

Bega Valley Shire Council village newsletter

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Funding for Bega Valley halls

Community halls in the Bega Valley will share in \$70,000 worth of funding, with a number of key projects to be tackled.

Of the 19 halls across the Shire, 18 are managed by volunteer committees supported by Council.

Regular maintenance is funded through hall fees and charges, but more significant projects call on Council's Operational Budget.

Working with the General Halls Committee, Council has divided the money among eight projects while keeping some in reserve for issues as they arise.

Director of Community, Relations and Leisure, Anthony Basford said the halls were precious community assets that required special attention and management.

"Most of these structures have a connection to the region's past, and this money ensures that their unique character and substance can continue to serve the towns and villages that surround them," he said.

"As the central point in any community these halls enjoy a rich cultural life that takes in a range of artistic, social, sporting and educational interests."

In allocating the budget Council officers met with each hall committee on site for a review of each project.

"Our partnership with these volunteers is key and a great example of Council and the community working together for a common purpose," Mr Basford said.

The projects endorsed by Council are as follows:

- Candelo Hall: Address drainage issues at the rear of the hall
- Quaama Hall: Rebuild internal staircase, external stairs and landing, replace supporting beam and repair internal cladding.
- Wandella Hall: Re-stumping
- Brogo Hall: Remove dangerous trees and large stump.
- Murrah Hall: Repair driveway/carpark, large divots causing WHS issue.
- Bemboka Hall: Repair external cladding, replace window casements and repair/paint external structural poles.
- Wolumla Hall: Floor Sanding
- Tanja Hall: Repair and paint external timber cladding
- All Halls: Responsive Maintenance

Farmland Category Review

The farmland category review is being undertaken to confirm the accuracy of Council's information, and to ensure that all property owners are being classified correctly.

Q. Why does the rating category of my property need to be reviewed?

- All shire property owners need to have their farmland rating reviewed to ensure that their property is being classified correctly per the definition in the Local Government Act 1993.
- Council has a statutory obligation under the Local Government Act 1993 to ensure it is rating its ratepayers correctly.
- It is important that Council's records regarding shire properties are accurate.

Q. Does this mean that my rates will increase?

- No. A change from a farmland category to a residential category will not affect the amount of Council rates a resident pays.

Q. Where can I get more information or assistance with completing the Farmland Rating Category form?

- Please contact Council's Revenue Team on (02) 6499 2222 if you require further information or assistance.

Farmland Rating Application

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

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Jellat fires to celebrate 75 years

September 2017 marks the 75th anniversary of the Jellat Rural Fire Brigade and the Bega Valley community is invited to celebrate the enormous contribution the group has made to the community.

The celebrations will take the form of a dinner, with entertainment and dancing to follow at the Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre on Saturday, September 2.

When: Saturday, 2 September 2017 from 6pm

Where: Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre

Dress: Jacket & Tie

Price: \$50 for current JRFB members and \$60 for non-members

Food: Canapes, main and dessert

Special guest: NSW Rural Fire Service
Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons
AFSM

Music: The Figmentz

MC: Ian Campbell of About Regional

Drinks: Welcome drinks on arrival courtesy of Jellat RFS and bar service at your own cost available during and after dinner.

Enquiries: Email jellatrf@gmail.com

Tickets: <https://www.southcoasttickets.com.au/events/jellat-jellat-75th-anniversary/>

This event is not suitable for children

Tree works in Bermagui

Bega Valley Shire Council is taking steps to ensure the safety of people in Bermagui by removing three trees and undertaking necessary maintenance pruning on a number of other well-established trees.

The planned work comes on the back of assessments by a qualified arborist and Council staff of the trees within the township that identified the unacceptable risk.

The three trees earmarked for removal are a pine at Dickinson Point and two eucalypts (Southern Mahogany, *Eucalyptus botryoides*) in the vicinity of the Surf Club and new outdoor gym facility.

New plantings will be undertaken to compensate for the losses near the outdoor gym.

Maintenance pruning and dead wooding will be undertaken on a further pine at Dickinson Point and three other eucalypts in the Surf Club and Dickinson Park area.

Council's Recreation Assets Officer, John Turville, said Council appreciates the value of trees, particularly within parkland settings, however it had become necessary to reduce the risk these long standing trees posed.

"Unfortunately ongoing management is not always practical and ultimately we need to keep people's safety at the front of our minds," Mr Turville said.

The work will be undertaken by a qualified and experienced team of arborists over September 13 and 14, the toilets located near the Surf Club and outdoor gym will have to be closed to allow access and maintain safety for all.

The closure should last no longer than one day, the public toilets at Bruce Steer Pool to the west are the communities best alternative.



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Council assumes management of Civic Centre

Bega Valley Shire Council assumed management of the Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre (BVCCC) on Wednesday (23 August 2017). The Civic Centre has been previously managed by Venue Management Services since it opened in January 2016.

The Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre is a significant community asset, which is one of the key driving factors behind the change in management.

Council's Manager of Community Culture and Information, Simon Schweitzer, said it is important that the Civic Centre becomes a major focal point for residents and is seen as a community beacon; attracting not only locals, but groups and performers from outside the Shire.

"Until a full review of operational processes is complete, the current booking and hire procedures will remain in place," Mr Schweitzer said.

All bookings and hire arrangements can be made by contacting the Venue Coordinator on (02) 6499 2462 or 0427 721 461. Enquiries can also be emailed to civiccentre@begavalley.nsw.gov.au. Additional information and a booking enquiry form can be found on Council's website www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au.

For more information please contact Simon Schweitzer at Bega Valley Shire Council on (02) 6499 2222.



Library Amnesty - *Time is running out* to return overdue Bega Valley Shire Council library items, with an amnesty coming to an end on August 31 - new overdue rules will come into effect from Friday, 1 September 2017.

This involves books, magazines, DVDs, and talking books, on loan from Bermagui, Bega, Tura Marrang and Eden libraries.

The new overdue rules are designed to make sure library resources are accessible to all library members in a timely and equitable way.

Under the new rules, the library will send a reminder notice one week after the item is due.

A second reminder notice will be sent when an item is three weeks overdue, with borrowing privileges suspended until the item is returned.

After twelve weeks overdue, the library will assume the item is lost and a replacement charge will be applied.

The replacement charge will be reversed when the item is returned to the library.



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Better flood resilience for Bega Valley communities

Bega Valley Shire Council is putting better flood management in place around local communities with the assistance of a \$122,000 grant from the NSW Government.

Council has been keen to action the learnings of the March 2011 Flood and June 2016 East Coast Low and will use these funds to implement a Floodplain Management Program.

"The Shire has seen substantial road, bridge, and public infrastructure damage in recent years during these events, and given the climate future we are headed into, we need to build in better resilience," said Terry Dodds, Director of Utilities and Transport.

In this phase of work, Council will focus on Towamba River, Lake Curalo, and Twofold Bay around Eden and Towamba.

"Our primary objective is to reduce the impacts of flooding including the private and public financial losses that can result," Mr Dodds.

The total cost of the program is \$183,000, with assistance from the State provided on the basis of \$2 for every \$1 provided by Council.

"The end result will allow us to make informed decisions on the best way to invest in flood mitigation and better manage the risks posed by floods," Mr Dodds said.

"We are looking to reduce property and public risks, this work will also provide essential information to the State Emergency Service and enable effective responses to flood emergencies."

In the near future, Council will also call for expressions of interest for additional community representatives on its Floodplain Risk Management Focus Group. Two vacancies currently exist for people living in the Towamba River, Lake Curalo and Twofold Bay catchments.

Council acknowledges the financial and technical assistance from the Minister of Justice, NSW Minister of Police and Emergency Services, and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.



Photograph: Burragate Bridge on the Towamba River

Funding for heritage conservation projects

Assistance to conserve and promote the Shire's heritage places is presently available through the Local Heritage Assistance Fund.

The fund has been established by Bega Valley Shire Council with the aid of a grant from the Office of Environment & Heritage. Applications are open until Friday, 29 September 2017.

Council's Manager of Planning Services, Keith Tull, said money from the fund is available to individuals, organisations and community groups to help conserve heritage places.

"We are inviting the owners of all heritage buildings in the Shire to apply for a grant under the Local Heritage Assistance Fund," Mr Tull said.

"Eligible projects may involve the repair, maintenance or reinstatement of missing items on heritage buildings, and can range from structural work through to painting."

Council's Heritage Advisor, Trevor King, will be available for free consultation and advice on heritage places.

The funds are allocated at the discretion of Council and the money is payable as small grants of up to \$5,000 on a dollar-for-dollar basis and one grant of up to \$2,500 for a senior over 65-years-of-age who is a pensioner or self-funded retiree.

An application form can be downloaded from Council's website www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/grants.

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FOGO is a go-go!

The Bega Valley's 'War on Waste' has been turned up a notch with Councillors voting in favour of introducing a new household Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) collection service.

What is now waste will be turned into high quality compost, diverting material away from landfill.

Bega Valley Shire Council will join 34 other councils already using FOGO, with the first pick up of this exciting service in July next year.

ABC TV Gardening and recycling guru, Costa Georgiadis toured the Merimbula Waste and Recycling Depot earlier this month, expressing his delight at the food and organics collection technology that Council has been trialling over the past two years.

"The progress you have already made is impressive, but with the introduction of household FOGO the production will just explode. I can't wait to come back and see it," Mr Georgiadis said.

On average, 53% of the contents of your red bin are compostable, which currently ends up in landfill. Once FOGO is introduced next year, residents will be asked to change their habits and embrace this positive response to waste.

"To turn waste into organic compost and make it available for local gardens, schools, community groups and sporting projects is such a win," Mr Georgiadis

Essentially anything that once lived will be able to go in your FOGO bin - garden waste including trimmings, clippings and prunings, meat and dairy, egg shells, seafood, take away food, vegetable and fruit scraps. Additionally, tissues, paper towels, shredded paper, kitty litter and animal droppings.

"To know that our waste is doing something good for the community instead of going into landfill is a great thing," Mayor Kristy McBain said.

The new FOGO collection service will be introduced to all residents who currently have a residential compost (green bin) collection service. Green bins will move to

a weekly collection cycle, red and yellow bins will be collected fortnightly.

"Producing high quality compost from what is now waste opens up all sorts of possibilities, whether it's for your backyard vegetable patch or your local sporting field," Cr McBain said.

"FOGO will also result in less methane escaping into our atmosphere, reducing our greenhouse emissions."

Bega Valley Shire Council will step forward in the coming months with a significant education and awareness campaign.

In the meantime, Council has established a dedicated webpage with further information at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/waste or call 6499 2222.



Photograph:
Costa Georgiadis (right) talks organic waste with Bega Valley Shire Council's Mick Jarochowicz during a visit to the Merimbula Waste and Recycling Depot.

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