that she continues to be amazed at the generosity of people as well as the support coming from beyond the Shire.

"We are getting enquiries about giving to the

Fund from all over Australia," she said.

Monetary donations to the appeal are tax deductible and there are a number of ways of donating:

- Electronic bank transfer – BSB: 012525 / Account: 837535154
- In person at the ANZ Bega Branch
- Over the phone with credit card, call (02) 6499 2345 between hours of 9am - 4.30pm.

Donations made over the phone will receive a tax invoice via email or post.

Donations made by online bank transfer will

be able to give their transaction details to the Australian Taxation Office.

All donated funds will be held in a separate trust account and 100% of the money raised will get to those who need financial assistance in the months ahead.

An Independent Advisory Panel, chaired by the Mayor will oversee the management and distribution of the funds.

The Panel will make sure all the funds are distributed equitably to those who are directly affected by the fire emergency, in compliance with the Commonwealth Charitable Law.

Mayor Cr Kristy McBain said that the Bega Valley is a very special place.

“Once you live here you really know what it's like to be part of a community. Neighbourhoods around Tathra will rally together and we'll get behind them to support them into the future.”

Tathra Fire Recovery Centre now open

The Tathra Fire Recovery Centre is open and located in the Bega Civic Centre. The Recovery Centre is a ‘one-stop shop’, providing information and practical assistance to people affected by the Tathra Fire emergency.

The centre is open:

- Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm
- Saturday and Sunday, 10am to 4pm

(Closed Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday)

The Recovery Centre Hotline for affected residents is 6499 2475

If you have been impacted by the Tathra bushfire, it is essential that you register at the Tathra Fire Recovery Centre which will enable you to access a range of targeted services.

The Centre is organised by the NSW Department of Justice’s Office of Emergency Management in partnership with the Bega Valley Shire Council.

The following agencies and organisations are on-site: Housing NSW, Disaster Welfare Services, NSW Health, Red Cross, Legal Aid NSW, SafeWork NSW, Insurance Council of Australia, Chaplaincy Network, Business Connect as well as Bega Valley Shire Council representatives.

Recovery Centres provide support to the affected community by bringing together government and non-government services in one location to aid in the restoration of emotional, social, economic and physical wellbeing.

No enquiry is too big or small; the services are there to help and support everyone who has been impacted and will be available until the support is no longer needed.



Right: The Tathra Fire Recovery Centre is situated in the Bega Civic Centre in Zingel Place.

Health and wellbeing

Council is urging residents to take care of their health and general wellbeing over the coming months as people start to deal with the aftermath of the bushfire.

General Manager, Leanne Barnes said that it is natural for people to react in a variety of ways to the distressing events and experiences at Tathra and Bega.

“There are a number of services

available to people; in person, online or via phone and it’s important that people don’t hesitate to seek help,” she said.

The NSW Health website notes that having distressing thoughts and feelings after such events is normal and not a sign of personal weakness. However, when these responses persist or significantly impact on your ability to return to your usual activities it may be necessary to seek help.

You can contact your local mental health service via the NSW Mental Health Line on 1800 011 511.

Further information and resources

are available on the NSW Health website at www.health.nsw.gov.au - click on ‘Emergency Preparedness’.

For specific information on how to support children in response to the bushfire, please see the following online resource prepared by the Australian Child and Adolescent Trauma, Loss and Grief Network at <http://helpingkidswittrauma.blogspot.com.au>

The Headspace website has information on how to look after yourself and talk with your children after a bush fire:

<https://headspace.org.au/headspace-centres/>

bunbury/2bushfire-support/
In Bega, Teen Clinic is open at Bega Valley Medical Practice, 61 Carp Street on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2-5pm. This is a free service and provides teenagers with an opportunity to talk with a nurse in a confidential environment.

Other help services include:
www.beyondblue.org.au or phone 1300 224 636.
www.lifeline.org.au or phone 13 11 14.
healthdirect - phone 1800 022 222.
MensLine Australia - phone 1300 789 978.
Kids Helpline - phone 1800 551 800.

TATHRA FIRE

FREE BUS TO BEGA RECOVERY CENTRE

Free Shuttle Bus

A free shuttle bus is running between the Tathra Surf Club and the Recovery Centre at the Bega Civic Centre.

Departure times:

Tathra Surf Club	Bega: Church Street bus stop
• 9:30am	• 9:55am
• 10:30am	• 12:00noon
• 12:30pm	• 2:05pm
• 2:30pm	• 3:25pm
• 4:00pm (weekdays)	• 5:00pm (weekdays)

Collective effort from teams

When the Water & Sewerage Services (W&SS) teams from Merimbula, Eden and Bermagui got the call to assist the Bega team at the scene of the Tathra Fire Emergency on Sunday 18 March, there was no hesitation.

Immediately, W&SS staff started to work in pairs to check the entire Tathra sewer network which involved physically checking several hundred sewer access covers.

In many instances, melted material from the covers had fallen into the sewer pipes and if not removed, would have blocked sewer systems when people started to use them.

Each cover was assessed to see if it had been affected by fire/heat or indeed if it still existed.

Importantly, staff on site at Tathra during the initial firefighting period worked to minimise wasted water flows which weren't directly aimed at the immediate firefighting efforts.

The team also carried out comprehensive water quality checks at a number of locations in the network to make sure disinfection was still occurring and water was safe to drink when residents returned to their homes.

This involved physically monitoring



Several hundred sewer access covers were checked as part of the Water & Sewerage Services (W&SS) teams' response to the bushfire emergency.

water reservoir levels as online telemetry communications were affected by the fire and power failure.

Water and Sewerage Services Manager, Jim Collins, said the Operations and Assets teams

worked effectively together to get systems back up and running. A magnificent effort by all.

"We had to combine resources to maximise our best response to a very difficult situation," he said.

Physical donations no longer needed

The immediate need for physical donations has passed with storage centres overflowing and aid agencies inundated with the generosity of not only local people but those from further afield.

Now the Recovery phase has begun, the focus is on understanding what people need over the weeks and months ahead and to have a logical approach to matching up donations with those needs.

Please consider selling the goods you planned to donate and give the money to the Mayoral Appeal Fund.

General Manager, Leanne Barnes said that all offers of Tathra recovery-related offers of assistance made directly to Council will be added to our donations register.

"We want donors to understand that their generosity is appreciated but it might not be possible to accept all offers straight away.

"We don't want to offend anyone, so if you have made an offer of a donation, please accept our heartfelt thanks," she said.

Recovery support funding

From Page 1

"To have the Premier back in Tathra again this week shows the State Government's unwavering commitment to assist the community recover from the disaster and will provide a real boost to the collective morale of those impacted.

"Andrew has been on the ground throughout the past week supporting the community and his work in securing this support package has been greatly appreciated as well.

"This wonderful announcement will help ensure that the clean-up operation takes place in an efficient and coordinated manner, and that clean-up and disposal standards are upheld," Cr McBain said.

"To have the Premier back in Tathra again shows the State Government's unwavering commitment to assist the community recover."

- Cr Kristy McBain

Once sites are made safe, owners and residents will be given the option to return and see if there



Cr Kristy McBain chats with Gary Cooper and David Grainger.


are any personal items that can be salvaged.

The recovery announcement was supplemented by a further \$1.2 million in funding for the Tathra Headland Walk project that will link the Memorial Gardens and the Wharf and \$100,000 to Destination NSW to promote tourism to the Shire and Tathra in particular.

The Recovery Centre at the Bega Civic Centre is open every day and can be contacted on (02) 6499 2475.

For more information visit www.emergency.nsw.gov.au or www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/tathra.

Water & Sewerage Rates Relief Tathra Fire



Destroyed Properties

- Properties that have been destroyed will be disconnected from water and sewer infrastructure.
- Existing sewer connections will be made safe and capped for future re-connection.
- New unmetered taps will be installed at the property boundaries with backflow prevention. This will allow free access to water for affected properties as needed.
- Reconnection will occur at the appropriate time at no cost.
- Customers will not be charged for water and sewerage services at all this quarter.

Damaged Properties


- The owners of damaged properties will be contacted directly by Council development engineers and offered the disconnected arrangement (see above).
- Those that take up the disconnection option will be subject to the same conditions as those with destroyed properties.
- Those who wish to remain connected and experience 'bill shock' will be **eligible for reduced or completely waived bills**.

Undamaged Properties

- Council will apply a firefighting discount to water rates.

General information

- Houses affected by asbestos will be disconnected from Council infrastructure by a third party organisation, under the supervision of asbestos hygienist personnel from Public Works.
- Non-asbestos affected properties will be disconnected by Water & Sewerage Services contractors.
- Ash and other debris may drain to the sewerage system through floor drains and other damaged internal plumbing. This may lead to problems in wet weather, including possible overflow into the environment. This situation will be closely monitored.
- When the fires destroyed properties, they also damaged or destroyed internal plumbing and meter connections. The services to these properties ran unhindered overnight on Sunday night. This and use by emergency services prevented the Tathra reservoir from filling at the time. On Monday morning Council, with support from local contractors, surveyed affected areas and disconnected running meters at destroyed properties. The reservoir then rapidly filled to 100%.



For further information please visit our website
www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au or contact Council on 6499 2222
We are here to help!

Recovery Coordinator appointed

Euan Ferguson has been appointed as the Recovery Coordinator by NSW Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, and Minister for Emergency Services, Troy Grant, to manage the recovery phase following the Tathra Fire.

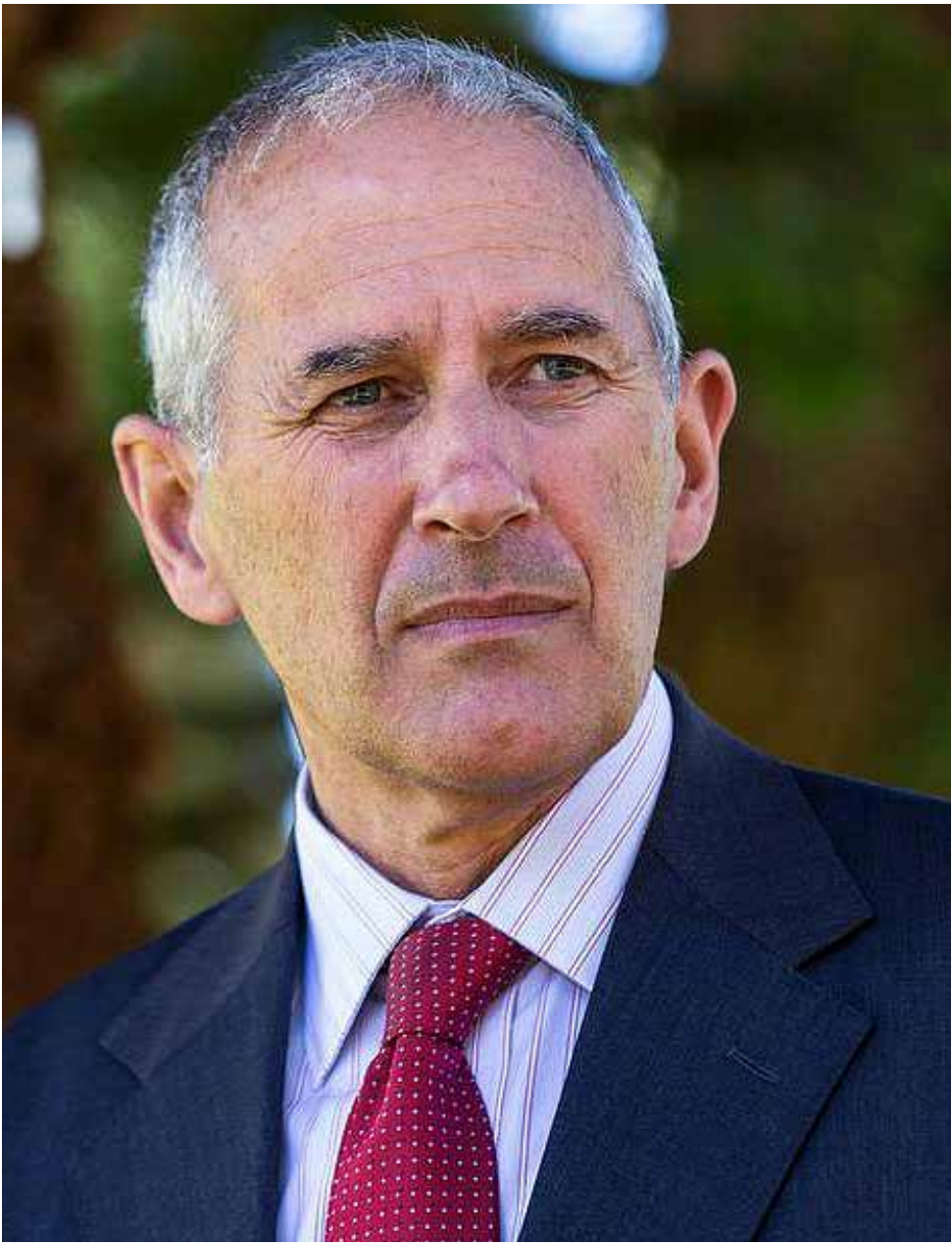
Mr Ferguson will be responsible for arranging accommodation for those in need, supporting clean-up efforts, and working with small business and the broader community to help the recovery effort.

Mr Ferguson has a proven record and more than 40 years of experience in emergency services and was the Recovery Coordinator for the North Coast Floods in 2017.

He was also the Special Inquirer into the January 2016 Waroona Bushfire that destroyed over 100 homes in Yarloop in southwest Western Australia.

Mr Ferguson will work closely with individuals and families affected and with all levels of Government and non-government organisations providing local residents with post-fire assistance.

Right: Euan Ferguson has been appointed as the Tathra Bushfire Recovery Coordinator.



Fire damaged trees and vegetation



- Register fire damaged trees on private land with Council on 6499 2222.
- Our first priority is fire damaged trees that may be dangerous or impacting on dwellings.
- No inspection fees or application forms needed.
- Costs associated with tree removal will be the responsibility of the private property owner.
- Do not put your green waste out loose on the kerb, it will not be collected.
- Take trailer loads of fire damaged shrubs and other vegetation to the Wallagoot Transfer Station for no fee (open 7 days, 7.30am - 4.30pm).

KEY Contacts

for those affected by the Tathra Fire

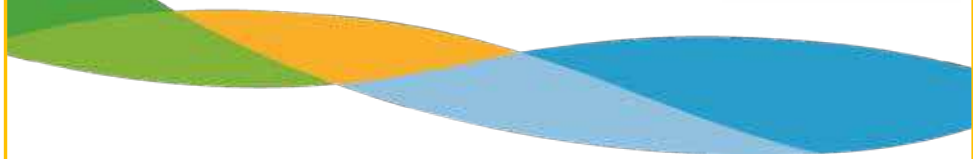

Recovery Centre at Bega Civic Centre

Hotline 6499 2475

- **Bega Valley Shire Council**
 www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/tathra
 www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil
- **Bega Valley Waste and Recycling**
 www.facebook.com/BegaValleyWasteandRecycling
- **Office of Emergency Management**
 www.emergency.nsw.gov.au

Accessing Your Property

Your questions answered



Were all damaged properties originally made off limits?

- In line with direction from the Rural Fire Service and due to the age of a number of properties within the fire impact zone, all damaged or destroyed buildings and associated external structures were initially classified as possibly having fire impacted asbestos.

How were they identified?

- With the safety of the public remaining the number one priority and to ease the challenge of identification for emergency services, these structures were all identified through the installation of orange webbing around the property and a sign was fixed to the fence where possible.

When did the inspections commence?


- Inspection teams commenced accessing structures once the immediate area was deemed safe from further fire danger.
- This enabled assessments surrounding possible asbestos presence to be carried out, along with a brief visual indication of structural safety being undertaken. This process is ongoing.

What happens if asbestos is suspected?

- Contractors have been stabilising known or potential fire impacted asbestos by spraying affected areas with PVA glue. This glue has been coloured blue or pink and designates that the site has been stabilised.

What is happening with barriers and signage?

- Once the contactors have assessed and/or stabilised a property, Council staff will review the requirement for barriers and signage:
 - If asbestos was not originally detected or it has since been stabilised and the building appears to be structurally safe, the webbing and signage will be removed.
 - If asbestos was not originally detected or it has since been stabilised, but the building has deemed to be structurally unsafe, only the asbestos signage will be removed.
 - If the building has substantial damage and appears unsafe for occupation, information is being collected to allow NSW Public Works to carry out remote structural assessments in order to inform home owners of potential safety risks.



If you have further questions or concerns around accessing your property, contact the Recovery Centre on (02) 6499 2475.

We are here to help!

Councillors in the Community

Bega Valley Shire Council's commitment to refining and developing its communication and engagement processes takes another step forward with the announcement of a program of Councillors in the Community sessions.

For some time now Council has hosted public forums in a variety of guises, however following the success of the Meet the Mayor events held throughout 2017, the decision has been taken to adapt and expand on the concept and involve all the elected representatives.

Feedback from the community pointed to the less formal Meet the Mayor format being a clear preference.

Bega Valley Shire Council Mayor, Kristy McBain, said the key objective of the Councillors in the Community program was to enable members of the public to engage with the Councillors and senior staff on matters that are important to them in their own town.

"It is absolutely paramount that we can provide environments where the public can feel comfortable, speak as opposed to being spoken



The nine Bega Valley Shire Councillors will be on hand at the upcoming Councillors in the Community sessions.

to and most importantly have their voice heard," Cr McBain said.

"We (Councillors) are looking forward to engaging on the topics that are important to the attendees and as always keen to work towards finding solutions for any concerns raised.

"On a personal level, I am

particularly excited about being able to have a conversation with people about ideas they may have about how to drive our Shire forward.

"The desire to hear from as many people as possible is supported by the roaming nature of the sessions and evening scheduling, with the initial calendar to include some of

our smaller centres," Cr McBain said.

"We are looking forward to engaging on the topics that are important to the attendees."

- Cr Kristy McBain

Along with the opportunity to engage directly with the Councillors, the sessions will also feature displays and information on current and future projects and activities; the attendance of technical staff to engage around known local issues; and an ideas/issues board to further collect the thoughts of attendees.

Unfortunately, due to the fire emergency the Eden and Cobargo sessions have been postponed and new dates will be advised soon.

The first session will now be held on Wednesday 18 April at the Candelo Hall starting at 6pm, with Pambula (9 May) and Tathra (30 May) to follow.

For more information on the Councillors in the Community program contact Council on (02) 6499 2222 or visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/news

Council Meeting wrap up

Regional Gallery

Council will proceed with an application under Round 2 of the NSW Cultural Infrastructure Program for the redevelopment of the Bega Valley Regional Gallery.

Following due diligence investigations on a number of Bega Sites, Council has resolved to redevelop the gallery on its current Zingel Place site.

Airport Leases

Each of the current landside leases at the Merimbula Airport will be extended for a further three years.

The decision was taken in order to provide each of the ten lessees with security of tenure until the review of the adopted Merimbula Airport Masterplan is completed.

Council's written consent will be required for any future sub leasing arrangements to ensure they don't conflict with or impede operation of the airport.

Whale Festival Funding

Council has agreed to allocate \$5,000 from the Festival and Events budget to the Eden Whale Festival to assist with the running of this year's festival.

Local Traffic Committee

Council has adopted the recommendations from the Bega Valley Local Traffic Committee from their meeting held on 7 February.

The items covered included arrangements for Anzac Day services across the Shire, the Bemboka Triathlon and the Bega Valley Rally.

A 'No Stopping' zone will be installed for 175 metres along the shared boundary of Sapphire Coast Drive and Tura Beach Woolworths and Zebra crossings will be installed on Andy Poole Drive in Tathra and at the top of Market Street in Merimbula.

Bruce Steer Pool draft amenities design on exhibition

A draft design for a new amenities block at Bermagui's Bruce Steer Pool is on public exhibition for community feedback until 15 April.

This consultation phase follows on from a master planning process that identified the need for the installation of an accessible facility on the same level as the pool and a Council resolution that BVSC reach an agreement with the Bermagui community on the provision of toilet facilities at the location.

Council's Recreation Projects Supervisor, Matthew Collins, said that the overarching aim of the project is to deliver a simple facility, done well.

"The amenities building commences implementation of the accessibility master plan for Bruce Steer Pool and will be funded via existing asset renewal budgets, with further elements to be implemented as funding becomes available" Mr Collins said.

"Accessibility and practicality were the key considerations in



The draft design for a new amenities block at Bruce Steer Pool is currently on exhibition.

the development of the design, with finished levels set to take into account occasional storm surges and potential water inundation.

"This layout comprising single facilities without common internal areas has become increasingly popular, as it improves general surveillance and generally reduces the opportunity for unwanted behaviour.

"Additional sewer connection points will be incorporated into the design to cater for large scale community events," Mr Collins said.

To view the draft design and provide your feedback, head to www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay.

For more information on the project contact Matthew Collins on (02) 6499 2222.

Real crime book launch

It was a horrible story told to him decades ago but it stayed in his mind and now established author and journalist, Richard Stanton, is launching his first true crime book at Bermagui Library on Friday, 13 April.

Enngonia Road: a Sad Story of Death and Deprivation in the Australian Outback is an exposé of the events surrounding the violent deaths of two teenage Aboriginal girls, Mona and Cindy Smith near the outback town of Bourke.

Richard Stanton said the book is a story of despair from beginning to end and if there is any hope it is that their story will reach a wider audience.

His carefully researched book is built on forensic analysis of police and court transcripts, lawyer's notes and interviews, official records of interview, ambulance logbooks and coroner's reports.

Council's Programs and Partnerships Officer, Scott Baker, said that the library was flattered to host the launch at Bermagui Library.

"Richard has lived in Bermagui off and on for nearly 30 years and we are glad he wants to launch his book locally, especially such a confronting but important story that goes some way to honouring the memory of two young girls," Mr Baker said.

"We hope people will take the time to come along, meet Richard and give credit to his time and efforts in sharing this story."

Richard worked as a journalist and newspaper reporter and in 1999 published his first book, When Your Partner Dies, a series of interviews with women who, through different circumstances, had become widowed.

Over the last few decades he has written a further seven books mainly on politics and media, and taught political communication and media at universities in Australia, the United States, and Scotland.

He has been a visiting professor at the University of North Carolina, and the University of Milan.

Enngonia Road book launch will be held at Bermagui Library on Friday, 13 April at 10.30am and will include morning tea.

Bookings are invited at www.begavalleyshirelibrary.eventbrite.com.au or phone 6499 2411.

Join the flood focus group

Council is looking for community members to join its Floodplain Risk Management Focus Group.

The Focus Group (also commonly referred to as a Floodplain Risk Management Committee) is a requirement of the NSW State Government's Floodplain Risk Management Process.

Council's Asset Management Coordinator, Gary Louie, said the key role of the group is to provide focus and a forum for discussion.

"Discussions will include technical, social, economic and ecological issues, with the group distilling potentially differing viewpoints on these issues into recommendations to Council and informing subsequent Management Plans," Mr Louie said.

"With two active projects and another set to start in the new financial year, we are very keen to get the Focus Group up and functioning as soon as possible.

"While the representatives don't necessarily need to come from the study areas, local knowledge is certainly valuable in the role.

"What we really need are people who have an interest in floodplain risk management – that is the key



Stockyard Bridge was completely desimated by floodwater in 2011.

ingredient," Mr Louie said.

The Bega and Brogo Rivers Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan is due to be completed this year and the Eden, Twofold Bay and Towamba River Flood Study is also advancing.

The Merimbula Lake and Back Lake Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan, that will commence in

the second half of 2018, represents the second stage of this project and follows the completion of a study in March 2017.

For more information and to express your interest in joining the Focus Group, contact Gary Louie on (02) 6499 2222 or email glouie@begavalley.nsw.gov.au.

Water project in full swing

A new Water Treatment Plant (WTP) is on the way for Bemboka.

With the design phase now complete, earthworks are progressing well.

The WTP building pad earthworks are finalised and the earthworks for the lagoon pad are nearing completion.

Earthworks for the main access road are also finished, with pavement and drains still to be constructed.

Upcoming works will include the excavation of the lagoons and construction of the lower access roads to the raw water pump station.

The WTP will use membrane filtration which will remove colour, suspended solids, and bacteria from the raw water.

The power supply to the site is also being updated to include solar array power.

The solar array is a positive addition to the project as it will aim to supply 100% of the power required to run the normal treatment processes during daylight hours.

It will be the approximate size of the Tathra solar farm.



Earthworks are progressing well at the Bemboka Water Treatment Plant site. The project is due for completion in the second half of 2018.

Comment on Short Point plan

Anyone with an interest in Merimbula’s Short Point is encouraged to comment on the revised Coastal Accessibility Masterplan for the site that is on exhibition.

Once completed, the masterplan will establish how the site should look and function in the future, through providing a clear framework and direction for staged ongoing improvements.

Bega Valley Shire Council’s Leisure and Recreation Manager, John Grady, said Council hopes the broader community will take the time to look over the plan and express their opinions.

“A Council resolution last year gave direction for review and changes to the adopted plan, with the grouping of elements, viewing areas and decks, paths and park furniture all the subject of proposed changes,” Mr Grady said.

“Importantly the main objectives of the plan remain unchanged and include improvements to accessibility, vegetation and environmental management, recreation facilities, the user experience and the acknowledgement of the cultural heritage of the area.


“All feedback received during the four-week exhibition period will inform the final plan,” Mr Grady said.

To view the revised plan and provide your feedback, head to www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay.


For more information on the project contact John Grady on (02) 6499 2222.

Right: Merimbula’s iconic Short Point is the subject of a revised Coastal Accessibility Masterplan that is currently





Expired Flare Collection



Roads and Maritime Services expired marine flare collection program kicks off at the end of March 2018. Find a collection point near you to safely dispose of your expired flares.

Far South Coast and inland

Quarantine Bay Boat Ramp, Eden	Saturday 31 March	8am-12pm, 2-6pm
Merimbula Boat Ramp, Merimbula	Sunday 1 April	8am-12pm
Kianinny Bay Boat Ramp, Tathra	Sunday 1 April	2-6pm
Bermagui Harbour Boat Ramp, Bermagui	Monday 2 April	8am-12pm, 2-6pm
QEII Square, Albury	Wednesday 4 April	3-7pm
Apex Park Boat Ramp, Wagga Wagga	Thursday 5 April	3-7pm
Apex Park Boat Ramp, Centenary Drive, Narooma	Friday 6 April	2-6pm
Moruya Boat Ramp, Moruya	Saturday 7 April	8am-12pm, 2-6pm
Hanging Rock Boat Ramp, Batemans Bay	Sunday 8 April	8am-12pm, 2-6pm

For more information on the schedule and other collection locations across NSW visit rms.nsw.gov.au/flares or call 13 12 36.

Assistance for young women



Young Women’s Scholarship recipients Indigo Walker, Gabriela Green, Leesa Chen, Eliza Bell and Brianna Larkham with Deputy Mayor Liz Seckold, BVSC General Manager Leanne Barnes and Cr Cathy Griff.

Five local women have received a boost towards their goals through the Bega Valley Shire Council’s Young Women’s Scholarship Program.

Now in its tenth year, the program aims to reward the hard work and motivation of the recipients and recognise their valuable contribution to our communities.

The \$500 scholarships were presented by Bega Valley Shire Council’s Deputy Mayor, Liz

Seckold, recently as part of International Women’s Day celebrations at the Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre.

International Women’s Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

The theme for 2018 was #PressForProgress - highlighting the importance of collaboration towards gender equality.



Bega, Beramgui, Eden & Tura Marrang

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

FOGO warriors and film stars

When Council’s Waste Management team won a NSW Environment Protection Authority grant to go towards helping residents transition to the new FOGO bin collection service, one of their ideas was to get local kids involved.

A call out via every school in the Bega Valley Shire and on social media for young budding TV stars in February resulted in more than 50 kids wanting to be part of the campaign so they extended the filming across two days and included them all.

Waste Management Coordinator, Joley Vidau, said it was a fabulous experience for everyone involved.

“We initially hoped to have around 10 or 15 kids put their hands up, and were blown away by the response,” Ms Vidau said.

“They were all fabulous and we couldn’t choose, so we decided to



Byron (Tathra) and Harry (Mirador) were among more than 50 children involved in the FOGO Kids TV filming in Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre.

film everyone. Instead of just doing a television ad, we’re now putting together a short film so we can capture every single one of them.”

She said that Council was thrilled so many families wanted to be part of the campaign.

“We all know how savvy our

young people are about waste and recycling so it made a lot of sense to get them to explain how FOGO works, in their own words. There was a lot of excitement surrounding the filming in Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre - we all had a great time.”

Joley said Council will launch the Kids FOGO campaign later this year when FOGO starts.

“We can’t wait to see the looks on everyone’s faces when they see these wonderful kids on the big screen. Watch this space!”

Ian Campbell from About Regional joined us during filming and captured some of the buzz: <https://www.facebook.com/AboutRegional/videos/971196416368503/>

To find out more about FOGO visit https://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-RHN-45-38-11

Upper Brogo road repairs

Significant repair work is currently being undertaken on the roads in the Upper Brogo area.

In total, 60 distinct sections of damage will be repaired on Upper Brogo, Quinlans, Hore Lacey, Waterloo Creek, and Gilberts Roads.

Each of the roads was impacted during the June 2016 East Coast Low weather event and subsequent flooding, with the repairs funded under the Australian Government-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

Local contractor John Michelin & Son Pty Ltd

commenced the work earlier this month with the project set to be ongoing through until the end of May.

Motorists will not be impacted by full road closures; however one lane will be under traffic control at various times.

For more information contact Bill Michelin (0409 961 891) or Council’s Terry Maher (0447 293 114).

Right: Road repairs are in full swing on a number of roads in the Upper Brogo area, with 60 separate areas set for attention.



Water stations open

To promote and encourage *Reduce, Reuse and Recycle*, Bega Valley Shire Council and the Merimbula Special Events Committee are proud to announce a joint project that will see eight new drinking fountains and refill stations installed across key locations in Merimbula and Pambula.

The project also complements the local fitness trails.

The design is appealing and modern and provides fresh, free and accessible water for pets and people.

Right: Jim Collins (BVSC Water and Sewer Manager), Cr Kristy McBain and Cliff Shipton (BVSC Urban Maintenance Coordinator) were joined by the Merimbula Special Events Committee for the official opening.



Contact us

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