

Bega Valley Shire Council village newsletter

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Access Advisory Committee appointee

Bega man John Reynolds has been appointed to Council's Access Advisory Committee that operates to help us in reducing barriers and improving access to local facilities and services. A former sales and administration manager for Bega Cheese, Mr Reynolds is also a past member of Council's General Sportsground and Recreation Committee and a former secretary of the Far South Coast Cricket Association. He is currently a trustee of the Old Bega Hospital Reserve Trust and a volunteer at the Lumen Christi Catholic College.

Try wheelchair basketball

A reminder about the Sports NSW Wheelchair Roadshow at Bermagui next Thursday, 10 September, to promote greater awareness of living with a disability. Bega Valley Shire Council's Access Advisory Committee is hosting the event and is encouraging local businesses, builders, contractors and community groups to take part in a series of 10 minute round robin games with 12 wheelchairs available for each game. The wheelchair basketball session is being held at the Bermagui Indoor Stadium and round robin games will start at 11.30am concluding at 1pm with lunch. Event organiser and Access Advisory Committee member, Sue Thomas, said the roadshow is an excellent opportunity for raising awareness and understanding. "The outcome I would love to see is that people have some fun, but ultimately gain a greater awareness of what it is like being in a wheelchair, particularly the access issues" she said.

New clean air procedure

Council's Environmental Health Coordinator, Greg O'Donnell, said a clean air procedure will reduce the impact of open burning in the Bega Valley Shire with the view to protecting local air quality, local amenity and human health. Backyard burning in incinerators or open piles and burning vegetation on properties near adjoining residences can unnecessarily expose the community to health risks and nuisances associated with smoke and contribute to a reduction in air quality. Approval from Council is now required for all residents wishing to undertake open burning of vegetation at any time throughout the year. Generally, residents wanting to burn vegetation that is located more than 75 metres from a neighbouring habitable building such as a house do not need to get any additional approval from Council provided they meet the requirements set out in the procedure. Residents wishing to burn vegetation located less than 75 metres from a neighbouring habitable building will, however, need to obtain a specific (fee-free) approval from Council. The requirement to obtain an environmental approval for open burning will improve local air quality conditions and reduce the need to investigate along with the cost for local fire services to extinguish nuisance fires. Residents operating wood heaters and barbecues are not affected by the introduction of this procedure. Copies of the Clean Air Procedure and application forms are available on our website or by contacting Greg O'Donnell on 6499 2483.

Jobs with Council

- Finance Cadet. An enthusiastic and motivated individual to undertake the role. Close at 5pm on 14 September.
- Road Naming Projects Officer. The successful applicant will have well developed interpersonal skills, the ability to build working relationships, interpret legislation, prioritise commitments and work independently as required. Close at 5pm on 14 September.
- Casual Lifeguards & Pool Attendant. These are Contract Casual positions commencing 03/10/15 ending 27/03/16. Close at 5pm on 15 September.

Position descriptions are available from our website or by phoning Council. When applying, address the selection criteria in your application and send to: Email: recruitment@begavalley.nsw.gov.au Post: The General Manager, Bega Valley Shire Council, PO Box 492, Bega NSW 2550. Fax: 6499 2200.

Doing business with Council

- Construction of timber footbridges and a gravel pathway at Lake Curalo, Eden. Close at 12pm on 23 September.
- Fitout and external works of the Tura Beach Library. Close at 12pm on 20 September.

All Council tendering information and tenders are received through the e-tendering portal at www.tenderlink.com.au/begavalley

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Bushfire danger period

THE NSW Rural Fire Service has delayed the start of the statutory bush fire danger period across the Far South Coast area due to recent significant rainfall. Traditionally, the bush fire danger period begins on 1 September on the Far South Coast. However, fire permits are not yet required for the Bega Valley Shire due to continued benign weather conditions and a significant increase in fuel moisture content. The bush fire danger period for the Bega Valley Shire for 2015 will begin on 1 October. NSW RFS Superintendent John Cullen said landholders are encouraged to take advantage of the milder conditions and use the opportunity to ensure their properties are well prepared for summer. Every resident should have a bushfire survival plan and make sure every member of their household knows what to do in the event of a fire."

Talk to Council about Hotel Australasia

Eden residents will have an opportunity next week to talk to Bega Valley Shire Councillors and senior staff about the future of the Hotel Australasia. On Wednesday September 9, Council will be at Eden Fishermen's Recreation Club to host a Roving Workshop and the community will be welcomed to attend a session dedicated to the future of Hotel Australasia. The Hotel Australasia session will run from 5.30pm to 7pm at the Fishermen's Club after a general community Q&A session that runs from 4pm to 5pm. Mayor Michael Britten said that throughout the

campaign to save Eden's Hotel Australasia Council had met with and heard from a large number of dedicated community members, each with the same goal of preserving this heritage building.

"We are looking for a committed community group to present an acceptable business model to Council for the restoration and funding of the heritage section of the building and to work over a period of time with Council to achieve those objectives, and in due course participate in discussing suitable uses for the restored building. The meeting and formation of a local group will be the first step towards a community submission required by December this year. Following consideration of the submission Council will meet and determine their position on 3 February 2016."

Self-publishing workshop

Are you ready to wow your family and friends with your fabulous book? Do you want to write and self-publish your book but don't want to spend a fortune? Would you like to share knowledge with others that could change their lives? The Bega Library can help you with a free two-hour workshop by Nikki Cooper who has a passion for writing acquired over a lifetime - from motivation, marketing and media, to getting original ideas for your books and producing a work with your 'individual stamp'. Fiction or non-fiction, audio or app, cookbook or eBook, she has you covered. You will discover the writer in you and your best publishing options. The workshop will be held from 10am to noon on 15 September in the Bega Library. Book at <http://begaselfpublishing.eventbrite.com.au>

Vacation Care

Kids can have fun, arts and crafts, excursions and more at Bandara Vacation Care at the Bega Valley Public School from Monday 21 September to Friday 2 October from 8am to 5.30pm, except on the last day when it will close at 5pm. For more information or to book, phone Bandara on 6492 4360.

Local hub for regional learning

Businesses, training organisations and people wanting to boost their vocational skills will soon be offered the services of a regional training centre in Merimbula. The Bega Valley Regional Learning Centre, formerly the Auswide Services building, will return and expand a much needed training facility to the area. Mayor, Michael Britten said the facility will provide a self-funded option for Council to invest in the Shire's economic development. He said a decision was made to purchase the former Auswide building following a Council business plan which identified a lack of professional training venues within the Shire and surrounding region. "We made contact with more than 50 registered training organisations with an advertised presence in the region and 46 responded positively that if suitably priced premises were available they would consider hiring those facilities to deliver training," he said. "It is encouraging that among the 46 organisations keen to use the facility, four have expressed an interest in becoming potential anchor tenants."

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