Bega Valley Shire Council is proud to announce that the upgraded Bemboka Water Treatment Plant will officially come on line on Saturday 1 June and invites locals to a Community Open Day celebration at the new plant.

At the Open Day, people will be able to enjoy a walking tour of the site (enclosed shoes must be worn), see the inner workings of the plant and ask questions, as well as enjoy a free sausage sizzle provided by the Bemboka Lions.

The Mayor, Cr Kristy McBain, will officially open the upgraded plant with a ceremony at 12.00 noon.

Director Assets and Operations, Anthony McMahon, said that the major upgrade to what was previously a small pumping station and chlorinator on the banks of the Bemboka River, has been completely funded by Council and will improve the quality of drinking water for Bemboka residents.

“At the moment, we’re in the commissioning and testing phase,” Mr McMahon said.

About disabled parking bays

The Mobility Parking Scheme (MPS) allows eligible people to park in designated disabled parking bays and also doubles the time limit when parked in timed parking areas for those in our community with an eligible mobile disability or their carer.

Eligible people are issued with an MPS permit which must be displayed conspicuously within the vehicle to qualify for the parking concession. Ineligible drivers parking a vehicle in designated disabled parking bays will be fined $561 and lose 1 demerit point.

Parking even for a few moments to drop off passengers or to make a delivery is not acceptable unless you have a current MPS permit.

Council’s rangers take a zero tolerance view of this parking offence. A current and valid interstate or overseas disability parking permit may be used in New South Wales.

If you think you may qualify for an MPS permit or for more information, please visit https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roads/using-roads/mobility-parking/index.html
**Plant Open Day on the way**

The community is invited to attend an Open Day at the new Bemboka Water Treatment Plant on 1 June.

*From Page 1*

“...In practice that means the upgraded plant is currently supplying water to the Bemboka township under the control of CRS Water, the design and construction contractor for this project. “During the commissioning period, there’s been extensive onsite and independent laboratory testing to verify the quality of the water being produced by the plant. “We’re pleased to confirm that the upgraded plant is performing well and meeting water quality standards. “In addition, our network operations teams have been closely monitoring the chlorine levels across the network for both disinfection and taste,” Mr McMahon said. Council’s Water and Sewer Project Coordinator, Nathanael Wearne, said that turbidity and pressure decay tests, monitor the effectiveness of the filtration system. “The new membrane filter is working well to remove dirt and debris whilst maintaining an adequate flow rate and pressure. “The formal Proof of Performance period will start in the next few weeks and that’s when Council’s specialist water treatment operations group will take over the operation of the plant. “There will be minimal impact to Bemboka residents and businesses when the changeover happens, and we’ll carry out daily testing over this period to check the overall performance of the plant,” Mr Wearne said. If you have any questions about the Bemboka Water Treatment Plant, please contact Mr Wearne on (02) 6499 2222.

**What’s ON!**

**LOCAL EVENTS**

www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/events

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**Take our business development survey**

Supporting our business community is a key objective of the Economic Development team at Council.

Council, State and Federal Governments and other stakeholders have a range of programs, resources and funding that can support our business community to grow.

To help us communicate better with your business and connect you to a range of these opportunities, we’re conducting a survey to get your input into how we can communicate business related ideas and opportunities more effectively.

To take part in the survey head to https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BVSC_Communications_Economic_Development.

The survey closes on Sunday, 2 June.

If you have any questions about the survey email EconomicDevelopment@begavalley.nsw.gov.au or call (02) 6499 2222 and speak with Alison Vandenbergh.

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**18 and 22 May**
- Safer Driver Courses @ various locations

**25 May**
- Marine Science Forum @ Club Sapphire

**1 June**
- Paperfolding and Bookmaking Workshop @ Cobargo School of Arts Hall
Terminal extension progressing

The temporary Merimbula Airport terminal was recently commissioned, with all activity now operating from this building for the duration of the terminal extension project.

We appreciate the support of Regional Express in working with Council and providing personnel to assist with the transition of their systems.

The on-site personnel at the airport have also done a great job making the move happen, while keeping all services operating effectively and on time.

Customers using the temporary terminal have generally been happy, which we believe is a sign that it’s working effectively.

Passengers (and others) are making use of the outside seating when the weather is good and the café is still operating.

Most importantly no flights have been disrupted by the use of the temporary terminal.

Decamping to the temporary terminal has allowed the builder to tackle the project quite aggressively rather than having to manage it in a series of stages.

The direct result of this will be a reduced construction period.

All the asbestos from the existing terminal has now been removed, while the roof and some of the wall cladding is currently missing. This has raised some questions from users.

Demolishing the entire building was carefully considered on a number of occasions during the design and cost estimating processes, but the approach underway was calculated to be clearly the best value option.

Federal Election

We are all back to the polls on Saturday - this time for the Federal Election.

Where can I vote?

There are multiple places you can vote across the Bega Valley Shire Council area, with all the information on the individual polling places available on the Australian Electoral Commission website at https://www.aec.gov.au/election/voting.html#voting

How do I vote?

House of Representatives

To vote for a Member of the House of Representatives, a voter is required to write the number ‘1’ in the box next to the candidate who is their first choice, and the numbers ‘2’, ‘3’ and so on against all the other candidates until all the boxes have been numbered, in order of the voter’s preference.

Senate

On the white Senate ballot paper, you need to either number at least six boxes above the line for the parties or groups of your choice; or number at least 12 boxes below the line for individual candidates of your choice.

Playground upgrade in Eden

With thanks to a ‘Quality Learning Environments’ grant from the State Government, our fantastic Eden Early Learning Centre was able to provide a much-needed facelift to one of its playground areas last month.

The improvements included a new timber seating platform, a small grassed play area and some fresh softfall underneath the existing play equipment.

The children had great fun watching the workmen and the mini excavator at work and are now enjoying the revamped play space.

What’s important to you?

This is your chance to chat with Councillors and senior staff in your own town, on matters that are important to you.

For more information: phone (02) 6499 2222 or visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/news

Councillors in the Community

Wonboyn @ the Fire Shed
1 May
5:30pm

Quaama @ the Hall
22 May
5:30pm

Wyndham @ the Uniting Church
5 June
5:30pm

For more information: phone (02) 6499 2222 or visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/news
Explosion of happiness at gallery

An ‘explosion of happiness’ will burst skyward over the Bega Valley Regional Gallery (BVRG) from Friday 17 May when gallery Director, Iain Dawson, launches a BVRG redevelopment philanthropy campaign.

“We invite everyone to join us at this inflatable event, called Microcosm, and I’m hoping this eye-catching artwork will encourage donations skyward too,” Mr Dawson said.

“We are asking for donations towards updating internal infrastructure like audio visual equipment, digital displays, collection management software and workshop materials which we need to support our growing exhibition and education program.

“Technology is increasingly a feature of artwork and creative endeavour and we need to stay up to date to be a viable venue on the exhibition circuit,” explained Mr Dawson.

The happy art installation, Microcosm, is brought to you by Goldberg Aberline Studio (GAS), who create large scale works of public art using a variety of mediums.

Maurice Goldberg, former architect and corporate leader, and Matthew Aberline, feature film and live performance designer, came together to form GAS to produce immersive art experiences for art lovers around the world.

Work by GAS is based on a constant quest to develop, research and create new ideas.

Importantly, their work maintains ‘the touch of the artist’s hand’ and aims to stimulate feelings of unexpected delight and joy in viewers.

Director of the Russell Mills Foundation, Dr Dennis Foster, will launch the Microcosm installation.

Microcosm will hang above the BVRG on display 24/7 for three weeks before popping up at Tathra Wharf for 24 hours on Saturday 8 June.

Join us for the Microcosm opening event on Friday 17 May at 5.00pm.

The Bega Valley Regional Gallery is registered to receive tax deductible donations, gifts and bequests. All donations over $2 are tax deductible.


Art workshops in the gallery

The Bega Valley Regional Gallery presents art workshops on the second Saturday of each month.

The workshops are themed around each exhibition and encourage children to learn fun new art ideas that they can also do at home.

With the sessions tailored for school-aged children, our qualified and experienced tutors will introduce techniques and mediums to complement their school studies.

The 2-hour workshops cost $25 per child, with your Creative Kids Voucher covering up to four sessions per year.

The next workshop will be held from 12.30pm - 2.30pm on 8 June when polymer clay bead making for customised bracelets or necklaces will be explored.

Tours of the
Merimbula STP

Bega Valley Shire Council is opening the gates of the Merimbula Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) on Saturday 25 May and invites locals to book into one of three tours of the site happening throughout the day.

This is a rare opportunity to take an inside look at one of Council’s ten sewage treatment plants and to find out what happens after you flush your toilet, do your washing, have a shower or bath, run your dishwasher or wash your hands. Where does it all go?

Water and Sewer Services Manager, Jim Collins, says that on average about 700 million litres of sewage ends up at the Merimbula Sewage Treatment Plant each year!

“There’s been a lot of community interest in the Merimbula STP lately due to the upgrade project so we’re offering behind-the-scenes tours where people can see the plant in action and ask questions,” Mr Collins said.

Tours start at 9.30am, 12.00pm and 2.30pm and each identical tour will take one hour.

Council’s Environmental Education Officer, Natalie Ryan, will lead each group around the site where you will be able to see inlet works screening, aeration tanks and catchment ponds, as well as the sludge lagoons and drying beds.

Due to safety reasons, the tours are for adults only and bookings are essential. Numbers are strictly limited per tour. If you find you can’t make your booking, then be sure to cancel it or let us know so we can offer your place to someone else.

Participants must wear sturdy closed shoes. It is recommended to bring sun protection and a drink bottle.

To book into a Merimbula STP tour on Saturday 25 May go to www.begavalleyshirecouncil.eventbrite.com

If you have any questions, you can contact Ms Ryan on (02) 6499 2222.

Council is offering tours of the Merimbula Sewage Treatment Plant on 25 May.

Contemporising the modern
Photography from the 20th & 21st Century

6 April - 22 June
Bega Valley Regional Gallery
Engel Place, Bega NSW
http://gallery.begavalley.nsw.gov.au
Mon - Sat 10am - 4pm
FREE
TEDx Sydney back at the Civic Centre

Over the last two years, TEDx Sydney has found a home in the hearts and minds of the Bega Valley. For a third consecutive year About Regional and the Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre are partnering to bring this celebration of ideas and conversation to Bega for a unique day of thinking and inspiration.

TEDx is a nonprofit organisation devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks (18 minutes or less). TEDx began in 1984 as a conference where Technology, Entertainment and Design converged, and today covers almost all topics from science to business to global issues.

The theme for TEDx Sydney in 2019 is ‘Legacy’ – What have we been left with? What are we doing with what we’ve been left with? What will we leave behind?

Legacy can be personal, organisational, cultural or generational.

On Friday, May 24, here in your own community, via the magic of a live stream from International Convention Centre you will be taken on the same journey as those in Sydney.

You will learn new things, experience new technology, meet and connect with interesting local people and of course watch inspiring talks, performances, and films in the comfort and convenience of the Bega Civic Centre.

This year the ticket price ($20) covers food for your brain, soul, and tummy! Aside from the full TEDx Sydney experience, you can indulge on a solid morning and afternoon tea prepared by the Civic Centre’s in-house chef.

We would love you to join us and be a part of the local conversation that happens on the sidelines. Money raised on the day goes towards securing another stellar line up of speakers for the ‘Festival of Open Minds’ on September 14 at the Bega Civic Centre.

The TEDx Sydney – Bega Satellite live stream runs 9.00am to 6.00pm on Friday, May 24.


Viewing platform project underway at Short Point

A new viewing platform at Short Point, Merimbula, which is currently under construction will enhance the headland facility for visitors and locals.

The new platform is part of the A Destination For All Project Council is delivering under the Restart NSW Fund designed to increase tourist visitation.

The platform will be constructed using hardwood posts, cladding and decked with galvanised steel balustrades and a block retaining wall. An enclosed concrete slab under part of the platform will serve as a storage area for surf lifesaving equipment.

Local contractor, GDB Excavations & Landscaping Pty Ltd, is carrying out the work, which should be completed by mid-June.

The local community gave feedback on two platform design options using our Have Your Say webpage in April/May 2018. Visit https://bv.lyte/link/3438/485D for more information.

Further Education Scholarships

Congratulations to Andrew Holka, Kayla Hempenstall, Lesley Nowra Darcy, Aidan Barry, Lillym Mae Seymour and Kate Tighe who were recently awarded Council’s 2019 Further Education Scholarships.

Council has awarded these scholarships since 2009 to encourage and support young people who are pursuing further education, and to promote further education options in the Shire. This year 39 applications were received.

Pictured: Mayor Cr Kristy McBain, Sam Avitaia (University of Wollongong Bega), Andrew Holka, Kayla Hempenstall, Lesley Nowra Darcy, Ange McKechnie (BVSC Community Development Officer), Kerryn Granger (South Coast Careers College), Sharon McIntosh (TAFE NSW Bega).
Stormwater inspection program to start

A CCTV inspection program, targeting sections of Bega Valley Shire Council’s stormwater network is set to commence next Monday (20 May).

Council has engaged Environmental Services Group to undertake the program, with the overarching aim of improving the asset management of the stormwater network by focusing effort and funds in the correct areas for either maintenance activities, the renewal and/ or replacement of pipes, or through identifying issues for further investigation.

The work is commencing in Tura Beach, before progressing through to Bega. A small number of streets in Tathra and Merimbula will also be covered.

While the entirety of the work is located in the road reserves, there is potential that access to a small number of stormwater pits on private properties may be required.

The contractors will gain access via the tractor mounted CCTV unit from access chambers in the road reserve wherever possible, however where level changes occur between pipes this is not always possible.

Due to the nature of the work, it can’t be determined in advance where this situation will arise, however those impacted will be informed in writing in addition to the contractor undertaking door knocks of impacted residents in order to gain access consent.

The program is expected to take four weeks to complete.

For more information, contact Council’s Asset Management Coordinator, Gary Louie, on (02) 6499 2222.

Council Meeting wrap up

Companion Animals Procedure
Council resolved to adopt a revised Companion Animals Control Areas Procedure that included amendments concerning the northern end of Cuttagee Beach and the Aslings Beach footpath.

Additionally Council will consider/ seek funding for infrastructure requirements to improve accessibility in leash free areas.

Eden Alcohol Free Zone
A proposal to re-establish an Alcohol Free Zone in the Eden Central Business District will be placed on public exhibition.

Bridge-ing the Gap campaign
Council resolved to support the Bridge-ing the Gap Campaign by displaying the hardcopy petition at Council’s libraries, customer service counter and at the Local Aboriginal Lands Councils, promoting the petition through its usual communication channels, and writing a letter of support.

The Bridge-ing the Gap Campaign seeks to recognise Australia’s Aboriginal culture and heritage by prominently flying the Aboriginal flag, in addition to the NSW and Australian flags, atop the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Golf Club lease
Council has authorised the General Manager and Mayor to execute the necessary lease documentation to provide further tenure of five (5) years to Pambula Merimbula Golf Club Limited for their occupation of Lot 102 DP 1201186 at Arthur Kaine Drive, Merimbula for the purpose of a golf course.

Pambula Merimbula Golf Club Limited will be responsible for payment of the costs of Council or its Solicitors in relation to the preparation and registration of the lease.

NDIS services
Council will continue to provide National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) services for a further three (3) years (until June 2022) on a no net cost basis to the General Fund.

Accreditation will now be sought through the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission during this year.

A reassessment on the future provision of NDIS services will be conducted in March 2022.

Next Meeting
29 May @ 2pm
Council Chambers, Biamanga Room, Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre, Bega

Watch Live
Each Council meeting is live streamed for you to watch on your desktop, tablet or mobile.


Keep it Loose
Don’t bag or box your recyclables

Want to know more?
Facebook Follow us @BegaValleyWasteandRecycling
Visit begavalley.nsw.gov.au/waste
Phone 6499 2222
Bega Valley Shire Library invites children of all ages to grab some maracas and shake on down to their local library for National Simultaneous Storytime on Wednesday 22 May.

At precisely 11.00am our Shire libraries will join other libraries and organisations across Australia in reading simultaneously the same picture book, Alpacas with Maracas written and illustrated by Matt Cosgrove.

At Bega Library, two live alpacas from Jandarra Alpacas will join the storytime crowd to give children a chance to see what a real alpaca looks like.

Jandarra Alpacas is a boutique award winning alpaca stud owned and operated by Robert and Helen Crewe in Pambula.

Programs and Partnerships Officer, Scott Baker said that the story is about two alpacas called Macca and Al.

“They’re the best of friends and when they decide to enter a talent contest together, they have to work out just what their talent is!

“We encourage children to come along and bring their maracas or shakers if they have any at home or even dress up as an alpaca,” he said.

National Simultaneous Storytime will start locally from 10.30am with other stories about Macca and Al by Matt Cosgrove. The main story will be read at 11.00am sharp followed by a craft activity. The event will be held in all Shire libraries at Bermagui, Bega, Tura Marrang and Eden.

Libraries Team Leader, Samantha Fenton said that Bermagui library will open especially for the event.

“We aim to promote the value of reading and literacy to our communities and we are keen for Bermagui to participate in this significant national reading event," she said.

Matt Cosgrove is an Australian author and illustrator with several children’s books to his name. As well as the Macca and Al stories, he has also written a series called Epic Fail Tales which twist and contort classic fairy tales into modern retellings.

National Simultaneous Storytime is an annual event organised by the Australian Library and Information Association, now in its 19th successful year. It aims to encourage young Australians to read and enjoy books.

More about National Simultaneous Storytime is available at https://www.alia.org.au/nss#AboutNSS.

Top Lake access improvements

Work was recently carried out to create better access for users of the Top Lake access ramp in Merimbula.

The original ramp had started to crack and had a large step at the toe of the ramp. The project has reduced the steepness of the ramp and the step at the end.

We appreciate the positive feedback we’ve received from the community, including the Merimbula Water Dragons.

The Top Lake access ramp in Merimbula is now far more user friendly after work to reduce the steepness of the ramp and the step at the end was undertaken recently. Before (left) and after (right).
Recovery program extended

Council is pleased to announce that the Tathra and District Fire Recovery Support Service has been successful with their request to the Office of Emergency Management to extend the recovery program until 21 August 2019.

The request was based on an identified need for continuing support in both communities. The service will continue to provide support to those impacted by the Tathra and District and Yankees Gap bushfires.

The service will continue to operate from the Tathra Beach House Apartments in Andy Poole Drive Tathra for this extended period, with the hours of service being 9.00am – 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

The next Community Recovery meeting in Tathra will be at Tathra Public School this Thursday, while the Recovery Service is seeking feedback from the Yankees Gap community around the most appropriate date and time for the next meeting in Bemboka - the current intention is for early in June.

To contact the Recovery Service phone 6499 2475 or 0428 610 127, or email recovery@begavalley.nsw.gov.au

Garden Recovery Forum

An event to add to the calendar for those affected by last year’s fires is the Garden Recovery Forum.

This Forum is being organised by Pip Marshman and Christine Hamilton for the 24th and 25th of August and will assist people to think about and plan their new gardens.

This landscaping and gardening information project has been assisted by Council’s Bega Valley Fire Recovery and Resilience Grants Program Round 2.

Pip and Chris are hoping to inform residents about appropriate choices and options for their gardens, including how they can minimise bushfire risk and maximise on design aspects and enjoyment of their new or existing gardens.

Local speakers and nursery providers will be sharing information, conducting demonstrations and providing products and plants between 10.00am and 2.00pm at the Tathra Surf Club on Saturday the 24th, before the focus will shift to inspiring garden visits on Sunday the 25th.

For more information on the event, contact Chris on 6494 1475.

Accidental Counsellor Workshop

Training the ‘accidental counsellors’ in our community

As community members we often find ourselves providing support to friends and neighbours who are experiencing difficulty and emotional distress. We want to help, but how should we respond?

This FREE 1 day workshop aims to provide participants with a practical framework and skill set that enables them to respond with clarity and confidence.

When
This training has been booked out in five locations across the SENSW PHN catchment however we are happy to receive suggestions for other locations within the South Eastern NSW region to deliver additional sessions at a later date.

Please contact Louise Roser on lroser@coordinare.org.au if interested in finding out more.

Who
Community members wanting to support others

Cost
Free

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

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