

Bega Valley Shire Council village newsletter

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Premier venue

The first non-Council event in the new Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre was a resounding success. The Lions' Ball last Saturday night was to raise funds for carers' accommodation at the new South East Regional Hospital and guests described it as "a fantastic time - it was wonderful to see everyone enjoying a dance floor again and I'm sure regular dance events would be well received in the Bega Valley..."

If your organisation is looking for the premier event and function venue in the Shire for a function, exhibition, seminar or conference then contact venue manager Jeannette on 0411 583 045 or email her at jeannetteh@venuemanagement.com.au



The Lions Ball in the Civic Centre's flat floor auditorium, shot from the stage.

Eden newsletter

There is a new newsletter for the Eden community. The Eden Access Centre has begun circulating the community focused newsletter this week with the aim to raise the awareness of the amazing attributes that Eden groups, community organisations, individuals, sporting groups, and more

bring to town. The free newsletter (yes an old school hard copy) may be collected from central locations and services within the community and an electronic copy for computer-savvy people can be found on the community website, www.eden.nsw.au

Everyone is invited to contribute to the newsletter with information and input about what is available in Eden. Phone the Eden Access Centre on 6496 3970 or email edenaccessnewsletter@gmail.com

Picking blackberries

If you're a berry lover you should avoid the temptation to pick blackberries on roadsides and public land in the Shire. That's the advice from Council's vegetation management team which has warned of the dangers of ingesting fruit that has been sprayed with herbicides.

Vegetation management co-ordinator Lyall Bogie said blackberries were beginning to ripen but the flowering and fruiting period is also an effective time to control blackberries, which are regarded as a class 4 noxious weed.

"While some contractors use dye in their herbicide so that people can see which plants have been sprayed, or put warning signs up, it's not compulsory."

It takes at least a few days for blackberry bushes to show signs of having been sprayed, such as yellowing leaves. Unless you are absolutely sure that the blackberries you are picking have not been sprayed, our advice is to steer clear. If you suspect you have ingested herbicide, contact your local healthcare professional for advice.

Jobs with Council

- **Cemeteries and Halls Assistant.** 21 hours per week. The successful applicant will have the ability to relate to staff, volunteers and the community at all levels. A 'can do' attitude with the ability to plan, organise and prioritise tasks to meet agreed priorities is also essential. Applications close on 23 February at 5pm.
- **Environmental Health Officer.** To be successful in this role you will have well developed interpersonal skills with the ability to build working relationships with stakeholders. Applications close on 25 February at 5pm.
- **Civil Assets Manager.** This role is management of Council's infrastructure transport assets, engineering design office and provide engineering input to the Development Application process. People management skills, detailed asset management abilities and knowledge of budgeting, procurement, project planning and management of complex interrelated tasks are essential. Applications close on 29 February at 5pm.

Full position descriptions and selection criteria can be found on Council's website.

Address the selection criteria and send by email to recruitment@begavalley.nsw.gov.au or post to the address below.

Call: 02 6499 2222 Fax: 02 6499 2200 Email: council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au Web: www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au

Internet access is available at all of our libraries in Bega, Bermagui, Eden and Merimbula.

Please send all correspondence to
PO Box 492, BEGA NSW 2550.

To view exhibition documents visit us at our Bega office in Zingel Place or one of our libraries: Bermagui - Bunga Street, Eden - Cnr Mitchell & Imlay Streets, Merimbula - 103 Main Street.



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Tracking applications

A new e-services tool has been launched this week on Council's website that allows for the tracking of Development Applications and Complying Development Certificates on line from lodgement right through to decision. Visitors to Council's website can now search applications that have been submitted to Council since 1 January 2016.

The Application Tracker enables people to check the progress of their application 24 hours a day, seven days a week, without having to phone or visit Council.

For more information about Application Tracker, visit Council's website www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au

Blockbuster exhibition

The next exhibition at the Bega Valley Regional Gallery will be the Flora Australis exhibition, opening on Friday, 11 March at 6pm. The exhibition features stunning historical pieces from the Art Gallery of NSW collection, along with works especially created for the exhibition by contemporary artists.

Gallery curator Iain Dawson said Flora Australis, Australian artists and the floral still life, will be the BVRG blockbuster show of 2016. Artists include Tom Roberts, Margaret Preston, Katie Petyarre, Arthur Streeton, Margaret Olley, Laura Jone, Nicholas Harding, Rupert Bunny, Roy de Maistre, Lucy Culliton, Elioth Gruner, Alesandro Ljubicic, Hans Heyson, Zuza Zochowski, Ken Done, A E Aldis and Julian Meagher.

We have been planning this exhibition

since 2014 and it is our first foray into 'destination' exhibition programming.

Timed to coincide with this year's Four Winds Festival at Bermagui, we have worked closely with Sapphire Coast Tourism and the Art Gallery of NSW to stage a 'blockbuster' exhibition featuring many well-loved Australian artists with 15 works from the AGNSW collection.

Among the blue chip artists represented are stunning works by Margaret Preston, Tom Roberts and Arthur Streeton.

The exhibition is worth over \$1.5 million and works of such quality and historic importance have never before been exhibited in the Bega Valley Shire before.

The Bega Valley Regional Gallery is located in Zingel Place (opposite Littleton Gardens), Bega, NSW. Phone 6499 2187, check the website, gallery.begavalley.nsw.gov.au

Opening hours are Tuesday to Friday from 10am to 4pm and Saturday from 9am to noon and entry is always free.



*Margaret Preston, National Emblems
1954, oil on canvas, 50 x 60cm Collection
AGNSW*

Our Halls, Cobargo School of Arts

The Cobargo School of Arts was built in 1887 by contractors Norwell and Geiss to a design by George Martin of Cobargo. Mr Walker, the manager of the Commercial Bank in Bega, donated the land.

Balls and dances were often held in the hall and it included the only picture theatre in the immediate area. People would come from far and wide to view the silent movies of the day. According to the local paper there were plenty of concerts, as Cobargo even had its own brass band in 1890. The building also housed a reading room that closed in 1922.

A complete renovation of the hall was begun in the past year. First the kitchen was upgraded to 'commercial use' standard. This allows locals who wish to make food items for sale to comply with WHS standards.

Next on the list was a repaint of the inside, replacement of the old window curtains with blinds and a new stage curtain.

This year the renovation will continue with re-stumping and then painting the outside. This should see the Cobargo School of Arts safe for another 130 years.

Usage of the hall has changed a bit since its early years. In 2016 the main use is for classes: exercise, tai chi, yoga, dance. It is still used by the community for town occasions such as Australia Day and Anzac Day, exhibitions by groups like the quilters, memorial services and, of course, community dances and dinners. It is still very much a focal point for the town.

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