

Bega Valley Shire Council News

Issue 29 - Wednesday 26 February 2020

connecting council and the community

ADF supporting water supply

The Australian Defence Force stepped up and stepped in to assist Council in its ongoing efforts to continue to supply reliable and high-quality water to the northern part of our Shire.

On the back of the Brogo River/Brogo Dam catchment being largely burnt by the Badja Forest and Werri Berri Fires and the heavy rainfall in more recent times, the water available to feed the supply to Quaama, Cobargo, Bermagui, Beauty Point, Fairhaven, Wallaga Lake, Wallaga Lake Heights, Akolele and Wallaga Lake Koori Village was extremely compromised.

As a direct result, Council took the extreme steps of commencing carting all the water used in the Brogo-Bermagui Water Supply System from Bega and introducing Level 4 water restrictions for this system.

In regard to the water carting program, this initially meant up to a million litres (at a cost in the vicinity of \$30,000 per day) being trucked.

While Level 4 restrictions did initially remain in place, the Army's 2 Combat Engineer Regiment have continued the wonderful work of the ADF in our Shire by setting up their water purification and desalination system (WPDS) next to Brogo Tank One to help supplement the drinking water supplies.

Bega Valley Shire Council's Water and Sewer Manager, Chris Best, said the WPDS can turn any water source into fresh drinking water.

"Australian Army WPDSs are normally used to supply drinking water during major ADF exercises and deployments, but in this case, it was producing up to 400,000 litres a day (40% of our target volume) for the Brogo-Bermagui supply," Mr Best said.

"This dramatically reduced the cost to the community and has been a terrific help while we continue to work on a longer-term solution."

In a very encouraging development, testing has shown the water in the catchment has recovered very well.

"The quality of water in the Brogo Dam and downstream in the river has improved immensely and has now reached a very acceptable level after it was filled with sediment, ash, soot and debris following the rain," Mr Best said.

"Although this is still not our normal operating situation the need for water restrictions is no longer there right now – and no boil water notice



The ADF have set up a water purification and desalination system (WPDS) next to Brogo Tank One to help supplement the drinking water supplies.

is required either.

"No doubt this will be welcome news for our customers in the north of the Shire, however the situation remains dynamic and any heavy rainfall in the catchment could again cause us problems.

"We acknowledge the difficulty this situation has created for many people and businesses and we are very appreciative of your understanding and cooperation during what has been a difficult and challenging time.

"We are also very appreciative of the tireless work done by our Council teams, local

contractors and water carters, and the ADF, who collectively ensured clean water remained available to everyone.

"It is a somewhat perverse situation we have found ourselves in as we are about to go to tender for the design and construction of a permanent water treatment plant for the Brogo-Bermagui system, which will provide additional critical control points and multi-barriers to water quality hazards and greatly reduce the reliance on treatments such as chlorine," Mr Best said.

For more information on water across our Shire, visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/water.

Bega Valley
Commemorative
Civic Centre

Zingel Place, Bega

www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/Civicculture



begacivicculture

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



Key western road links re-open

The key western links provided by the Mt Darragh and Tantawangalo Mountain Roads were re-opened to traffic last Friday afternoon.

What a brilliant effort from our Council crews and local contractors!!!

We want to give them all a big shout out for the quality work they have done in difficult and dangerous conditions to make these roads safe.

The re-opening of these roads does come with warnings however, as while the trees and debris have been cleared, there is still leaf litter present and road patching works and grading are continuing.

Road patching will continue on Mt Darragh through until at least this Friday (28 February), with traffic control to remain in place; and grading will continue on Tantawangalo Mountain Road through this week as well.

Please be safe and drive to the conditions.

For all the latest on local road closures across the Shire head to www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/road-closures



Dogs opening doors to reading

Bega Valley Shire Library is introducing an innovative literacy program matching up registered pet therapy dogs with children who may be experiencing reading difficulties.

The Paws 'n' Tales program benefits children by boosting their reading confidence and fluency, building vocabulary and giving children real motivation to practise their reading in a comfy environment in the company of a friendly dog.

The program is aimed at children, aged 5 to 8 years of age, who may be experiencing reading difficulties, low motivation to read, low self-esteem or health issues impeding their learning.

Library Coordinator, Megan Jordan-Jones says dogs have proven to be excellent reading mentors.

"The big plus is that dogs don't judge, they're patient, and give children their undivided attention.

"We hope that soon, it will be a common sight in our libraries to see children reading aloud,

confidently, to a reading buddy in the form of an amiable dog," says Ms Jordan-Jones.

Council's libraries play a vital role in encouraging everyone to improve their literacy skills and Paws 'n' Tales offers practical support to local children and their families in overcoming barriers to reading.

The library is calling for volunteer/dog teams. If selected, there will be training in Ulladulla on Saturday 28 March and volunteers will require Police and Working With Children checks.

Dogs are vet-checked and stay on a leash for the entire reading session.

Weekly sessions last for 15-20 minutes with the same volunteer/dog team to allow the volunteer, their dog and the child to develop a rapport. Sessions are one-on-one and individualised to the reading needs of each child.

There is no reading testing carried out - the focus is on developing the child's reading confidence and on encouraging reading for enjoyment.

If you and your dog would like to volunteer for Paws 'n' Tales, please contact Megan Jordan-Jones at Bega Library on 6499 2321 or email mjordan-jones@begavalley.nsw.gov.au.

If you would like your child to take part from



Participants of the Paws 'n' Tales program at Bowral Library (photo courtesy of Wingecarribee Shire Council).

term two, complete a Paws 'n' Tales expression of interest form available from any of the Shire libraries.

Paws 'n' Tales is provided in partnership with Paws Pet Therapy which is a registered charity located in Thirlmere NSW.

Find out more about Paws 'n' Tales on the library website at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/library.

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

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begavalleyshirelibrary | www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/library

RFS vehicles kept fighting fit



Council's Fleet Facilities team has been kept busy staying on top of RFS vehicle repairs and maintenance during the bushfire emergency response and recovery. Left to right: Adam Swarbrick (Mechanic), Zane Bagley (Apprentice), Bruce Summerell (Mechanic) and Sean Baggett (Fleet Supervisor).

Panel-damaged vehicles, damaged components, burnt out clutches and clogged air filters. Council's Fleet Facilities team has seen it all this summer as it's worked hard to help keep Rural Fire Service vehicles in fire-fighting service.

During these extraordinary times, we've all found ourselves lending a hand to support others and Council's Fleet Facilities team is no exception. Bushfires just can't be fought effectively without reliable, safe and well-maintained vehicles.

The crew at the Fleet Facilities workshop in Bega has stepped up to manage both its regular busy maintenance schedule and the emergency servicing needs of a fleet of local and out-of-area fire fighting vehicles that have played a vital role in defending our valley.

On a normal day, Council's fleet mechanics workshop is a hive of activity. The team of eight mechanics and fabricators, two apprentices and two management and admin staff manage the servicing of Council's fleet of almost 400 light passenger and commercial vehicles, medium and heavy trucks and trailers and heavy plant items.

Given the workshop's location opposite Bega's RFS headquarters, there's also a long-standing arrangement in place for it to service a steady stream of more than 80 local RFS fire-fighting vehicles.

But these have not been normal times and, over the past few months, the workshop's activity has been taken to a whole new level.

Council's Fleet Facilities Coordinator, Deon Constance, has been overseeing the intensified program of RFS support. He says, at times during the rollercoaster emergency period, the workshop operated 24-hour

shifts to service the needs of the expanded RFS fleet roster.

The volume of additional RFS repairs and maintenance that has already passed through the workshop is impressive. So far, the team has worked on a total of 54 jobs, ranging from minor issues through to panel and mechanical repairs, and the work continues as strike teams are deployed to mop up in some areas and manage the still-active fire landscape in others.

Deon says, given the circumstances, the work has been largely reactive and unplanned. And with the priority being to get vehicles back into service as quickly as possible, he and his team have needed to be resourceful and creative about getting repairs done.

"We've had to turn vehicles around quickly and get them back into operation, particularly under emergency conditions. That means we've come up with makeshift solutions for things like rewiring lights and straightening damaged panels to ensure the vehicles are roadworthy and operational.

"It's just the nature of what we've all had to manage and deal with. When it comes to making sure that every valuable vehicle is available for service, we've just had to do whatever we can to get them back on the road.

"Our two field service units – a breakdown truck and a 4wd service unit – have both been in high rotation and we've been able to supplement our team with the help of local repairers who have stepped into support us."

Deon says the crew are geared up to keep rolling with RFS support through to the end of the fire season.

"Right now we're taking advantage of the quieter fire conditions to get on top of our backlog of maintenance."

NSW Government supplier list

Bega Valley businesses need to get on the NSW Government supplier list; STAT!

Businesses in the Bega Valley Shire Council are missing out on opportunities to provide goods and services to the NSW government by not being on its supplier list.

Established after the bushfire disaster, the supplier list now includes categories not currently available under its whole of government arrangements.

It is an easy registration process containing some simple questions. Everyone is welcome to apply to be registered.

Categories include:

- Building works, associated trades and materials, such as construction, repair, maintenance, electrical, plumbing, landscaping, pest control, remediation, road works, rail services, facilities management, waste removal, associated trades and materials.
- Hospitality – providing accommodation, or goods or services such as food, beverages, household items, furniture and other retail products.
- Health - medical and related services to maintain health and well-being. For example, medical professionals, social support and assistance.
- Native wildlife - native animal welfare and related services for wildlife.
- Other - goods and services not covered on the list above.

Register now by visiting the eTendering website at www.tenders.nsw.gov.au and typing into the Search bar: SCM8371.

<https://tenders.nsw.gov.au/?event=public.scheme.show&RFTUID=B9A30F09-99EC-D33A-810D5B89C5B8A71C>

Snap Send Solve

Snap Send Solve is the free app that allows you to easily report feedback to Bega Valley Shire Council



Further support for the community

Bega Valley Shire Council has resolved on a suite of measures to further support our community, especially those impacted during the ongoing bushfire disaster.

Key to this is the establishment of a detailed framework for minimising and waiving rates, fees and charges; and a formal commitment to further advocating for our community to the other levels of Government.

Council's General Manager, Leanne Barnes, said this resolution again highlights and underlines our recognition of the widespread and devastating effect on our people, economy and environment and our ongoing commitment to doing everything we can to drive and provide all necessary support through the recovery phase.

"While the local community has displayed unbelievable resilience during the bushfire disaster it is vital that Council can provide a level of surety moving forward," Ms Barnes said.

"It was certainly encouraging to see how readily the Councillors embraced the recommended relief measures and staff will now liaise directly with all impacted home owners, business owners and residents to ensure they are firstly aware of the measures and that necessary adjustments are made.

"We (Council) would also like to formally thank the NSW Government for their decision to provide rate relief for people that have lost their home or business in the fires.

"This will cover the full cost of Council rates for the third and fourth quarters of this financial year, with final details on the process for this and refunds for those who have paid to be provided shortly.

"The NSW Government has also waived applicable government fees, effective immediately, on all development applications related to dwellings damaged or destroyed



Council recently resolved on a number of measures to further support those impacted by the bushfire disaster, including establishing a framework for minimising and waiving rates, fees and charges.

including the BASIX Certificate fee and the Planning Reform Fund fee.

"We also note that further work is being done to progress a waiving by the NSW Government of the long service levy applied to development applications.

"We are in this together for the long haul and we want to reassure our community that we have your back," Ms Barnes said.

Waivers of rates, fees and charges

The following Council rates, fees and charges will be waived (a 28-day exhibition period of these is underway):

- All fees associated with the lodgement of a development application, including any pre-lodgement advice, or complying development certificate and other certificates for current owners to rebuild their lost or damaged buildings or subsequent inspections.
- Waste disposal gate fees for fire-affected material, subject to the NSW Government financing the cost to Council to dispose of and manage this waste.
- Interest on General Rates

instalments for the remainder of the financial year for fire affected properties (not destroyed but unable to be lived in).

- Some lease and licences fees paid to Council for use of Council owned and managed land and buildings from 1 January – 30 June 2020.

- Fees for the reconnection of meters for properties who have had their water meter destroyed by fire.

- Library charges for books lost due to bushfires and photocopying of replacement documents for bushfire affected residents.

- Tree assessment fees on bushfire affected properties.

Other direct Council assistance

- Those who lost their homes won't be charged for water used since the last time their meter was read until a new meter is installed.

- A \$50 credit will be applied to the water account of customers across all Council water systems whose water use for the current period is calculated to be more than 10% above the previous three-year average.

- A one-off reimbursement of up to 13,000L of water (noting this is cost of water only and not cartage by contractor) will be available to residents within fire affected areas that are not connected to Council's reticulated water supply and have utilised the services of water carters accessing Council water fill stations.

- Residential and non-residential sewerage customers who have lost their homes or businesses will receive a credit of 50% of the annual sewer and water access charges.

- Free access to pools until 30 June 2020 for those who have had their primary residence damaged or destroyed.

- Fire damaged pressure sewer systems will be repaired free of charge.

Council Advocacy

Along with the direct assistance being offered above, Council will also be taking a number of advocacy steps:

- Writing to the Minister for Local Government and Deputy Premier/ Minister for Recovery to request that serious consideration be given to extending the general rate relief to all ratepayers of the Bega Valley Shire Council for a six-month period as we are a severely affected Council.

- Encouraging all landlords within the Shire to follow our path in terms of rent reductions in the immediate future.

- Encouraging the NSW State Government to reduce payroll tax for employers in bushfire affected local government areas for the next three months.

- The General Manager has been delegated authority to advertise the waiving of green waste fees should the NSW Government commit to funding the management, handling and processing of green waste for a fixed period.



SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT!

SAVE TIME!

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begavalley.enotices.com.au

Protecting waterways from impacts



Erosion sediment controls being deployed in Wonboyn, with Local contractors including Paddy Farrell and Creative Lines, with assistance from Australian Defence Force members.

Bega Valley Shire Council has been installing essential sediment and erosion controls in bushfire affected estuaries and waterways over the past few weeks.

Significant rainfall following a bushfire can severely affect water quality. The increased catchment runoff and erosion causes cloudiness in the water and changes the pH levels, which in turn affects seagrass growth, fish survival and stimulates algae bloom issues.

“Wonboyn in particular has been severely impacted, with around 90% of the catchment burnt, significantly impacting water quality, estuarine ecology and the local oyster industry,” Director of Community, Environment & Planning, Alice Howe said.

“Oysters are particularly vulnerable to fresh water and sediment inputs, so Council relocated sand from the entrance channel of Wonboyn Lake to help improve tidal exchange and water quality.

“The Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE) has installed a series of loggers in Wonboyn Lake and continues to take water samples to understand the influence on the increased tidal exchange.

“This information will help improve our understanding of fire related impacts on estuaries at a broader scale.

“The NSW Environment Protection Authority is conducting water sampling in Towamba and Wallaga and the DPIE is collating additional data and mapping to identify key sites for works in affected catchments.

“Council is also seeking funding from the NSW Government’s bushfire affected coastal waterways grants to install sediment and erosion controls, restore estuarine foreshores and habitat and conduct water quality monitoring to determine the impacts of fire activity.”

Visit website for recovery information

Bega Valley Shire Council’s Mayor, Cr Kristy McBain urges everyone directly and indirectly affected by the bushfires to take the time to visit Council’s website (www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/recovery-support) and read through the Bushfire Recovery Support information.

“Where the Bushfire Recovery Centre was the ‘one-stop-shop’ for practical assistance and support, our Bushfire Recovery Support webpage is the primary ‘go-to’ for information covering crucial bushfire recovery matters,” Cr McBain said.

“Issues raised in each of the Bushfire Recovery Community meetings have been used to develop fact sheets and other vital information on our website.

“For example, our Financial Support page has information on access to grants, payments, allowances and loans, as well as Council’s rate relief, and not-for-profit and state government assistance.

“The clean-up of destroyed or damaged properties is a hot topic right now. Information on our website covers the clean-up process, opportunities for local businesses and contractors to be involved, vegetation removal, water quality and most importantly, the identification and removal of asbestos.

“Business support is another important website focus, providing information on Council’s and NSW Government support. Again, issues raised at the Small Business Bushfire Assistance meetings across the Shire provide direction for our content.

“Other topics include health & wellbeing, rebuilding, animals & livestock and wildlife recovery assistance.”

The Mayor says she does understand there are a number of telecommunication issues affecting online access and that some people no longer have computers or printers.

“Send a website link to family or friends and ask them to print out what you need. You might also like to share the information by pinning it up onto community noticeboards,” Cr McBain said.

“It’s really important and useful information and it will go a long way in answering the questions keeping you awake at night.

“And if we don’t have the information you’re looking for, let us know via communications@begavalley.nsw.gov.au inbox.”

What's ON!

LOCAL EVENTS

29 February 2020
Sapphire Coast Sustainability Festival
10.00am - 4.00pm

6 - 15 March 2020
Sculpture Bermagui

8 March 2020
EAT Merimbula
10.00am - 2.00pm

List your event on Council's Local Events Calendar

www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/events

Recreational projects - getting on with the job

While Council continues to manage the aftermath of the bushfire disaster and look to the recovery and rebuilding that stands before us, our Recreation and Natural Assets team is continuing to progress the delivery of some long-awaited capital projects.

Major accessibility projects, floodlighting for sportsgrounds, playgrounds, boardwalks, boat ramps and toilet blocks are all on the agenda.

Council's Coordinator of Recreation and Natural Assets, John Turville, said that despite the bushfire risk in some areas, the team has remained committed to delivering these exciting projects for the community.

"Unfortunately, the conditions in some communities has meant we have had to delay the commencement of some projects (such as the Wyndham playspace upgrade), but the feedback from the various communities and stakeholders has been overwhelmingly supportive of us getting on with the job wherever it was safe," Mr Turville said.

"One great example is the upgrade to Apex Park in Cobargo, which is underway this week."

Work is in full swing on upgrading

the lighting at Berrambool Oval (AFL/Cricket ground). Funded by the NSW Government, along with contributions and support from the Merimbula Diggers AFL Club, AFL NSW/ACT and Bega Valley Shire Council, this project includes the installation of 4 x 30metre light towers complete with new LED lighting and an upgrade to the power, so that the entire complex can meet its energy demands, and will enable the ground to be used more effectively throughout the football season for training and competition games.

The construction of a long-awaited amenities building for Bega Park, including linking pathways from the playground and carparking area, has also commenced and, once completed, will finalise the overall park upgrade.

Aboriginal Heritage salvage work is progressing at Blackfellows Lake, Kalaru ahead of the planned boat ramp upgrade and also at Murrinna Point where a new boardwalk is set to be constructed in the coming months.

Along with the Apex Park in Cobargo, the Lions Park at Mogareeka will also come in for a facelift, with the Wyndham and



Council's Recreation and Natural Assets team is busy getting on with the job of delivering projects across the Shire. Here Aboriginal Heritage salvage work is being undertaken at Blackfellows Lake (Kalaru) ahead of the planned boat ramp upgrade.

Bemboka playgrounds to follow shortly.

Construction has also started on the coastal accessibility project at Bermagui's Bruce Steer Pool, with the new amenities building to be the first element.

This work marks a significant step forward in positioning our Shire as a leader in accessible tourism, with

the overall Bega Valley Shire – A Destination For All project to also take in major upgrades at Short Point, Merimbula and the Pambula Surf Club precinct.

For more information on all these projects, visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/majorprojects or contact Council's Recreation and Natural Assets team on (02) 6499 2222.

Exhibition celebrates personal as political

The current exhibition at the Bega Valley Regional Gallery (BVRG) showcases craft-based creations with a political intent.

Craftivism. Dissident Objects and Subversive Forms reveals the myriad ways that artists challenge our perceptions of craft materials and approaches within a contemporary context, inviting viewers to rethink craft in a new light.

It features works by 18 contemporary Australian artists and artist collectives, who subvert and extend traditional craft-making traditions as channels for activism and social change.

BVRG Director, Iain Dawson, says the Personal as Political concept has never been more relevant.

"Artists are using craft techniques to explore and articulate the burning ideas and issues of our times, to stimulate activism and effect social change," he says.

The featured artists are engaged with environmental politics and climate change, while others are concerned about contested borders, immigration and democracy.

Exhibition artists include: Catherine Bell, Karen Black, Penny Byrne, Erub Arts, Debris Facility, Starlie Geikie, Michelle Hamer, Kate Just, Deborah Kelly, Ramesh Mario Nithiyendran, Raquel Ormella, Tai Snaith, Hiromi Tango, James Tylor, Jemima Wyman and Paul Yore.

This is a Shepparton Art Museum (SAM) curated

exhibition, touring nationally by National Exhibitions Touring Support (NETS) Victoria. BVRG is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW.



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begavalley.nsw.gov.au/weeds
02 6499 2222

Free desk spaces for impacted businesses

True to its name, the Bega Valley Innovation Hub (BVIH) has been responsive to changing conditions, putting regular programs on hold so they can focus on helping existing businesses survive, and even grow, during this crucial post-bushfire period.

BVIH is offering a free work space to any business directly or indirectly affected by the bushfires.

“If you’re ready to focus on rebuilding your business, but you don’t have an office or premises to work in, come and work at the Innovation Hub,” said BVIH Manager, Mia Maze.

“We have 10 free hot-desks available on a rolling 30-day, case-by-case basis until the end of June, offering a nurturing and collaborative co-working environment supported by education and mentoring.

Located in central Bega above Dan Murphy's in the Sapphire Market Place office suites, with the support of Woolworths, the Innovation Hub has lots of natural light from windows overlooking Littleton Gardens. The venue feels inviting when you walk in with its spacious, open-plan layout, modern adjustable desks and chairs, break-out couches and spaces, free WiFi and a meeting room.

"We really want to give local business owners the benefit of working alongside our entrepreneurs, mentors and industry experts," Ms Maze said.

“This week we ran a videoconference on a professional training module from the Duke University’s Fuqua School of Business. We had three people in our meeting room, two

connected remotely in Phuket and Thredbo and the facilitator ran the session from Wollongong.

"It's the first time this module, an example of the blended learning and mentoring, has run in a regional location."

Even if you don't need a work space, the BVIH is a resource for every business owner in the Bega Valley, no matter what stage your business is at. Their free workshops and training events will help owners re-set their business goals and priorities after being disrupted by the bushfires.

Courses and workshops on offer include digital marketing, incorporating recovery and resilience into your business, ecommerce, testing business ideas and more.

Bega Valley Shire Council is a keen supporter and investor in the BVIH and Council's Manager of Economic Development, Daniel Murphy urges business owners to get in touch.

“It’s an opportunity to network with other business people who are also dealing with the challenges of running a business in the current bushfire affected economy,” he said.

Will Sharples from Eden Game Development Centre was part of the first intake of the BVIH in 2018 and is making good use of the co-working space.

"I like to have a space separate from home where I can focus on my business and run events," he says.

With his technical expertise, Will has also gained part-time employment with the BVIH, with



The Bega Valley Innovation Hub has 10 free desk spaces available on a rolling 30-day, case-by-case basis until the end of June.

support from MAX Employment Bega.

Over the past two years, iAccelerate and the University of Wollongong has been working with the Bega Valley Innovation Hub to build new and sustainable businesses in the Bega Valley. During that time, 13 local businesses have completed the program through two intakes.

Contact the Bega Valley Innovation Hub at bega@iaccelerate.com.au.

Find out more at www.begavalleyinnovationhub.com.au.

GIVIT: meeting genuine needs

Bega Valley Shire Council encourages individuals, organisations and businesses wanting to donate quality goods and services to those directly affected by the bushfires to use GIVIT (<http://www.givit.org.au>), a not-for-profit organisation that matches donations with those who need them most.

The GIVIT website acts as a virtual warehouse where you can either pledge donated items and services or search for items people are asking for that match what you are able to donate, allowing registered recovery and support organisations to get them to real and urgent requests.

“Sorting through and distributing donated goods is time consuming and takes resources away from other important services needed in our communities” Director of Business & Governance, Iliada Bolton said.

“When the Bega Valley was first confronted by the bushfires, Council was overwhelmed by the offers of donated goods from locals, as well as people all over Australia and internationally. However, we were soon unable to physically accept all donations due to storage limitations and the need to focus on the emergency response, our evacuation centres and the people in them.



Now the GIVIT platform has been extended to NSW, local councils, charities and community groups are able to identify and match pledged goods and services directly with the needs of the community.

"All you need to do is list your items or services on the GIVIT website or alternatively, look through the website to see if you have what is being requested.

100% of funds received by GIVIT are used to purchase essential items as requested by local charities and services, purchased locally wherever possible to aid the economic recovery of affected communities.

"The GIVIT platform is free to use, so check it out today and help make a genuine difference to bushfire affected communities."



love our lakes

What's Good for Merimbula Lake, is Good for us!

Clean Up 

Sunday 1 March
9am - 12pm
Spencer Park Merimbula

Come join us
at the **Love Our Lakes and Clean-Up Australia Day** event on Sunday 1 March to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Clean Up Australia Day! Fun, clean-up activities for all the family! Get active and learn about healthy lake ecosystems. On the water join clean-ups via SUP, snorkel or scuba! On land there'll be a compostable play stall, National Park Discovery activities, Tangaroa Blue survey, education stalls and more!

Love Our Lakes and Clean-Up Australia Day

Food Trucks and fundraising BBQ by Merimbula Marine Rescue.

BYO closed footwear, swimmers, snorkel gear, paddle board, kayak. Hire available.

Register for the scuba clean up, in advance, with Eden Dive.

TAKE 3
A CLEAN BEACH INITIATIVE
DIVE EDEN

COASTLIFE
A COMMITMENT TO CLEANER COASTS

marine discovery

THE DAIRY
FOODS

NSW GOVERNMENT

bea valley shire council

Council adopts Rural Residential Strategy

Bega Valley Shire Council has adopted the Rural Residential Strategy, which will now be provided to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for consideration.

Council’s Director of Community, Environment and Planning, Alice Howe, said the strategy addresses the future need for housing and provides direction on how and where residential growth will occur to support the growing population, ageing community and changes in household structures.

“This strategy provides strategic direction for future rural living opportunities in the Bega Valley Shire for the next 20 years, addressing living requirements for diverse households, changing demographic characteristics and lifestyle preferences,” Dr Howe said. “It identifies where rural residential



Council adopted the new Rural Residential Strategy last week.

development across the Shire will be able to meet demand to 2040 and suitable future growth areas. “It also looks at the existing

supply of vacant and underutilised rural residential zoned land and reviews the suitability for further subdivision.”

The Rural Residential Strategy was developed in partnership with key stakeholders, including land owners, housing advocacy groups, real estate agents, development industry representatives and many interested community members.

Once the strategy has been endorsed by the NSW Government it will provide guidance to landowners about the locations where rezoning may be supported, subject to more detailed investigation of individual sites.

“We thank everyone who presented a submission so that our Shire continues to be a vibrant, enjoyable, safe and affordable place to live,” Dr Howe said.

The Rural Residential Strategy is available on the Council’s website - head to <https://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au>

Sewer pump station renewals



Council’s sewer pump station renewal program is well underway.

Council’s Sewer Pump Station renewal program is in full swing, with the Pambula Beach area currently coming in for attention. In all there are 59 Sewer Pump Stations strategically placed throughout the Shire. They are critical sewer assets made up of electrical, civil and mechanical systems designed to handle raw sewage fed from underground gravity pipelines. Pumps lift sewerage through pressurised pipe system to higher elevations or a termination point; usually a sewerage treatment plant. Council are committed to operating

and maintaining these stations to a high standard that will meet health and environmental regulatory requirements, now and into the future. The benefits of the renewal program include:

- Decreasing the likelihood of pollution incidents;
- Improving operational efficiencies and WHS;
- Decreasing energy demand;
- Applying best practice systems and standards; and
- Meeting a defined level of service - quality, function, capacity/ utilisation.



Mobile Outreach RECOVERY SERVICE



People impacted by the fires are encouraged to register with the Recovery Centre.

Registration is a confidential and straight forward process and can also be done by visiting the Recovery Centre in Zingel Place, Bega Monday to Saturday 10am to 4pm, or calling the hotline.

- Staff at the centre can provide information on a range of supports available
- A large number of Government and non-government services have been brought together at the Recovery Centre in Bega
- Also attending are Red Cross, NSW Health and State Government Disaster Welfare Support workers

No enquiry is too big or small; the services are there to help and support everyone who has been impacted

Mobile outreach recovery services are available in the following locations
This service will run for up to 12 weeks depending on the needs of each community

• Bermagui Community Centre — every Friday 10am to 2pm
• Cobargo Hall — every Thursday and Saturday 10am to 2pm
• Quaama Hall — every Tuesday 10am to 2pm
• Bemboka Hall — every Wednesday 10am to 2pm
• Wyndham Hall — every Friday 10am to 2pm
• Towamba Hall — every Tuesday 10am to 2pm
• Eden Log Cabin — every Thursday and Saturday 10am to 2pm
• Wonboyn RFS shed — every Wednesday 10am to 2pm

Recovery Centre Hotline 6499 2345

www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/Recovery_Support
recovery@begavalley.nsw.gov.au

Contact us

p. 02 6499 2222
e. council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au
a. Zingel Place, PO Box 492
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