Everyone is playing

Sunshine, smiles and good fun for everyone combined for a busy community opening of the all-inclusive Lot Stafford Playground in Tathra recently.

With a high level of community interest and anticipation in the new playground, it was no surprise that over 300 people of all ages attended the official ceremony, many staying on to explore the wide range of exciting equipment on offer.

The playground adheres to the Everyone Can Play guidelines developed by the NSW Office of Open Space and Parklands and was made possible through $690,000 in funding from the NSW Government.

At the heart of Everyone Can Play is the declaration that play is for everyone – regardless of age, ability or cultural background.

Mayor, Cr Kristy McBain said that it was pleasing for Council to be able to work so closely with the NSW Government on the project.

“I can’t help smiling when I think of all the fun local families will have in this park,” Cr McBain said.

“This fantastic space will give kids of all ages and abilities hours of playtime to swing, fly, spin, climb, balance and bounce, and it provides a fantastic new and safe location for the community to come together,” Cr McBain said.

Member for Bega Andrew Constance was delighted to announce the opening of the playground.

“Imagine being able to give the gift of play – I’m delighted to be here today to share this wonderful moment with my community,” Mr Constance said.

Mindful of the name of the park, Mr Constance also paid tribute to Mr Lot Stafford and his family.

“Mr Stafford was all about community, bringing people together and having fun, I know that this new park will provide all those things for many years to come,” he said.

The Everyone Can Play guidelines can be viewed at www.everyonecanplay.nsw.gov.au.
Bega Library to close for renovations

“Excitingly, school holiday activities will run during the second week of the holidays in the new-look library. “We realise the timing of the closure is not ideal for many people, being the first week of the school holidays, however, we had to meet our contractual arrangements with the University of Wollongong (UoW) Library and this is the best timing to minimise disruption to our local UoW students. “People can still return items through the after-hours returns box, which is located to the left of the Bega Library entrance and all items with a due date that falls during the library closure have automatically been extended until the library reopens on 15 July.

“We will be providing printing and copying services at the Bega Youth Space, where WiFi will also be available, but people will need to bring their documents on a USB stick or thumb drive,” Ms Fenton added.

The Youth Space on Gipps Street, up from the Court House (opposite Target), will be open between the hours of 10.00am to 12.00pm, Monday to Friday.

Services at other Shire libraries at Eden, Tura Beach and Bermagui are unaffected by the closure.

Online services will still be available 24/7 at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/library.

We want your plastic bottle tops!

Finally! Here’s a great way to recycle all those pesky plastic drink bottle tops.

A Melbourne company, Envision, is turning plastic bottle tops into prosthetic hands for disadvantaged children. They make plastic filament out of the recycled tops which is then used in volunteer 3D printers to make the hands.

Our Shire libraries in Bermagui, Bega, Tura Beach and Eden are getting on board with the idea and are now drop-off points for your unwanted, clean plastic drink bottle tops (especially those with a 2 or 4 rating).

Acting Library Coordinator, Sam Fenton, says that the project is a great environmental and humanitarian project and supports the library service’s sustainability goals.

“Currently, bottle tops are not being recycled at the recycling facility in Canberra - rather than ending up in landfill, this project makes sure unwanted plastic bottle tops have a beneficial end-use,” she said.

Envision are aiming to collect one million bottle tops to produce the 3D printer filament. They are particularly after any caps with a 2 or 4 rating on the inside of the caps. These are most commonly found on water, milk, juice and Coke bottles, as well as many other products.

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Once they have the filament made, Envision will start contacting schools and other organisations willing to help with volunteer printers. More information on the Envision project is available at http://envision.org.au/bottle-top-drop/ or at https://envision.org.au/envision-hands

Note: Only tops are needed - please recycle bottles in your regular recycle bin.

Time running out for Access Improvement Grants

You only have until next Monday (8 July) to apply for this year’s round of the Access Improvement Grants.

Projects need to generate measurable benefits/outcomes to access issues; and improve resident and visitor experiences in the Bega Valley Shire.

Applications can be submitted on Council’s website via the online form, via email, fax or hardcopy by mail, or at Council’s office in Bega. All interested applicants are urged to carefully read the grant information at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/grants.

For more information, contact Laura Golding on 6499 2222 or email lgolding@begavalley.nsw.gov.au.
Clean Energy future underway

Bega Valley Shire Council has again demonstrated its long-term commitment to the environment by adopting a Clean Energy Plan (CEP) aimed at reducing Council’s greenhouse gas emissions.

The CEP identifies opportunities to reduce emissions and energy costs through a variety of initiatives, including investment in LED streetlighting; the installation of solar panels on more Council assets; and transitioning to more fuel-efficient vehicles.

In recent years Council has installed 240kW of solar PV and the CEP has identified potential for a further 430kW to be installed on Council infrastructure assets such as sewage treatment plants, pumping stations, sporting facilities and depots.

Council’s Environment and Sustainability Coordinator, Derek Van Bracht, is proud of the extensive work his team has put into the CEP.

“As an organisation, our 10-year plan shows extensive work this team has put into the CEP. The solar array at the Bemboka Water Treatment Plant and solar panels on Turia Marrang Library and Community Centre are good examples, and we’ll be installing solar panels on the Regional Learning Centre and the Bega works depot very soon,” Mr Van Bracht said.

Street lighting, which currently represents 17% of the Shire’s power consumption and produces over 1,000 tonnes of CO2 per year, was also identified as a potential target for significant savings.

The CEP outlines a proposal to upgrade street lighting to LED technology with an investment of around $1 million, resulting in savings of almost $260,000 per year and returning the investment in less than four years.

The CEP also proposes a full review of opportunities to reduce vehicle carbon emissions through options such as electric and hydrogen vehicles, the use of bio-fuels and by reducing the size of vehicles in Council’s passenger fleet.

The CEP will be implemented over the coming decade in a series of short, medium and long-term actions, funded by a permanent annual budget commitment, which will be supplemented by grants and projected energy efficiency savings.

Council’s Clean Energy Plan can be viewed at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au.

Eden Log Cabin spruce up

Work has commenced this week on Eden’s iconic Log Cabin, with the roof to be replaced thanks to funding made available through the NSW Government’s Stronger Country Communities Fund.

The work is being carried out by local contractors and is expected to take approximately five weeks to complete, depending on weather and other factors.

The contractor will externally scaffold the Log Cabin site, which will be closed until the project is complete and the adjacent footpath in Bass Street will be closed periodically to enable work to continue.

As the initial demolition work will involve the removal of asbestos, all the necessary precautions and procedures will be in place to ensure complete safety for workers and the community.

While the roof is off, battens, barge boards and eave linings will be repaired as necessary. The roof, flashings, gutters and downpipes will be replaced with a COLORBOND® product, which exceeds the standard corrosion resistance specification, given the Log Cabin’s location near the ocean.

Council hopes the new roof will encourage an increased range of events and activities at the Log Cabin and allow the space to continue as an important social hub for the community.

For enquiries please contact Council’s Project Manager, Andrew Stewart, on (02) 6499 2222.

Sapphire Aquatic Centre Pools Maintenance Closure

The Sapphire Aquatic Centre (SAC) Swimming Pools will be closed for a 3 week maintenance period during the July School Holidays, from the 8th July to 28th July 2019. Various maintenance and asset renewal works will require closure of the swimming pools at SAC in order to complete the necessary works.

During this time, customers with pool memberships will have these placed on hold for the duration of the closure. Full access members will be provided with a voucher pack to use within Centre.

The gym, dryland group fitness and child minding services will continue as normal during this time and will be staffed accordingly, with closure only affecting the swimming pool hall.

The main trigger for the pool closure is the time required to drain, prepare, paint, cure and refill the multi-purpose and splash pools. The main works to be completed are:

- Painting of multi-purpose and splash pool: 5 days to complete works, 2 weeks for pool paint to cure, and 1-2 days to re-fill the pool.
- Replacement of Male Change-room shower wall: Approximately 3-4 weeks, depending on contractor works programme. (Possible to isolate work area during opening hours if additional time required)
- Replacement of splash (multi pool swimming pool balustrade fence).
- Replacement of pool equipment, i.e. lane ropes, grates, valves and so on.

We have tried to delay this pools closure for as long as possible, however the works are required and cannot be delayed any further. It will be 3 years since the previous facility maintenance closure in 2016 for the replacement of the 25m Pool liner.

July has the lowest facility attendance during the year and would allow for the least disruption to the Centre’s operations, making this the most practical time to complete the works. During this time there will also be additional maintenance works completed around the Centre, including general painting, repairs to walls, concrete floor joints and facility cleaning.

We appreciate your understanding and if you have any questions or concerns in regard to the above, please email info@sapphireaquatic.com.au or contact our team on (02) 6494 3100.

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Power of Engineering encourages careers

Bega Valley Shire Council engineering staff joined 85 students from across the region at the Power of Engineering career day at the Bega Civic Centre in May.

The Power of Engineering event was coordinated by Bega High School teacher, Hannah Shaw, to provide stimulating STEM (Science Technology Engineering Maths) activities and to encourage year 9 and 10 students to think about engineering as a career option.

The day included guest speakers, workshops and tours run by Council staff and other local engineers to projects and sites around the Shire, including the Central Waste Facility, the Bega Sewage Treatment Plant, the Tathra Road footpath construction site and the new Tathra playground that was under construction at the time.

“Students enjoyed working out how theory fits into a real-world situation and Council staff were very generous with their time on the day and beforehand in planning activities that greatly engaged students,” Ms Shaw said.

Workshops gave students a taste of real-life projects and challenges, including:
- Designing Everyone Can Play style playgrounds to a budget;
- Calculating the benefits of having a FOGO waste stream and calculating how much space in landfill we are saving;
- Mapping storm water runoff direction and calculating pipe sizes required to avoid flooding; and
- Experimenting with water filtration options.

Environmental Education Officer, Natalie Ryan, said the students could see that a career in engineering can empower them to be involved in their community’s development.

“The day was also a fantastic chance for our Council team to share their expertise and involve young people in our community with our current and past engineering projects,” Ms Ryan said.

Students from Bega, Bombala and Narooma High Schools, Sapphire Coast Anglican College, Lumen Christi Catholic College and Eden Marine High School were there on the day.

New collection launched for NAIDOC Week

This NAIDOC Week, our libraries are celebrating the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with the launch of a new collection of books for both children and adults, written by Indigenous authors and donated by ‘The Triangle’ publication.

Everyone is welcome to attend the event that will include morning tea and be held at Bermagui Library on Tuesday 9 July, starting at 10.00am.

Local Elder, Warren Foster Senior, will perform a Welcome to Country, then there will be a Storytime and craft session for children featuring books from the new collection.

Council’s Recreation and Natural Assets Coordinator, John Turville, works with some Bega High students on one of the exercises at the recent Power of Engineering careers day at the Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre.

www.begavalleyshirelibrary.eventbrite.com.au or phone Bermagui Library on 6499 2411.

At the Tura Marrang and Eden libraries, on Wednesday 10 July and Thursday 11 July respectively, children and their carers will be treated to Special NAIDOC Week Storytime and craft sessions with Saffi Nuyum.

Bookings are essential at www.begavalleyshirelibrary.eventbrite.com.au

NAIDOC Week runs from 7 – 14 July 2019 under the theme of Voice, Treaty, Truth, Let’s Work Together.

More information about NAIDOC Week is available at www.naidoc.org.au.

Community Recycling Centres

Waste matters

Drop off your household problem waste for recycling

Bega Valley Community Recycling Centre is located at: Merimbula Waste & Recycling Depot
Red Hill Road off Sapphire Coast Drive


www.begavalleyshirelibrary.eventbrite.com.au

www.naidoc.org.au
Positive results from ALGA conference

With the theme of Future Focused, Council's General Manager, Leanne Barnes, Mayor Cr Kristy McBain, and Ccs Jo Dodds and Cathy Griff joined 880 representatives from councils as far away as Christmas Island, at this year’s Australian Local Government Associations’ (ALGA) National General Assembly (NGA) in Canberra in June.

Mayor, Cr Kristy McBain, said that Bega Valley Shire Council submitted five motions to the conference, with all five motions being included in the business paper for debate.

"Debating the motions is a key element of ALGA’s advocacy platform and from our point of view it is incredibly important to ensure that issues affecting regional and rural councils get a good run and exposure."

"I’m pleased to report that all five of our motions stimulated healthy debate and were passed by the NGA – it’s a great result," Cr McBain added.

The five motions were:

1. That the National General Assembly call on the Federal Government to implement a full review, along with each State and Territory, of the Financial Assistance Grants criteria with a view to allowing regional and rural councils additional funding.
   Financial Assistance Grants form part of our operational funding and is a vital source of income in the Bega Valley. Whilst we appreciate the assistance, we believe that the program should be better targeted at regional and rural councils and remove the population basis for grant distribution.

After discussion, the motion was refined to remove Part 1 Section 6 (2)(b) of the Local Government Financial Assistance Act 1995, i.e. remove the per capita ratio to improve the funding model.

“I’d like to thank Moree Plains Shire Council for moving the original motion and Kyogle and Tenterfield Shire Councils for their amendment,” Cr McBain said.

2. That the National General Assembly call on the Federal Government to commit to a review of the nation’s freight hubs and analyse where the creation of new/ upgraded ports, rail corridors, highway duplications and airports will best service the country, in line with a commitment to decentralisation.

This motion was passed, and the NGA has been a supporter of the idea of decentralisation to assist regional and rural communities to thrive.

3. That the National General Assembly encourage State and Territory Governments to work with local councils to encourage local councils to encourage State and Territory Governments to include a definition of tiny houses in planning legislation, to offer a flexible, legitimate housing model.

4. That the National General Assembly call on the Federal Government to encourage State and Territory Governments to join the Cities Power Partnership or similar program, to share information and foster local government projects to tackle climate change.

This motion was passed and aims to assist local governments to share information tackling climate change, climate adaptability and climate resilience.

5. That the National General Assembly calls on councils to facilitate and support the establishment of community renewable energy hubs.

This motion was passed as many communities are now wishing to take steps to combat climate change and want to be in control of the costs of their electricity generation.

“The Future Focused theme was reflected in how councils need to prepare for changes in the way people live, what people want from the physical landscape and importantly, the challenges facing a council in disaster and recovery,” Cr McBain explained.

“The day before the conference, the General Manager and myself also attended the Regional Cooperation and Development Forum, which focuses on issues for regional and rural councils like tourism, affordable housing and regional news delivery, as well as receiving the State of the Regions Report,” Cr McBain added.
**Viewing platform completed**

Merimbula’s iconic Short Point has a new viewing platform.

Work on the new look viewing platform at Merimbula’s Short Point, an early component of the Coastal Accessibility Master Plans for the Shire, has been completed. The upgraded platform was constructed using hardwood, blockwork and galvanised steel and incorporates secure storage beneath the platform for use by surf lifesavers employed at the site during the summer season. The surrounding area has been professionally landscaped and we’ve also installed two new showers at beach level next to the existing stairs. The works at Short Point are part of the Bega Valley Shire – A Destination for All project, funded through the NSW Government’s Restart NSW fund.

Council’s Coastal Accessibility Master Plans for Bruce Steer Pool (Bermagui), Short Point (Merimbula) and the Pambula Surf Club Precinct (Pambula Beach) can be viewed at [www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/majorprojects](http://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/majorprojects).

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**Savings fund amenities upgrade**

The Beauty Point amenities building has had a major facelift thanks to our Recreation and Natural Assets team being able to complete the boat ramp project under budget. The team then successfully negotiated with NSW Roads and Maritime Services to have a portion of the remaining funds redirected to the amenity renovations. These funds allowed for aesthetic and accessibility improvements including painting, new hardwood doors and screen, extension of the concrete slab and a concrete path to the new boat wash area. The amenities building works were carried out by local contractors, suppliers and Council labour.

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**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


**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

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**Columbine Park Official Opening**

Friday 19 July 10.30am

Welcome to Country by Aunty Colleen
Art activities
Free Sausage Sizzle
Launch of the Community Garden
Pole and rock painting – come and help build a community art installation
Tie Dye workshop – bring a t-shirt or piece of fabric to dye
Join us to officially open the park and see the recent amazing work completed by the community and partners. Activities from 10.30am and official ceremony and Welcome to Country at 11am.

Columbine Park East Street Bega

For more details contact Scott Baker 6400 2172

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For the first time ever, the NSW Government is offering an opportunity for regional young people to share their voice on getting a job, mental health and wellbeing, getting around and having things to do.

Are you aged 12-24 and living outside of Sydney, Newcastle or Wollongong?

The Regional Youth Taskforce will allow you to have your say on ways Government can improve on regional youth issues.

It’s a voluntary position, but flights and accommodation will be covered. The Taskforce will meet about four times a year, either face-to-face or online. Meetings are scheduled to take place on weekends or in school holidays.

To find out more and apply, go to: [www.nsw.gov.au/RegionalYouthTaskforce](http://www.nsw.gov.au/RegionalYouthTaskforce)

Applications close 11:59pm on 14 July 2019.

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Path safety a priority at Bermagui

Council has now completed work to ensure the safety of all users of the shared pathway along Wallaga Lake Road near Bermagui Primary School. Members of the local community raised concerns about safety when they noticed cars parking on the pathway adjacent to the school. Recent pavement works on Wallaga Lake Road required the removal of several guideposts as part of the construction works, however it was always Council’s intention to replace the guideposts and line marking once the work was completed.

Boat ramp drop-in sessions

There were great turn-outs at Quarantine Bay, Blackfellows Lake and Bermagui River for the drop-in sessions held on Saturday 22 June to discuss the boat ramp and pontoon upgrades planned for those sites. Attendees offered very constructive input and their suggestions will be investigated and incorporated into the projects where practical and achievable within the project scope and budget.

Funds totalling $1.03 million for the three projects were sourced through the NSW Government’s NSW Boating Now program, with Council contributing a further $420,000 to bring the projects to life. Further information on each of these projects is available on Council’s website at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/majorprojects.Boat ramp drop-in sessionsThere was some extremely valuable community input into the recent boat ramp drop-in sessions held at Quarantine Bay, Blackfellows Lake and Bermagui River.

Crown Assets Management

Council resolved to give formal notice to the New South Wales Minister for Lands and Forestry of Council’s intention to divest of its management responsibilities under the Crown Land Management Act 2016 (NSW) for New South Wales Government assets including ten fire sheds, three surf clubs and the Tathra Wharf.

While Council is very supportive of the work emergency services agencies do in our local area and wish to support volunteers and agencies in every way possible, Council is also committed to advocating on behalf of the community to ensure the lifecycle demands of operations, maintenance and renewal for the buildings are adequately funded. Future repairs and renewal of Tathra Wharf alone is estimated at over $3 million.

Budget, Op and Delivery Plan

Council has adopted the exhibited Bega Valley Shire Delivery Program 2017 – 2021, Operational Plan 2019 – 2020 and Annual Budget 2019 – 2020. Mayor Cr Kristy McBain highlighted the $61 million in capital grants received, which will provide significant stimulus into our economy. The coming year will be very much about this Council delivering those capital projects. The Revenue Policy will be adopted at Council’s meeting on 17 July 2019 and this, along with the adopted Delivery Program 2017-2021 and Operational Plan 2019-20, will be published on Council’s website on or before 24 July 2019.

Bermagui All-Abilities Playground

Following consultation with the community, which revealed some differing views regarding an appropriate location for the new playground, Council decided on Apex Park as the most suitable location due to the reasonably level nature of the site and the availability of parking, toilets and shade. The next stage of the project is to prepare designs for the playground.

Hall Charges Remain Unchanged

Following feedback from the Halls S355 Committee, Council agreed to accept the committee’s recommendation that hall fees and charges remain unchanged from the 2018-2019 schedule, except for those applicable to Twyford Hall which will remain as exhibited and advertised in the Draft Fees and Charges 2019-2020.

New Deputation Process

The 26 June meeting was the first under the new public forum deputation format, with deputations taken from noon prior to the Council meeting at 2.00pm.

Next Meeting

17 July

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

Use your FREE WASTE VOUCHER before it expires*

* Vouchers expire July 31. Compost currently sold out, keep your eye on the Waste APP for availability.

Want to know more?

Tip opening times download the FREE Bega Valley Waste APP
Facebook @BegaValleyWasteandRecycling
Web begavalley.nsw.gov.au/waste
Phone (02) 6499 2222

BEAT THE CROWDS AT YOUR LOCAL TIP!
Memory loss no barrier to new program

If you’re a senior person experiencing memory loss (or a carer), then the Intergenerational Community Activities project is a program for you.

Bega Valley Shire Library has received a grant of $10,000 from Dementia Australia’s Dementia Friendly Communities grants program to run the project aimed at seniors who may be experiencing some memory loss.

Programs and Partnership Officer, Scott Baker, said this initiative has the potential to really make a positive impact on people’s lives, and will honour participant’s lifetime experience, skills and passions.

“If you’re a senior (or you care for someone experiencing memory loss) and you think you may be eligible, we’d love to hear from you as soon as possible because we’re aiming to start the program in August.

“The idea is that senior participants will be co-facilitators and they will collaborate with the program co-ordinator, Hayley Reynolds, to create a series of activities to share with local pre-schoolers,” Mr Baker said.

Hayley Reynolds holds qualifications in both early childhood education and diversional therapy (aged care) and has extensive experience in developing and delivering intergenerational programs.

As a co-facilitator, the program will support you to design and deliver activities that highlight your skills, strengths, knowledge, interests, history and/or culture.

The focus may be something you are passionate about, something you might have mastered over the years, or experiences from your lifetime that you would like to share with the next generation.

“The program will be varied and might involve you visiting a local preschool over a number of weeks to share your skills with a group of children, or you might take part in Storytime or Rhyme Time sessions at local libraries.

“Most importantly, Ms Reynolds will work with co-facilitators and carers to develop the best type of sessions that suit your needs,” Mr Baker explained.

Intergenerational experiences have enormous benefits for both older folk and children. For those people experiencing memory loss, taking part in meaningful and enjoyable activities can stimulate improved cognitive function and enhance feelings of self-worth.

New experiences and meeting people of different ages and from different backgrounds help children develop their social skills.

If you would like more information about this project, or would like to be involved please call Sugita Wahl on 6499 2361 or email VWahl@begavalley.nsw.gov.au.

More information about Dementia Friendly Communities is available at www.dementiafriendly.org.au.