

Bega Valley Shire Council News

Issue 13 - Tuesday 06 November 2018

connecting council and the community

Historic day for water quality

Two Water Treatment Plants will be established to protect our Shire's water quality into the future thanks to unprecedented NSW Government funding under the Restart NSW Fund.

The Honourable Gladys Berejiklian, Premier of NSW and Member for Bega, Andrew Constance, were joined by a delighted Bega Valley Shire Council Mayor, Cr Kristy McBain, in making the momentous \$25 million announcement last Wednesday.

The funding comes through the Safe and Secure Water Program; a program that is designed to assist Councils to deliver economic growth in regional NSW through improvements to water security.

Cr McBain said this is fantastic news for our community, particularly those residents drawing from the Brogo/Bermagui and Bega/Tathra water supplies, where there have been long running problems.

"Council has always treated the integrity and safety of our water supplies very seriously and the establishment of Water Treatment Plants has been an absolute priority," Cr McBain said.

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Mayor Cr Kristy McBain, The Honourable Gladys Berejiklian Premier of NSW, BVSC Manager Water and Sewerage Services Jim Collins, Member for Bega Andrew Constance and BVSC General Manager Leanne Barnes were all smiles after last week's \$25 million funding announcement for the establishment of water treatment plants for the Brogo/Bermagui and Bega/Tathra supplies.

Photo by Robert Hayson Photography.

Drought relief assistance extended to Bega Valley

Bega Valley Shire Council is very thankful that the Drought Communities Program (DCP) has been extended by the Federal government to now include this council area. The DCP provides Council with the opportunity to apply for funding for local infrastructure projects and other drought-relief activities.

Mayor, Cr Kristy McBain, expressed her appreciation to the Federal government for the vital support the DCP provides.

"Our farming community is absolutely integral to our wider community and local economy.

"The drought directly affects our farmers but it's not long before the impact of the drought

reaches other businesses, services and families.

"This funding will help to keep our local economy buoyant by targeting infrastructure and other projects that will use local resources, businesses and suppliers, and by providing employment at a time of added pressure for many people in our Shire," Cr McBain said.

"Our farming community is absolutely integral to our wider community and local economy."

- Cr Kristy McBain

Senator Jim Molan, Patron Senator for Eden-Monaro, noted that Bega Valley was chosen particularly due to the hardships it had suffered due to the bushfires coinciding with the drier weather.

Senator Molan also acknowledged the efforts of our Shire Councillors in continuing to fight for the concerns of our community.

"Bega Valley Council and Mayor Kristy McBain have raised their concerns consistently, voicing the strain that their community has faced due to the fires and drought," Senator Molan said.

Information about the DCP Extension is available at www.business.gov.au/dcp.

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

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Wipes are blocking our pipes

The flushing of wet wipes is becoming a real pain in the proverbial for our Water and Sewerage Services team.

The practice has resulted in multiple sewer blockages this year alone and there are significant concerns around the increasing amount that are being found in the Shire's sewerage systems.

These blockages cause sewage to overflow and in turn affect residents' health, our local recreation spots, our local industries including oyster farming and tourism, and our natural environment.

Council's Senior Environmental Health Officer, Myfanwy Appleton, said that this is a growing problem for many areas in Australia, including our Shire.

"Wet wipes do not break down like toilet paper, and, despite some manufacturer claims, are never flushable – these products always need to go in the bin," Ms Appleton said.

"Flushing wipes is simply not worth it – the only things that should go down the loo are the three P's: Pee, Poo, and (toilet) Paper."

Basket traps installed in Council sewer lines catch solid debris



The flushing of wet wipes has caused a number of sewer blockages across the Shire.

such as wipes before they enter our sewer pump stations and in Merimbula alone these baskets are now having to be emptied up to three times a week due to the amount of wipes and non-flushable materials being put into the system.

Emptying these baskets is a smelly, thankless, yet absolutely necessary task for Council staff.

If left in the sewer lines, wipes

interfere with the sewer pumps and with equipment at sewerage treatment plants, with the real potential to cause breakages and large scale sanitary problems for the local area.

On a smaller scale, wipes will also interfere with the functioning of domestic Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems (AWTS) and septic tanks.

Drilling part of project investigations



Geotechnical drilling has been undertaken at the site of the Tathra Headland Walk and as part of the environmental assessment of the proposed Merimbula deep water ocean outfall.

In Tathra the drilling was concentrated at footing locations and was accompanied by some minor excavation work to expose bedrock in some sections.

Additionally, the route has been cleared to make the existing path safer and easier to walk over and temporary erosion control measures installed.

The work at Merimbula is ongoing at borehole locations near the exfiltration ponds.

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Treatment plant progressing



The new Bemboka Water Treatment Plant is progressing well, with construction and commissioning set to be completed by April 2019.

Construction of the new Bemboka Water Treatment Plant (WTP) is progressing well, despite the very welcome recent rain holding things up for short period.

The concrete tanks are now completed, with the waste tank currently being tested.

The installation of High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) liners is well advanced and all in-ground pipework has been installed.

The block work for the process/treatment building is now at full height, with the slab being poured this week.

The off-site fabrication of the membrane module, process components and electrical control cabinet is underway and programmed for factory acceptance testing later this month.

When completed the WTP will use membrane filtration which will remove colour, suspended solids, and bacteria from the raw water.

The power supply to the site is also being updated to include solar array power.

Construction and commissioning is on track to be completed in April 2019.

Marcus Callum wins the Shirley Hannan

Marcus Callum has beaten out an outstanding collection of finalists to win the 2018 Shirley Hannan National Portrait Award.

Callum, who trained in Sydney and New York, is a three-time Archibald Prize finalist and won the Black Swan Portrait Prize in 2015.

His oil on linen creation entitled 'Meg' attracted the acclaim of Guardian Australia art critic and guest judge, Dr Andrew Frost, who made the announcement at the opening of the exhibition at the Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre.

Dr Frost was impressed with the quality of all the finalists, but reserved glowing praise for the winner.

"Marcus Callum's painting has an arresting luminosity that matches the sensitivity of the treatment of his subject. It's also a virtuosic demonstration of contemporary realist portrait painting," Dr Frost said.

Callum, who picks up \$50,000 (Australia's richest prize for realistic portraiture) for his work said the portrait is about growing up in a complicated, confusing and often extremely frightening world.

"The transition to adulthood can simultaneously be full of joy and fraught with danger. My subject, Meg, stares at the viewer with an uneasy confidence. Despite an uncertain future, she emerges from the darkness as an all-knowing and omnipotent being," Mr Callum said.



Marcus Callum's oil on linen creation entitled 'Meg' is the winner of the 2018 Shirley Hannan National Portrait Award.

"Marcus Callum's painting has an arresting luminosity that matches the sensitivity of the treatment of his subject. It's also a virtuosic demonstration of contemporary realist portrait painting."

- Dr Andrew Frost

One of Australia's most loved and richest portrait awards, the biennial Shirley Hannan National Portrait Award celebrates realistic portraiture in memory of the Bega Valley Regional Gallery's eponymous patron.

Hannan, a gifted portraitist, and well known in the Bega Valley as a staunch supporter and generous patron of the arts, funded the John Balmain National Award for Portraits and Figure Drawing from 1993 until she re-established it in her own name in 2002 with a substantially increased first prize of \$15,000.

A prerequisite for the award was made that those works selected to hang depict their subjects accurately and demonstrate a sound skill and knowledge of drawing and painting technique. The award was established with a specific and unrelenting realist bent, which continues to this day.

Before her death in 2005, Hannan doubled the prize purse to \$30,000 and it was decided to discard the figure drawing component of the prize, concentrating on portraiture alone.

Hannan's husband, Brian Settle, established the Shirley Hannan Trust to perpetuate the Shirley Hannan National Portrait Award as a biennial, national portrait prize with a focus on accurate depiction.

In 2012, Hannan's son Peter, himself a talented photographer, paid further tribute to his mother's memory with a generous personal donation of an additional \$20,000 bringing the prize purse for subsequent awards to \$50,000.

Bega Valley Council Mayor, Cr Kristy McBain, paid tribute to the "continued and generous" support

of Hannan's son Peter when officially opening the Award exhibition in conjunction with Hinterland (an exhibition of 21 local artists).

"The great esteem this award is held in is clear, with the largest number of entries ever being received and all Australian states and territories represented," Cr McBain said.

Cr McBain also thanked all the artists and families who had travelled for the opening.

"A huge Bega Valley welcome to all the artists and families who have travelled to be here tonight and thank you for the significant contribution your attendance has on our economy.

"I encourage you to take time to, not only enjoy the exhibitions, but to have a look around our beautiful Shire," Cr McBain said.

The Shirley Hannan National Portrait Award is on display at the Bega Valley Regional Gallery until 8 December, while the Hinterland exhibition can be viewed in the lower level of the Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre until 16 November.



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Bega Valley kids leading change

Television and media personality Costa Georgiadis used the launch of The FOGOmentary to congratulate more than 50 Bega Valley children for leading change.

Bega Valley Shire Council hosted the children and their families at the world premiere of the locally-produced documentary about the Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) bin collection service.

More than 50 children aged between five and seven who auditioned earlier in the year, and a group of St Patrick's Primary School pupils, walked the red carpet at Bega Commemorative Civic Centre for the screening of Recycling the Future...The FOGOmentary.

Costa and residents from Mirador and the Tathra AFL Football Club, who also appear in the film, were also at the event.

"Did you realise girls and boys that you're part of something really big? This is change!" Costa said to the 300-strong crowd.

"As people get older they find it hard to change but you boys and girls can do change like 'yep, sweet as bro', it's cool'. You are leading the change! You're taking the change that Council has set up with



Costa Georgiadis with some of the stars of The FOGOmentary, from left, Mahli Hodgkin, Zoe Rosseland, Xavier Louie, Lawson Umbers and Aslan Louie.

FOGO to say 'we don't want to fill up holes anymore, we want to take all this wonderful waste which is a valuable resource, and turn it into compost!'"

Costa also urged the children to be guardians of their green-lidded FOGO bins to ensure the wrong things didn't go in.

"You are the guardians of this

compost that Council is making from your FOGO bins and when you check to make sure your families keep out the bad rubbish like plastic, that makes you the key to the system. The guardians are critical – you are so important!"

With FOGO, weekly collections of the green-lidded bins have replaced the old four-weekly collection. Red and yellow bins are collected on

alternate fortnights. There is no change for people who don't have a green bin service.

Council Waste Management Coordinator and FOGO project manager, Joley Vidau, said it had been a privilege to work with local families to create The FOGOmentary, which will become an education resource for schools.

"I am so impressed with how much the kids in our community know about waste and recycling. This night is all about Council saying a big thank you to all of you," she said.

"I am personally really passionate about the environment. If you're given an opportunity to make a difference you have to seize it, and I feel fortunate to be part of a Council that embraces this change."

Part of a \$641,400 'Waste Less Recycle More' grant from NSW Environment Protection Authority went towards producing The FOGOmentary which can be viewed on the Bega Valley Waste and Recycling Facebook page. The documentary will soon be available to schools to incorporate into their waste and recycling education programs.

\$25 million for water quality

From page 1

"Thanks to the NSW Government; in particular the Premier (The Honourable Gladys Berejiklian, MP); Minister Blair (The Honourable Niall Blair, MLC – the Minister for Primary Industries, Regional Water, Trade and Industry) and the Member for Bega (The Honourable Andrew Constance, MP) these vital projects will now become a reality.

"I'd also like to thank the NSW Regional Infrastructure Coordinator, Ken Gillespie, for his assistance and support for our bid, and the enormous amount of work done by Council staff," Cr McBain said.

Council's Manager Water and Sewerage Services, Jim Collins, said that once they are operational the Water Treatment Plants will improve the consistency and quality of the water supplied.

"This really is an historic day for water quality in our Shire."

- Jim Collins

"While it is important to remember that our water supplies continue to meet Australian Drinking Water Guidelines, the establishment of the treatment plants will provide



Brogo stepped rock weir – the source of water for the Brogo-Bermagui scheme.

additional critical control points and multi-barriers to water quality hazards and greatly reduce the reliance on treatments such as chlorine," Mr Collins said.

"The collective patience and understanding of the public as we worked towards securing long-term solutions to the challenges we have faced has been appreciated and we are very much looking forward to delivering these game-changing projects for our community.

"This really is an historic day for water quality in our Shire, however it is important to note that the process will still take time," Mr Collins said.

WHICH BINS DO I PUT OUT ONCE FOGO STARTS?



IF YOU LIVE IN THE FOLLOWING TOWNS YOU ARE ZONE A

Bermagui, Cobargo, Quaama, Bega, Tura Beach, Berrambool, Merimbula, Mirador and Eden

BEFORE FOGO STARTS

Week of 15-19 Oct



Week of 22-26 Oct



AFTER FOGO STARTS

Week of 29 Oct - 2 Nov



Week of 12-16 Nov



Week of 5-9 Nov



Week of 19-23 Nov



IF YOU LIVE IN THE FOLLOWING TOWNS YOU ARE ZONE B

Wallaga Lake, Candelo, Wolumla, Kalaru, Mogareeka, Tathra and Pambula

BEFORE FOGO STARTS

Week of 15-19 Oct



Week of 22-26 Oct



AFTER FOGO STARTS

Week of 29 Oct - 2 Nov



Week of 12-16 Nov



Week of 5-9 Nov



Week of 19-23 Nov



Keep track of bin collection dates AND have a weekly reminder sent to your phone with the FREE Bega Valley Waste APP



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This project was supported by the Environmental Trust as part of the NSW EPA's Waste Less, Recycle More initiative, funded from the waste levy.

No water restrictions for now

Despite the long spell of dry conditions this year and forecast of a further dry El Nino period ahead, the need for water restrictions across the Shire remains unlikely this summer.

Yellow Pinch Dam is currently at 90% capacity, Ben Boyd Dam at 100% capacity and the groundwater level at both Bega and Kiah is high, with a surface flow persisting at the bore fields.

Bega Valley Shire Council Manager of Water and Sewerage Services, Jim Collins, said that this volume of water in our storages is sufficient to ensure water demands over the summer can be met without water restrictions.

"These levels have us in a favourable position compared to the millennium drought years and other parts of NSW – we are well placed with no immediate supply concerns," Mr Collins said.

"It is important to understand what water restrictions are for, that they are used appropriately and that they remain an effective tool in reducing demand when really needed.

"It has been dry and the outlook for summer rain is not encouraging so I can understand why some people are requesting we introduce restrictions prior to summer to conserve water supplies, however the most appropriate time for implementing these measures is not now."

The Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 says a Council may place restrictions on the use of water if the available stored water, or the available capacity of supply, is so limited to make extraordinary measures necessary in the general interest of water consumers.

The primary trigger for introducing water restrictions is an assessment of water shortage relative to forecast water demand. For the south of the Shire this is when Yellow Pinch Dam reaches 60% capacity.

Yellow Pinch Dam is predicted to fall from 90% to 60% capacity in about 12 months (assuming very low rainfall and dam inflows).

Mr Collins said it was important to stress that this does not mean people should be complacent or wasteful with water.

"We very much appreciate the voluntary efforts people make to conserve water," Mr Collins said.

"Encouragingly, we have a relatively low water use per connected property in this Shire compared to other parts of NSW due to community understanding and the practical measures people take every day.

"Using water efficiently and sensibly is always important to do and helps to conserve the volume of water in dams and local waterways, leaving more for the future and the environment.



Bega Valley Shire Council's Manager Water and Sewerage Services Jim Collins, Water Resources Coordinator Ken McLeod and Merimbula Team Leader Peter Climpson at Yellow Pinch Dam.

"It also reduces the amount of electricity used to supply reticulated water and associated greenhouse gas emissions.

"With many people in rural areas experiencing hardship due to the lack of rainfall, it is important that those with access to town water continue to take care and avoid wastage to help minimise community anxiety and potential conflict over water use," he said.

Two water supply systems that are reliant on water from dams not owned by Bega Valley Shire Council are the Brogo-Bermagui and Bemboka water supply systems.

The Brogo-Bermagui water supply system has over 1000 megalitres of water guaranteed by Water NSW from Brogo Dam (currently at 63% capacity) for town water supply to July 2020, with the volume used annually only around 350 megalitres.

The small Bemboka village water supply is partly dependent on a drought reserve held in Cochrane Dam.

"We will continue to work with the operators of the Brogo and Cochrane Dams and the NSW Department of Industry - Water to ensure these dams retain enough water to meet town water supply entitlements over summer and beyond in the context of the Water Sharing Plan for the Bega and Brogo Rivers," Mr Collins said.

Further information on applying basic techniques for water conservation to everyday activities are available on your water notices and Council's website.

Seniors Festival grants available

Bega Valley Shire Council has announced an exciting grant opportunity for Seniors Festival activities.

Local community groups and organisations are invited to apply for funding of up to \$1,000 to assist in running events and activities aimed at engaging seniors in our community.

The NSW Seniors Festival runs from Wednesday 13 February until Sunday 24 February 2019 and its focus is to recognise and celebrate our senior citizens for the role they play, and the positive contribution they make in our communities.

Council's Community Development Officer, Ange McKechnie, said the festival encourages seniors to be active, social and to look after their health.

"This is the perfect opportunity for seniors to get involved in their communities and to enjoy all the benefits that come from that participation.

"Community groups and organisations may wish to hold events or activities just for seniors or they could run an activity which brings the wider community together," she said.

NSW Seniors Festival is the largest festival for seniors in the Southern Hemisphere, reaching up to 500,000 seniors each year.

To be considered for a grant, applicants must be an incorporated association or the application must be auspiced by an incorporated association.

Applications close on Monday 19 November 2018.

For further information about the grants, visit Council's website at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au or contact Council's Community Development Officers, Ange McKechnie or Matt Simpson on 6499 2222.

Spirit of connection highlighted

The spirit of community is never highlighted so well as when young and old come together and Grandparents Day at Tura Marrang Library and Community Centre last month showcased this spirit perfectly.

Programs and Partnerships Officer, Scott Baker, said he was delighted with 476 people coming through the doors to enjoy all the day had to offer; from performances by the Wobbles and Noisy Nonna, a Little Bang Science Discovery session, 3D printer pen craft, lots of Lego creativity and most importantly, time and space to share.

"The energy was great – so positive and happy;

it was personally rewarding to witness older folk and children, and all ages in between, having fun in this wonderful community space.

"We also gathered a bunch of ideas and feedback from people on the plans for creating a children's courtyard at the Tura Marrang library and thanks to everyone who let us know their thoughts.

"I'd also like to thank Merimbula Rotary for providing a free sausage sizzle – they were kept very busy!" said Mr Baker.

Right: Lego play was just one of a multitude of activities enjoyed by visitors to the Tura Marrang Library's recent Grandparents Day.



Time to target spring weed growth

The little rain the Shire has had in recent weeks has resulted in some pasture growth, along with weeds such as Serrated tussock, St John's wort, Blackberry and African lovegrass.

Council will commence its roadside weed control program this month, with all four of these priority weeds to be part of the spring/summer program.

Council's Biosecurity Coordinator, Jamie Dixon-Keay, said Serrated tussock (which grows through winter) is starting to flower right now and urged all landholders with infestations to get out and control it.

"The seed can be blown many kilometres so it is vital that everyone knows what it is, whether they have it and, if they do, to fully control it, not only to protect their own land but also that of their neighbours and areas further afield," Mr Dixon-Keay said.

"Chipping it out and bagging any with flower or seed heads, spot spraying, or boom spraying in areas where it is dense, are all effective ways of dealing with it."

St John's wort is also beginning to emerge and



Blackberry is one of four priority weeds that will be targeted as part of Council's spring/summer roadside spraying program.

will also be targeted by Council on its road and other reserves.

It invades degraded areas and those with poor pasture cover, threatens native and introduced plant communities, is highly invasive and causes photosensitivity in animals.

"Again, if you suspect you have some or have had infestations in the past, inspect and plan control within the next two months to prevent seeding and further spread," Mr Dixon-Keay said.

African lovegrass is becoming more prevalent following the rain and will be part of the roadside

program, with control stretching to autumn.

It is a very competitive tussock grass with low stock feed value and is a threat to agriculture, native grassland and other conservation areas.

"Target individual plants before they spread and other infestations to minimise any impacts it may have on your land," Mr Dixon-Keay said.

Blackberry has been slow to get going because of the dry, but will emerge with a vengeance.

The best time to apply chemical control is when the bushes have at least one metre of fresh cane, this ensures the plant will take the chemical into the roots system effectively.

Roadside control programs are publicised through the public notices on Council's website www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au

Council's Biosecurity Invasive Species Officers are happy to visit your property and provide free advice on weed identification and the various management techniques available.

For further information or to make an appointment, contact Council's Biosecurity Invasive Species Officers on 6499 2222.



Energy & Water
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Don't forget to bring your bills and any concession cards to get help with rebates, payment assistance, contracts, billing errors, energy saving tips and more!

Services attending on the day include

Energy & Water Ombudsman NSW (EWON), Revenue NSW, Konekt Employment Bega, Seniors Rights Service, Australian Energy Regulator, NSW Fair Trading, Origin Energy, Red/Lumo Energy, Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre, Bega Valley Shire Council, Bega Women's Resource Centre, St Vincent de Paul, Service NSW and more.

Tourism future program

The Sapphire Coast Tourism Future 2030 program has been designed to bring us together to ensure our region benefits from the unique opportunities we have to grow.

It is a three part, sequentially linked, experience development and capacity building program consisting of a forum and networking dinner, a range of skill and development masterclasses designed to directly assist business, and a mentoring program giving selected businesses access to work one on one with industry professionals to bring new or improved experiences and products to market.

The program will guide businesses on how to share in the bounty of the rapidly growing cruise sector, and build capacity to capture some of the unprecedented growth in international visitation to Australia. It will also introduce businesses to new opportunities in domestic markets.

Each part of the program will build on the stage before.

The aim is to drive new and improved tourism experiences and products and attract more visitors to our region.

Registrations are essential for



the Tourism Future 2030 - Forum and Networking Dinner which will be held at the Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre on Thursday 15 November.

The keynote speakers for the forum include representatives from Tourism Australia, Carnival Cruise Lines and Great Walks of Australia, while industry experts will address the dinner.

The masterclasses (to be held on 28 November and 4-5 December) will focus on upskilling participants on the key areas of opportunity for tourism growth in the region.

The classes will arm you with best practice in areas of opportunity, developing the tools and motivation to implement innovations in your own business

For more information and to book your place head to www.sapphirecoast.com.au/tourism-future-2030.

Bega Valley

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Council Meeting wrap up

Tura Marrang Library

Council voted to support the development of the lower level of the Tura Marrang Library and Community Centre into two spaces for tenancies and a hireable meeting room. There will be a call for expressions of interest from organisations and/or businesses to occupy the spaces and use will be based on a financial return to Council.

Likewise, Council will also seek expressions of interest for the use of the former manager's residence on the site, based on a financial return to Council and noting that any proposal must meet all planning and building regulation requirements at the cost to the proponent.

Former Hotel Australasia

Council had previously made a formal Request for Quotation (RFQ) from three Eden Real Estate Agents for marketing proposals and had engaged in an Expression of Interest (EOI) process for the property's use and restoration. At its meeting, Council resolved not to accept any of the RFQs or EOIs.

Council agreed that the three real estate firms will be given the opportunity to enter a standard non-exclusive agency agreement for the sale of the Hotel Australasia and provide to Council any offers within the following 30 days - all offers will be brought back to Councillors for resolution.

Sapphire Coast Tourism

Sapphire Coast Tourism has been formally wound up as an entity and Council noted the significant contribution from the Sapphire Coast Tourism Board and staff

towards growing the visitor economy in the Shire.

Sportsground Water Use

The draft Irrigation Management Plan for sportsgrounds was adopted with Council noting that sportsground committees should expect to develop new uses and processes to avoid excess consumption of water in the future.

Merimbula Airport Leases

Council authorised a further tenure of six years (two consecutive three year leases) to each of the existing lessees at Merimbula Airport.

Airport Management

Council resolved to enter into negotiations with Merimbula Airport Handling for the operation and management of Merimbula Airport for a contract for two years with an option to extend for a further one year until the runway and terminal extension works are completed.

**Next Meeting
Wednesday 21
November @ 2pm**

Council Chambers,
Biamanga Room, Bega Valley
Commemorative Civic Centre,
Bega

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

New stands at sportsgrounds



Wolumla Recreation Ground was included in phase 2 of the sportsground grandstand renewal program.

The second phase of the sportsground grandstand renewal program is now complete.

The Wolumla Recreation Ground and Berrambool Sporting Complex stands have been refurbished with new aluminium seats, while new handrails were also installed at Berrambool.

These works followed on from the upgrade of four stands at the Pambula Sporting Complex a few months ago.

The works were delivered by Recreation and Natural Assets team, utilising a combination of external suppliers, local contractors and Council's Merimbula Town Team.

Track Applications 

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Funding for halls and weed control

Council’s grant application success continues.

We are very pleased to be injecting just over \$34,000 into weed control and two local halls, thanks to the Crown Reserve Improvement Fund Program (formerly the Crown Lands Public Reserves Management Fund Program).

Funds will be used to improve the Wandella and Tarraganda community halls and will also support weed control at the Lake Curalo Foreshore, the Bemboka River Reserve and at the Haywards Beach/Murrunga Point/Camel Rock headland.

Natural Assests Officer, Andrew Morrison, said that \$5000 will fund work at the Lake Curalo Foreshore reserve to target nationally significant weeds including Blackberry and Gorse along with a range of other environmental weeds.

“There’ll be a couple of direct benefits from this work, including protecting endangered ecological communities such as Swamp Oak Forest, River Flat Eucalypt Forest, Freshwater Wetlands and Coastal Saltmarsh.

“The other important benefit will be minimising weeds along the Curalo walking track to improve visitor experience whilst also preventing walkers spreading weeds to nearby areas,” he added.

The Bemboka River Reserve houses a regionally significant lowland grassy woodland endangered ecological community site and the Bemboka Landcare Group has been working hard to control St John’s Wort and African lovegrass in the reserve.

“We’re very happy that we can support their work by providing \$6754 towards targeting other nationally significant weeds including willows and blackberry,” Mr Morrison said.

The Haywards Beach/Murunna Point/Camel Rock headland will also receive attention with \$5000 earmarked for Lantana control to protect this ecologically and culturally significant site.

Mr Morrison explained that this area is strategically important because it is at the southern limit of the area impacted by Lantana in NSW.

Cemeteries and Halls Officer, Karen Terwin, said that Tarraganda Hall and Wandella Hall were both identified as priorities for repair work through the hall Facility Management Plans and based on building condition assessments carried out in early 2017.

“External stairs at the Wandella Hall (\$9265) will receive much needed repairs and at Tarraganda Hall (\$8250), external cladding and external painting will be repaired,” she said.

The Crown Reserve Improvement Fund Program supports Crown Reserve managers by providing funding for repairs and maintenance projects, pest and weed control, new recreational infrastructure or environmental initiatives.



Left: The external stairs at the Wandella Hall will receive much needed repairs thanks to \$9265 in funding from the Crown Reserve Improvement Fund Program.

Companion Animals procedure is now on public exhibition



You’re invited to let us know your thoughts on Council’s revised Companion Animals Control Area Procedure which is now on public exhibition and proposes four additional dog off-leash areas.

The revisions aim to strike a balance between increasing off-leash areas and adhering to the Companion Animal Act 1998 (NSW) which specifies areas where dogs are prohibited.

You can view the procedure and supporting maps on our website at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay.

National recognition for partnership

Bega Valley Shire Council is delighted to be involved in a partnership that has taken out top honours for knowledge sharing at the inaugural Cities Power Partner Summit Awards.

The five-council partnership, made up of Bega Valley, Eurobodalla, Shoalhaven, Wingecarribee and Kiama Councils, was recognised for ground-breaking collaboration in developing a strong, regional climate response for South Eastern New South Wales.

The awards, that recognise the work being done in local government to transform Australia’s energy landscape, were announced at the Climate Council’s Cities Power Partnership National Summit in Kiama last month.

Bega Valley Shire Council Mayor, Cr Kristy McBain, said that it was exciting and encouraging for the work of our local Councils to be recognised on the national stage.

“As Councils, we are dealing with very similar concerns and challenges and sharing our expertise and experiences is one of the most powerful tools we have to reduce our climate impact,” Cr McBain said.

“Our South-East Councils were among the first intake to sign up to the Cities Power Partnership



last year, as we were facing similar coastal issues, recognised the efficiencies that could be gained and needed to reduce our electricity costs wherever possible.

“Since the launch we have been able to take advantage of emerging opportunities and potential joint projects such as the South-East Electric Highway proposal.

“We are on our way towards a future based around renewable energy, in line with our Climate Change Strategy,” Cr McBain said.

The Cities Power Partnership is a free national program created by the Climate Council that celebrates and accelerates the pollution reduction and clean energy successes of Australia in towns and cities.

For more information on the partnership visit www.citiespowerpartnership.org.au

"Carlson is a gifted and accomplished comedian - an absolute must-see."
- Appetite for the Arts

URZILA CARLSON

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Bega Valley

Commemorative Civic Centre

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www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/Civiccentre ● begaciviccentre

This show may contain strong coarse language and is not recommended for children under the age of 16 years.

Candelo playground upgrade



Peter Chance (Candelo Market Committee), Yvonne Chance (Candelo Market Committee), Joshua Reeve (Bega Town Team Leader, BVSC), Scott Barton (Bega Town Team Labourer, BVSC), Judy Winters (Candelo Market Committee) and Rob McCudden (Bega Town Team Labourer, BVSC) giving the new equipment a test run at Dr William Loftus Park.

The Candelo Market Committee and Bega Valley Shire Council have combined to upgrade the playground in Dr William Loftus Park, Candelo.

This parkland area, along with the larger recreational area within John Gordon Memorial Park, is home to the very successful and long standing Candelo Markets.

The market committee, through proceeds raised in the staging of these markets, contributed financially to this playground upgrade by purchasing the three new pieces of play equipment (two bay swing set, train play structure and the climbing and balancing unit known as Konnecta Spectra).

This purchase was supported by Bega Valley Shire Council's works department who assisted with the removal of the two old pieces of play equipment (swing set and climbing structure), creating a concrete edge to delineate the play area from the adjacent lawn area and reinstating sand softfall beneath these play items.

This latest investment from the Candelo Market Committee is a very welcomed and valuable investment for the people of Candelo and its visitors.

It's not often that you visit a small rural village such as Candelo with such a fantastic playground.

Around the towns

The latest from our works teams

Paths, painting and playgrounds are among the assets and tasks keeping our town teams busy at present.

Playground inspections and repairs and weed spraying of the cycleways, footpaths and reserves are underway across the Shire.

Bermagui Team

The amenities in Bermagui are coming in for some attention.

The toilet blocks at Payne Island, Apex Park and Bridge Motors, and the barbecue pergola at Apex Park have all been painted, with new Laserlite roof sheets installed at Payne Island and Bridge Motors to allow more natural light as well.

The old lighting fixtures will be replaced with LED fixtures over the coming months.

Lamont Street has also been a focus, with handrails being repaired, pavers being re-laid and posts replaced.



Bega Team

Two sections of footpath (40 metres in total) that were causing hazards to pedestrians have been replaced along with three bench

seats in Bemboka.

Further footpath work is planned for the coming weeks.

A new picnic table has also been installed at Mogareeka.



Merimbula Team

Footpath grinding works are being undertaken to remove trip hazards, along with garden maintenance in and around Merimbula.

Eden Team

Footpath replacement work has also been undertaken in Eden, while the gardens in Imlay Street have been the focus of pruning and maintenance activities.

With the weather warming up the boat ramps are being cleaned as well.

Urban Maintenance Team

The intersection linemarking and road signage installation programs continue.

The guys have also been undertaking footpath repair work and park furniture and toilet maintenance tasks.

JOBS AT COUNCIL

Bega Valley Shire Council

Live the Lifestyle

Permanent Full Time

- Town Planner**
Position closes 13 November 2018
- Natural Assets Officer**
Position closes 15 November 2018
- Ranger**
Position closes 18 November 2018

Fixed Term / Casual

- Water and Sewer Project Coordinator**
Position closes 13 November 2018
- Cemeteries and Halls Officer**
Position closes 11 November 2018
- Case Manager Brighter Futures**
Position closes 18 November 2018
- Library and Learning Engagement Officer**
Position closes 19 November 2018
- Children's Services Certificate 3 Educator (Casual)**
Position closes 6 November 2018
- BVCCC Events Officer (Casual)**
Position closes 13 November 2018
- Cook**
Position closes 14 November 2018

For more information or to express interest in general applications, please visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/CareersAtCouncil

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Bega Valley Recovery

Successful planting day



1500 natives were planted at the recent Tathra Headland community event.

Ninety people took the opportunity to get their hands dirty and play a key role in the restoration of the iconic Tathra Headland at a recent planting morning.

1500 natives were planted on the day, with Council committed to building on this tremendous work by adding additional native species as they become available and maintaining the existing plantings by weeding and watering.

Council sends a big thank you to our

partners who included the Tathra Lions Club, Tathra Landcare, Far South Coast Landcare Association and South East Local Land Services in addition to the volunteers who took part in the successful event.

The planting day was part of the broader *Green Shoots* campaign that is aimed at restoring all fire affected natural areas in and around Tathra.

Further events and opportunities will evolve as the recovery and restoration process continues.

Appeal Fund keeps giving

With approximately \$1,026,000 from the Tathra and District Bushfire Mayoral Appeal Fund already allocated through Stages 1 and 2, it is now time to move onto Stage 3 and Stage 4.

Stage 3 is aimed at those who have been most severely impacted by the disaster, specifically owner/occupiers and tenants whose homes were destroyed or declared permanently uninhabitable.

Mayor, Cr Kristy McBain, said that these households are now being contacted to invite them to take up the offer of financial assistance.

“As the chair of the distribution committee, and with limited funds remaining, I’m aware that the money only goes so far but we do very much hope that this financial assistance provides some degree of comfort,” she said.

Although there will be no requirement to complete a formal application for Stage 3, once people receive their letter, they will need to email or telephone the Recovery Support Service in order to accept the Stage 3 allocation before funds can be provided.

“The Stage 4 distribution is for those people who are suffering extreme financial hardship due to

the impact of the bushfire.

“Stage 4 may involve a tiered payment system but we won’t be able to decide this until applications are received and reviewed,” Cr McBain said.

There will be an application process for this stage and the committee will review and assess the applications in consultation with Recovery Support Service staff.

Those households identified by the Recovery Support Service as suffering severe hardship will receive application forms via email. Application forms will also be available at the Tathra Post Office, Recovery Support Service, Council’s website and Zingel Place office, and through Red Cross representative, Linda Mayo.

If you think you are eligible for Stage 3 or Stage 4 and have not been contacted please get in touch with the Recovery Support Service on (02) 6499 2475 or email MayoralAppealFund@begavalley.nsw.gov.au.

More information about the Mayoral Appeal Fund (including the fund rules) is available on Council’s website at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/tathra.

Fee waivers for those impacted by Yankees Gap fire

Bega Valley Shire Council has moved to alleviate further financial burden on those impacted by the recent Yankees Gap bushfire event, with a number of fees and charges to be waived.

The resolution of Council means that the General Manager is now able to authorise the same exemptions that applied following the Tathra and District Fire earlier this year.

These include water and sewer charges; waste fees; Development Application, Complying Development and associated fees; and interest on general rates instalments for properties directly affected.

General Manager, Leanne Barnes, said that it

had been a very challenging year and Council would be doing everything it could to help the community recover.

“Unfortunately, we have seen further property losses as a result of this latest fire and the intention of these waivers is to ensure that residents and property owners are as well placed as possible to rebuild or replace lost infrastructure,” Ms Barnes said.

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

“Obviously these measures were unbudgeted, however all costs, foregone income and other items will be captured in the recovery process and form part of the ongoing reporting on this incident.

“In addition to the fees and charges waivers, it is important to stress that all those impacted by the Yankees Gap fire are strongly encouraged to contact and access the Recovery Support Service,” Ms Barnes said.

For more information contact the Recovery Support Service on 6499 2475 or email recovery@begavalley.nsw.gov.au.

Contact us

p. 02 6499 2222
e. council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au
a. Zingel Place, PO Box 492
Bega NSW 2550

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