New citizens welcomed
Nine new Australian Citizens were welcomed at a Citizenship celebration in the Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre last week. The citizens, who came from Denmark, Malaysia, Brazil, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, England and Germany, were presented with their Certificates of Australian Citizenship in front of their family members and friends in the Council Chambers.

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

Chemical collection days
Council is offering you a chance to safely dispose of potentially hazardous household chemicals free at clean out days later this month and again in October. You are encouraged to check what is under the sink or on the top shelf in the shed.

Some of these chemicals can be harmful if stored or disposed of improperly, so it’s important to dispose them safely.

The three household chemical collection days will be held at Merimbola St carpark in Pambula on Saturday 30 July; Bega Saleyards in Kerrisons Lane on Sunday 31 July; and Dickinson Park in Lamont St, Bermagui, on Saturday 15 October. Opening times for all three events are 8am to 2:30pm.

Paint and paint related products, gas bottles, fire extinguishers, car batteries and motor oils, fluorescent globes and tubes will all be accepted but asbestos, explosives, clinical waste and radioactive material (except smoke detectors) will not be accepted.

For more information call Council or go to www.cleanout.com.au

Jobs with Council
- Aquatic and Leisure Facilities Co-ordinator. Applications close Thursday 28 July at 5pm.
- Customer and Information Officer. Applications close Thursday 28 July at 5pm.
- Plant Operator (Grader). Applications close Thursday 28 July at 5pm.
- Gym and Group Fitness Supervisor. Applications close Thursday 28 July at 5pm.
- Revenue Officer. Applications close Thursday 28 July at 5pm.

Full position descriptions and selection criteria on Council’s website. Address the selection criteria and send by email to recruitment@begavalley.nsw.gov.au or post to address below.

Tenders
- Flood Damage Repair Panel. Closes on 3 August at noon.
- Communications Review. Closes on 17 August at noon.
- Use of Council Reserves. Closes on 17 August at noon.
- Relocation of electrical equipment and removal of canteen building, Bega Sporting Complex. Closes on 3 August at noon.

Visit our e-Tendering Portal at www.tenderlink.com/begavalley

Merimbula road resurfacing
The Palmers St carpark and sections of Park Street and Palmers Lane in Merimbula will be closed on Monday 25 July for road resurfacing works. All day parking will be available in the temporary carpark between Wonga Street and Kyeamba Street. For more information phone Council on 6499 2222.

Call: 02 6499 2222 Fax: 02 6499 2200 Email: council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au Web: www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au
Regional tourism shake up
The Regional Tourism Organisations has been disbanded and will be replaced with six Destination Networks across NSW to oversee the marketing and management of the State Government’s investment in tourism. The move will bring the Sapphire Coast together with Snowy Mountains and Eurobodalla and regions around ACT as the Southern NSW Destination Network. The changes will result in increased funding for regional tourism programs from $7 to $11 million, along with guaranteed funding for the operations of each new Destination Network.

To ensure that the Sapphire Coast has a strong representation on the new Destination Network - Southern NSW Board we need local representatives standing. The Board will be made up of five directors, each receiving an annual fee of $10,000, and a chair earning $20,000.

More information is available from the Destination NSW website or call Anthony Osborne at Sapphire Coast Tourism if you are thinking of nominating for a board committee. Board applications close on July 31.

Grand Final stays in Bega
Council and Group 16 Rugby League have agreed on a plan that will mean the code’s Grand Final will be played at the Bega Recreational Ground on August 21. Facilities at the ground have been damaged by repeated vandalism which caused the Group 16 committee to express concerns. However, Council’s Recreation and Leisure staff have been able to find a temporary solution to meet the demands of spectators, officials and players. Council and Group 16 will share the responsibility for temporary toilet and canteen facilities on the day so a large crowd can be accommodated in comfort.

Council is also pushing ahead with long term solutions, with upgraded facilities part of the Bega Sporting Complex Master Plan approved by Councillors on April 6.

Lions Park trees come down
Six Sydney blue gum trees in the Lions Park on Ravenswood Street, Bega, will removed from 25 July to ensure the safety of people and property following recent branch falls. Assessments by an arborist and Council staff of all 20 Sydney blue gums in the park determined six had significant defects that meant they were not able to be suitability managed in future. The defects include fungal decay, lighting strike and problems with the trees’ form and structure. Of the 14 remaining trees, remedial pruning work will be done on some to maintain their distinctive presence in the park, while managing any risk to the community from falling limbs.

The felled trees will be mulched and used to landscape other community spaces like Bega Park and Kisses Lagoon. Any larger pieces of timber will either be reused in Council landscaping projects around the Shire or be made available to non-profit organisations.

The Lions Park will be closed while the tree removal works are underway. For more information phone Council’s Leisure and Recreation Officer, John Turville, on 0427 570 599.

Photograph: The stand of Sydney blue gums in Lions Park, Bega.

Standing for Council?
The election for Councillors on the Bega Valley Shire Council will be held on Saturday, 10 September, and we are hoping we have a diverse mix of candidates for voters to consider. To help you decide if you can contribute to your community be a Councillor for the next four years you should come along to an information evening.

It will provide an ideal opportunity to discover what it’s really like to be an elected representative and an informal introduction to life as a Councillor, with a focus on the benefits, challenges and expectations as well as an induction and training process for new Councillors.

The candidate information evening will be held at the new Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre on Wednesday 27 July from 6pm to 7.30pm. For more information about the evening call Council on 6499 2222. For further information about the nomination and election process, which will be conducted by the NSW Electoral Commission, call 1300 088 942 or go to www.votensw.info