

# Bega Valley Shire Council News

Issue 25 - Friday 27 September 2019

connecting council and the community

## Connecting through memory

Bega Valley Shire Library is dismantling the barrier around people living with dementia and memory loss through its new *Connecting Through Memory* program.

*Connecting Through Memory* allows community members who are living with dementia, and their carers, to interact and share their memories with local preschool children through planned activities that are positive, fun and uplifting.

Peter Davis is a Bega Valley resident living with vascular dementia. Peter and his wife and carer, Wendy, have been the first to take part in the program, which runs until mid-December.

"I feel that the happiness Peter's experienced during the visits to Bandara and the interaction with the children and staff gave him a sense of joy and involvement that he has not experienced in a long time," Mrs Davis said.

Library Programs and Partnership Officer, Scott Baker, said he's excited that this initiative is already having a positive impact on people's lives.

"We really want to push aside the stigma that people with memory loss and their carers face and



Peter and Wendy Davis with children from Bandara Children's Services participate in the *Connecting Through Memory* program.

give them a way to connect more broadly with the community so they're not isolated.

"The program coordinator, Hayley Reynolds, creates a joyous process; stimulating memories, remembering happy occasions and achievements

and sharing it all with children who respond so enthusiastically," Mr Baker explains.

Ms Reynolds holds qualifications in both early childhood education and diversional therapy (aged care), with extensive experience in developing

and delivering intergenerational programs including the Intergenerational Playroom at Tura Marrang Library that has been running for two years.

*Continued page 3*

## Provide feedback on engagement strategy

Bega Valley Shire Council has prepared a draft Community Engagement Strategy, which sets out our commitment and engagement principles.

Manager Community Connections, Anne Cleverley, says the strategy aims to make it easier for people to have their say.

"People will be able to have their say in a variety of ways, be confident their voice has been heard, and get feedback on how their input has been reflected in Council decisions and actions," Ms Cleverley said.

The strategy will describe how the community

can get involved in the decisions and projects that shape our natural, built, economic and social environments.

Through effective engagement, Council is better able to understand varied points of view, make informed decisions, and provide services that respond to community needs and aspirations.

A draft Community Participation Plan, which forms a subsection of the draft Community Engagement Strategy, clearly explains how local people can engage with planning matters.

Council is currently seeking feedback on the draft Community Engagement Strategy. To have your say go to [www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/HaveYourSay](http://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/HaveYourSay).

Submissions close on Monday 21 October at 5.00pm.



Have your say on the draft Community Engagement Strategy currently on exhibition.

# Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre

Zingel Place, Bega

[www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/Civiccentre](http://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/Civiccentre)

[begaciviccentre](https://www.facebook.com/begaciviccentre)

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





# Hundreds enjoy *Parklight*

A ground-breaking kaleidoscopic event of light, sound and performances that enlivened Bega's Littleton Gardens as part of the Festival of Open Minds was hailed as a huge success, with hundreds of people enjoying the spectacles.

*Parklight* was an initiative of the Bermagui Create & Make Crew; a group of young people aged 15 – 25 years, who are working out of the Bermagui library, thanks to a project initiated by the Bega Valley Shire Library's Programs and Partnerships Officer, Scott Baker.

"We were thrilled with how the community got behind this event – the park was filled with people who completely engaged with all the performers and performances," Mr Baker said.

"It was a fun family night out and confirmed that our communities have a willingness to try something new and appreciate creative ideas and events that bring our public spaces alive."

Louise Morris (the Creative Director of *Parklight*) and Matthew Scott (Production Manager), both from Navigate Arts at Tanja, have been engaged as mentors for the Bermagui Create & Make Crew.

"The Bermagui Create & Make Crew are an amazing group of people, who have come together to mentor young people into their own creative industry and who knows where that might lead for some of these young people involved with the project," Mr Baker said.

*Parklight* pulled in talent from all over the Shire, including, Sassi Nuyum (Meaghan L Holt), COPE, fLing Physical Theatre, YuNiOn, Sam and Robyn Martin, Timor Leste Belun-Malu Choir and The Navigate Explorers.

A digital artwork that was recently part of VIVID Sydney also featured and this was a collaboration between Tulgeen Disability Services, The Junction Works from Western Sydney, the Bega Valley Regional Gallery (BVRG) and UNSW Art and Design.

"A lot of people worked behind the scenes to make *Parklight* such a great event, including staff from the Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre and the library, as well as BVRG staff and volunteers - a massive shout out to everyone for all their hard work," Mr Baker added.

The Create & Make Crew is a Bega Valley Shire Library program funded by a Youth Opportunities Grant from NSW Families and Community Services.



*Hundreds of people filled Littleton Gardens to take in the light, sound and performances that made up the spectacular Parklight event - an initiative of the Bermagui Create & Make Crew. Photo credit: Louisa Monohan Photography.*

# What's ON!

## LOCAL EVENTS

**28 September**

**Sculpture Workshop**

**@ Dragonfly Creative Spirit Studio**

**10.00am - 4.00pm**

List your event  
on Council's  
Local Events  
Calendar

[www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/events](http://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/events)



# FOGO nappy trial launched

Fifty families from across the Bega Valley are part of a trial to test if compostable nappies and incontinence products can be added to the shire's FOGO (Food Organics Garden Organics) bin collection service.

Bega Valley Shire Council's waste team are leading the trial with Tasmanian-based compostable nappy manufacturer Eenee.

Waste Management Coordinator, Joley Vidau, said the trial is in response to concerns families with young children raised when the red (landfill) bin collection service changed from weekly to fortnightly.

"When we introduced FOGO to around 13,000 urban households last October one of the key concerns from our community related to odour and storage of nappies," Ms Vidau said.

"Council respects the feedback of our community and we are always keen to examine proactive alternatives for troublesome waste. We put a call out on our Waste...The Facts Facebook page inviting people to be part of this trial and got an overwhelming response.

"This indicated just how serious our community was about wanting to find new solutions."

She said the Environment Protection Authority is supporting the project in recognition that the trial has potential to address a major landfill issue facing councils Australia-wide.

"The South Australian government's Zero Waste SA estimates about 800 million disposable



The nappy trial is part of Council's Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy, Recycling the Future (2018-2028), which is committed to introducing environmentally sustainable methods for managing waste into the future.

nappies end up in Australian landfills every year - it is a huge problem not only for Bega's landfill, but for landfills everywhere."

Ms Vidau says it is an exciting project for the Bega Valley but stressed that the community needs to continue putting their nappies and incontinence products in their red bins until trial results are available next year.

"We know from the incredible response we had to FOGO, with among the lowest contamination rates in Australia, that our community is keen to embrace anything that reduces what goes into

landfill. But people need to keep using their red bins for nappies and incontinence products for now. This is just a small, carefully managed trial and we all need to be patient to see if it works.

"We have rigorous testing that needs to be completed before we can add a new product into FOGO."

Ms Vidau says Council has been working on the trial design and approvals for 10 months.

"We have put a lot of planning into this so that if it works, it's a model that can be replicated across Australia," Ms Vidau said.

## New program is sharing and celebrating memories

From page 1

"When I meet with the person, we discuss their lives and the things that are important to them and what they have achieved throughout their life.

"I translate that into activities that honour and celebrate the participant's memories and achievements, so we can really share who the participants are with the children. When we share these memories, we create more happy memories in the process.

"Having fun with the kids diverts

the focus away from the challenges of living with dementia for both the carer and the person living with dementia.

"It adds a new dimension of well-being into the person's life while making new friends and connections with the wider community," says Ms Reynolds.

You can watch a short video about Connecting Through Memory on the Bega Valley Shire Library's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirelibrary](http://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirelibrary).

The video features Peter and Wendy

Davis and children from Bandara Children's Services.

If you or someone you know would like to be involved in the Connecting Through Memory program, please contact Sugita Wahl at the Bega Valley Shire Library - phone (02) 6499 2361 or email [vwahl@begavalley.nsw.gov.au](mailto:vwahl@begavalley.nsw.gov.au).

The Connecting Through Memory program has been made possible by Dementia Australia's Dementia Friendly Communities Community Engagement Program.

More information about Dementia

*"Having fun with the kids diverts the focus away from the challenges of living with dementia for both the carer and the person living with dementia."*

- Hayley Reynolds

Friendly Communities is available at [www.dementiafriendly.org.au](http://www.dementiafriendly.org.au).

The National Dementia Hotline is a free confidential support service - phone 1800 100 500.

## Free roll of FOGO bags coming your way

**Voucher coming to your letterbox in September**

We are sending a voucher for 1 X free roll of FOGO bags to all households with a FOGO green bin service. You can also buy FOGO bags from our libraries, tips and the Bega Council office in Zingel Place for \$5 (150 bags per roll).

**Waste... The Facts**

Facebook @BegaValleyWasteandRecycling

Download FREE Bega Valley Waste APP

Phone 6499 2222

Web [begavalley.nsw.gov.au/waste](http://begavalley.nsw.gov.au/waste)



# A discussion about the pools

Bega Valley Shire Council is seeking feedback from the community on the future of our public pools across the Shire.

Specialist consultants, Otium Planning Group, conducted a comprehensive review in 2016, which resulted in recommendations on the provision, value, costs, opportunities, risk management and the future renewal of our swimming pool facilities.

The comprehensive level of information that came out of the review consequently resulted in Council adopting a goal to have a fit for purpose six pool aquatic strategy that maximises opportunities for the community and visitors to participate and enjoy facilities that meet legislative and compliance requirements and have pools that are operating at modern standards.

Council's General Manager, Leanne Barnes, said the public swimming pools are highly valued by the community, however they are also high cost assets to operate and build.

"The adopted goal secures the future of the swimming pools and reflects the history, commitment, hard work and fundraising of various community groups to advocate, plan and build our swimming pools over the years," Ms Barnes said.

"Our six public swimming pools were built over the last 60 years and with two facilities due for renewal in the next ten years, as well as managing smaller cost asset renewals across the remaining four sites, Council has significant



*We are seeking feedback from the community on the future of our pools.*

decisions to make – including how to continue to fund our pools into the future.

"A Swimming Pools Strategy Discussion Paper has been developed in order to advance our conversations with the community around the pools and we are particularly interested to hear the collective view on the best way forward. As a part of this discussion, we are looking at funding models to keep our commitment to maintaining our six pools - this includes the consideration of applying for a Special Rates Variation," Ms Barnes said.

A thorough community information and consultation program is being implemented that will include community information sessions; the establishment of dedicated webpages; formal

public exhibition periods; a rates calculator; an independent phone survey; the distribution of information through Council's social media channels, the Council News publication and the local media; and a final report to Council.

Community information sessions are being held in each town with a public swimming pool, with Bega (30 September) and Candelo (2 October) remaining.

To view the Swimming Pools Strategy Discussion Paper and provide your feedback, visit [www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay](http://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay).

For more information on the pools contact Council's Leisure and Recreation team on (02) 6499 2222.

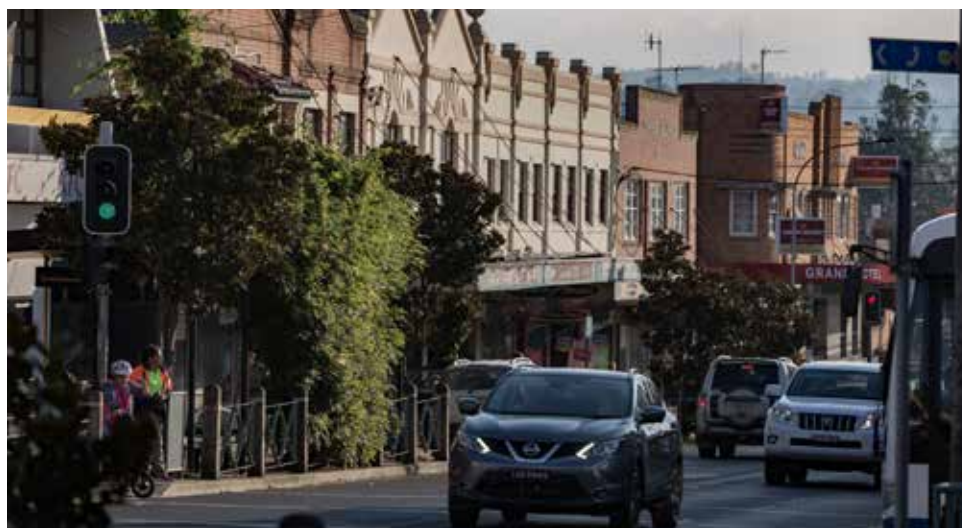
## Commercial land consultation continues

Bega Valley Shire Council has completed the first phase of public consultation on the Shire-wide Commercial Land Strategy, with a series of community workshops held recently.

The new strategy is part of Council's ongoing review of zones and planning controls and when finalised, it will update the existing Commercial Centres Strategy, adopted by Council in 2006 and inform the Local Strategic Planning Statement to be completed in 2020.

Director Community, Environment and Planning, Dr Alice Howe, said the role of town centres has changed significantly in recent years with new technology influencing how we shop and interact with service providers and retailers.

"We want to make sure that our land use policies and controls maximise opportunities for activating our town centres and will



*The Chambers of Commerce will have input into Council's Commercial Land Strategy.*

stimulate employment, now and in the future.

"I'd like to thank everyone who came to the workshops and shared their ideas with us," said Dr Howe.

Workshop participants, including land and business owners, innovators and interested

community members, identified place-specific issues and opportunities. Their feedback will be incorporated into the strategy, which will also explore opportunities to protect and enhance the character of our commercial areas.

It's important to note that the Commercial Land Strategy does not address changes to streetscapes and infrastructure in towns. Instead, the aim is to devise a flexible framework for commercial land use throughout our Shire. The framework will consider different types of development including location and design characteristics, such as bulk and scale, that impact on our urban centres.

The second phase of community consultation will involve meetings with Chambers of Commerce before the draft Commercial Land Strategy is developed. It is expected the draft will be on public exhibition throughout December 2019/January 2020.

For more information about the Commercial Land Strategy, please contact Council's Strategic Planning Coordinator, Sophie Thomson, on (02) 6499 2246.

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

Follow us  
on Facebook  
or visit our  
website



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



# Curing added to composting process

Bega Valley Shire Council's FOGO compost might not be available until summer due to the introduction of curing into the composting process.

The Council's organics team has introduced a several-month curing period before releasing the popular product for sale after reports that fluctuating pH levels were creating problems for some home gardeners.

Waste Management Coordinator, Joley Vidau, said the decision was made to not release new batches of compost after supplies ran out mid-year to allow for curing time.

"After investigating further, we have traced the problem to fluctuating pH levels. We were trying to meet the large demand for quality FOGO compost and so let a few 'young' batches out to the public," Ms Vidau said.

"All the compost we sell meets the necessary testing requirements, but recent 'young' batches of compost have put gardens under stress.

"We realise the community will be disappointed not to be able to access FOGO compost for their

spring gardening programs, since it usually sells out quickly once it hits the market.

"People are waiting anxiously for more compost to be available and we are sorry for the delay, but your gardens and all the public reserves and parks where we use the compost will be even better off if we take the time now to get this right.

"We are so proud of our FOGO compost and we want to make sure that in the long-term we are supplying the highest possible quality product to our community," Ms Vidau said.

Council will also be providing extra information to help people apply their compost most effectively – there is a compost fact sheet on Council's website and we welcome questions to the Bega Valley Waste and Recycling Facebook page.

Gardening workshops are also being planned to help our community get the most from their FOGO compost.

For more information about FOGO compost visit [www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/waste](http://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/waste).



Mayor Cr Kristy McBain picks up a load of compost from the Merimbula organics processing facility for her garden.

## Council Meeting wrap up

### Deputy Mayor Elected

By a show of hands, Councillor Sharon Tapscott was elected Deputy Mayor for the coming twelve months to September 2020.

The only other candidate was Councillor Mitchell Nadin, who had served as Deputy Mayor for the past 12 months.

### Community Engagement Strategy

Council resolved to place the draft Community Engagement Strategy on public exhibition for a

### North Bega Sewer Project

After extensive discussion of the options available, Council resolved to proceed with the North Bega Phase Two Sewer Project as an improved hybrid gravity and pressure system for both industrial

### Tura Reserves

After extensive public consultation, an updated Site Management Plan (SMP) for the Tura Head Coastal Reserve (The Point) and Dolphin Cove Reserve was provided to Council.

### and residential properties.

Council further resolved that all property owners be given 24 months to connect to the sewerage system free of charge.

Once the 24 months has expired property owners that have chosen not to connect during the transitional period will be required to pay unconnected sewer rates and pay the full connection price at that time.

Residential property owners will not be required to make an upfront contribution, however non-residential properties will be required to contribute \$7000 to the project.

### Council resolved to support the location of the path on the map in the draft Site Management Plan so funding agreements and expenditure can be progressed for those parts of the Plan and to consider the matter further at its 30 October 2019 meeting.

### Next Meeting

#### 9 October

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](http://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/councilmeetings)

## Time for a CleanOut!

Have you ever wondered what to do with those unwanted, out-of-date or leftover chemicals in your kitchen, bathroom, laundry, garage or garden shed?

### CleanOut your household chemicals the right way

Don't forget to download the free Bega Valley Waste APP – and never miss another Household Chemical CleanOut day again

### PAMBULA

Merimbola St carpark (rear of shops)  
Saturday Nov 9 | 8am - 2.30pm

### BEGA

Saleyards, Kerrisons Lane  
Sunday Nov 10 | 8am - 11am

### BERMAGUI

Bermagui Tip, Strudwicks Rd  
Sunday Nov 10 | 1pm - 4pm

More information: [www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au](http://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au)  
Phone 6499 2222  
Facebook @BegaValleyWasteandRecycling

Page 5 - Council News - A Bega Valley Shire Council publication



# Celebrating our early educators

Council’s early learning educators are passionate about their role in maximising learning opportunities for children at Bandara Children’s Services and at the Eden Early Learning Centre, and staff at both centres recognised two important events in September.

Celebrations focused on Early Learning Matters Week during the first week of September, with a day of recognition dedicated to Early Childhood Educators.

Research has shown that engagement in early learning has long term benefits for children but it also benefits families and whole communities. Early Learning Matters Week draws attention to the importance of early learning at an individual, community and national level and aims to increase access to quality early learning for all Australian children.

Council’s Coordinator Children’s Services, Matt Simpson, said that Early Childhood Educators’ Day recognises the work of Australia’s educators in early learning services and their wonderful contribution to the wellbeing and healthy development of the young children in their care.

“It’s a chance for us, individually and



*It has been big month in our early learning centres, with Early Learning Matters Week and day of recognition dedicated to Early Childhood Educators both both celebrated.*

collectively, to say thank you to our early childhood educators and our Children’s Services team is a group of amazingly dedicated educators.” Mr Simpson said.

“From the most recent additions to our staff team, some of whom are undertaking studies to gain qualifications in Children’s Services, right through to our qualified Early Childhood Teachers and

highly experienced staff who have devoted over 20 years of service, one thing they all share is a passion and commitment to caring for and educating young children.”

More information about our Children’s Services, including facilities and hours, is available on Council’s website at [www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au](http://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au).

## Road upgrade is underway

Work has commenced on the upgrade and sealing of West Kameruka Road that is expected to be completed by February next year.

Contractor RD Miller Pty Ltd will be carrying out the work between 7.00am and 5.00pm Mondays to Fridays, weather permitting.

The project involves realigning, reforming and stabilising the road, installing new culverts, drains and signs and sealing the road.

While the work is underway, traffic management will be in place with up to 15-minute delays possible.

The speed limit will be reduced to 40 km/h where road plant and workers on foot are present and 80km/h for the remainder of the road. Please keep to the speed limits and follow traffic controller directions

Local residents will be kept up to date on the project as the works progress and we apologise for any inconvenience while the upgrade is happening.

## Hall kitchens fit for purpose

Brogo and Tarraganda halls are boasting modern and serviceable kitchens thanks to the NSW Government Stronger Country Communities Fund Program - Round 2.

Both hall committees have been actively involved in the decision-making process from the start of the project to install non-domestic grade kitchens.

Acting Cemetery and Hall Officer, Katrina Berenguer, said that the new kitchens will attract a range of hirers and will provide users with improved usable spaces.

“Small food producers in these villages will be able to safely and legally produce foods for sale at local markets and wholefood organisations, providing employment opportunities and growth within those communities.

“People hiring the hall spaces will be able to have a streamlined approach to event management and catering,” Ms Berenguer said.

Alterations involved removing the old kitchen, patching and painting walls, installing flooring, upgrading electrics and plumbing, installing new stainless steel benches, sinks, tape ware and cabinetry, and providing new appliances.



*Brogo Hall’s new kitchen increases options for events and catering.*

### Swimming Pools Strategy



## HAVE YOUR SAY

#### TAKE OUR SURVEY

Visit the website to complete the survey and Have Your Say on the future and funding of our swimming pools

We are planning for the future of our six pools, which the community has made clear they want to retain, including how we fund them.

To raise the funds needed we are considering an increase to your rates through a Special Rates Variation.

We need your feedback.

[begavalley.nsw.gov.au/HaveYourSay](http://begavalley.nsw.gov.au/HaveYourSay)



# First ship at new wharf



**The arrival of the first cruise ship to dock at the new Eden wharf was a truly momentous occasion for the people of Eden and the Bega Valley.**

**A crowd of enthusiastic locals and an entourage of Cruise Eden volunteers and local school kids welcomed the ship with red flags flying. The Pacific Explorer is the first of over 20 cruise ship arrivals scheduled for the new extended wharf in Eden between now and March 2020 and marks the start of some tremendous opportunities for this region.**

*Photo credit: Double Take Photography.*

## Outdoor pools set to open

Spring is in the air and we look forward to another season of fun and fitness when most of the outdoor pools open across the Bega Valley Shire on Monday 30 September, just in time for the school holidays.

Unfortunately, the opening of Candelo pool has been delayed a few weeks to allow contractors to repair faults discovered during the winter maintenance program.

Council has done a lot of work on the pools in the off-season including replacing the solar pool heating system at Bemboka, replaced the pool covers at Bemboka and Cobargo pools, renewed the perimeter fence in Eden and repainted the children's pools and changeroom floors at the Bega pool.

In preparation for the upcoming season at

Candelo Pool, Council engaged specialist contractors to remove the existing paint in preparation for re-painting. The paint removal uncovered unexpected issues with the swimming pool render and confirmed suspicions that the pool expansion joint has been contributing to water leaks from pool.

A team of structural engineers has been engaged to investigate and provide specialist advice on repairing both the swimming pool render and expansion joint. These works are necessary to repair the issues identified, prevent further water leaks and prepare the swimming pools for repainting.

At this stage, Council hopes to open the Candelo pool in early to mid-November, however further information and updates will be provided as these works progress.

Season ticket prices will be reduced for Candelo this season to compensate for the delayed opening.

For details about pool opening times, admission fees and programs held at each pool please visit [www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/SwimmingPools](http://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/SwimmingPools).

## Don't waste your waste

The Bega Valley Shire Council (BVSC) is looking for community, charitable and not-for-profit groups working on local waste solutions and community education projects to apply for the Community Waste Grants opening on Monday 7 October.

The average household in our region creates an estimated 30.6kg of waste per week. With a move towards a more sustainable way of repurposing and re-use, some of that could in fact become something really useful, as opposed to waste!

One previous community waste grant recipient, Boomerang Bags Bega Valley Sapphire Coast, wanted to do something about the tonnes of plastic bags and fabric waste created each year.

The group accepts donated fabrics for up-cycling into reusable, zero waste shopping bags.

The Coordinator for Boomerang Bags Bega Valley Sapphire Coast, Dörte Planert, said the reusable Boomerang Bags are based on the concept of borrowing and returning a bag for someone else to use, once you have finished with it.

"The BVSC grant helped to run a number of sewing workshops, to buy an electric fabric cutter, hand cutters and cutting mats, and we were able to get all the donated sewing machines serviced and repaired because none were working properly," Ms Planert said

With the willingness and generosity of people from all fabrics of society, the group has sewn and distributed over 3,000 Boomerang Bags across the Bega Valley.

The Boomerang Bags initiative is about more than just making bags and diverting waste; it is starting conversations, connecting with each other over a cup of tea, fostering sustainable behaviour and having fun! You don't have to know how to sew to be involved as there are numerous activities to participate in – all you have to do is contact Dörte Planert on (02) 6494 4787.

If you are currently involved in a community waste reduction initiative, or have ideas that encourage and foster sustainable waste management behaviour amongst the community, consider applying for the Category B Community Waste Grants.

For more details, head to [www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/grants](http://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/grants).

# Grant writing workshops were well attended

In recent weeks the Bega Valley community were given some useful insights into how to tap into the vast funds available through numerous grant programs in Australia.

Council's Grants Management Officer April Merrick delivered a series of three grant writing workshops in Bega, Bermagui and Tura Beach, which were attended by 74 community members representing a variety of interest groups.

Grants are an \$80 billion dollar segment of the Australian economy and in 2018 there were approximately 3,400 grant programs in Australia. The grants workshops aimed to increase the Bega Valley community's skills in grant writing so they

can access the grant opportunities offered by all levels of government and philanthropic groups such as trusts and foundations, corporates and high-net-worth individuals.

Participants received guidance on how to plan their projects, find the right grant program for their project, write a winning grant application and secure funding for their project to make a positive impact on their community. Grants are available to enable communities to effect change, build capacity, purchase things, create opportunities for people and allow the community to do what they need to do. Through the Grants Management Officer, Council provides ongoing grant support to the community.



**The grant writing workshops delivered by Council's Grants Management Officer April Merrick, in Bega, Bermagui and Tura Beach were very well attended.**



# Locals recognised at Resilient Australia Awards

The contribution of Tathra Public School and the Tathra and Region Chamber of Commerce towards uplifting their local communities was acknowledged at the annual Resilient Australia Awards (NSW division) recently.

The awards recognise initiatives that strengthen community disaster resilience with the NSW awards coordinated by the Office of Emergency Management.

Mayor Cr Kristy McBain congratulated local award winners.

“Once again, I’m in awe of our amazing communities who demonstrate such determination to create positive experiences for people after disaster,” Cr McBain said.

Tathra Public School won the schools category for their book ‘When the Fire Met the Sea’; a collection of recounts, stories, poetry and art following the March 2018 bushfire.

The Tathra and Region Chamber of Commerce won the business category for the Tathra-Sapphire Coast Tourism Resilience Project, capturing learnings from the Tathra and District Bushfire to help local businesses plan and



Locals were acknowledged at the Resilient Australia Awards, NSW Division recently.

prepare for crisis. This project has led to the development of a Sapphire Coast Tourism Crisis Information Hub, which is a digital resource for local industry to access information on tourism business preparedness, resilience and crisis planning.

The Tathra Firebirds received a highly commended for their Creative Collaboration

after Community Trauma events. The Firebirds collective facilitated community self-help activities through art therapy, holding regular workshops and running an exhibition.

Bega Valley Shire Council also received a highly commended for its community-focussed bushfire recovery model.

## School holidays @ your library

What do owls, kites, gardening, tie-dying, dream catchers and lego have in common?

They’re all part of the fabulous School Holiday Program, which will provide fun and interactive activities for children at our Shire libraries during the first two weeks of October.

Library Learning and Engagement Officer, Sugita Wahl, said the library staff love the school holidays almost as much as the children do.

“We really enjoy planning the activities and crafts; it’s very

satisfying to see the children’s happy faces as they try out new crafts or learn new skills in a friendly space,” she said.

Early bookings are encouraged to avoid disappointment – last school holidays, activities booked out almost immediately.

Book online at [www.begavalleyshirelibrary.eventbrite.com.au](http://www.begavalleyshirelibrary.eventbrite.com.au) or visit your local library at Bermagui, Bega, Tura Marrang or Eden to pick up a schedule of what’s on around the libraries these holidays.



## Strength in struggle: growing together following the 2018 bushfires



### Free 2-day workshop 19-20 October 2019

This workshop aims to empower individuals to work through some of the deep emotions and challenges stirred up by the 2018 fires. Over two days, facilitators from Psychology for a Safe Climate will share practical skills, creative practices, and nature connection activities that are gentle and inclusive. The workshop is based on our understanding that turning toward difficulty in a supportive environment can be the ground for personal and collective transformation.

Location TBC: Tathra

To register or for more information please email [psychologysafeclimate@gmail.com](mailto:psychologysafeclimate@gmail.com)

*This workshop is made possible by the Bega Valley Fire Recovery and Resilience Grant.*

Photo Credit: Max Conrad on Unsplash



### Contact us

- p. 02 6499 2222
- e. [council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au)
- a. Zingel Place, PO Box 492  
Bega NSW 2550

### Follow us

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

### Subscribe

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



[begavalley.nsw.gov.au/councilnews](http://begavalley.nsw.gov.au/councilnews)